

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools.

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DONALD DAILEY AWARDED AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE

Donald Dailey, Pipestone, Minnesota, has won the distinction of being the second young man from Minnesota to receive the degree of "American Farmer," the highest honor that can be conferred upon its members by the Future Farmers of America. Each state is entitled to submit the name of one candidate for each one thousand members or fraction thereof in the state organization. Not more than seventy-five American Farmer degrees may be conferred each year.

The Future Farmers of America is the official national organization of rural boys who are or who have been enrolled as students in the vocational agriculture classes in the secondary schools. The activity is a definite part of the program carried on under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

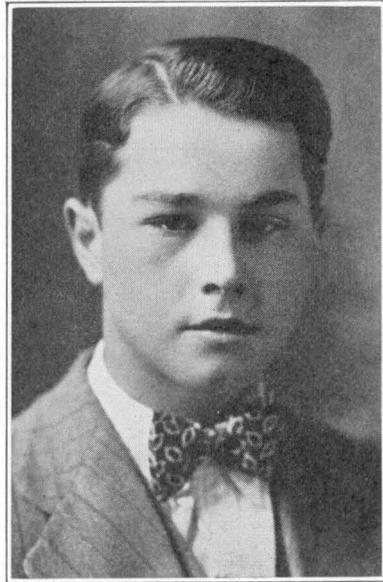
The Purpose of the F.F.A.

According to the constitution of the Future Farmers of America, the purposes for which the organization is formed are with brief comments as follows:

1. **To promote vocational education in agriculture in the public schools of the United States.** Vocational agriculture in the high schools of America may be promoted by developing the pride of Future Farmers in vocational agriculture, encouraging members to improve the quality of their work in vocational agriculture, and the like. The publication of news stories of chapter activities and the staging of Future Farmers exhibits and window displays are legitimate means of promoting this organization.

2. **To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations.** The choice of a life vocation is an all important matter for young people. Vocational counselling is an individual service worthy of serious consideration. The teacher of agriculture can best render this service by helping the boys to decide for themselves through experiencing the problems involved in modern scientific farming.

3. **To create and nurture a love of country life.** Such things as the beautification of home and school grounds, woodland hikes and the study of natural phenomena make for increased appreciation of the country and country life.



Donald Dailey

4. **To encourage recreational and educational activities for students in vocational agriculture.** The old saying that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, holds good for Future Farmers. Therefore, some provisions should be made whereby chapters can stage parents and son banquets, go on vacation tours, hold summer camps, picnics and other recreational activities. Local and state judging contests, agricultural plays, minstrels, public-speaking contests and other similar kinds of entertainment are a welcome break in the monotony of school life.

5. **To promote thrift.** Habits of thrift by membership may be taught through the establishment of savings accounts and investments in agricultural enterprises. Careful spending and reasonably systematic saving are fundamental to future security for a happy adult life.

6. **To encourage co-operative effort among students of vocational agriculture.** Future Farmers should avail

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themselves of the opportunity to co-operate in the purchase of pure seed, fertilizers, feed and the like, as well as pool and sell co-operatively the farm products which are a result of their supervised practice work. Co-operation appears to be one of the keys to the solution of some of the perplexing problems of rural life. The phenomenon of co-operation is subjective. It is an attitude that must be developed within an individual before it can find complete expression in the external social life of the individual. In order to be good co-operators, people must think good co-operation. The F.F.A. provides opportunities for boys to experience co-operative activities.

7. To strengthen the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work. This organization allows members to advance from grade to grade upon the basis of their achievement. Ample opportunity is given them to measure their agricultural skills and make decisions for themselves. Suitable awards are for those who prove themselves unusually capable.

8. To promote scholarship among students of vocational agriculture. High standards of classroom and supervised practice work are required of Future Farmers who desire advancement in the organization.

9. To develop rural leadership. Future Farmers are given ample opportunity to exercise whatever powers of leadership they possess. They are allowed to assume responsibility in order that they may be able to carry the burdens of leadership that fall upon the shoulders of local leaders in every community.

This issue of *The Visitor* is devoted to a presentation of the value of preparation in agriculture and to a recognition of the achievements of Donald Dailey who was one of the sixty farm

boys who were awarded the American Farmer degree at the Fifth National Convention of the Future Farmers of America held at Kansas City, Missouri November 11-17, 1932.

The brief story of Donald Dailey's many achievements is representative of the manner in which the purposes of the Future Farmers of America finds expression in the activities of the boys who study agriculture in the high schools. The work that these boys are doing in agriculture cannot help but influence the farming practices of the entire communities in which they live. The accomplishments of the youthful master farmers become beacon lights to many of the young people who come in contact with the leaders who are driving towards definite, tangible goals of achievements. The passion of rural young folk today is to learn to do something and to be somebody. Successful people do not just happen. Successful farming techniques are not inherited. On the contrary, in order to be somebody and to do something worthy of their efforts rural youth must learn to live in the country and they must learn how to do the work appropriate to the occupation of their choice. To be successful in living a life and making a living in the country one must have a genuine love for rural life, for rural people, for rural modes of living, and for doing the work farming demands. Farm children are not born with these essential qualities. Farm children are not born good farmers. They must learn to live in the country. They must learn to become good farmers by studying and experiencing good farming techniques. Happily, young rural folk do not need to wait until they grow up to be successful. They can be successful young people.

The F.F.A. boys are leading the way to a more complete and happy rural life and to a better day on the Minnesota farms. The following story therefore does not only represent the personal achievements of one boy but also expresses the influence of the Future Farmers of America as a factor in developing a much needed rural leadership.

Donald Dailey has attained numerous honors as a livestock raiser, as an exhibitor, and as a participant in school activities. He won first place in the first state F.F.A. public speaking contest, 1930, and creditably represented Minnesota at the regional contest of thirteen states held in St. Louis that year.

Because of his high scholastic standing, his leadership, and numerous achieve-

ments, he was awarded the degree of Minnesota Farmer at the annual state convention of the Minnesota Association of Future Farmers of America in 1931. He was elected president of the state association the following year. At present he is treasurer of the State Association and is taking an active part in maintaining the morale of the local chapters during the discouraging depression period.

Donald started his study of vocational agriculture under the direction of Mr. Harry Hass, present county agent of Rice County (Minnesota) and completed his class work under G. A. Larson. During the time he attended high school he was an active member in the agricultural club which existed before the local F.F.A. chapter was organized and held the office of vice-president during 1928-29. Later a local F.F.A. chapter was organized under the direction of Mr. R. J. Knutson, and Donald became its president for the following year.

During his years in high school Donald found time for many extra-curriculum activities. He was active in literary work, being on the high school paper staff for two years and on the staff of the high school annual, a senior publication. He was a member of the Athletic Club and the Science Club. As a partial reward for his interest in school affairs, he was chosen as the school cheer leader for two years. He participated in the high school declamatory contest for two years and placed second both times. It appears that he is also talented as a musician, because he was a member of the boys' glee club for three years, participated in three operettas, and played in the high school band for two years. Dramatics has been a sort of hobby with Donald; he played opposite the leading lady in the senior class play and has appeared on several occasions in short skits, and has taken part in two community plays. As a public speaker, he has also won quite a reputation, having spoken before the Pipestone Kiwanis Club, before the Current Events Club, at numerous community gatherings, P. T. A. meetings, picnics, and at neighboring F.F.A. chapter meetings. He has also participated in several community debates.

In addition to his busy program of leadership, school work, and project work, Donald found time to help organize the State-Line 4-H Club and to be its president for one year.

Enjoys Outdoor Life

Donald is an outdoor boy and is fond of all forms of athletics. He was on

the high school track team two years and on the football team one year. He plays basketball, too, having played on the class team two years and on the F.F.A. team two years. Donald skates, skis, swims, and has played on community and F.F.A. kittenball teams for several years as well.

Knows His Livestock

As a livestock judge, he was high point man on the high school dairy judging team for two years, 1928 and 1929. In 1929, the team placed third in the state. He was high point man on the high school general livestock judging team in 1929 and was a member of the Pipestone County 4-H judging team 1930.

Experienced Showman

In his supervised practice work, Donald has made some fine records. One of the outstanding projects was his sheep project in 1928. With a purebred Shropshire lamb he won the Shropshire championship at the 1928 Junior Livestock Show at South St. Paul in competition with one hundred thirty entries. His lamb sold for eighty-five cents per pound which, with the prize money, realized him a net profit of \$90.15 on a \$12.00 investment. Baby beef has been Donald's major farm practice, however, and in 1930 he showed his purebred Shorthorn calf at the Junior Livestock Show to win fifth in the open class and third in the Purebred Shorthorn calf class. In the baby beef showmanship contest, Donald placed second. The next year, 1931, Donald came back and with a better job of feeding and showing, he was named the champion 4-H beef showman of the show; his steer placed fifth in the open class, first in the purebred Shorthorn yearling class and was named Reserve Champion Shorthorn of the show.

Practical Application on Home Farm

At home, Donald has had much to do with the management of the beef herd, working out rations and feeding the baby beeves and breeding stock. Seed corn is a major enterprise on the Dailey farm and Donald has had considerable experience in corn breeding and testing. From five years of home projects with baby beef, corn, and sheep, he obtained a total net profit of \$865.00. He owns two purebred Shorthorn cows, two purebred Shorthorn heifers, and two purebred steers, and also has a small interest in the remainder of the beef herd of thirty-five females of breeding age which, with his investment in show halters, calf

blankets, and other equipment, brings his total investment on the home farm to \$797.00.

Home Farm Improvement

Besides his livestock and corn projects, Donald has been interested in improving the home farm. He fully realizes that the home farm is not only a place to make a living but a place to live a satisfying life. The farmstead has become more attractive since he reseeded the lawn, painted the house, planted some perennial flowers and shrubs, and trimmed some of the trees. It is more convenient to feed the baby beeves since the barn was partially remodeled and more pad-docks were built. The method of handling the seed corn has been improved by the addition of better equipment and time and labor saving machinery.

In addition to his excellent project work, Donald has demonstrated his ability as a good farmer in his complete management of the three hundred twenty acre farm from April to July while his father was recuperating from an injury of his hand in a corn shredder. This is a type of co-operative relationship between father and son that means something.

Other outstanding achievements made by Donald are: winning a trip to Kansas City, 1931, for his accomplishments in F.F.A. work. He has served as one of the two official delegates to the National Future Farmers of America conventions at Kansas City the past two years. He won a Thos. Wilson medal for being the champion meat animal raiser of Pipestone County, 1931. He was also runner-up for the Josten Citizenship medal awarded to the outstanding boy in the senior class.

Scholarship

Donald's scholarship in high school did not suffer from his heavy program of farm practice and project work and his extra-curriculum activities. In a graduation class of seventy-eight, his standing placed him in the upper one-fifth of his class with an average scholarship grade of 88.1. Donald graduated from Pipestone high school, 1930, at the age of sixteen. He spent two years at home continuing his project work and assisting his father in the operation of the home farm. Last fall, he entered the University of Minnesota, enrolling in the animal husbandry curriculum. He has continued his well-balanced program of activities

since entering college. He has been placed on the Y.M.C.A. cabinet of the University Farm Branch, Y.M.C.A. and has been elected president for the coming year of Wesley Foundation, a religious organization for college students on the University Farm campus. He tied for second honors in a recent student dairy judging contest. He played basketball on the Freshman Agriculture Basketball team in the intramural basketball contest on the Farm Campus and has been on the Freshman wrestling team of the University and has been awarded his numerals. His scholastic standing at the end of the first quarter credited him with an honor point ratio of 2.055 or a little better than "B" average.

American Farmer Key

The insignia which Donald will wear mounted on a golden key indicative of his American Farmer degree is made up of four symbols: a cross section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests since corn is native to America and is grown in every state; the owl, representing wisdom; the plow, representing tillage of the soil, the basis of all agriculture; and the rising sun, representing progress.



For Donald, as well as for thousands of other Future Farmers of America, farming is not "headed toward a condition that is little better than servitude." He has early in life learned the value of thorough study and careful planning as safeguards to success in his chosen occupation. To him farming is not just a job to be done but a life to be lived. To him the activities of the Future Farmers of America are a guide to higher levels of thinking and to more wholesome, happy, and productive living.