

INDIANA ASSOCIATION

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



Silver Anniversary

# State Convention

April 1-3, 1954

Purdue University -- Lafayette, Indiana

Memorial Union Building

# INDIANA FFA OFFICERS

**President**

Ray Brewer, Bluffton

**Vice-President**

George Wappes, Carrett

**Student Secretary**

William Kipfer, Berne

**Student Treasurer**

Herman Rettinger, Bourbon

**Reporter**

Eugent Wint, Columbus

**Sentinel**

Arlen Riggs, Connersville

**Executive Secretary-Treasurer**

K. W. Kiltz, Purdue University

**Adviser**

Harold B. Taylor, Indianapolis

## INDIANA FFA

The Indiana Association of Future Farmers of America is part of the national organization of, by, and for, farm boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools, which operates under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts and the State Department of Agricultural Education. It is an educational, non-political, non-profit, farm youth organization of voluntary membership, designed to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, scholarship, cooperation, citizenship, and patriotism. FFA members learn through practical experiences how to conduct and take part in public meetings, speak in public, and assume civic responsibility. The organization is designed as an intra-curricular part of the vocational education program in the school system. It constitutes one of the most effective devices for teaching through actual participating experiences that our high schools can offer.

Here at our 25th Anniversary Convention, we want the members to get better acquainted with their organization, so they can go home and build a stronger organization that will make progress, that will stand up with what has been laid out in the initial twenty-five years as an FFA organization. During these twenty-five years, the FFA has grown to be the largest farm boy organization in the world. The movement has hit all forty-eight states plus Hawaii and Porto Rico.

May the next twenty-five years be as prosperous as the first twenty-five and may the FFA continue to improve the rural agriculture of Indiana as it has done. With such thoughts in mind the farm boys will be better prepared for citizenship and life on the farm.

# PROGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

**9:30 A.M.- 1:30 P.M. Registration, Main Floor, Union Building**

**1:30 A.M. First General Session, South Ballroom**

Opening Ceremony

Invocation- Gerald Wilkins, Past State Student Treasurer

Seating of Official Delegates

Entertainment

Address-Kirk Fox, Editor, Successful Farming Magazine

Minutes Of 1953 State Convention

Treasurer's Report

Retiring Officer's Reports

Student Treasurer-Herman Rettinger

Eugene Wint- Reporter

Arlen Riggs- Sentinel

Report On 1954 Hoosier Farmer Degree Candidates- Dr. E.E. Clainin, Chairman of Selection Committee

Closing Ceremony

**5:15 P.M. Past Officers Dinner, Rooms 355, 363 Union Building**

**7:00 P.M. Second General Session, South Ballroom**

State FFA Band

Opening Ceremony

Address-W.C. Haase, Education Department, Swift and Co., Chicago

Entertainment

Presentation of Awards

Farm Mechanics

Farm Electrification

Soil and Water Management

Improving Agriculture and Leadership

Essay Film- "The Silver Anniversary National Convention" Courtesy Firestone Tire and Rubber Company

Closing Ceremony

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

**8:45 A.M. Third General Session, South Ballroom**

State FFA Band

Opening Ceremony

Welcome to The Campus-Fredrick L. Hovde President, Purdue University

Entertainment

Address-Honorable Harold W. Hanley, Lieutenant Governor, State of Indiana

1954 Hoosier Farmer Initiation and Awards

Retiring Officer's Report

George Wappers-Vice-President

William Kipfer- Student Secretary

Entertainment

Address-David Boyne, National FFA President, Marlette, Michigan

Closing Ceremony

**1:15 P.M. Fourth General Session, South Ballroom**

State FFA Band

Opening Ceremony

Announcement

Closing Ceremony

**1:30 Public Speaking and Chapter Meeting Contest Eliminations**

**2:00-2:45 District Meetings**

**3:00-3:30 Section Meetings**

**3:40-4:30 Committee Meetings**

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## Twenty-Five Years of Progress

The Indiana organization began to take shape in 1929, when a group of vocational teachers met with the idea of bringing an FFA Charter into Indiana. After several meetings and conferences with members of the vocational teachers and with other interested groups, the Indiana group was assigned the 19th State Charter on September 6, 1929.

In the Fall of 1929, a convention was planned. The dates of October 18 and 19, at Purdue, were selected, at which time state officers were selected and local chapters began applying for charters. A constitution was soon developed and approved. Twelve chapters received charters and had representative delegates at the convention. Five boys received their Hoosier Farmer Degrees during the first year. The first set of officers were, Lester Burges, Martinsville, President; William Showalter, Madison Twp., St. Joseph County, Vice President; Hobart Butcher, Kempton, Secretary; Orval Ummel, Battleground, Reporter; Z. M. Smith, Agriculture Education Supervisor, Executive Secretary, Secretary Treasurer; and W. A. Smith, Department of Education, Purdue, Adviser.

The first twelve chapters in the order they received their charters were: Battleground, Kempton, Pierceton, Martinsville, Middleburg, Madison Twp. of St. Joseph County, Nappanee, Columbia City, Monrovia, Paragon, Seymour, and Wea Twp. of Tippecanoe County.

The growth of the Association was slow for a number of years. There were several factors which hindered the growth, and because of the lack of communication the organization was not as publicized as it is today. People knew not the purposes and objectives and the fear of uprooting other rural organizations, through duplication and needless competition had some effect. The teachers of agriculture had to be educated to the program and shown how to appreciate its true value before expansion set forth.

People now understand the FFA and its connection with the vocational agriculture education system and how it fits into the program with other rural youth groups. The program is not an extracurricular activity but an intra curricular activity that is almost necessary to bring the interest of vocational agriculture to the boys in a program that developed social, thrift, civic, leadership, and scholastic abilities, that might not be gained without FFA.

During the last twenty-five years our membership has grown to

8,350 members and instead of twelve Chapters with Charters we now have 307. A sharp rise has been noticed in the last decade, with a seventy-five percent increase in new Chapters and new members.

Several firsts to be recorded in the history of Indiana FFA: The first member to receive the Hoosier Farmer degree was Orval Ummel of Battleground; the first Indiana boy to receive an American Farmer degree was W. C. Haase of Martinsville in 1930; the first donor to Indiana FFA was the Wabash Railroad, with five trips to the National Convention in 1929; the first Honorary Hoosier Farmer was Z. M. Smith, first executive secretary-treasurer, in 1930; the first Star Hoosier Farmer was Edward Ferree of Graysville, in 1946; and the first Indiana man to serve on the National FFA Board of Directors, was John "Pop" Linke of Columbus, as national adviser in 1934-1941.

Forty-three Indiana boys have received the American Farmer degree. Eight hundred and fifty-nine FFA members from 157 Chapters have received Hoosier Farmer Degrees. A total of thirty-five people has been awarded the title of Honorary Hoosier Farmer degrees. This included nine fathers of the student officers of 1952 and 1953.

There have been four state advisers for the state organization. These were, in the order of service, W. A. Smith, Dr. Z. M. Smith, Harry Ainsworth, and the present adviser, Harold B. Taylor.

Two men have served as executive secretary treasurer, namely, Dr. Z. M. Smith and our present officer, K. W. Kiltz. Two Indiana boys have held office of National President, Irvin J. Schenk of Reitz, Evansville, and Ervin Martin of Salem.

Now with twenty-five years of FFA work accomplished, people are beginning to realize that FFA has a definite place in the lives of Indiana's rural people. May the next twenty-five years be as golden as the first quarter of a century.



**PROGRAM** (Continued from page 3)

**5:30 P.M. Banquet Session**

Dinner  
Opening Ceremony Introduction of Guests  
1954 Star Hoosier Farmer Ceremony  
State Public Speaking Contest Winner  
Initiation of 1954 Honorary Hoosier Farmers  
Recognition of Parents of State Officers  
Presentation of Awards -- Harold Taylor, State Adviser

Farm Safety  
State Chapter Contest  
Chapter Farm Fire Prevention Contest  
Chapter Meeting Contest  
Prairie Farmer WLS Award Trip

Closing Ceremony

SATURDAY APRIL, 3

**7:00 A.M. Interviews of State Student Officer Candidates**

**9:30 A.M. Fifth General Session, South Ballroom**

Opening Ceremony

Business Session

Committee Reports

State Program of Work

1955 State Convention

Adviser's Committee

New or Unfinished Business

Chapter Meeting Contest Demonstration by Winning Chapter

Entertainment

Presentation of Past-Officer Buttons -- K.W. Kiltz; State Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Retiring Officer Reports

W. Gene Weaver -- Past President

Ray Brewer -- State President

Election of New State Student Officers

Seating of New State Student Officers

Closing Ceremony

**12:30 P.M. Luncheon -- Retiring and New State FFA Officers Section Presidents and District Officers,  
Room 363 Union Building, Sponsored by Standard Oil Company of Indiana.**



## THE FFA EMBLEM

The Emblem of the Future Farmers of America is significant and meaningful in every detail. Used by members in all recognized units of organization, it is made up of five symbols: the owl, the plow, and the rising sun, within the cross section of an ear of corn, which is surmounted by an American eagle. Upon the face of the emblem appear the words "Vocational Agriculture", and the letters "FFA". The owl symbolizes wisdom and knowledge; the plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil; the rising sun stands for progress and the new day when all farmers are trained and have learned to cooperate when drawn together; the cross section of an ear of corn represents common agriculture interests since corn is native to America and grown in every state; and the eagle is indicative of the national scope of the organization. The emblem and the letters FFA are protected by trademark registration in the U. S. Patent Office.

## HOOSIER FARMERS

Each year at the state convention, Chapter farmers who have completed the requirements of a State Farmer Degree receive The Hoosier Farmer Degree. This very impressive ceremony is always a highlight of the Indiana Association's annual convention. Only two percent of the state's active membership can be raised to this goal each year.

The boys who attain this degree are usually the outstanding members of the local chapters and are usually the leaders in their local communities. The boys receiving the degree have partly established themselves financially and are beginning to make father and son partnerships and to lay the ground for a future in farming.

The Indiana Association takes this opportunity to congratulate the members who received this degree at this year's convention and to all those who received the degree in the past twenty-five years.

### **Section Presidents**

I	Jim Bates	Bourbon
II	Tom Dunlap	Russiaville
III	Charles Jackson	Columbus
IV	Robert Bovard	Rising Sun

### **District Directors**

I	Roger Howard	Knox
II	Art Mabie	Syracuse
III	Gordon Bloom	Garrett
IV	Robert Webster	Waynetown
V	Gordon Walker	Kirklin
VI	Phil Compton	Farimount
VII	Joe Tennant	Spencer
VIII	Wayne Drake	Plainfield
IX	Robert Morgan	Mays
X	John Kissell Rietz	Evansville
XI	Tom Hodges	Shawswick
XII	Don Hyde	Vevay

### **Past President**

W. Gene Weaver      Aurora



FFA Motto  
"Learning to Do  
Doing to Earn  
Earning To Live  
Living To Service".

**Band Director**  
W.C. Yarborough-Purdue University