

# Purpose of the FFA Alumni

The FFA Alumni, like all successful organizations, was founded on certain purposes. These purposes provide guidance and continuity for all affiliate groups. The following six purposes should be followed in organizing new affiliates or successfully continuing on-going programs. These purposes may be defined in more detail if desired, however, they should not be lessened.

The purposes are:

- To support and promote the FFA organization, FFA activities and agricultural education on the local, state and national level.
- To provide a tie to the FFA and assist agricultural education/FFA personnel to involve former members and others interested in supporting worthy activities.
- To cooperate with the National FFA Board of Directors, National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees and the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.
- To promote and maintain an appreciation of the American free enterprise system.
- To promote the personal development aspect of FFA.

## Why have a local FFA Alumni Affiliate?

With the increased diversity of agricultural education programs, it is becoming more difficult to keep up with all the additional activities. Former FFA members and interested adults are a natural resource of help and support to the FFA advisor. Building support for agricultural education is particularly important at this time of changing focus and emphasis on new technology in agriculture and agribusiness.

Therefore, it is important to involve all types of people in your community. Personal involvement is the key to success in keeping interest in any program. The FFA Alumni not only provides this opportunity, but also helps unify the local community to support agricultural education and the FFA. The community will support activities because they understand the concepts on which agricultural education and the FFA are built.

The FFA Alumni provides a ready list of individuals who have committed themselves to supporting agricultural education and FFA. They are organized as a functioning group for the betterment of local, state and national agricultural education/FFA programs. Alumni members are an invaluable source - especially when a school district changes agricultural instructors. Much time can be saved by an active and understanding FFA Alumni. Coming into a strange community can be difficult for the new instructor. The FFA Alumni can assist in making this transition very smooth.

While young men and women come and go, the position of the agricultural instructor/FFA advisor remains. An active, organized Alumni group can be a valuable asset to the advisor. Alumni can help a chapter conduct successful chapter safety and BOAC programs, provide transportation to contests, serve as judges for various chapter and individual awards, and sponsor recreational events.

Today's job market poses a problem for those who cannot or do not wish to stay on the farm. An active alumni affiliate can be most helpful in job placement for these highly qualified young people. Alumni members can act as resource specialists, provide facilities in training judging teams and work cooperatively to provide needed agricultural education/FFA programs. The FFA advisor can coordinate activities; and with the assistance of an organized, active FFA Alumni, all persons can benefit.

As one agricultural instructor stated, "They are my right hand, my sounding board and my public relations; they're my former students and other community people with a desire to assist the agricultural education/FFA program." And he added, "They are my co-workers and the backbone of their community; and no matter what I need, someone in the group will be qualified to do the job as well as I, maybe even better."