



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2003

Contact: William F. Stagg, 317-802-4243

Oct. 30-Nov. 1: 502-363-7096

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
Telephone: 317-802-6060
Fax: 317-802-6061
FFA web site: www.ffa.org

Educators Promote Diversity through Agriculture FFA Presents Non-Member H.O. Sargent Diversity Awards

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The National FFA Organization presented the H.O. Sargent Diversity Award at the 2003 National FFA Convention. Honorees received the award during an onstage ceremony Oct. 30. The honor recognizes citizens who have achieved and promoted diversity through agricultural education and FFA. Those receiving the award included Jamie Cano, Russell Graves and Donald Lewis Reid.

The Non-Member H.O. Sargent Diversity Award existed in the New Farmers of America (NFA), the former organization for African-American agriculture students, before NFA was incorporated into the FFA in 1965. This award, resurrected in 1995, will continue as an annual recognition program and is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Although Jamie Cano of **Hillard, Ohio**, was denied the opportunity to enroll in agricultural education in high school due to his ethnic background, that didn't diminish his love for the subject matter or his belief in the importance of inclusion. Through his dedication, the associate professor at The Ohio State University began the Hispanic Action Plan. He also chaired the first multicultural task force for the national FFA and was instrumental in developing the national FFA's Spanish FFA Manual.

Russell Graves of **Childress, Texas**, encourages everyone to get involved in agricultural education. While teaching agricultural education at Childress High School,

-MORE-



FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
Telephone: 317-802-6060
Fax: 317-802-6061
FFA web site: www.ffa.org

Page 2
HO Sargent Non-member

Russell revised the curriculum to center around communication and leadership skills as well as natural resource management. As a result, the program has grown from having only one female enrolled in 1993 to having full gender equity in the program. The ethnic composition of the program has grown as well, and now the diversity of the agriscience program mirrors that of the school.

Donald Reid, of **Louisville, Ky.**, wanted to develop strategies to improve academic achievement of minorities. Agricultural education gave him the tools he needed to make this goal a reality. He designed a hands-on learning program to introduce students to Agricultural education and agriculture careers. Today, the Seneca agriculture programs has 250 students from a wide range of cultures and ethnic diversities.

FFA is a national organization of 464,267 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,194 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

###



FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.