

Future Farmers of America

The National Organization of Boys Studying Vocational Agriculture
Founded 1928



THE F. F. A. Farm Story
of
Livingston Future Farmers of America
Charter No. 356, November 20, 1954
Livingston High School
Livingston, Texas
Area IX Association
Sponsor of Farm Livingston Lions Club
October 1, 1958

THE F.F.A. FARM STORY

A. History of Movement to secure a farm

The Livingston F.F.A. Chapter Farm Story goes back years beyond the date of spring 1954, when President Frank Fain of the Livingston Lions Club presented F.F.A. President Ronald Buford a deed to a 20 acre farm for the F.F.A. Chapter. The late Dr. W.W. Flowers, Louis Gerlach and a number of interested men, started looking several years, before 1954, for a farm that would be desirable for the F.F.A. Chapter to operate. The Lions Club became interested in the project and after much work, looking and planning, a 20 acre tract on the Israel road was located.

B. Farm Presented F.F.A. Chapter

In the month of April or May 1954, after the land had been purchased by the Lions Club and the deed properly recorded, Lion President Frank Fain accompanied by Lions, Ray Marsh and Allen Peebles came before the F.F.A. Chapter and officially presented the deed for the farm to F.F.A. Chapter President Ronald Buford and advisor J. E. Seamans. The Farm was purchased from Willie Taylor. The Farm is located about one half mile out of the city limits on the left side of the road and borders Herbert Braders place on the Northeast.

C. Condition of Farm when Received

The farm was in a badly run down condition with very poor and in most cases no fence at all. The timber had been closely cut and the place was littered with trash of all sort. The old building was practically worthless and a well 90 feet deep with a rope and bucket was the only source of water. Mr. Taylor had a corn crop on some of the open land and would not relinquish possession until October 1, 1954.

D. The First Work On The Farm

When the F.F.A. Chapter took possession on October 1, 1954, the boys were anxious to get to work on getting the place in shape for operation. The first step was to start a general cleanup of all the accumulation of trash and remove all the old fences to make way for a complete new fence around the farm. The V. A. 1 boys under Advisor Nolan Alders started the cleanup work and clearing the timber off the front and on the area selected for the pond site. The Second and Third year V. A. boys begin building the fence. The boys also disked under some vetch and oats before the fence was built, which was "enjoyed by Johnnie Clamons' cows" before we finished the fence. The ground was hard and dry and digging post holes was a tremendous problem. The boys worked tirelessly at the job, for they were determined to show the Lions Club that they appreciated their help.

E. How The Farm Fencing Was Financed

The Chapter did not have the money to fence the farm so naturally we appealed to our good supporters for help. The Chapter received help by donations of fencing materials such as posts, wire and staples and some very badly needed cash. The cash contributors were Allen Peebles, James M. Windham, B. A. Glover, Ray Marsh, S. F. Jordan, C. L. Cochran, J. B. Cook, Livingston Motor, Watson Buick, E. E. Cochran, S. R. Smith, V. A. Collins, Herbert Brader, Haymes Mfg. Co., Louis Gerlach, Edward Jones, C. M. Owens,

Dr. T. L. Gardner, and one other that we failed to have a record of. The contributions of materials came from Mr. Jim Byrd with a roll of net wire. Putt Watson gave 1 roll barb wire, Alston Manufacturing Co. One roll barb wire, Otto Hawkins with 2 rolls barb wire, Frank Fain gave 2 rolls net wire, J. R. Freeman 25 posts, L. N. Haynes gave \$15.00 for staples, June Marsh gave 100 pounds or more of staples, Charlie Franklin gave 100 cresoted posts and Roland Jones, Jr. gave 10 cresoted posts and Livingston School furnished 90 posts.

The money furnished by contributors paid for one aluminum gate for the farm and Leggett Lumber Company supplied eypress lumber to build two other gates. The total contributions did not cover the entire costs, as the costs of materials we had to buy ran to \$327.25. The Chapter paid the other costs from its funds. The fence is well constructed and should last for many years. The chapter owes a vote of thanks to all who helped in any way. J. N. Brown helped dig post holes with the "Little Beaver".

F. Pasture Improvement and Soil Conservation work:

One of the first conservation measures carried out on the farm was the construction of a farm pond. Mr. H. U. Davis dug the pond at no cost to the chapter moving some 2000 cubic yards of dirt. Unfortunately the pond has not held water for any length of time. In 1957 we disked in drilling mud supplied by A. A. Wells but the weather was so dry that we did not get much results. This year the pond held water until August.

In the fall of 1954 Dr. J. G. Brock supplied the chapter with 300 or 400 lbs of vetch and singletary peas from the seed harvested on his farm. We had a fair crop of oats and legumes in the spring of 1955 and bought 4 head of stocker cattle and put on the farm. We sold three of these and kept one cow. The chapter was presented a fine Santa Gertrud's bull calf by Mr. & Mrs. P. R. Stripling on March 29, 1955. The chapter kept the bull until January 13, 1956 when he was sold.

Legume cover crops and small grains were planted on 5 different plots in the fall of 1955-56 but due to the drouth we did not get much results with the small grains. The chapter has used ACP help each year to improve the pasture by seeding and fertilizing. The pasture is kept mowed in the summer to control weeds.

G. Deep Well Put on Farm.

Water was serious problem on the farm, and water was hauled to Livestock in the summer of 1956. In the fall Mr. Emanuel Miller agreed to donate a deep well on the farm and put down a 545 ft. well at no cost except the pipe and pump. The total cost of the well would have been \$1388.41 if the chapter had paid the full cost Mr. Miller donated \$681.25 worth of well drilling. The actual cost was \$707.16. FFA members, Honorary member and

friends of the FFA contributed \$410.50 on the well, leaving \$296.66 that was paid by the chapter.

H. Income from farm and financial condition:

The chapter has a herd of 5 breeding cows on the farm from which we have been able to finance the operation on the farm. The bunches of hogs have been fed out in the spring and summer of 1957 and 1958 on which a net profit of over \$500.00 was made. We sold \$268.37 worth of cattle off the farm in 1957 and 710 lb. heifer this year for \$167.65. We have 4 calves left to be sold. The 5 cows are bred to a registered Red Polled bull. On October 1, 1958 we have a balance of \$252.29 in the farm operations account. We hope to pay back all the contributors on the fence and the well within the next two years.

I. Plans for the Future:

The plan for the future will have to be made rather slowly and possibly carried out slower but we have several things in mind to do.

1. Treat the pond with salt or something else to make it hold water.
2. Disk, fertilize and seed pond slopes to bermuda.
3. Put the forest area under a management plan to be carried out by the boys.
4. Build a new barn and machinery shed or livestock shelter.
5. Build new stock pens.
6. Plant before October 15, 12 acres of cover crops.
7. Established a registered herd of cattle.
8. Fence and improve the land belonging to the School, near the high school, so we can rotate pastures.
9. Continue the pasture improvement Program.

"Thanks a Million" to the big hearted members of the Livingston Lions Club for your unselfish support of the Future Farmers of America. You are making it possible for many boys now, and in the future to get an insight into how a farm operates and the problems of farming. It will enable some to get an insight, into the importance of the Scientifically trained Farmer in our American way of Life.

Livingston Future Farmers