



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
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Shop 'till you drop at the FFA Shopping Mall

By Kelliann Blazek

FFA members are getting their groove on with fun, new FFA apparel. Neon tie dye t-shirts and sweatshirts are among the most popular items this year in the FFA Shopping Mall at the 81st National FFA Convention.

Amanda Oldfield, a member of the Geneseo FFA Chapter in Illinois, purchased several tie dye t-shirts at the FFA Mega Store to bring home for her FFA friends. She also purchased a “Swine University: PU” t-shirt, a well-intentioned gift for her younger brother.

On Thursday, October 23, lines to the cashiers at the FFA Mega Store looped around five times and stretched onto the store floor, but Katie Long of the Southwestern FFA Chapter in Illinois said the lines moved relatively fast and didn't phase her shopping frenzy.

David Anderson, Manager of the John Deere Store, was busy manning the cash registers at the John Deere store at the FFA Shopping Mall.

“At FFA, there is a real strong allegiance to the John Deere brand. We're happy that John Deere has a strong, lasting relationship with FFA and we hope it lasts many more years,” said Andersen.

He indicated the most popular John Deere items among female FFA members are nearly all types of clothing, while male FFA members mainly purchase automotive items and caps.

Western boots are also a popular item among FFA members at national convention, said Cowpokes store manager Lynette Boone. This is the third year Cowpokes has appeared at national convention.

“I grew up around FFA and it’s just a great group of kids. This is an awesome convention to be able to get everyone together in one area,” Boone said.

The FFA Shopping Mall will be open on Friday, Oct. 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon.

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is 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.

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