



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW TEACHER COLUMN

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From Where I Stand

From where I stand, Pennsylvania Agricultural Education is alive and well!

We currently have 23 vibrant, enthusiastic student teachers placed with excellent cooperating teachers in some really exciting placement sites. That is exciting for our future.

PAAE, with strong leadership and administration in recent years, has weathered some legislative and programming challenges and come away stronger and more focused. We boast a strong national leadership presence in recent years.

PA FFA continues to elect some of the greatest students in the country into its leadership positions. Hearing "Pennsylvania" read from the national convention stage is a testament to that.

The Department of AEE has a viable strategic plan and is being ably led in accomplishing its mission. Our department's enrollment increased this year while some departments saw a decrease.

This is an exciting time to be in agricultural/environmental sciences in Pennsylvania. I appreciate working with all of you who make it happen. From where I stand—we're rolling!

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Northwest Territory



At Northwestern High School in Albion, Bill Guyer braves the Erie County snow belt to run his unique program. But according to Guyer, "the students make the program unique." His curriculum is flexible and can accommodate student interests. Each year Guyer analyzes and revises his curriculum, which allows him to include topics that meet the students' needs and helps the students excel.

The Albion FFA has many activities such as the sales, tournaments, and a banquet, but a highlight of their year is a four-day trip to the PA Farm Show. Eight of Albion's thirteen seniors received their Keystone Degree this year. The trip also included tours of Hershey and the Harley-Davidson plant in York, a pulpwood tour at Gladfelter, and a visit to some Penn State facilities, such as the deer pens and Breazeale Nuclear Reactor, on their return leg.

The Northwestern Ag students have excellent outdoor facilities. A forested area adjacent to their school is not only used for the forestry unit, but the students have built hiking and fitness trails for their community. The students also are enjoying the 10 new computers in Mr. Guyer's classroom plus the new computer lab in the school. Their project books now are computerized and more internet resources are being integrated into the curriculum.

(Continued on page 6)



IPM for Teachers

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is part of the new Environment and Ecology Academic Standards in Pennsylvania. What is IPM and how can you fit it into your curriculum? This course is designed to help teachers of all subject areas answer that question and provide them with a solid understanding of IPM concepts and sample indoor and outdoor activities to demonstrate real-world decision-making. Activities will be designed to fit the learning objectives of the new state standards. IPM curricular activities will provide a dynamic vehicle for integration of multiple disciplines in a hands-on format. Teachers will discover activities that can be done cheaply in the classroom yet teach key principles and they also will become aware of a multitude of resources (websites, publications, videos, related curricula). Students will use basic concepts in biology, ecology, math, chemistry and even history, sociology and the democratic process.

The course will be held at Penn State's University Park Campus in the Ag Sciences & Industry Bldg. and feature an informal mixture of activities (indoor and out), observation, collection, identification, experiments, learning exercises, demonstrations, computer lab and discussions. The dates are June 28-30, meeting each day from 8:30-5:30 p.m.

The enrollment limits are 30 maximum, 10 minimum. The IPM course has 30 contact hours or 2 Penn State graduate credits (ENT 497D) or PDE Continuing Education credits. Call (814) 863-8884 for more information on course content and registration. The instructors are Lyn Garling of the PA IPM Program and Kerry Richards of the Pesticide Education Office.

S.E.E. Your Way: Standards for Environment & Ecology

S.E.E. Your Way is a new course to help teachers of grades K-12 understand and implement the new Environment and Ecology Academic Standards. Participants will learn activities and techniques for incorporating the E & E standards into their present curricula and will develop strategies for modifying their curricula to accommodate the standards. Participants will interact with specialists in several of the areas covered by the E & E standards. Participants should bring their current curricula with them to this course. The course will be held July 17-20 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and July 21 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and Penn State University, University Park Campus. Contact Robinne Weiss at Shaver's Creek, rxw23@mail.outreach.psu.edu or 814-863-2000, for more information.

Electromechanical Challenge

How can we respond to the needs of the job market? A curriculum integration project with this in mind is underway at State College Area High School as part of a USDA Challenge Grant. True to its name, this grant has Paul Heasley involved in a multifaceted project to align the agricultural science department, the science department, post-secondary institutions, and business and industry. He hopes to connect agricultural mechanics, physics and electromechanical technology into a new team-taught course in mechanics that will fill the needs of local companies. "Teachers need to look outside of their program to develop opportunities for students," Heasley says. When done, the new course will be available to adult education students as well as traditional high school students. Heasley is happy to discuss similar ideas with other teachers.

Curriculum Materials Service

In cooperation with the Agricultural Education Service Office of Career-Technical and Adult Education, Ohio Department of Education, the 2000 CMS catalog is now available. The 2000 CMS catalog has a whole new design. If you have not received your catalog, please contact us to send you another one. Prices will be effective starting March 1, 2000.

CMS has a 24-hour toll free fax number (1-800-292-4919). Orders will be processed more accurately and efficiently via email or fax rather than phone. The email address for orders is cms@osu.edu. Updated availabilities and prices are available at www-cms.ag.ohio-state.edu. Catalog requests and other information can be taken through the website.

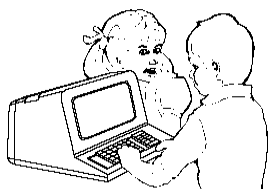
CMS also has the Analysis of the Enterprise page, which is designed to be used for specific types of plant and animal enterprises. The student should select the appropriate analysis page, either Forages; Grain; Fruits, Vegetables, Root Crops; Swine Breeding, Beef Breeding, Dairy, Sheep Breeding, or Market Animal. Each item on the analysis page includes directions for computation. Be sure your students utilize the correct figures as indicated. Students should record the comparable figure from recent sources. Then the students may compare their results with the recent sources and evaluate their accomplishments, marking excellent, good, fair, or poor in column C. Include any other efficiency factors that are important to the enterprise. List the factor and the results in the space provided on the analysis page. The Analysis Pages for Plant and Animal Enterprise Record Books are available in Adobe Acrobat format and may be downloaded at

<http://www-cms.ag.ohio-state.edu/Analysis-Pages.pdf>

<http://www-cms.ag.ohio-state.edu/Analysis-Pages.pdf>

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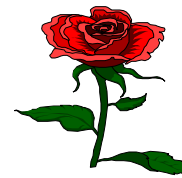


Welcome to New PDE Personnel

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Vocational/Technical Education recently announced several personnel changes. Barry Oswald has moved into the position of Division Chief for the Division of Development and Youth Services and Glendean Davis replaced Barry as the Section head for the Program Section. The Division of Development and Youth Services houses the office of FFA facilitator and Program specialist for Agricultural Education. On behalf of the Agricultural Education Family, we welcome Barry and Glendean to their new positions and we look forward to working with them.

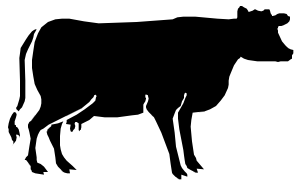
Jamie Whitehead Departs AEE

Our latest transition is the departure of our long-time staff assistant, Jamie Whitehead. She was the compiler of "Briefs" and she worked closely with all of us in AEE for 14 years. At the end of March, Jamie joined Penn State's Physics Department, which was a much-deserved promotion for her. She will be the undergraduate program coordinator for the Department. We will miss Jamie and, of course, we wish her



Export for Scholars

Building on Gov. Ridge's commitment to education and to international trade, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. launched the "Export for Scholars" program last month. "Export for Scholars" allows students to actually participate in an agricultural export program. "Students will come to appreciate the global impact of Pennsylvania agriculture and the economic opportunity available in the international arena. This program emphasizes Pennsylvania agriculture's 'Products for the Planet,'" Hayes said.



"Export for Scholars" is part of the Department of Agriculture's "Action Plan for Pennsylvania Agriculture." To begin this marketing and education program, 20 open Holstein dairy heifers were selected in early March by the Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, Delaware Valley College, and W.B. Saul High School. Over the next six months, students will manage the heifers, select sires, breed the heifers, learn about export regulations and observe port operations.

As part of the 'Export for Scholars' program, students will prepare a marketing plan for the export of Pennsylvania-bred dairy heifers to Puerto Rico, Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries in the Western Hemisphere. Through private donations, students will have the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico for a "trade mission" in August to complete their export business by meeting with livestock professionals and dairy farmers who will purchase the bred dairy heifers.

In addition to the PA Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, Delaware Valley College and W.B. Saul High School, the "Export for Scholars" partnership includes Johnson Livestock Company, Andre Ruiz of Puerto Rico, Sire Power, and the Port of Philadelphia.

PA Soil Climate Atlas

The out-of-print book, *Soil Climate Regimes of PA*, is now on line through the Earth System Science Center's website: http://www.essc.psu.edu/soil_info/ and click on "Soil Climates" and then "PA Soil Climate Atlas." There are several maps of the PA agro-climatic regions. The downloadable maps require Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Ag and Historic Preservation

The *2000 Historic Preservation and Heritage Partnerships Conference* will be held April 13-14 in Reading PA. The conference has three tracks: Practical Preservation, Politics and Heritage, and Pivotal Heritage Issues. The conference will examine Pennsylvania's preservation plan and look at development issues that threaten the rural heritage. Both one-day and two registrations are available. For a program brochure and more information contact, Preservation Pennsylvania, 257 North St, Harrisburg, PA 17101 or call 717-234-2310.



Thoroughbred Central Integrated Curriculum

Did you know that \$21,247,757 was returned to the Commonwealth from thoroughbred racing in 1997? At PAAE on Monday July 10, the New and Beginning Teacher Workshop will feature a free curriculum about the growing equine industry and training on integrating agriculture into other content areas. The Thoroughbred Central Integrated Curriculum was developed through the Thoroughbred Racehorse Industry with the National Council on Agricultural Education. This is a web-enhanced interdisciplinary curriculum featuring practical applications and real-life scenarios to anchor instruction and to make learning fun for both teachers and students. The curriculum includes ag, biology, physics, math, art, humanities, and English. Teams of teachers from these disciplines are encouraged to attend. The program will be facilitated by Chris McCahren and requires a minimum of 10 enrollments. Cost of the course is \$20 per person, half of which will be paid by The Center for ag teachers or those teachers attending with another ag teacher. To preregister, contact Carol Hodes by June 23 at clh4@psu.edu or 814-865-4592.

New Resources

At the State Staff workshop several weeks ago, Chris Weller saw the following Web Sites that contain valuable information:

The North Carolina State-SAE toolbox has lesson plans and power point files on teaching SAE. <http://www.ncsu.edu/cals/agexed/sae/toolbox>

Washington Assn. for Ag Teachers-National Chapter Application, information page <http://waae.wsu.edu> this site also has lesson plans and other information from the Ag Teachers Assn.

University of Minnesota-Risk Management for Agriculture <http://www.agrisk.umn.edu>

Please let Chris <cweller@state.pa.us> know if these sites are a benefit to you.

Tom Oyler, Director of PA Pesticide Urban Initiative of PDA, thought these two web sites would be of interest to Ag Teachers, as well as other teachers in your school district.

The "AG Day" site has a "teacher's corner" <http://www.agday.org>

The "Pennsylvania Urban Initiative" site is part of the pesticide education program at Penn State. It has a section for kids and teachers: <http://urbanpested.cas.psu.edu>

One last website is The Pennsylvania State Statistical Service, the fact finder for PA Agriculture, which contains reports and databases about crops and livestock, can be found at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

April 4	PAAE S. Central Meeting, Hoss's, Carlisle
April 12	PAAE N. Central Meeting, Restless Oaks, McElhatten
May 12	FFA Assn. Board of Directors meeting, 301-A Ag Admin, 6:30 p.m.

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

May 5	Regional Contest Quota results due to regional coordinators (ie, public speaking, tractor driving, dairy showmanship, chapter procedure, small gas engines.)
May 9	FFA Week entries due at Penn State (registration forms with full payment, state authorization form, state FFA activities form, 3 copies of manuscripts for public speaking, coaching responsibility consent forms, state officer candidate applications, delegate information form, 3 copies of ag science award application.)

(Continued from page 1)

In 1970, there were nine agricultural science programs in Erie County. Mr. Guyer's program is the only agricultural science program remaining in Erie County. He has strong administrative support for his program and an active advisory board of parents and community members.

Under Guyer's guidance, this program should remain strong! We thank Mr. Guyer for taking time from his busy schedule to speak to us.

FFA Awards Three Earthwatch Scholarships



Three PA teachers have been chosen for a \$1,500 scholarship from National FFA to participate in an Earthwatch expedition during 2000. Jackee Bender of Oxford High School, Neva Johnston of Union Middle/High School, and Dianna Dellinger of Bermudian Springs High School will have the opportunity to select an international expedition.

The mission of the Earthwatch Institute is to promote sustainable conservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage by creating partnerships between scientists, educators and the general public. National FFA awards the scholarships through a generous grant from the Jerome Foundation.

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