



# BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

December 2001, Volume X, Issue 4

## NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Tracy Hoover, PSU Associate Professor

### PAAE – PSU New & Beginning Teacher Program

With the 2001 –2002 school year well on its way, I would like to welcome the New & Beginning Teachers. PAAE and PSU created a three-pronged approach to mentoring.

1. Field-based PAAE mentors for all first-year agriculture teachers;
2. Phil Ogline, Doyle Paul and AEE faculty will visit new teachers to give support and assess needs.
3. PAAE and PSU/AEE will host programs designed for the new teachers, their mentors as well as interested others.

Listed below are the New Teachers and Mentors for 2001 – 2002.

Joy Young - Diana Dellinger  
 Scott Brofee & Raylene Russell -  
 Krista Pontius

Mike Clark - Doyle Paul  
 Amanda Imwald - Nick Stollar  
 Ann Marie Meyer - Brent Dahlhaus  
 Ben Mordan - Carole Fay  
 Jessica Calligher - Paul Heasley  
 Brian Nelm - Steve Miller  
 Jeff Marteeny - James Harrold

If you are interested in being a PAAE mentor or are looking for a mentor, please contact MeeCee Baker at [baker@pa.net](mailto:baker@pa.net).

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## Opening up more opportunities

*Cowanesque Valley JR-SR HS*

Agricultural science is bustling at

Cowanesque High School. Between Andy Boyer and Marty Heyler, over 100 different students are taking agriculture classes.

Since the entire school has only 410 students in grades 7-12, the agricultural teachers see at least half of the high school students every day. The vocational program is not separate,

neither is it a requirement. Starting this year, students can get science credit for their

agriculture classes, which has had a positive

impact on the program's enrollments. "We won't

turn students away if they want to be here," said Marty Heyler,

a second-generation agricultural teacher. He then explained their curricular revision:

"Only two years ago this was a traditional agricultural production program, now we have Classification

of Instruction Program (CIP) codes for six

areas, so students can be considered completers in one of the areas."



*Marty Heyler working with students in Ag Mechanics*

*(continued on page 4)*



# Sites of Interest

## IPM News

The PA IPM program has new resources on the web <http://paipm.cas.pasu.edu/whatsnew.html> including "Identifying Common Household Insects in Pennsylvania," and "IPM for Pennsylvania Schools: A how-to manual for implementing IPM on school grounds," which are both pdf files. "Penn Jersey Crop Alerts" were recently added and give reports on pests in the field in 40 counties in the two states.

Another new IPM publication is available from the IPM Institute of North America titled "IPM Standards for Schools: A program for reducing pest and pesticide risks in schools and other sensitive environments." The publication can be downloaded in two parts from the website at no cost or ordered for \$15 per copy online at [http://www.ipminstitute.org/school\\_standards.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_standards.htm). The website also explains how a school can become IPM certified.



## WebQuest

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/webquest/webquest.html>

This site is designed to serve as a resource to those who use the WebQuest model to teach with the Web. By pointing to excellent examples and collecting materials developed to communicate the idea, all of us experimenting with WebQuests will be able to learn from each other.

A WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented activity in which most or all of the information used by learners is drawn from the Web. WebQuests are designed to use learners' time well, to focus on using information rather than looking for it, and to support learners' thinking at the levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The model was developed in early 1995 at San Diego State University by Bernie Dodge with Tom March.

Clearly, the word is getting out. The WebQuest Page is now getting over 1700 hits/day!



## 8th Grade Agriscience Activities

During the last couple of school years, Travis Peery Stillwater aged instructor, piloted hands-on teaching kits. The kits were developed and sold by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For more information go to: [http://www.okcareertech.org/aged/8th\\_grade\\_agriscience\\_activities.htm](http://www.okcareertech.org/aged/8th_grade_agriscience_activities.htm)

## Grants

U.S Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce this year's competition of the Secondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grant Program. This grant program is open to all U.S. public schools serving 9-12. The program is designed to encourage the incorporation of agribusiness and agriscience concepts into the curriculum. A full copy of the solicitation and required forms can be found at the following link – <http://faeis.tamu.edu/hep/menus/msgs~1.htm>.



## Stars from South Central Region

by: *Dianna Dellinger, Ag Educator*

FFA members were recently selected as the South Central Stars in four agricultural enterprise areas. Each of these members have completed the application for the Keystone Degree, the highest State award possible in the FFA. Upon verification of their applications, they will receive their accolades at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on January 7th.

To qualify for the Stars award, members completed annual supervised agricultural experience programs in at least one of four categories: production agriculture, agriculture sales

and service, horticulture and/or specialty agriculture. Instruction in agriculture classes and application of knowledge and hands-on training proved successful for these members!

Isaac Bucher, Battlefield FFA, is a recent graduate attending HACC majoring in Animal Science. His off-farm work experience at Bucher Meats awarded him a silver medal at the National FFA Convention last year and now represents the South Central Region and Adams County in Agriculture

Sales and Service.

Andrew Alwine, Bermudian FFA, is a senior planning to work full-time at Alwine's

chards, sawmill and the campground. Adam has been encouraged to manage the family operation in the near future.

And, in the area of specialty agriculture, Julie Noll, Greenwood FFA, is a freshman at Penn State majoring in Animal Science with a business option. Julie's SAE includes an agriscience project on "Determining Air-Flow Rates Through Biofilters." She received honors at the National FFA Convention as a 2001 finalist for her project.

All students completed a record-keeping book that logs hours, goals, budgets and invento-

ries that culminate the experiences of hands-on learning. These members represent more than 457,000 nationwide from various backgrounds with an interest in promoting the agricultural industry. Look for these FFA members to lead the way to our future! Advisors for the winners are William Tindall & Ron Sollenberger (Gettysburg), Michelle Miller and Scott Howell (Apple City), Dianna Dellinger and John Wardle (Bermudian), and MeeCee Baker and Krista Pontius (Greenwood).



L-R in picture, front row: Corey Briggs (Bellwood FFA), Julie Noll (Greenwood FFA), Norah Snider (Chestnut Ridge FFA), Tom Parshell (Bellwood FFA). Back row: l-r: Anthony Seymore (Bermudian FFA), Adam Cole (Apple City FFA), Wade Hardie (Bellwood FFA), Mark Fulton (Big Spring FFA), Andrew Alwine Bermudian FFA, Isaac Bucher (Battlefield FFA), and Tate Pontius (Greenwood FFA).

Dairy upon graduation. His on-farm work experience at his family farm has given him ample opportunity to develop management skills. He was chosen as the South Central Star in Agriculture Production.

Selected to represent the South Central Region in the award area of horticulture was Adam Cole, a senior from the Biglerville FFA. Adam's responsibilities on the Cole Bros. Family Farm is caring for Christmas tree production, maintenance of family or-

*(Opening Up More Opportunities... con't from p. 1)*

The curriculum has expanded and more biotechnology and specialized horticulture are being added to the course sequences. Adding these two areas has been fun for Andy Boyer, who was inspired as a student in Steve Miller's program at Conrad Weiser HS and was also a former nursery salesman. Andy noted that he "integrated earth and space science into his courses . . . and got some better students that way." Andy said that he is "trying to get more hands-on and real-life experience into the courses."

Their aquaculture facility is

brand new and they hope to "grow" various production crops as part of their expanded horticulture program. Andy mentioned that he's received \$65,000 in grants since he's been there, which has helped him set up the biotech program.

Marty and Andy had high praise for their administration. "Our school board and administration are 100% behind us, especially the superintendent. In the future, we'll be better linked to jobs in the area, such as tree farming and landscape design, and we hope to start a Center for Outdoor Power Equipment for the students,"

said Marty. Andy also concluded with a futuristic note about the Cowanesque FFA, "I want to get them more involved with the community. A junior FFA for grades 7 and 8 might happen next year."

The enhancements in the program are opening up more opportunities for the students as they will have more choices regarding curricula. At this point, most of their students continue to either higher education or the military, and three of their students are pursuing agricultural education degrees in college.

## Chiarelli Makes History Again!

The National FFA Organization has selected 20-year-old Elio Chiarelli, Jr. from McDonald, PA as the 2001-2002 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. Elio is a member of H.G. Parkinson FFA Chapter. His parents are Elio and Nancy Chiarelli. His FFA Advisors are Jodi Chadwick and the late T. Lee Carter.

Elio was one of six individuals chosen for a national officer position from a field of 41 candidates. He is a sophomore, who is majoring in agricultural education, hopes to work as an agricultural and environmental science educator.



*Front Row (L to R): Dane White, President; Robin Niehaus, Secretary - Back Row (L to R): Amber Haugland, Central Region V. President; Barrett Keene, Southern Region V. President; Elio Chiarelli, Jr., Eastern Region V. President; and Abbie Kammerzell, Western Region V. President*

As an FFA member, Elio participated in three different SAE programs. The programs were based in poultry and vegetable production. Elio also

served as the State FFA President and was Pennsylvania's first National Prepared Public Speaking winner.

Outside of FFA, his activities have included undergraduate research in poultry science, membership on the varsity golf team, Collegiate FFA membership and international study abroad. Elio will now be one of only six students who have the rare distinction of serving more than 457,000 FFA members for the next year.

If you would like to contact Elio or just keep abreast of his travel and experiences, log onto the National FFA website at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).

## Introducing... Ben Mordan

Ben Mordan graduated from the agricultural science program at Danville HS. He then enrolled in the turfgrass program and then in the certification program in agricultural education at Penn State.



Last May, he received his degree in turf science plus a teaching certificate from Penn State. He is a first-year teacher in Agricultural Mechanics and Biotechnology at Penn Manor High School in Millersville where he is one of four teachers. At Penn State, Ben was involved in Phi Kappa Tau fraternity and the Penn State Turf Club. He was also an assistant basketball coach at Columbia-Montour AVTS where he student taught.

This year Ben feels he's

learned a lot about establishing rules and procedures as part of his preparation to start teaching. He remarked, "Since my student teaching program started during the middle of the school year, I didn't have any experience with beginning the year."

Another area of growth Ben mentioned is "gauging the ability of my students and how much they can handle."

Ben's plans for the future include concentrating on developing teaching skills for a couple of years. Ben agrees with Peter Drucker that the "best way to predict the future is to invent it." Once he is comfortable with teaching and has a quality "teaching tool box" of his own, who knows what he will do!

## Carter's Impact on Ag Education

Honored as outstanding agriculture teacher T. Lee Carter, 59, of McDonald, died November 14, 2001, in Manor Care Nursing Facility, McMurray, following a 14-month battle with cancer.

He graduated from Penn State University in 1964 with a degree in agricultural education. He was a member of the Nittany Lion Club and Penn State Alumni Association.

In 1964, he began teaching at Fort Cherry High School, where he taught for 35 years before retiring in 1999. He was adviser for the H.G. Parkinson FFA Chapter, and his students received many awards at the regional, state and national levels. The chapter was recognized as one of the best in Pennsylvania and the nation when it achieved the National Gold Emblem Chapter Award in 1991. He is the only FFA adviser in the state to coach a national FFA award winner in public speaking. In 1989, he was recognized as the outstanding teacher in agriculture in Pennsylvania.

Lee served on the state FFA Advisory Board and as regional vice president of PAAE for two years. He received several letters of commendation from the Department of Education on his outstanding work with FFA chapter activities and agricultural education. In 1982 was recognized nationally with the Honorary American FFA Degree.

(www.observer-reporter.com)

## Here's Your Opportunity

Forest Resources Institute for Teachers (FRIT) will provide 3rd-12th-grade teachers (and other educators) with information and educational tools to teach a balanced environment and ecology curriculum related to Pennsylvania's forests and wildlife. The long-term objective of FRIT is to provide youth with the skills and knowledge to recognize, analyze, and make decisions relating to Pennsylvania's forest resources. Many of the

state's natural resource controversies and poor land use practices reflect a lack of understanding. FRIT, a four-day institute at Penn State's University Park Campus from June 24-27, 2002, will help address this need. Contact the Short Course office to have a FRIT brochure sent to you: [Shortcourse@psu.edu](mailto:Shortcourse@psu.edu) or 814-865-8301 or 306 Ag Admin Building, University Park, PA 16802.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....**

- December 11-15.. NAAE Convention, New Orleans, LA  
 December 12-16 . ACTE Convention, New Orleans, LA  
 January 5-11..... PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 7..... PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 4:00 PM  
 January 7..... New & Beginning Teacher Workshop, Agriscience & Leadership Development, Pennsylvania Room, Farm Show Complex, 11:00 AM  
 January 24..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Western Region, Derry Area HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM  
 January 25..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU, 7:00 PM  
 January 30..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Central Region, Tyrone Area HS, 4:00 -6:30 PM  
 February 5..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Eastern Region, Conrad Weiser HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM  
 February 5-7 ..... PYFA Convention, Lebanon, PA  
 February 7-9 ..... PA State Project Book Evaluations, Hampton Inn, State College  
 February 11-15.... Career & Technology Week, PA State Capital Rotunda, Harrisburg  
 February 16-17 ... ACES, Marriott, Harrisburg  
 February 18-24 ... National FFA Week  
 February 22..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM  
 March 10-12 ..... SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville  
 March 19..... PAAE Western Regional Mtg., Hoss's in Allison Park, 6:00 PM  
 March 22..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU, 7:00 PM  
 April 5..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM  
 April 6..... State Proficiency Evaluations, PSU  
 April 10..... PAAE South Central Regional Mtg., Dinner/Inservice - Hoss's, 5:00 PM;  
 Cumberland Valley HS, 7:00 PM  
 April 18..... PAAE North Central Regional Mtg., TBA  
 May 17..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM  
 May 17..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., Coudersport HS, Time TBA

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- December 15..... Reconfirm Entries for Farm Show market swine, market steers, market lambs -  
 Farm Show Office  
 February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators  
 February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center  
 February 26..... Membership Roster & Dues due to Penny Brammer, Adult Treasurer  
 March 12..... American FFA Degree Applications due at CTSO office  
 April 1..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to regional coordinators  
 (project books required)  
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia  
 May 5..... Regional Contest Quota results due to Regional Coordinators (public speaking,  
 chapter procedure, small gas engines, tractor driving & dairy showmanship)

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