



# BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

December 2002, Volume XI, Issue IV

## NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Nathan Jamison, Tri-Valley HS

### *My First National FFA Convention as an FFA Advisor*

My fourth trip to the National FFA Convention in Louisville - no reason to think that this trip would be any different than the other three, right? Well, it was different, but in a good way.



In 1999, I went to my first National Convention as a student when I received the American FFA Degree. Then in 2000 and 2001, I attended as a representative from Penn State to recruit potential students at the Career Show. At these three conventions, I had things to do, but no true responsibilities.

Then came the 2002 Convention. How was this different than the other three? This time, I had responsibilities. This time, I was the advisor. Attending my first National Convention as an FFA Advisor was truly a unique experience. We were fortunate enough to travel with Mr. Leib, from Cumberland Valley HS, who did a tremendous job planning a great trip for the group; thus, I did not do the planning. There was, however, plenty of things that an advisor must do.

There is, of course, the usual making sure the students are acting properly,

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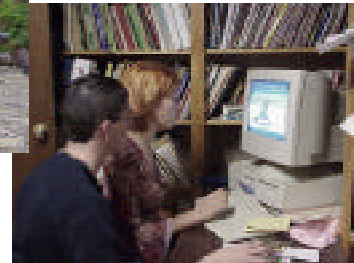
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## 7 Acres of Laboratory

*Bradford Area HS, McKean County*



*Adult assistant supervises student as he works with the rough timber.*



*Students keep records of class activities and FFA events via the computer.*

Samuel Heyler, agriculture teacher at Bradford Area HS, has a unique program, from the 7-acre laboratory to the new greenhouse to the expanding sawmill operation. As one visits the program, don't expect to find the agriculture program located in the lower floors of the multi-level school or just right outside the back doors, but walk several blocks to the one classroom with an ag mechanics/aquaculture lab. There Sam teaches 42 students on a regular basis in the areas of grounds and building maintenance, horticulture, forestry, agricultural mechanics and aquaculture.

Though the classroom is located a distance from the main school, the students are exposed to a unique learning experience. Currently the program has 7 acres of land where the students learn to fell trees, load the timber onto the sawmill and then process the rough cut material to a finished product. Sam, along with an adult assistant, supervise the students as they run the entire operation. The community also takes part in the expanding sawmill operation.

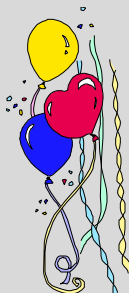
Community members bring logging materials to the site for

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Sites of Interest

## Celebrating 30 Years

National Agriculture Day will celebrate 30 years on March 21, 2003 with producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gathering to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture on this first day of spring.



In its 30th year, the National Ag Day program is still committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture. As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food and fiber that the United States produces.

The National Agriculture Day program believes that every American should understand how food and fiber products are produced and should value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy. They should appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Agriculture Day focuses on educating Americans about the industry, so they may also acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

Each year the National Agriculture Day program gathers members of the agricultural industry together in an effort to promote American agriculture. Focused on sharing how agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, the Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers each year.

Join this effort to promote American agriculture to everyone during National Agriculture Week, March 16-22, 2003. For more information go to: <http://www.agday.org/>

## Unit Plans with Detailed Lessons

Georgia Agriculture Curriculum has a variety of unit plans with detailed lessons attached. Go to <http://aged.ces.uga.edu/lessons/> to see the lesson plans attached to the following units:

- Ag Leadership and Personal Development
- Cooperative Agribusiness Sales and Marketing
- Agricultural Business and Management
- Agricultural Mechanics Technology I
- Agricultural Mechanics Technology II
- Agricultural Mechanics Technology III

- Agricultural Crop Production and Management
- Agricultural Animal Production and Management
- General Horticulture
- Floriculture Production and Management
- Landscape Design and Management
- Nursery Production and Management
- Floral Design and Management
- Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology
- Plant Science Biotechnology
- Physical Science Applications in Agriculture
- Basic Agricultural Science and Technology
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Environmental Science
- Forestry
- Forest Science

## Calendar Online

Looking for information on workshops, conventions, etc. go to <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/center/calendar.htm>. The calendar is updated once a month and contains information for contact people, costs, directions to locations and more.

*If you know of any interesting websites and would like to share them with other educators, please email the website to Tiffany Hoy at [tmr175@psu.edu](mailto:tmr175@psu.edu).*

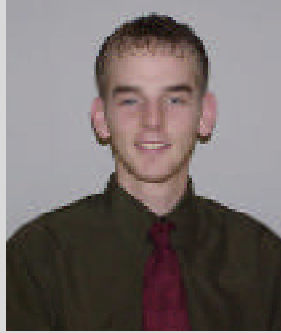
## Introducing... Nathan Jamison

Nathan (Nate) Jamison was inspired to become an agriculture teacher

by Richard Stumpf, retired agriculture teacher from United High School. "He always encouraged me to do my best and really served as a great mentor.

I can only hope that I will have the same impact on my students."

Yet, when Nate was asked to look back at his time at Penn State and student teaching, he realized he learned some valuable lessons that he still uses today. "1) Always give the students something to do,



don't allow down time or else they will get in trouble, 2) Just

when you think you've seen it all, the students do something to surprise you, and 3) Plan, plan, plan.

However there are those things you can only learn once you become an employed

agriculture teacher – Just when you think you have caught up on work, the phone rings, the mail comes, and another teacher in the school has something for the agriculture students to fix." Nate has found the biggest surprise of all - how many teachers visit his room to have things fixed.

Most of the time Nate finds that his 8–12 grade students have no trouble fixing the projects brought to the room. Between his agricultural science I – IV and electives in forestry, small gas engines, basic electricity, wildlife management, veterinary science and arc welding, there are few things that cannot be solved. When Nate was asked what are his areas of strength, he replied, "wildlife, dairy and welding."

As Nathan Jamison continues on his journey as an agricultural educator he hopes to obtain his master's degree and to be involved with the professional organization. He will also be marrying his college sweetheart in April. Congratulations!

*(7 acres lab...cont'd from p. 1)*

the students to cut into specific widths and thickness.

Sam also prides his program on the FFA activities in which his students take part. "They take the information learned in the classroom and apply to Career Development Events like forestry, land judging, public speaking, tractor driving and the McKean County Envirothon. All I ask is that the students do their best and they do. We also enter a float into the homecoming parade. This is a great activity to apply construction and teambuilding skills."

The students also have great

pride in their program.

Throughout the visit, the students talked about the new greenhouse, which is still being erected. "We did everything so far." Students applied their skills in leveling the ground, to laying the foundation block to erecting the glass to enclose the greenhouse. "We still have more to complete, like the heating and watering systems, but the students have worked on the project and cannot wait to continue onto the next steps to complete the structure," Sam replied.

Visitors to the Bradford Area HS Agricultural Education

program, can see the pride the community, students and school administrators have in the program. Sam has plans to expand the sawmill operation and also to have a productive greenhouse operation running in the next several years. "Many of my students use the on-site laboratory to create and conduct SAE experiments."

So next time you take a trip above Route 80 and are in the McKean County area, stop by Bradford Area HS to see how one teacher has taken an outdated oil processing building and turned it into a learning environment for his students.

## CDE Update Column

by: *Cliff Day, CDE Chairperson*

*2003 Chapter Procedure CDE undergoes major change*

A proposed 2003 Chapter Procedure CDE will look quite different from what most teachers have seen in the past.

A six-member team, representing the six nationally recognized offices, will present slightly altered Opening Ceremonies. No advisor or chaplain is required.

Immediately following the Opening Ceremonies, which will NOT include the reading of Secretary's Minutes or a Treasurer's Report, the president will ask for New Business. The New Business to be presented, along with five or six additional parliamentary abilities (motions), will be listed on an index card at the seat where the team member will sit during competition. Each participant must demonstrate the ability that is assigned to him or her. The team will utilize the required motions as well as others to demonstrate their knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

The president will serve as the only chairperson for the demonstration. The secretary will keep minutes of the meeting and turn them in at the



## Summer 2003 Graduate Courses



The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education will be offering the following graduate level courses Summer 2003, from June 16th to July 3rd. A series of different graduate level courses will be offered during Summer 2004 in an effort to help interested individuals secure coursework needed to complete a graduate degree. Interested individuals can obtain registration and enrollment information through Continuing Education at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/CE/> or (814) 865-3443. Information relative to graduate degrees offered in Agricultural and Extension Education can be accessed at <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/> or contact Dr. Joan Thomson, AEE Graduate Coordinator - [jthomson@psu.edu](mailto:jthomson@psu.edu) or 814-863-3825.

### *Research Core*

8:00 to 10:30 am- AEE 520 - Research Methods in AEE (3 credits)

### *Educational Processes Core*

10:30 to 1:00 pm - AEE 400 – Educational Programs in Agriculture for Developing Countries (3 credits)

### *Required Course*

2:00 to 3:15 pm - AEE/YFE – 590 - Colloquium (1 credit)

### *Administration and Supervision Core*

4:15 to 6:45pm - YFE 555 – Volunteer Management (3 credits)

conclusion of the demonstration. There will not be quizzers as in the past. Adult judges will ask questions of the team immediately following their demonstration. The questions will pertain to the parliamentary ability that each member was assigned. There will be NO Closing Ceremonies. Time limit will be 15 minutes. A written test will be administered based upon the bank of question from the National FFA. Guidelines for

this CDE will follow the National Chapter Procedure CDE.

For further information on this CDE, check out the National FFA Website at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org). Your feedback to this proposal would be appreciated. A copy of the proposal can also be found on the PA FFA Website at [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us).



## Biotechnology Workshop March 12, 2003

Modern biotechnology has sparked both optimism and controversy. Debate about the impact of the research tools and products of biotechnology encompasses health, farm economics, global biodiversity, environmental quality, hunger and malnutrition. The public debate over the benefits and hazards of genetic technology suffers from an astounding array of misinformation, misunderstanding, and manipulation.

Help dispel the average consumer's fear of biotechnology. The workshop will be presented by Bill Tindall on March 12, 2003, at Gettysburg Area HS in Adams County. Please register by March 4, 2003.

Bill has attended workshops presented by the National Council for Agricultural Education and has in-classroom experiences to share with you. There will be explanations, demonstrations and hands-on activities that will prepare you to take home ideas and materials/resources to offer to your students.

Potential topics include:

- \* What is biotechnology?
- \* Are biotech foods safe to eat?
- \* Consumer and environmental benefits
- \* DNA
- \* Genes and Proteins
- \* Tomorrow's Biotechnology as pertaining to Foods from Genetically Modified Crops



Three (3) ACT 48 Hours will be offered plus an excellent computer disk - "Biotechnology for Plants, Animals and the Environment" and additional demonstrations and lab practicums.

Approximate time frame - 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Register by contacting Dorothy Thomas at 814-863-7852 or at [djt1@psu.edu](mailto:djt1@psu.edu). If you have questions, please contact Bill Tindall at 717-334-6254 ext. 6285.

*(New & Beginning...cont'd from p. 1)*

a sometimes daunting task. But of course my students at Tri-Valley are always on their best behavior. With the busy schedule we had, every night there was the fun of enforcing the curfew set so your students were in bed at a reasonable time to get a good rest, then turning around and making sure they were up and in official dress the next morning. It seems as though an ag teacher inevitably stays up later and wakes up earlier than the students. Although the trip was very enjoyable, it was the FFA Advisor's job to make sure that the students got the most out of the trip educationally by attending general sessions, professional development seminars, and the career show. And, as each of you knows, the list of tasks goes on and on.

So, was being at the Convention as an FFA advisor different? Yes, but it was a great experience and I plan on continuing to take students there. My job really was quite easy, thanks to the "older" teachers who provided guidance to me.



Mike & Chelsi Shultz are the proud parents of Reed James born on October 31st. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20" long. Congratulations.

### Announcements

Linda & Dennis Bennet welcomed the arrival of their son, Trey William, on November 5. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 3/4 oz. and was 20 1/2" long. Congratulations

Jessica (Kelligher) Martin married Ryan on July 13, 2002.

Wendy Auchenbach married Brian Harris on July 27, 2002.



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

- December 10-14 . NAAE Convention, Las Vegas, NV  
 December 12-15 . ACTE Convention, Las Vegas, NV  
 December 12-15 . NYFEA Institute, Oklahoma, City, OK  
 January 11-18 ..... PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 13..... PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 4:00 PM  
 ..... Penn State Classes Begin  
 January 16..... FFA Foundation Mtg., Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 24..... PAAE Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 7:00 PM  
 January 24-25 ..... Food Science & Technology Workshop, Conrad Weiser HS, 6:00 PM  
 Jan. 31 - Feb. 1 ... Food Science & Technology Workshop, Derry Area HS, 6:00 PM  
 February 4-7 ..... PYFA Winter Conference, Lewisburg  
 February 4..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop, PSU-324 ASI, 4:00 PM  
 February 7-8 ..... PA FFA Record Book Evaluation Event, State College, Contact Ron Frederick  
 February 11 ..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop - PSU - 324 ASI, 4:00 PM  
 February 13..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop - PSU-DuBois, 4:00 PM  
 February 15-16 ... ACES Leadership Conference, Marriott, Harrisburg (M. Brammer)  
 February 17-23 ... National FFA Week  
 Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 .. Food Science & Technology Workshop, PSU - Borland Lab, 6:00 PM  
 February 28..... PA FFA Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 6:30 PM  
 March 2-9 ..... Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA  
 March 9-11 ..... SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville (M. Brammer)  
 March 10-14 ..... PSU Spring Break  
 March 11 ..... FFA Foundation Mtg., Harrisburg  
 March 12..... Biotechnology Workshop, Gettysburg (B. Tindall)  
 March 19..... AFY Parliamentary Procedure CDE, Northern York HS, 4:00 PM  
 March 21..... PA FFA Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 6:30 PM  
 April 4..... PA FFA Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 6:30 PM

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- December 15..... Reconfirm entries for Farm Show Market Swine, Steers, & Lambs with Farm Show Office  
 February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators  
 February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center  
 March 4..... Registration due for Biotechnology Workshop, Contact Dorothy Thomas  
 March 10..... American FFA Degree Applications due to CTSO  
 April 2..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to Regional Coordinators (Project Books Required)  
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Hoy and Thomas Bruening.  
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