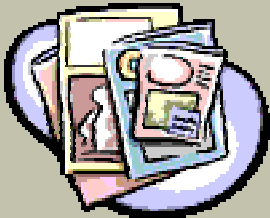


# Briefs for Ag Educators

*The Center for Professional Personnel Development*

## *Last Issue to be Printed*



*Beginning February 2004, the Briefs newsletter will be sent only as a PDF via the ag teacher's list serve. If you are not registered on the web site, please contact Dorothy Thomas at [djt1@psu.edu](mailto:djt1@psu.edu)*

### **Highlights:**

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## **2004 Penn State Student Teachers**

Eighteen students have completed their course requirements to student teacher during the 2004 spring semester. Upon conclusion of their student teaching experience, they will apply for PA teaching Certificate and hopefully be gainfully employed by August of 2004.

The Center for Professional Personnel Development would like to thank those who have chosen to serve as cooperating teachers. Without your patience and expertise the CPPD would not be able to assist students in obtaining their career choice to be

an agricultural educator. Thank You

Please help the CPPD to wish the following student teachers the best of luck during their student teaching practicum.

Tim Gettle – Northern Lebanon,  
Jessica Landis – Cumberland Valley,  
SaraBeth Wanbaugh – Big Spring,  
Larry Smith – Tyrone, Renee Baker – Penn Manor, Jesse Brant – Garden Spot, Jes Donahue – W.B. Saul,  
Bart Gill – Eastern York, Valerie Spangler – Bermudian Springs, Anne Agnew – Derry, Jason Innerst – Southern Fulton,

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **New & Beginning Teacher Column**

*By: Lori Connelly, PSU AEE Graduate Student*

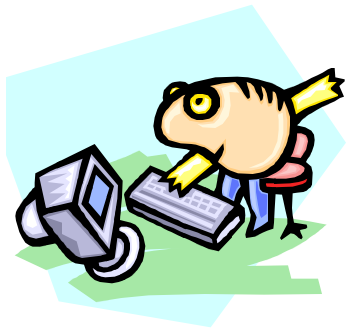
Need an idea for a Supervised Agricultural Experience? Need to know the dates for the Pennsylvania Farm Show, or what Pennsylvania's number one commodity is? Many teachers spend valuable time searching for new material, finding references, looking for exciting projects, and gathering resources. In October of this year, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education launched a one-stop-shopping tool that allows teachers, students, and citizens access to a

plethora of resources. This innovative website is called Marketplace for the Mind. It was created to help teachers connect with information in compliance with science, technology, environmental sciences and ecology standards.

Managed by the PDA, Marketplace for the Mind contains useful information on items such as available scholarships, special events, careers in agriculture and links to numerous student friendly websites. A feature of Marketplace for the Mind is the Ag Resource Library.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Sites of Interest



*If you have a great website that you would like to share with other agricultural educators, please forward the information to Tiffany Hoy at [tmr175@psu.edu](mailto:tmr175@psu.edu)*

### MSDS Solutions On-line

Since 1991, MSDS Solutions Company has set the standard by providing the most advanced online database, software & services for managing and distributing material safety data sheet documents. The company's unparalleled database of over 1 million active MSDSs allows users of all types to perform unlimited searches and quickly source the documents they need. And the strength of MSDS's leading management solutions, combined with their dedicated team of specialists and our industry leading Compliance Standard, gives organizations the confidence to know that their management & distribution needs will be met by the best possible solution.

MSDS's competitive advantage, aside from their consultative approach with customers, is a scalable solution set. Whether your organization needs to source a few free MSDS documents, manage a few hundred, or streamline the management and deployment of thousands – they have the right fit for both your needs and budget. For more information go to [www.msds.com](http://www.msds.com).



### Information on PA Schools

Do you need to find events taking place at your own school or another one? The following website is exceptional in providing a lot of detailed information on all school districts in PA & MI. [www.ses.standardandpoors.com](http://www.ses.standardandpoors.com)

### CYFAR Site Up and Running

The Pennsylvania CYFAR website is up and running. This site includes The YET Project and the State Strengthening Project. Each school site for the YET project will develop its own site and the site will be active soon. Danny Perkins and Phil Hoy will be updating the site on a regular basis. Check out the site to see what's happening with the Pennsylvania CYFAR Program. <http://CYFAR.cas.psu.edu/>



### Horticulture Information at your Fingertips

[www.hort.net](http://www.hort.net) provides a gallery of plants, plant profiles and top horticulture stories. Great for a teacher looking for information for a horticulture or plant science course.



## Agroecology Instructional Resources & Internship

By: Erik Kelling, AEE Graduate Student

The on-farm internship is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students to learn and work in diverse sectors of agriculture. Funded by a USDA Higher Education Challenge grant, students are paid for the 12-week learning experience. The program offers experiences in organic farming, no-till farming and sustainable diversified production. Students develop instructional materials and case studies related to their internships. The website offers feedback from former students that have participated and boasts a

wonderful collection of pictures in the photo album, helping to depict the student learning process.

The website, a useful instructional resource for agriculture teachers is located at <http://paonfarminterns.cas.psu.edu/default.htm> and contains case studies, photos and descriptions of student research projects. The format allows teachers to easily incorporate the information into their classroom. The site also includes information about the faculty and staff who are involved with the project. Please take a few minutes and check out the site!




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*This internship is designed for students and faculty to study agroecology on working farms and gain a whole-farm perspective of some farms in the diverse agricultural landscape of Pennsylvania.*

## AgrAbility – Bridging Horizon FFA Chapter Contest

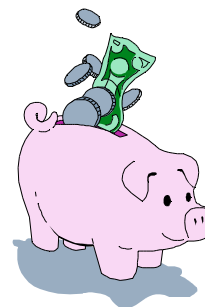
AgrAbility would like to remind you that there is plenty of time to submit an application for the 2004 Bridging Horizon FFA Chapter Contest.

AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians recognizes the skills and talents of FFA Chapter members. FFA Chapters can use their skills and problem-solving techniques to provide assistance to local farm families by identifying low-cost solutions to barriers they are facing on their farms, in their agribusinesses, or in their communities. The Bridging Horizons FFA Chapter Contest will be judged on the basis of originality, usefulness, practicality, and thoroughness of the project's final report.

Please note that there has been a change in the monetary award amounts. Due to a decrease in funding, prize money will be distributed in the following manner:

1st Place: \$200  
2nd Place: \$100  
3rd Place: \$50

The Bridging Horizon FFA Chapter Contest is a great way for chapters to utilize their skills and problem-solving techniques. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Fetzer at 814-863-7490 or [lmf8@psu.edu](mailto:lmf8@psu.edu). Applications are due May 1, 2004.




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*AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians recognizes the skills and talents of FFA Chapter members.*



## Check Your Pesticide Credit Status

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and the Penn State Pesticide Education Program (PEP) are proud to announce the availability of the new Recertification Credit Information web page at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/>.

This web page works very similar to the Recertification Meeting Finder. The PDA maintains the information in a database, which is saved into a data file and sent weekly to the PEP. The PEP developed a program to read this data file and display relevant information about the applicator's recertification status. The PEP has read only access to this data file, so they cannot make any changes. If you have any questions about your status as indicated on this web page, you must contact the PDA, as they are the only ones who can make changes to the database.

To find this page, go to PEP home page and click on "Recertification Credit Information" on the Popular Topics bar (on the left hand side of the page). You must enter your certification number and last name,

as it appears on your certification card, then hit the "View Certification Information" button.

You will see basic information (name, address, BU number, etc.) along with a table listing the categories you are certified in, the number of credits you acquired and the number required, and a note indicating how many credits you need by when OR that your requirements have been met. If credits are needed, a hot link is provided that goes directly your to PDA region and the needed category section of the Recertification Meeting Finder. This system also has the ability to indicate if your certification has expired or if your certification is in escrow.

We are very excited that we are now able to provide this requested service to pesticide applicators.

Pesticide Education Program  
Penn State University  
114 Buckhout Lab  
University Park, PA 16802



Information found on the web at <http://www.pested.psu.edu>.

## Pennsylvania FFA Tractors

The new 2003 edition of Pennsylvania FFA Foundation tractors is in Tractor Supply Stores now.

The continued success of this program depends upon those tractors flying off the selves of Tractor Supply Stores. Remember, tractor supply pays the up-front cost for the tractors and 100% of the profits from the sales of the tractor go back to the Foundation. In the past

that money was put in a PA FFA Foundation endowment and we only spend the interest from the endowment. However, this year only \$5,000 will be put in the tractor endowment; the rest (potentially 2 to 3 times that amount depending on sales) goes directly to support activities of Pennsylvania FFA members.

For more information or to receive an order form, contact Kerry Richards at [kmh14@psu.edu](mailto:kmh14@psu.edu).



## New & Beginning Teacher Column continued from page 1

Here, teachers can find classroom material in all forms regarding numerous agricultural topics. An additional highlight of the website is the Featured Teacher. Each month, an outstanding teacher is put in the spotlight to share unique ideas and teaching style.

According to Dr. MeeCee Baker, Agricultural Education Coordinator for the PA Department of Agriculture, information on Marketplace for the Mind can be regarded as very reliable.

"Everything that goes on this site is reviewed by experts in the Department of Agriculture," she commented. "The information has to be factual, or we don't use it." The threat of outdated information is minimal as well, as the website is updated on a weekly basis.

The Department of Agriculture welcomes comments and suggestions on this. Any thoughts can be sent directly to the PDA from the website. To visit this exciting new educational site, go to [www.marketplaceforthemind.com](http://www.marketplaceforthemind.com).

## 2004 Student Teachers cont'd. from page 1

Nicole Marinos – Tayamentashta & McConnellsburg, Curtis Swineford – Northern Potter, Laura Bennett – Central Mountain, James (Mark) Skinner – Central Mountain, John Hines – Bellwood Antis, Joe McDaniel – Central Columbia, Cheri Lyons – Columbia Montour.

## Announcements

Clifford F. McElrath Jr., a devoted teacher, FFA advisor, former fire chief and friend to his students and peers died at his home in the "Mapleton suburb of Birdvale" November 25.

Cliff McElrath was in his 27<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Mount Union Area High School.

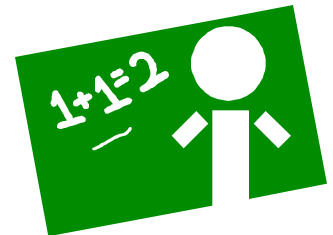
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 2040 Linglestown Road, Suite 106, Harrisburg, PA 17110

## Reserve this Date

Governor's Institute - *Integration of Math into the Content Area* is tentatively scheduled for July 19-23, 2004 in Grantville, PA.

Registration information will be sent out in early January – limited to 100 participants. Keep your eyes open for more information to follow in the New Year!

On December 5, Roy and Cindy Maurer delivered triplets – Kali, Kelli and Kira. All are doing well. Congratulations!



2004 Governor's  
Institute –  
*Integration of Math  
into the Content  
Area* -  
*Don't miss it!*

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu>

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**Calendar** – [\(items underlined are due dates\)](#)

- January 10-17...PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
- January 12...PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex – Equine Arena  
Harrisburg
- January 12...Penn State Classes Begin
- January 23...PAAE Executive Board Mtg., 301A Ag Admin., PSU, 7:00 PM
- [February 2...Recordbooks due \(regional coordinators\)](#)
- February 3-5...PYFA Convention, Willow Valley, Lancaster, PA
- February 5-7...PA FFA Recordbook Judging Event, Super 8 Inn, State College
- February 9-14...CTE Week, State Capital Rotunda
- February 10...GET UP Workshop – Biotechnology, PSU Meats Lab, University Park
- February 12...GET UP Workshop – Biotechnology, PSU Dubois
- February 14-15...ACES Leadership Conference, Marriott, Harrisburg (*M. Brammer*)
- [February 15...National FFA Scholarship Applications due](#)
- February 17...GET UP Workshop – Biotechnology, Berks Co. Extension Office
- February 19...GET UP Workshop – Biotechnology, PSU Harrisburg
- February 21-28...National FFA Week
- February 24...Meet Your State Officers Night, Hoss's (*M. Brammer*)