

# Briefs for Ag Educators

*The Center for Professional Personnel Development*



*The Pennsylvania State University Center for Professional Personnel Development Faculty and Staff wish you and your family a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!*

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## Important – ACT 48 Notice!

**Act 48 period:** 7/1/2000 – 6/30/2005

Please be advised that Act 48 of 1999 requires all professional educators holding Pennsylvania public school certificates to complete 6 collegiate credits or 6 PDE-approved inservice credits or 180 hours of approved continuing education (or any combination of the above) every 5 years in order to maintain their certificates as active.

**NOTE:** For the purposes of calculating hours/credits of professional education, one credit of collegiate study or continuing education courses is equivalent to 30 hours.

For a detailed list of your continuing education

courses/activities, go to <https://www.perm.ed.state.pa.us/> click on the Check an educator's Continuing Education progress. If you note discrepancies on the information, you must contact the approved provider of that course or activity.

The PDE form 338 R3 for requesting an extension to fulfill Act 48 requirements due to extenuating circumstances may be accessed at <http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?A=15&Q=103806>

The PDE form for requesting voluntary inactive status of your certificate thereby suspending the requirements of Act 48 may be accessed at <http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?A=15&Q=28556>

## Penn State Collegiate FFA Elects Officers

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, seven individuals were elected to serve as the 2005 Penn State Collegiate FFA Officer Team. The newly elected officers first had to apply by application and then took part in an interview session.

The selection committee did not have an easy task, but was looking for the best “team.” After several hours of interviews and discussion, the selection committee nominated the following:

*(Continued on page 5)*



www.drawshop.com F-001

*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*

## Sites of Interest

### Popcorn Page

You'll find lesson plans and activities for students, grade levels kindergarten through high school. All of these materials are meant as beginning points to further learning. They are generally divided into grade levels K-3, 4-6, 7-8 and high school, although some variations occur. You may increase or decrease the level of difficulty with these materials to suit the needs of your students.

Categories for exploring include:

- For Kids
- Teachers
- Recipes and Nutrition
- Encyclopedia Popcornica

One way to motivate students is to have them study subjects they can relate to, like food, for example. Americans of all ages love to eat and children especially like to snack. However, indulging in high-fat, calorie-dense foods can lead to weight gain and poor eating habits. Children should learn at an early age about the benefits of "smart snacking" so they can make choices they can feel good about. One snack food that *always* makes the grade is popcorn.

For more information go to <http://www.popcorn.org/index.cfm>

### What Tree is it?

<http://www.oplin.org/tree/>

You see an unknown tree. Or perhaps have found part of a tree, and you want to know from what kind of tree it came. Often, you can identify an unknown tree by just one part, such as a leaf or a fruit.

This web site will lead you through qualities of leaves and fruits from the common trees of Ohio. You will work your way through these choices by selecting images that more closely resemble your sample. To be certain of your identification of an unknown tree, however, you must use as much of the tree as possible.

### College for Agricultural Science & Technology

[http://www.cast-science.org/cast/src/cast\\_top.htm](http://www.cast-science.org/cast/src/cast_top.htm)

This is a set of useful lessons and activities to incorporate scientific careers, plant science, entomology, biology, biotechnology and much more.

## AEE Summer 2005 Graduate Courses

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education will be offering the following graduate level courses summer 2005. These courses will be offered from **June 20 to July 8** in 301A Ag Administration Building. A series of different graduate level courses will be offered during summer 2006 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.

### Courses & Instructors

#### *Research*

8:00 to 10:30 am, AEE 509 – Contemporary Research in AEE (3 credits), Connie Baggett ([bbc@psu.edu](mailto:bbc@psu.edu)) & Rama Radhakrishna ([brr100@psu.edu](mailto:brr100@psu.edu))

#### *Educational Processes*

10:30 to 1:00 pm, AEE 400 – Educational Programs in Ag for Developing Countries (3 credits), Thomas Bruening ([thb2@psu.edu](mailto:thb2@psu.edu))

#### *Required*

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

#### *Leadership and Communication*

4:15 to 6:45 pm, AEE 597D – Technology in Education (3 credits), Thomas Bruening



For more information go to <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu>

## Technician Certification Overview

In order to raise the level of technicians in the power equipment industry, the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC) developed and maintains an Outdoor Power Equipment Technicians Certification Program. Certified technicians demonstrate a higher level of technical proficiency in their work and this, in turn, increases the level of

professionalism at dealerships throughout North America. Customers are more likely to choose a repair center that displays the EETC Technicians Certification Logo and poster.

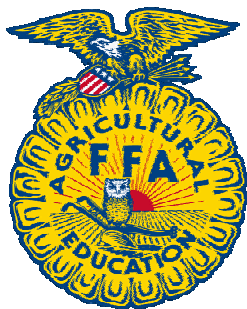
The Technician Certification Program was initiated in 1995 at the Texas Servicing Dealer Association. The Equipment &



EETC Certification Program

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## National FFA Convention Results



Information found on the web  
at <http://www.paffa.state.pa.us>

Congratulations to the following individuals and teams for their outstanding job at the 77<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention:

Creed Speaking – Alex Youst, Conrad Weiser HS, Silver

Dairy Cattle Handler – Jenna Smith, Central HS, Gold

Job Interview – Kayla Messer, Cedar Crest HS, Bronze

Prepared Public Speaking – Robert Bresch, Penn Manor HS, Bronze

Extemporaneous Speaking – Corinne Truesdale, Twin Valley HS, Bronze

Ag Communications – Twin Valley HS, Silver

Ag Issues – James Buchanan HS, Silver

Ag Mechanics – Manheim Central HS, Silver

Ag Sales – James Buchanan HS, Bronze

Agronomy – Mifflinburg HS, Bronze

Dairy Cattle Evaluation – James Buchanan HS, Gold – 1<sup>st</sup> place team

Dairy Foods – Elizabethtown HS, Silver

Environmental/Natural Resources – Oley Valley HS, Gold – 4<sup>th</sup> place team

Ag Business Management – Lancaster Mennonite HS, Silver

Floriculture – Lehigh CTC, Silver

Forestry – Somerset CTC, Silver

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Introducing...Wendy Brister

*by: Isaac Harrington, PSU Agricultural & Extension Education Major*

The Center for Professional Personnel Development welcomes Wendy Brister, first year teacher at York County School of Technology. Growing up on a produce and small grains farm provided Wendy with a strong background in production agriculture. She was influenced by an agricultural educator who helped to spawn her love of agriculture in a classroom setting. She has six years of experience with a landscaping company and a few years of her life have been dedicated to different garden centers.

Wendy graduated from Temple University with a BS in Landscape Architecture in 1998, and has taken classes at Millersville University and The Pennsylvania State University to complete her Vocational Certification. She says, "I enjoy talking about/ sharing what I know. It excites me and I want to get someone else excited." She is currently exciting 9 – 12 graders about horticulture at this comprehensive technical school.

The Center would like to applaud this avid gardener and new agricultural educator, Wendy Brister. Welcome to the family!

### Penn State Collegiate FFA Elects Officers, continued from page 1

- Laura Sankey (Ag & Extension Education Major) – President
- Rebecca Highley (Ag & Extension Major) – Vice President
- Melissa Sankey (Ag Business Major) – Secretary
- Isaac Harrington (Ag & Extension Education Major) – Treasurer
- Eric Rubenstein (Ag & Extension Education Major) – Reporter
- Susan McConnell (Ag Science Major) – Sentinel
- Sherisa Brammer (Ag & Extension Education Major) – Student Advisor

Congratulations to the 2005 Penn State Collegiate FFA Officer Team!



### Technician Certification Overview, continued from page 3

Engine Training Council was formed in 1997 and, shortly thereafter, took over the ownership of the certification program. The EETC updates the test on an annual basis.

Each one of six tests are updated annually to ensure that the latest technologies are identified and to correct any errors that may have shown up. Each test is updated by a committee of manufacturers, distributors, dealers, schools, and associations, each of whom

has expertise in their subject area. The tests are administered throughout North America by the Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association (OPEESA), through their distributor network. As EETC members are the test writers, OPEESA is the test administrator for the industry. Please contact EETC or OPEESA if you need further information. If you would like to be included as a test site please contact the EETC at 262-367-6700.



### National FFA Convention Results, continued from page 4

Food Science & Technology – Conrad Weiser HS, Gold – 2<sup>nd</sup> place team

Horse Evaluation – Eastern York HS, Silver

Livestock Evaluation – Manheim Central HS, Bronze

Meats Evaluation & Technology – Oley Valley HS, Silver

Nursery/Landscape – WB Saul HS, Silver

Parliamentary Procedure – Northern Lebanon HS, Silver

Poultry – Elizabethtown HS, Silver

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

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**PA FFA Record  
Book Evaluation**

February 10-12, 2005  
Super 8 Motel  
State College, PA  
**ACT 48 Available**

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

December 7-11...NAAE National Convention, Las Vegas, NV

December 7-11...ACTE Convention, Las Vegas, NV

December 9-12...National YFEA Institute, Orlando, FL

Dec. 23 – Jan. 1...Penn State Closed – Holiday Break

January 1...Happy New Year!

January 8-15...PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA

January 10...PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex, Equine Arena,  
4:00 PM

January 21...PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PDA, Harrisburg, 7:00 PM

[February 2...Project Books due to regional coordinators](#)

February 10-12...FFA Record Book Evaluation, State College

February 14-18...CTE Week, State Capital Rotunda

[February 15...National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center](#)

February 19-20...ACES Leadership Conference, Harrisburg (M. Brammer)

February 21-27...National FFA Week

February 22...Meet Your State Officers Night at Hoss's

February 26...PYFA Executive Board Mtg., PFB, Camp Hill

March 4...FFA Board meeting, PSU – 301 Ag Admin., 6:30 PM

March 13-15...SLLC, Grantville

[March 15...American FFA Degree Applications due to CTSO Office \(C. Day\)](#)

March 18...Ag Advisory Committee Mtg., State College, 9:00 AM

March 18...PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU – 301 Ag Admin., 7:00 PM

April 1...FFA Board Meeting, PDA – Room 309, 6:30 PM

April 6...PAAE South Central Region Mtg., Cumberland Valley HS, 5:00 PM

April 7...PAAE North Central Region Mtg., Aungst's Rest, Mill Hall, 5:00 PM

April 12...PAAE Western Region Mtg., Hoss's, Allison Park, 6:00 PM

April 14...PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., Manheim, 5:45 PM

[April 15...Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to regional coordinators](#)

[April 15...Dairy Showmanship Applications due \(D. Brown\)](#)

[April 15...State Chorus Applications due \(M. Brammer\)](#)

[May 1...Regional Contest Quota Results due to regional coordinators](#)

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