

Introducing Our New & Beginning Teachers



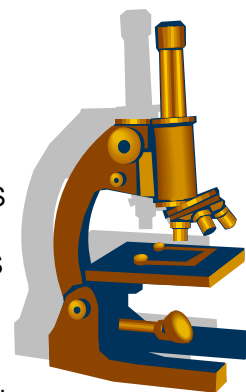
1st Year Teachers:

Mike	Benner	Milton Hershey HS
Bethany	Bickel	Southern Fulton HS
Isaac	Bucher	Annville-Cleona HS
Jennifer	Campbell	Fairfield HS
Brian	Dean	Moniteau HS
Kristy	Eshbach	Ephrata HS
Sarah	Grim	Kennard Dale HS
Jonathan	Hess	Elizabethtown HS
Mandy	Hilbert	Fox Chase Farm
Nick	Isenberg	Milton Hershey HS
Andrew	McMullen	Solanco HS
Scott	Myers	Bedford CTC
Sherisa	(Brammer) Nailor	Big Spring HS
Kyle	Norman	Central Mountain HS
Wayne	Norton	Lehigh Tech.
Harley	Ramsey	Eastern York HS
Ryan	Reed	Dauphin Tech.
Michael	Schaffer	Lehigh Tech.
Nathan	Schanbacher	Tunkhannock HS
Barbara	Waskowiak	Langley HS



2nd Year Teachers:

Stephanie	(Feister) Balmer	Lampeter Strasburg HS
Kelly	Bier	Shippensburg HS
Cristen	(Hetrick) Black	United HS
Terri	Grissinger	Huntingdon HS
Taryn	Imhof	Pine Grove HS
Ryan	King	Lancaster Mennonite HS
Tracy	Marchini	Garden Spot HS
Dan	Miller	Berlin-Brothersvalley HS
James	Rall	Eastern Center A&T
Gregory	Smith	Mid Bucks Inst. Tech.
Julie	Sollenberger	OJ Roberts HS
Melissa	Trocheck	York County School Tech.
Beth	VanHorn	Dauphin CTS
Matthew	Webreck	Penn Manor HS



Next Issue will Feature:

- 2007 Student Teachers
- Scheduled Events

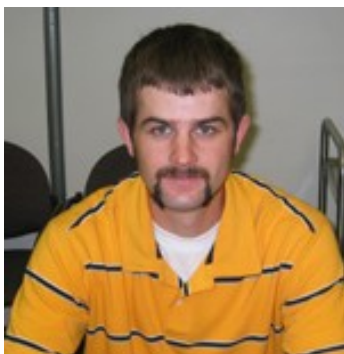
Melissa Trocheck, York County School of Technology

Melissa Trocheck is a second year teacher at York County School of Technology. She is a 1994 graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelors Degree in Landscape Architecture.

Melissa has worked extensively in her field before coming to teaching. She ran a retail plant center for three years, she was a landscape designer for eight years, and she taught adult landscape design classes for two years. She chose to teach high school agriculture because she enjoys teaching and interacting with students.

Currently Melissa's curriculum is focused on ornamental horticulture and landscaping. Her school is currently under construction so she is teaching in some tight quarters but she hopes that the new facilities will be up and running very soon.

Matt Webreck, Penn Manor High School



Matthew Webreck is a second year teacher at the Penn Manor High School. Matthew is a 2005 graduate of the Agricultural and Extension Education Bachelors degree program at Penn State. He has had a lot of practical experience in the field of agriculture before becoming a

teacher having worked for his family at Webreck Farms for 10 years, and Dovan Farms for three years.

Matthew currently teaches agriculture mechanics at Penn Manor. He tries to promote his program and interact with people by attending as many community events as possible. A quote Matthew likes to share with his students is "Do not wait until tomorrow to make a difference, start today."

Matthew is originally from Somerset County, Pennsylvania but he is settling in nicely at Penn Manor with three other agricultural teachers in the district to support him.

Nick Isenberg, Milton Hershey School

Nick Isenberg is in his second year of teaching at the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA. Nick received his Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 2002. He worked as a breeding program specialist for Genex for two and a half years before coming to Milton Hershey to teach.

Nick decided to become an agricultural teacher because he loves agricul-

ture and enjoys working with students.

He currently teaches animal science at the school and he advises several extracurricular organizations including the sheep club, the beef club, and the FFA chapter. Nick has been able to promote agriculture to members of community and the school by bringing the infamous "Homer" the cow around to make appearances with staff and visit with students on campus.

Cristen Black, United High School

Second year teacher Cristen (Hetrick) Black teaches at United High School. Cristen graduated from Penn State in 2005 where she double majored in Horticulture and Agricultural Education. Cristen has worked as a soil sampler and in a greenhouse prior to being an agricultural teacher. She was inspired by her own agricultural teachers in high school to pursue this career and it was fueled by her love for agriculture.

Cristen teaches a variety of courses in her school including agricultural mechanics, wood construction, animal science and horticulture. Cristen has been interacting with her community through the Food For America program, a harvest dance, and community service projects.

A quote she likes to share with her students is "Happiness is not the absence of problems but rather the ability to deal with them" – unknown

Ryan King, Lancaster Mennonite School

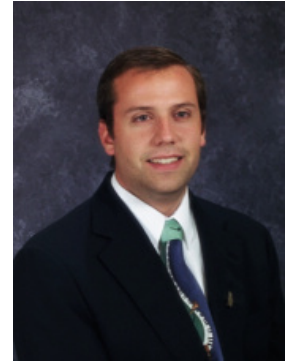
Ryan King is in his second year of teaching at the Lancaster Mennonite School. He graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 2005 with a Bachelors degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. Ryan has had extensive experience in the field of agriculture. He grew up on a potato, grain, and dairy farm in Chester County. Ryan student taught at Penn Manor high school.

"Do your best to present yourself to GOD as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of Truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

He decided to become an agricultural teacher because he has always had a passion for agriculture and gained a love for teaching from experience in his church.

Ryan currently is teaching agricultural mechanics, wildlife, agriculture business, and environmental science. Ryan enjoys working at Lancaster Mennonite School. It is one of two private schools in the state with an FFA chapter, and the agriculture facilities have recently been renovated and enlarged.

A quote Ryan lives by is "Do your best to present yourself to GOD as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of Truth." 2 Timothy 2:15



Beth Vanhorn, Dauphin County Technical

Beth Vanhorn is in her second year of teaching at Dauphin County Technical School. She is a 1995 graduate of Wilson College with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Veterinary Medical Technology. Beth is a certified veterinary technologist and has worked in the field with large animals, small animals and exotics as a head technician in surgical and intensive care units. Beth wanted to be an agricultural educator because she wanted to offer her knowledge and experience to students interested in veterinary medicine.

Her curriculum is a three and a half year veterinary assistant program. This is the first program of its kind in the country that is offered to high school students. The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association offers students a certificate of achievement to students who pass the occupancy test.

Beth's program interacts with the community a lot because they invite community members to bring in their animals as "volunteers" for students to work with animals hands on.

Outside of the classroom Beth also breeds and shows Quarter Horses.

Julie Sollenberger, Owen J. Roberts School

Julie Sollenberger is a second year teacher at the Owen J. Roberts School. Julie graduated from Delaware Valley College in 2004 with a Bachelors of Science in Agribusiness and in 2005



from their teacher certificate internship program. Julie interned at the

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in 2002. She decided to become an agricultural educator after serving as a Pennsylvania Fair Queen and National Guernsey Queen. Julie realized that she wanted to educate people about agriculture after having those experiences.

Currently she is teaching animal science at her school. She tries to be involved with the community by hosting an Ag day at the end of each school year.

A quote that Julie likes to share with her students is "Never Give Up!"

Nathan Schanbacher, Tunkhannock High School

Nathan Schanbacher is a first year teacher at Tunkhannock High School. He is a 2006 graduate of Penn State with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education with minors in Leadership Development and International Agriculture. Nathan grew up on a dairy farm and he has had practical experience working in the field by doing internships for the Tioga County Cooperative Extension and with a Penn State pasture renovations research project.

Nathan chose to be an agricultural teacher for several reasons; he has always had a passion for agriculture and he enjoys teaching people about things that are practical and have real life application, also his grandfather was an agricultural educator and he still sees people who talk about how his grandfather impacted them through that role even today.

Currently he teaches agricultural mechanics classes but there are plans to start animal science classes. By hiring Nathan, this is the first time that this school has had two agriculture teachers at the school.

A quote that he likes to share is “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.” – Abraham Lincoln



Kristy Eshbach, Ephrata High School

Kristy Eshbach is a first year teacher at Ephrata High School. She has been at the school since last January. Kristy is a 2005 graduate of the Agricultural and Extension Education at The Pennsylvania State University.

Kristy had been working in a production greenhouse for the past five years. She was managing the bulb schedule for 70,000 bulbs as well as the geranium and cut flower aspects of the business. She continues to work for the operation on a part time basis.

Kristy wanted to become an agricultural educator because she feels it is important that students know about agriculture and how they can be a part of the big picture. Kristy is in charge of the production agriculture curriculum and she is in the process of changing it to a more science based curriculum. She will be adding four new classes next fall to help achieve that including biotechnology, tissue culture, food science, and crop and soil science. Kristy is working overtime as she is currently the only teacher in a two teacher department.

Kyle Norman, Central Mountain High School

First year teacher Kyle Norman is a new teacher at Central Mountain High School.

Kyle received his Bachelors of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education from The Pennsylvania State University in 2006. He has worked for his family farm for 9 years as well as for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for two years and the Curwensville Feed Store for three years.

Kyle wanted to be an agricultural educator be-

cause he has always wanted to be a teacher and he loves agriculture and working for kids. He

currently is teaching the horticulture classes at the high school. Kyle tries to be involved in

his community by meeting with community members and giving floral arrangements to school and community members.

A quote that he lives by is “I am who I am and that’s all I am.” – Popeye



Sherisa Nailor, Big Spring High School

Sherisa (Brammer) Nailor is a first year teacher at Big Spring High School. Sherisa is a 2006 graduate of Penn State with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education with a minor in Civic and Community Engagement. Sherisa student taught at Greenwood High School and she has also had internships with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in the Agricultural Curriculum Development department as well as the

with the Mid Atlantic Alliance of Cooperatives Summer Institute.

Sherisa is currently teaching agricultural sciences and careers, welding, food science, and animal science. She is trying to get involved with her community by volunteering with the school education



association, and the school board. Sherisa also assists with Ag Day fun fairs for the elementary school.

Sherisa is excited to be working in this program which is the only two teacher department in the state with two female agricultural teachers.

Ryan Reed, Dauphin County Technical School

Ryan Reed is a first year teacher at Dauphin County Technical School. He received an Associates of Applied Science in Wildlife Technology from Penn State in 1997, a Bachelors of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 2000 from Penn State, and his teaching certificate from Penn State in 2006. Ryan had been a landscaper for 18 years

prior to becoming an agricultural teacher. He wanted to teach because he enjoys horticulture and teaching people about it.

Currently Ryan teaches floriculture, landscaping, greenhouse management, and nursery management. He tries to get



involved in his community by going to local flower shows and the farm show. A unique thing about the Dauphin program is that they grow their own stock for some business propositions.

A quote that Ryan likes to share with his students is "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Andrew McMullen, Solanco High School

Andrew McMullen is in his first year of teaching at Solanco High School. He received his Bachelors of Science Degree in agricultural education and a specialty in environmental education. He graduated from Penn State with this degree in 2005. He served in Iraq in 2005-2006 in the 6th Civil Affairs Group. Andrew has also



worked with the Hibernia County Park with a seasonal maintenance crew that did summer educational programs.

Andrew wanted to be an agricultural educator because he has always enjoyed teaching kids and coupled with his passion for agriculture and the environment teaching seemed like a natural fit.

Currently he teaches agricultural mechanics, animal science and business operations at Solanco. Andrew has

become involved with the agricultural community in the area by helping students prepare their animals for show at the Solanco Fair and visiting the members in summer SAE visits. A quote that Andrew shares with his students is "to succeed you must learn and to learn you must participate."

Isaac Bucher, Annville-Cleona High School

Isaac Bucher is a first year teacher at Annville-Cleona High School. He graduated from Penn State in 2005 with a degree in Agricultural Science. Isaac also received his teaching certificate from Penn State in 2006 and he is working on his Masters Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. He has a lot of experience working in the agriculture field. He worked for eight years at his family's meat shop; he also has worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture on summer projects which have included being an Agricultural Ambassador.



Isaac is developing a new agricultural program this year and is working on the curriculum. Currently he is teaching technology education for part of the school day. A couple novelties about the school are that the original agriculture program was cut 15 years ago and they are now reviving it. They are also moving into a new school building in April so the new program will also have a new facility to help with this fresh start.

A quote that Isaac lives by is "A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way"

Harley Ramsey, Eastern York High School

Harley Ramsey is in his first year of teaching agricultural mechanics at Eastern York High School. Harley received his Bachelors of Science Degree from Penn State in 1997 and he is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership.

Harley worked as Williamsburg Community School District for three years before this position. Harley chose to be an agricultural educator because of strong influences from his former high school agriculture teacher Mr. Earl Brown from Coudersport. He has always enjoyed animal science, horticulture, and agricultural mechanics in high school.

A quote that he shares with his students is "Go not where the path may lead, go where there is no path and leave a trail." – Unknown.

Jonathan Hess, Elizabethtown Area High School

Jonathan Hess is a first year teacher at Elizabethtown Area High School. He received his B.S. from Penn State in 2001 for Animal Bioscience and his M.Ed. from Penn State in 2006 in Agricultural and Extension Education.



Jon chose to become an agriculture teacher so that he could challenge students to think critically in this field. Jonathan has tried to get involved with the community around his school already by being an active participant in the E-town Fair with the Farmer for a day activity and the volunteer dinner there. Jonathan is currently teaching Agriculture Mechanics and Wildlife.

Kelly Bier, Shippensburg High School

Kelly Bier is in her second year as being an agricultural educator at Shippensburg High School. She graduated from Shippensburg University in 2004 with a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and a minor in Early Childhood Education. Kelly decided to pursue agricultural education as a career because she grew up on a dairy farm in southern New Jersey. She was in the FFA all through high school and was a New Jersey state officer. She was a long term substitute agricultural teacher at Shippensburg before being hired on full time. She says the position kind of fell into her lap but this was a great opportunity to combine two of her passions, teaching and agriculture.

Currently Kelly teaches small animal care, agricultural mechanics, horticulture, agricultural leadership, and agricultural power systems among other courses. One way that Kelly has been involved in the community was to write and receive a grant from Land O' Lakes to get the Mobile Ag Ed Lab to come to the elementary school at Shippensburg for the next three years.

Tracy Marchini, Garden Spot High School

Tracy Marchini is a second year teacher at Garden Spot High School. She began as a teacher there in January of 2005. Tracy received her B.S. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in 1980 and her certification in Agricultural and Extension Education in 1983.

Tracy worked in the field of agriculture as a crop technician and for the Berks County Farmland Preser-

vation organization for many years before coming to Garden Spot. She has also worked for the Fairfield School District.

Tracy wanted to be an agricultural teacher so she could motivate young people to become involved in the field of agriculture. She currently teaches agricultural science, horticulture, and landscape design. Tracy has tried to



get the class involved with the school by having the landscape class install a pond to be used by the science classes in the school.

A favorite quote that she likes to share with her students is “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Taryn Imhof, Pine Grove Area High School

Second year teacher Taryn Imhof is working at Pine Grove Area High School. Taryn received her Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 2003. She then went on to North Carolina State University to get her teaching certificate.



Taryn grew up on a farm and that spurred her interest in agriculture. She really enjoyed her own agriculture classes in high school and her ag teachers had a big impact on her decision to become an agricultural educator.

Taryn teaches a wide variety of courses including animal science, wildlife management, forestry, and meat and food

science. One way that she has gotten her chapter involved with the community is to have a kiss a pig contest. The winners got to kiss the pig in the middle of the homecoming football game so the FFA received a lot of interest from that event.

Taryn is really happy with her position, she says she had incredibly supportive faculty and staff, and she has a great outdoor teaching facility.

James Rall, Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

James Rall is a second year teacher at the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture from The Pennsylvania State University in 1990. Currently he is working on his Vocational I certificate at Temple University.

“If it is to be, it’s up to me.”
- unknown

Before becoming a teacher James worked in the landscaping field for over twenty years. He was an owner/operator of a landscape design company for ten years and is a certified arborist, paver installer, and pesticide applicator.

James decided to move into being an agricultural teacher because landscaping was a physically draining career and after working in the field for so long he figured he could pass on a lot of the knowl-

edge he had gained.

Currently James’ curriculum includes landscape management, landscape design, and property maintenance. He gets his classes involved with the rest of the school by doing the maintenance around all the school buildings.

A quote that he lives by is “If it is to be, it’s up to me.”



**THE PENNSYLVANIA
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417 Ag Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802

Phone: 814-863-7876

Fax: 814-863-4753

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Schedule of Events

- January 19 PAAE Executive Board Meeting, PSU Ag Admin., 7:00 PM (G. Reichard)
- February 4 **DUE** - Online Registration of Record Books - Mid night (R. Frederick/T. Hoy)
- February 5 **DUE** - Record Books Due to Regional Coordinators
- February 6-8 Young Farmers 47th Annual Conference, Quality Inn, Somerset
- February 8-10 Record Book Evaluation Event, Super 8 Motel, State College
- Feb. 10-11 ACES Leadership Conference, Harrisburg (1st weekend) (M. Brammer)
- February 13 Small Animal/Vet Assisting Workshop, Newport HS, 6-8:30 PM (R. Frederick)
- February 15 **DUE** - National FFA Scholarship Applications Due
- Feb. 17-18 ACES Leadership Conference, Harrisburg (2nd weekend) (M. Brammer)
- Feb. 19-25 National FFA Week
- February 20 Meet Your State Officers at Hoss's - Across the State
- March 2 FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU Ag Admin, 6:30 PM (M. Brammer)
- March 6 Small Animal/Vet Assisting Workshop, CAT Brandywine, 6-8:30 (R. Frederick)
- March 8-11 PA Garden Expo - Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
- March 15 **DUE** - American FFA Degree Applications (CTSO office) (C.Day)
- March 23 AG ED Advisory Board Meeting, State College Elks, 10:00 AM (T. Hoy)
- March 23 PAAE Executive Board Meeting, PSU Ag Admin., 7:00 PM (G. Reichard)
- March 25-27 SLLC - Holiday Inn, Grantville (M. Brammer)
- March 25 Small Animal/Vet Assisting Workshop, at SLLC, TBA (R. Frederick)