



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Michael Clark, Ag Educator

“How To Get To Where”



As a component of Agricultural Education, the FFA must continually be under construction for increased development. New and

beginning teachers may find themselves running in circles to figure out how to get to where. I find myself more challenged with the juggling act that involves FFA time and class time.

I could invest more time into the development of my FFA Chapter if I fortified more of my class time. I could invest more time into my class curriculum and expectations if I fortified more FFA Chapter time. Which where should I chase? This is an important question you must answer first. You may chose to disregard both where’s to find a happy medium. As an advisor and a teacher we must establish how much and where our time investments go.

You determine where to invest your time and you must determine how to invest your time. The FFA investment can be managed in many different ways. This organization creates, develops, and provides new tools for advising your FFA Chapter. Don’t be afraid to read about, investigate, and

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Encompassing 254 Square Miles

New Paris, Bedford Co.

In 1952, the Chestnut Ridge School District was established and currently encompasses 254 square miles, making it one of the largest school districts within the borders of Pennsylvania. Actually the school district has no major towns within its boundaries and appears to have changed very little since establishment. However there is one building that stands out amongst the rural scenery: the Chestnut Ridge High School, which is home of the Lions and the Chestnut Ridge FFA Chapter.

Doug Gayman has a program that models the



Students peeling apples for applebutter boils.

three components of agricultural education: classroom instruction, SAE

and FFA.

Through traditional class scheduling, 72 students are able to take courses in Introductory Agriculture, Agricultural Structures, Agricultural Welding, and Horticulture. The classroom is equipped with 5 computers, which allows the students to use the World Wide Web as a resource for research projects and for problem solving. Doug com-

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Sites of Interest

Take a Trip with a DEP Officer

Most people never have the chance to go along with staff from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to inspect a resource recovery facility, landfill, surface mine or other operation DEP regulates. Now your students can!

Have them join DEP inspectors as they review facility operations to make sure they comply with state environmental laws and permit conditions and learn the steps DEP inspectors take to make sure any problems are corrected.

1. First, log onto http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/go_with_inspector/come_along.htm
2. Choose which facilities to inspect.
3. Get a "First-Time Inspector's" briefing on the facility.
4. Then meet up with the inspection staff and the students are on their way!

Environmental laws and regulations today are complex, so the website can't describe everything that goes into regulating these operations, but DEP hopes this section provides an interesting overview of how DEP inspects these facilities.

JobReady

A publication titled "The Parent Tool Kit: Pathways to success" is available at <http://www.jobready.state.nc.us/newsletter/>. The JobReady tool kit is designed to guide



students through the process of choosing a career. A series of exercises establishes a profile of student interests and personality as a basis to recommend a career area. This kit and

other resources are online in PDF format in both English or Spanish and must be downloaded.

Education World

This website at <http://www.educationworld.com/> has a wide assortment of information from classroom management articles to free and inexpensive teaching materials from the USGS. The search engine returned 1450 total links with the word "agriculture." An interesting link at the bottom of the home page is e-fundraising, which gives information about how schools can raise funds by publishing their own books.



GLOBE Program

Looking for ways to integrate science into agricultural education? The GLOBE program could be the answer.

GLOBE is a worldwide, hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program. GLOBE trains teachers to help students improve their achievement in science and math, and in the use of computer and network technology. In recognition of shared values and approaches, GLOBE is partnering with Team Ag-Ed. The Team includes the National FFA, the National Council for Agricultural Education, and the National Association for Agricultural Educators. Our mutual goals are to help "Ag-Ed" teachers and students learn and benefit from the program, and to strengthen working relationships among science, agriculture and general education teachers.

To learn more about the GLOBE program visit www.globe.gov or contact Carol Conroy at cconroy@globe.gov.

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.

Summer Offerings at Penn State

There are several educational opportunities for teachers this summer at University Park:

- Bug Camp for Teachers (non-credit or 3 credits) June 25-28 - contact Maryann Frazier at 814-865-1895 for registration information.
- IPM for Teachers - June 18-21- contact Lyn Garling at 814-863-8884 or see <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/schools/summerclass.htm> To register contact the Short Courses office at 814-865-8301.
- Forest Resources Institute for Teachers (2 IU credits) June 24-29 - contact Sandy Smith at sss5@psu.edu or

814-863-0401 for more information.

- SCIED 475 - Methods of Environmental Science Education (3-credits) June 24-July 14 - contact Rob Boyle at 814-865-1544 or rab304@psu.edu for registration information.

A science consortium is also sponsoring several workshops for teachers. Choose between two graduate credits and/or Act 48 credit for the workshops. Tuition scholarships are available; room, board, and texts will be provided at no cost, and transportation expenses will be partially covered. More info is available on their website: <http://>

www.outreach.psu.edu/C%26I/Science4Teachers/

Please submit an information request form now and plan to apply for financial support early.

For registration information, contact Conferences & Institutes at 814-863-5100. The workshop titles and dates are:

- Penn State Weather Camp for Teachers, June 24-28
- Space Astronomy for Science Teachers, June 24-28
- Biotechnology: From Laboratory to Classroom, July 8-12
- The Mechanics of Materials Series: Chemistry of Materials, July 8-12

(Encompassing 254 Sq. Miles of Students...cont'd from p.1)

mented, "we use the computers to complete chapter business, such as recordkeeping and award applications."

Besides the computers, Doug is proud of his program because the "students use their abilities and desires to brainstorm new projects and activities." It is quite evident by the students' activities in conducting fruit sales, apple butter boils, Food for America and Farm Safety programs. He also encourages his students to have individual projects outside of school time. This has led students to have SAE programs in the areas of agricultural production and horticulture. "Matter of fact, I had one student progress

through the program who now owns a nursery just down the road."

Even though the school is located within a rural area, 30% of the agricultural students enter into post-secondary institutes, while the other 70% enter the workforce. "Part of my job is not only to help students to progress onto further education, but to have the work skills to enter the job market upon graduation." Doug also mentioned that 50% of his students who complete the program obtain careers in the agricultural industry.

Over the next few years, Doug hopes the program will expand and have more community

involvement. He hopes to revamp a community park in nearby Schellsburg. "The design, layout, and construction of the park will be done by the students," commented Doug. He also looks forward to establishing more county career development events that reinforce SAE programs.

The Chestnut Ridge High School students demonstrate that the three components of agricultural education work simultaneously to create a program that is well rounded and student driven. As Doug Gayman says, "students should only be limited by their own imagination, motivation and desire."

Past National FFA Officer Passed Away

Dean Hoffer, 62, of Lititz, PA died unexpectedly of natural causes Tuesday, January 8, at Lancaster General Hospital. A licensed life insurance agent since 1968, Dean owned Hoffer Agency Inc. At the time of death, Dean was treasurer for Representative Jere Strittmatter's re-election campaign. Dean was a member of Grace Brethren Church in Lititz, where he served as deacon and was involved in Evangelism Explosion ministry training. Dean also was the secretary of the North Atlantic Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Dean was the first county resident elected to a national FFA office. Dean was the past regional vice-president of the National FFA and past president of Lancaster County and PA FFA and PA Young Farmers Association. Dean received the Rural Youth Award as outstanding future farmer and Chapter Star Farmer of the Manheim Chapter of FFA in 1957. The next year, Dean received the State Star Farmer of Pennsylvania, the highest award given by PA FFA. Dean then was honored with the American Farmer degree at the National FFA Convention in 1959.

FFA Flooded the Farm Show Complex

Hundreds of FFA members from around the state flooded the 2002 Farm Show in early January. The members were able to see and experience the state's number one industry – agriculture – in the 16 acre Farm Show complex. However, many months of preparation took place, which resulted in chapters and members being recognized as leaders of the state FFA organization.

In Landscape Exhibits, Littlestown FFA Chapter, under the direction of Jeff Morse, captured 1st place, Best Design and Best Non-Living Materials. South Schuylkill FFA Chapter received Best Blue Print. Lebanon Co. AVTS Chapter was ranked 2nd place overall

and Manheim FFA Chapter followed in 3rd. All the schools that exhibited demonstrated a great understanding of shade gardens and design layout. Congratulations!

The South Central Region made a sweep in the Stars of Pennsylvania by having members recognized as the following: Isaac Bucher - Star in Ag Sales & Services; Andrew Alwine - Star in Ag Production; Julie Noll - Star in Specialty Ag; and Adam Cole - Star in Horticulture. Isaac Bucher and Andrew Alwine also received Star in Ag Business and Star Farmer.

For more results go to www.paffa.org.

Act 48 Reporting Update

There is new information regarding Act 48 accounting for Academic Credit Courses taken at Penn State during 2000-2001. Penn



State's registrar's office is developing a website where certified teachers can request that the University report their credit courses under Act 48. Penn State's registrar's office hopes it will be operating by early February 2002. At that point, the student will go to that site and submit a request for Act 48 reporting. For more information, please visit: <http://www.psu.edu/registrar/act48.html>.

Currently the Penn State's registrar's office will take names of students who are certified teachers in PA and contact them when the website is ready to accept Act 48 requests. To get on this list, contact James Wager in the registrar's office at jjw1@psu.edu or 814-865-6357.

If you took courses through the AEE Department's 3-week compressed schedule during summer of 2000 or 2001, these courses can be reported now. Please send your name and course taken to Babs Bengtson at Babs@psu.edu or 401B Keller Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

*Introducing...**Amanda Imwald*

Amanda Imwald is a first-year agricultural science teacher at Dover HS. She completed her undergraduate degree at Delaware Valley College in May and joined Nick Stollar and Ron Weaner in August 2001. Amanda is originally from the Shippensburg area and her love of agriculture came from growing up on a nearby dairy farm that her family still owns. She is a former student of Merrill Brofee at Shippensburg HS. Amanda always wanted to “do something in agriculture” with hopes of being able to take her interests and background beyond the family farm.

She loves working with the students and “seeing the light bulb go on” when they understand or figure something out.

The aspect of hands-on learning is what makes her philosophically aligned with teaching agricultural science.

She teaches Ag Science and Technology (Ag science I) and Ag science II (which includes plant science).

Amanda has been surprised how many of the students at Dover take Ag Science and Technology, about half of the ninth graders. Although most of these students come back, she knows that those who do not can go forward with a better understanding of agriculture.

In the future, Amanda hopes to become even more involved with the student activities revolving around FFA.

PA Farm Show Extended

The PA Farm Show has begun a \$76 million construction project that will include building a new exhibition hall, equine arena, barn, and upgrading the present facility. Many changes are taking place with the new facilities which will be completed for the 2003 show. A major change that will greatly impact attendees is that the length of the 2003 show has been extended by two days and will run from Saturday, January 11 through Sunday, January 18. The longer show should lessen overcrowded conditions, allow more commodity groups to participate, and minimize the risk of bad weather negatively affecting the show.



Mark Your Calendars!!

2002 Governor's Institute for Advanced Manufacturing & Agricultural Sciences Careers

Dates: Monday Morning, July 22 - Thursday Afternoon, July 25

Location: Blair County Convention Center & Marriott of Altoona

Registration: Registration packets will be sent to ag educators by late February. There will be a \$35.00 fee which will be refunded when you check in at the Institute. All housing, Institute transportation, meals, materials and 2 graduate credits will be free to all participants. Space is limited to 100 people.

For more information: Contact Tiffany Hoy at 814-683-7876 or log onto <http://voc.ed.psu.edu/inhere/Institute/institute.html>

(New/Beginning...Cont'd from p. 1)

try something new that has helped others succeed. In addition, never forget the real reason you are in the classroom. You are there to teach students about the vast arrays of agriculture. As a beginning teacher, I like to make a 35%/35% investment in Class and FFA and a 30% investment in SAE's.

Your choice of how to get where must be strategically laid out and planned; providing for a more focused and on task instructor and advisor. Determine where you are going and then plan how you will get there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- 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 Mtg., 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 4..... PAAE Eastern Regional Mtg., Manheim, 6:00 PM
 April 5..... FFA Association Board Mtg., PSU, 6:30 PM
 April 6..... State Proficiency Evaluations, PSU
 April 10..... PAAE South Central Regional Mtg., Dinner/Inservice - Hoss's in Carlisle, 5:00 PM; Cumberland Valley HS, 6:30 PM
 April 18..... PAAE North Central Regional Mtg., Restless Oaks, McElhatten, PA, Inservice - 5:00 PM; Dinner - 6:00 PM; Meeting - 7:00 PM
 April 20..... Penn College Earth Science Center Landscape Design Workshop, Penn College, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 April 22..... Penn Hills HS Landscape Design Workshop, Penns Hills HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 April 24..... Lebanon Co. CTS Landscape Design Workshop, Lebanon Co. CTS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 May 17..... FFA Association Board Mtg., PSU, 6:30 PM
 May 17..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., Coudersport HS, Time TBA
 June 11-13..... FFA Activities Week, PSU
 July 9-10 State Young Farmers Conference, Potter County
 July 8-11 PAAE Conference for Agricultural Science Education, Coudersport
 July 19 FFA Association Board Mtg., Coudersport

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

- 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 10..... Landscape Design Workshop Registration due to Tiffany Hoy
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia
 May 1..... PAAE Summer Conference Hotel/Campground Reservations Due
 May 5..... Regional Contest Quota results due to Regional Coordinators (Public Speaking, Chapter Procedure, Small Gas Engines, Tractor Driving & Dairy Showmanship)
 May 9..... FFA Week/Entries due at Penn State (P. Hoy)
 June 11 Chapter Award Applications due at registration desk, FFA Activities Week, PSU
 July 1 Big E and National Convention CDE trip winner registration forms due to CTSO

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 Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

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