



NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Tracy Hoover, PSU Assoc. Professor

**New & Beginning Teacher
Workshop
March 9 - 10, 2003**

The Pennsylvania Association for Agricultural Educators and The Center for Professional Personnel Development in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education will host a new and beginning teacher workshop on March 9th and 10th in conjunction with the State Legislative Leadership Conference in Grantville, PA. The workshop topics and times are listed below. Act 48 hours will be available for participants and enrollment is limited to those teachers in their first to third years of teaching. Student teachers are also welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to Krista Pontius (Kpontius@greenwoodsd.org) or Tracy Hoover (tsh102@psu.edu) by February 14th so supplies can be purchased. We will send you additional information on room locations when you register. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Krista or Tracy. Thank you.

Sunday, March 9, 2003

2:00 – 2:15 - Welcome and Introductions

2:15 – 2:45 - Successfully Marketing Your Program (Marketing tips

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Two-Heads can be Better than One

Octorara HS, Chester Co.



Frank Wasco (lt. pic.) & John Ewing (rt. pic.) instructing students.

“Bio-Technology” are the words you will find outside of the Octorara High School Agricultural Education program. Actually, you will find two rooms, one with “Bio-Technology” and the other with “Agricultural Lab.” That’s because the department is under the supervision of two Ag Educators, Frank Wasco and John Ewing. Both feel it a benefit to have two teachers. “We can bounce ideas off each other.” The challenge they find with the multi-teacher department lies within the facilities. “We only have one classroom and a laboratory, so we need to work together and schedule specific areas during the year.” They have converted a section of the lab area into a small seating area with some instructional components.

Currently the program has about 160 students who enroll in courses such as ag mechanics, plant and soil sciences, animal science, ag construction, FFA leadership, wood-working, welding and environmental science. Many of the SAE programs reflect interests that are developed

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Sites of Interest

New invasive species video

What is that large, beautiful purple plant you see growing along stream banks and marshlands? Don't be fooled by its beauty, this attractive plant is actually an invasive exotic species called purple loosestrife. This and other invasive weeds are identified in the Pennsylvania IPM Program's new video, "BugMobile vs. Invasive Species."

Geared toward lower and upper secondary students, the video addresses the several categories of the state's new Academic Standards: 4.1 – Watersheds and Wetlands, 4.3 – Environmental Health, and 4.5 – Integrated Pest Management. The video also offers suggestions for managing invasive species using integrated pest management (IPM).

Each video includes a lesson plan with content objectives, assessment strategies and procedures. The lesson plan also includes pre- and post-tests for the students to complete, discussion questions and suggestions for other related extension activities.

To obtain a copy of the video and lesson plan, send a check or money order for \$35 made payable to The Pennsylvania State University to ICT, 119 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-

2602. Visa and MasterCard orders will be accepted by calling 814-865-6309. Shipping and handling costs are included in the price.

For more information on School IPM, see the PA IPM Program's web site at <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu>. Under the "Schools" link find out more about the School IPM effort in Pennsylvania and links to educational material from across the country. You can also download a new publication, IPM for Pennsylvania Schools, A How-To Manual. In addition, there is an interactive database on the web site to assist teachers with IPM background information, lesson plans and support materials throughout the U.S.



The PA IPM program is a collaboration between The Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture aimed at promoting integrated pest management in both agricultural and nonagricultural situations. For more information, contact the program at 814-865-2839, or web site <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu>.

Science Site

The American public is now connected as never before to U.S. Government science and technology. Fourteen scientific and technical information organizations from 10 major science agencies have collaborated to create www.science.gov, the "FirstGov for Science". Science.gov is the gateway to reliable information about science and technology from across Federal government organizations.

From science.gov, users can find over one thousand government information resources about science. These resources include: technical reports, journal citations, databases, Federal web sites, and fact sheets. The information is all free, and no registration is required.

The agencies participating in science.gov are the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Interior; the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and the National Science Foundation.

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.

Introducing... Joanna Wilson

Joanna Wilson graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education in May 2002. She is currently employed with the Wilmington Area School District as an agricultural educator.



In 1997, Joanna graduated from Wilmington High School and has found the transition from student to teacher very interesting. "Learning to call my former teachers by their first names has been difficult; I have gotten yelled at for calling them Mr. or Mrs." Not only is she having to learn to call colleagues by their first names, some of the students also knew her prior to becoming a teacher. "Some think it may be hard knowing some of the students, and occasionally it is, but for the most part I find it easy and sometimes a benefit. It helps me understand why some of the situations occur."

Joanna was inspired to become a teacher when she served as a PA State FFA Officer. "I enjoyed talking with students about agriculture and the many opportunities that were available. Being a state officer gave me a chance to develop my teaching and communication skills." She also gained experience when

she student taught at Mohawk HS, under the supervision of Cliff Wallace. "Truthfully I had a lot of memorable experiences.

One moment I really enjoyed was when the students were making sausage. It gave me a chance to really get to know the students and to learn more about them. I also enjoyed watching the students participate and

succeed in Career Development Events."

Currently Joanna teaches 45 students in grades 9-12 with a middle school FFA course for recruiting activities. "The program is set up, where I have an Ag I, II, III and IV. 98% of students I have for two periods a day. Having students for two periods allows me to create a unique atmosphere by having one period as classroom instruction and then second period as a hands-on lab."

Joanna's curriculum is in the areas of animal science, horticulture, ag business, welding, electricity, masonry, woodworking and small engines. She is also trying to implement an equine and small animal care course.

Joanna plans to obtain her Master's Degree and to also marry her longtime sweetheart in the near future. Help the Center in welcoming Joanna Wilson to the AgEd Family.

Announcement

Dietrich Family Update

On Friday, January 10, Diane Dietrich, wife of Mark Dietrich, teacher at Upper Dauphin Area HS, was involved in a serious car accident. Her injuries required her to be flown to Geisinger Memorial Hospital. Diane is doing better, but still has many more obstacles to overcome. Their 2-year-old, James, was a passenger in the vehicle and was treated for a broken ankle and collar bone. Dietrich's other two children were not involved in the accident.

Daniel, Jr. & Becky, family members, are coordinating offers of assistance and food donations. If you or your FFA chapter would like to help, please contact them during the evening hours at 570-682-3977. Mark & Diane's home address is 704 Church Road, Hegins, PA 17936.



AgEdNet.com

The cost of AgEdNet.com for the 2003/2004 school year will remain the same. A one-year subscription is \$300 minus any discounts for PAAE membership and an additional discount if you are renewing. Remember that the AgEdNet.com lessons have been matched to the Pennsylvania standards. For cost information please call Gerald Reichard at 717-762-7793.

Matching & Direct Grant Recipients

Former Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced that the Agriculture and Rural Youth Grant Program will sponsor several educational projects and activities through the use of agricultural grants. The Program awards direct grants up to \$2,500 and matching grants up to \$10,000. This year, nearly \$100,000 was awarded to agricultural youth organizations such as 4-H, FFA and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

"In the future, our rural community will be supported by today's agricultural youth. The legacy of Pennsylvania's number one industry depends on these young men and women. Through the use of agricultural grants, students will receive the education and tools they need to succeed," Hayes said.

Each year, 4-H and FFA youth organizations are eligible to receive grant money that allows them the opportunity to fund special projects, attend conferences and seminars, and promote awareness of the agriculture community and other rural issues.

Recipients of grant monies are selected by a board of representatives from the Pennsylvania Agriculture and Education departments; the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association; 4-H, FFA; the Pennsylvania Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association; the Penn State

Cooperative Extension; the Pennsylvania State Grange; the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives; and members of the General Assembly.

Matching Grant Recipients:

- Penns Manor High School FFA, \$3,112.25 matching grant to create a controlled environment and install drip irrigation/fertilization within their greenhouse.

- Manheim Central School District, Manheim FFA, \$4,750 matching grant to modernize their current greenhouse.

- Laurel FFA, \$9,000 matching grant to modernize a small greenhouse.

- Northern Lebanon FFA, \$9,000 matching grant to construct a new greenhouse.

Direct Grant Recipients:

- Northern Bedford FFA, \$2,500 direct grant to fund a program through which FFA members will develop and share FFA activities/opportunities with other students.

- Berks & Chester third graders from 11 area school districts to come to the Twin Valley HS to tour agricultural display centers showing students that agriculture is technology progressive and modern.

- Conrad Weiser FFA, \$2,150 direct grant to set up training workshops to teach students the field of agricultural entomology and Integrated Pest Management.

- Central Cove FFA, \$1,901.15 direct grant to purchase equip-

ment to train FFA members how to administer Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), in the event of farm-related emergencies.

- Tulpehocken FFA, \$1,948 direct grant to fund a classroom project on the observation of honeybees.

- Kutztown FFA Chapter, \$2,350.00 direct grant to purchase two portable laptop computers and a portable printer to provide members the means to complete career development projects.

- Penn State Collegiate FFA, \$2,350 direct grant to fund a leadership and professional development skills workshop for ninth grade agricultural students attending Pennsylvania high schools.

- Central Columbia FFA, \$2,497.05 direct grant to develop a learning model involving the various types of composting systems.

- Clearfield FFA, \$2,500 direct grant to provide students with opportunities for hands-on field identification of tree and plant species native to Pennsylvania.

- Forbes Road FFA, \$1,825 direct grant to purchase and construct a shade house & cover an existing greenhouse with shade cloth to increase quality of the Forbes Road FFA bedding plants.

- Warfordsburg/Southern Fulton FFA Chapter, \$2,498.29 direct grant to purchase state of the art agricultural mechanics instruc-

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Grants...cont'd from p. 4)

tional equipment.

- Southern Huntingdon County FFA, \$1,795.56 direct grant to fund an animal awareness project targeted at the elementary through senior high levels.

- The Pennsylvania State University South Central Region Cooperative Extension, \$2,350 direct grant to fund Youth LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) for 4-H & FFA youth in Juniata County.

- Juniata-Mifflin Counties Area Vocational Technical School Big Valley FFA, \$2,350 direct grant to fund the design and construction of a pond, waterfall, and associated landscaping in the front of the school building to provide agriculture students with hands on skills regarding the landscaping industry.

- Cloister FFA, \$2,350.00 direct grant to purchase a garden tiller and garden tools to develop an outside horticulture demonstration area for Cloister FFA members.

- Danville FFA, \$2,437 direct grant to fund an animal resource laboratory for use as an animal learning center for the agricultural science classes, as well as SAE projects dealing with animals.

- Derry FFA, \$2,499.18 direct grant to develop a horticultural trial garden.

Two-Heads can be better than One...cont'd from p. 1)

from specific courses. Majority of the programs fall into on- and off-farm work experience, dairy herd management, wildlife, beef production and vegetable production. Some students also use the on-site aquaculture system as their SAE program. They use computers to do water analysis and monitor data on fish development.

Frank and John also work closely with other teachers in the school, especially the science department. The two departments are working on the GLOBE program.

GLOBE is a worldwide, hands-on, primary and secondary school-based education and science program. The program is a cooperative effort of schools, led in the United States by a Federal interagency program supported by NASA, NSF, EPA and the U.S. State Department, in partnership with colleges and universities, state and local school systems, and nongovernment organizations. Internationally, GLOBE is a partnership between the United States and 100 other countries.

When it comes to support, the Octorara program has excellent support of both the administrators and community. "Our administration allows us to try new things and to attend events that will enhance our knowledge and the leadership skills

of our students." As for an alumni organization, "one of our students is currently working on starting the alumni as his graduation project." The program also has a very active advisory board, which is comprised mostly of production people, yet they seem to have plenty of ideas on how to have nonfarm students involved in the courses.

Overall the Octorara High School Bio-technology/Agricultural Education program is thriving and growing as each year progresses. Both Frank and John set new goals at the start of each school year. Frank hopes to get all the equipment in the laboratory area up to safety code, while John wants to get the aquaculture system running smoothly. In setting one or two goals each year, they are able to progress into the future with confidence and enthusiasm for agriculture and education.

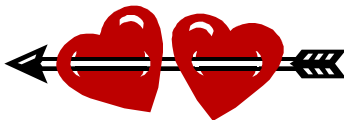
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and banquet preparation)

2:45 – 3:15 - Preparing Students for Career Development Events
 3:15 – 4:00 - Sharing Resources and Time for Questions

Monday, March 10, 2003

1:00 – 3:00 - Bottle Biology
 3:30 – 4:00 - Establishing Partnerships
 4:00 – 4:30 - Electing FFA Officers, Officer Training



CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- 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 18..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop, Berks. Co. Ext. Office, 4:00 PM
 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., PSU - 301B Ag Admin., 6:30 PM
 March 2-9 Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA
 March 9-11 SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville (M. Brammer)
 March 9-10 New & Begin. Teacher Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 2:00 PM (Tracy Hoover)
 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..... PAAE Board Mtg., PSU - 301A Ag Admin., 6:00 PM
 March 27..... PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., TBA, 5:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Mtg.
 April 4..... PA FFA Board Mtg., PSU - 301B Ag Admin., 6:30 PM
 April 5..... State Proficiency Evaluation Event, PSU
 April 8..... PAAE Western Region Mtg., Hoss's - Allison Park, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 Mtg.
 April 9..... PAAE Southcentral Region Mtg., Cumberland Valley HS, 5:00 PM Dinner, 6:00 PM Mtg.
 April 10..... PAAE Northcentral Region Mtg., Restless Oaks - McElhatten, 5/6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Mtg.
 April 16..... Southcentral Parli. Pro. CDE, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9:00 AM
 April 17..... PSU Department of AEE Banquet - Hosted by CFFA, C4-H, ATA
 April 26-29 5-Star Consortium Student Teacher Retreat, Smyrna, DE

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- February 14..... Registration due for New/Beginning Teacher Workshop - contact Krista Pontius or Tracy Hoover
 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 are due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia
 May 5..... Regional CDE Quota Results due to Regional Coordinators

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

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