

Briefs for Ag Educators

The Center for Professional Personnel Development



The AEE 434, Ag Developments credit option is designed to give agricultural educators the opportunity to accumulate hours toward credit for short-term educational activities. For more information go to <http://aee.cas.psu.edu/center/forteachers.html>.

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PA Governor's School for Ag Sciences

It goes without saying that Ag Science teachers play an invaluable role in shaping the future of agriculture in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and beyond. Many students who participate in the state's agricultural programs will go on to become influential agricultural leaders. In support of your efforts as an Ag Science teacher to develop these leaders, the state established the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) in 1986, a familiar fact for those of you already aware of PGSAS.

PGSAS is a five-week, intensive program for selected high school sophomores and juniors throughout the state. It provides a unique blend of hands-on learning in classes, field trips, research and social opportunities. Together these opportunities provide students with a unique and exciting chance to explore the breadth of the agricultural sciences.

As an Ag Science teacher, you will have recently received a package of information about

PGSAS. In the months to come, we encourage you to make an effort to share that information with the outstanding students in your classes. PGSAS is searching for those students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the sciences and who have a high interest in food, agriculture, and/or the natural resource sciences. As an Ag Science teacher, you are in a great position to know who these students are and tell them about this opportunity.

This spring, 64 students will be chosen from across the state to participate in PGSAS 2005. To be one of the 64, the student's application must combine a strong academic transcript, strong teacher and counselor recommendations, and carefully written essays.

The most difficult of the three is the essay section. If you are assisting students to complete their applications, encourage them to carefully write their essays. The essays play a significant role in selecting students. Essays must provide a

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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

International Dairy Food Association

<http://www.idfa.org/index.cfm>

International Dairy Food Association (IDFA) is the dairy foods industry's collective voice in Washington, DC, throughout the country and in the international arena. IDFA has become a leading player in the formation of positive domestic and international dairy policies. Today, IDFA represents more than 500 dairy food manufacturers, marketers, distributors and industry suppliers across the United States and Canada, and in 20 other countries.

IDFA is the umbrella organization for three constituent organizations:

Milk Industry Foundation (MIF), National Cheese Institute (NCI) and International Ice Cream Association (IICA)

Members range from large multinational corporations to single plant operations, and represent more than 85% of the total volume of milk, cultured products, cheese, and ice cream and frozen desserts produced in the United States - an estimated \$70 billion a year industry.

Bottle Biology

<http://www.bottlebiology.org>

This is an interesting site that includes plans to build small environments within two liter bottles. The site also includes information about ordering the companion book to the web site written by Kendall Hunt. There are three basic types of bottles: the Decomposition Investigation Column, Kimchee Fermentation Chamber, and the TerrAqua Investigation Column. Long-term, hands-on lessons that meet many Pennsylvania standards can be created with these environments.

Bottle Biology, an instructional materials development program, was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation administered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



How can the FFA fit into Academic Standards?

by: Stephanie Shertzer, M.S. Candidate, & Tracy Hoover, Associate Professor & Interim Head, Agricultural and Extension Education

To many of us, the best way to describe what our profession entails is by using the illustration of the three concentric circles with components of instruction, leadership (FFA) and SAE and how they are interrelated. We take time during the class to teach leadership development and the FFA because we understand its importance in our young people's education and self-development. But to do this has become increasingly difficult as administrators are asking teachers to justify their lessons based on state and national academic standards. So, why exactly do we have standards anyways and how do standards fit in with a leadership curriculum? For this particular article, we are going to address these questions as well as take a closer look at state standards using Pennsylvania as an example.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (2004), academic standards are defined as "expectations for learning." Academic standards, also referred to as content standards, provide a common base of knowledge our students are expected to understand based on age. The standards are used as both achievement goals for students, teachers and parents to work toward as well as a way of

measuring the effectiveness of schools.

But, how do agricultural education and leadership fit along the academic standard continuum? The fact is no other content area fits into all of the core areas better than agricultural education and the FFA.

Pennsylvania's academic standards are broken into 13 core areas. Throughout these core areas we were able to find standards that apply to leadership in at least four of these core standards. These particular core standards included Career Education and Work; Civics and Government; Family and Consumer Sciences; and Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. These standards included critical leadership skills and behaviors such as oral and written communication, job interview skills, team building, listening techniques, time management, civic leadership development, critical thinking skills and much more. There are a multitude of leadership skills related to academic standards which reflect the personal growth and career development cornerstones of the FFA. There is no better tool to teach these skills than with the FFA and all it has to offer.

An excellent resource that has recently become available to teachers from the National FFA
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For more information go to
<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu>

Educational Sessions at ACES & SLLC



For more information on the Educational Sessions at ACES & SLLC, contact Ron Frederick at rfred17506@yahoo.com.

Attention teachers! This year at both the ACES and SLLC FFA conferences educational sessions will be offered to help teachers with current topics and CDE's. At ACES presenters will review the record book contest and answer questions on American Degree applications. Please bring actual applications and a laptop. Other sessions will deal with CDE's and the way basic information on these topics is taught. Tentatively ACES sessions will be on small gas engines, wildlife, floriculture, and ag issues.

At SLLC the presenters will answer questions about proficiency applications. Once

again bring applications and a laptop. The tentative educational sessions include ag sales, aquatic resources, dairy foods and poultry judging.

Sessions will be Saturday afternoon and evening at ACES and Sunday afternoon and evening at SLLC. You may attend the educational sessions; even if you will not be attending these conferences with FFA members. Act 48 hours and AEE 434 hours will be available.

If you have ideas on other sessions you would like, please contact Ron Frederick at rfred17506@yahoo.com.

Introducing...John Hines

By: Isaac Harrington, PSU Agricultural & Extension Education Major



John Hines, East Juniata High School, Vocational & Trades Teacher



The Center for Professional Personnel Development would like to welcome John Hines, first year teacher at East Juniata High School. John grew up on a family farm, and appreciates the value of hard work. He had his student internship at Bellwood Antis High School, under the direction of James Mackereth. Upon completion of his internship, John was hired at East Juniata High School and now is enjoying having his own building where, "no one interrupts me, unless they need something." He has found the secluded building to be beneficial from the normal every

day class interruption; such as intercoms, bells, hallway activity and more.

John graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Agricultural and Extension Education in 2004. John pursued his degree so that he could enrich America's youth with the knowledge of agriculture and its many aspects. Not only does John want to enrich the youth, he also wants to make a positive impact on the community.

The Center would like to welcome Agricultural Educator, John Hines. Good luck in all of your future endeavors.

Penn State CFFA Community Service - Blankets

More than 30 Penn State Collegiate FFA (CFFA) members and guests joined in the 1st Annual Blanket Making Night held on December 6, 2004 in the Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building at University Park. Sixty-six yards of fleece material donated by the CFFA club, members and other AEE faculty was measured, cut and tied to make 21 lap-blankets for the Veterans at the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, PA.

"It's always nice to get together as a

group and have fun, but when we are working to benefit others, it's twice as rewarding," commented Sherisa Brammer. Karen Grubb added, "Many of our Veterans have spent years in service – one night of service is the least we can do."

"One purpose of this club is to create citizenship and what better way for students to understand citizenship then to create items for those who provided us with our many freedoms. I never thought fleece material could bring so many students together and foster holiday cheer," replied Tiffany Hoy.



Becky Highley, Vice President, models a completed no-sew blanket.

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sense of personal voice--that is, they should provide a clear sense of who the student is and evidence of a strong interest in the agricultural sciences. Additionally, like many things in life, it helps to be creative.

PGSAS will be held from June 26 to July 30, 2005. The deadline for this

year's applications is Tuesday, February 1, 2005. If, in the months to come, you or your students have questions about the application procedure, please feel free to contact Ketja Lingenfelter, PGSAS Assistant Director at 814-863-3943 or ketja@psu.edu, or visit www.pgse.org.



Governor's School participants working in an agricultural sciences lab.

How can FFA fit into Academic Standards?, continued from page 3

is *LifeKnowledge* (National FFA, 2004). Coined as "Real lessons for real life," the *LifeKnowledge* curriculum covers a large variety of topics in well-structured lesson plans. All lessons are age-level appropriate and include specific national academic standards that the lesson meets. Topics range from personal assessments and growth, leadership development, influencing others through vision, building relationships with others, teamwork, effective communication as well as a variety of subtopics. Using these lesson plans will help students develop skills for career and personal success in a tangible way.

Leadership development and the

FFA can definitely find a place among academic standards and therefore can be utilized in your classroom. For more information on academic standards, check out the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/>. Also, the *LifeKnowledge* curriculum is available from the National FFA Organization.

References

National FFA. (2004). *Instruction-Keys to a Successful Agricultural Education*. Retrieved 11/29/04 from http://www.ffa.org/ageducators/html/core_1.htm

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2004). *Academic Standards*. Retrieved 11/29/04 from <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/>

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

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



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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)

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., PSU – 301 Ag Admin., 7:00 PM

February 2...Project Books due to regional coordinators

February 2...Project Books Entry Forms due to PSU (Dorothy Thomas)

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

May 6...FFA Week/Entries due at Penn State (L. Everhart)

May 13...PAAE Executive Board Mtg., Gettysburg Area HS, 7:00 PM

June 14...Chapter Award Applications due at registration desk – FFA Activities Week

June 14-16...FFA Activities Week, PSU

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