



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW TEACHER COLUMN

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“Heading Into Spring”



This is the time of year when agricultural/environmental science classrooms become more hectic than “normal.” Career Development Events, spring banquets, and SAE visits move into full swing.

For veteran teachers, this time of year can be overwhelming, so if you’re a new teacher feeling stressed is normal.

Rest assured there are resources and resource people who can assist you. Do not hesitate to call the Department of AEE to ask for some guidance and direction. Also, PAAE has assigned qualified mentors to answer your questions and offer support. This is a great time to call upon them.

Slow down and stay focused—a strong curriculum, effective classroom instruction, and FFA

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Growing Green at Kutztown



Celeste Ball reviews a student's project.

Mrs. Celeste Ball energetically brings nearly 20 years of background in extension and horticulture into her classroom at Kutztown Area High School. She teaches all the ag science plus AP environmental

science courses. She’s built the program over the past 4 years as her horticulture and landscape horticulture courses have grown in popularity. During her first year, she had only 12 students in these courses, and now she has over 30 students in each. Another favorite course is veterinary science and small animal management. In this course, students raise rabbits as a learning project.

Mrs. Ball keeps her students busy. They annually exhibit at the Allentown Flower Show and grow flowers to place throughout the school. Students also planned an outdoor fountain at the school in memory of classmates who died before graduation. Her students replaced the walkway between buildings to ease access for handicapped students. Once the snow melts, they plan to develop an outdoor patio area between the two buildings. “The students do many other projects in the community as individuals,” Ball notes.

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Internet Resources

AgView.com

The website, AgView.com, gives access to thousands of websites that are relevant to ag education. The home page is indexed to over 40 main topic areas and the search engine uses either keywords or phrases.

Agricultural Education: Teacher Resources

Merrill Brofee brought "Agricultural Education: Teacher Resources" to our attention. This site dedicated to agricultural education and contains teacher resources from many locations across the country. This site consolidates information from universities, organizations and government offices: <http://www.soe.purdue.edu/aged/coursepackets/links.html>

Dairy Alliance

A new website for the Dairy Alliance is in place at www.dairyalliance.com. The site includes links to a weekly feature on dairy farming and a calendar of dairy events. Questions or comments about the site can be directed to Tammy Perkins, Dairy Alliance Program Manager, at tap10@psu.edu.

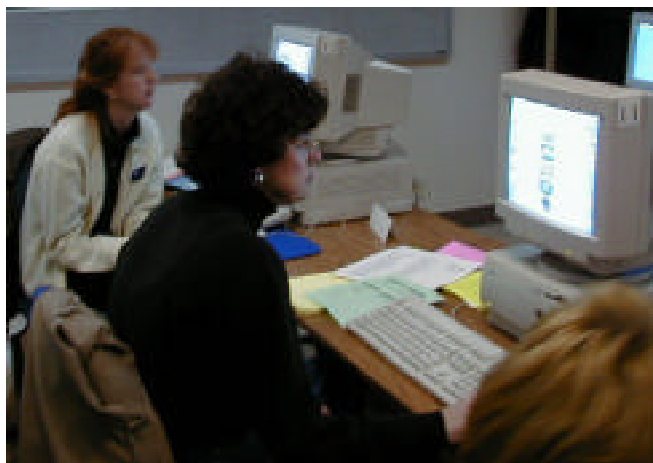
Ag Ed Listserv

The Ag Ed Listserv is up and running. A Listserv is a fast way to get information about programs and statewide events through e-mail. If you have e-mail and would like to be added to the group, send an e-mail to Carol Hodes at clh4@psu.edu or to Dorothy Thomas at djt1@psu.edu and we will add your name to the Ag Ed Listserv.

Careertech Listserv Established

The National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education funded by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Div. Of National Programs, has established Careertech, a discussion listserv for those interested in all aspects of career and technical education at all levels. The list originates from Ohio State University. To subscribe, send an e-mail to Listserve@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu.

In the body of the message, type "Subscribe careertech, yourfirstname, yourlastname"
Leave the subject line blank and do not use a signature file.



Linda Bennett and Lisa Shaw learn to use online resources at the "Identification of Annuals and Herbaceous Plants" Database Training Workshop held January 29 at University Park for horticulture teachers.

AEE Summer Courses

From June 19 to July 7 in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education offers summer credit courses in a condensed format for teachers. You will be able to:

- earn credits toward your advanced degree and the “credits in residence” requirement,
- fulfill the “outside” course requirements and receive technical updates,
- select from 7 different courses (13 credits total) in the 3 weeks, including our newest course, and
- participate in social events on campus.

Course descriptions and registration information, including a downloadable full 3-week schedule and a registration form, are on-line at <http://AgExtEd.cas.psu.edu/outprog.html>

PCC/PSU Summer Institute

Shippensburg University of PA will host this summer’s educational institute sponsored by PA Council of Cooperatives and Penn State’s Cooperative Business Education and Research Program. PCC/PSU is a summer institute that gives hands-on experience to Pennsylvania high school and college students ages 16-19 about the way cooperatives operate. For registration information, contact either Janie Music at 814-863-0644 or Jeff Stoltzfus at 717-354-1522. The registration deadline is May 15.

PCC and PSU plan to select and sponsor 10-12 participants from this summer’s PA institute to attend the national conference, which is in Nashville, TN this year from July 31-August 3.

IPM Database

The PA IPM program is working on a database of curriculum materials for teachers at all levels and subject areas to help them comply with the new PDE standards for Integrated Pest Management (Environment and Ecology Section). The coordinators would welcome a few teachers who would like to help them identify on-line curriculum materials. If you are interested in working with the IPM program on their website, please contact Ed Rajotte at egrajotte@psu.edu.

Systems Approach

“Increasingly, it seems as though students of agriculture will need to become ‘systems thinkers.’ Supervised experience programs may be a very appropriate instructional strategy to get learners to think and develop more holistic approaches.” From System Approaches to Supervised Experience Activities, by Penny S. Haase Wittler and Joe G. Harper, Vol. 72:3, The Agricultural Education Magazine.

Free Trial for On-Line Encyclopedia

An Encyclopedia of Life Sciences article database is now available on the Web offering a unique online preview of the most ambitious reference source ever to be published in the biological sciences. The “Embryonic” Encyclopedia of Life Sciences offers a free trial subscription. To sign up for your free trial subscription without obligation, please complete their online form under the “Embryonic ELS Free Trial” link at <http://www.groverreference.com/els/embryonic/>. After filling in the form, you will be emailed a password allowing 24 free hours of access to this service. The ELS publisher welcomes your feedback on the Encyclopedia of Life Sciences to help develop a product that will answer your needs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- March 11 FFA 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Bellwood-Antis Middle School gym
- March 12-14 SLLC at Grantsville Holiday Inn (D. Shafer)
- March 18..... Block & Bridle Club competition at Penn State’s Ag Arena
- April 14..... FFA Association Board of Directors Meeting, 301 Ag Admin Bldg., Penn State, University Park, 6:30 p.m.
- April 15..... State Proficiency Evaluations, Penn State

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

- March 10..... FFA 3-on-3 Basketball entry forms due to Bellwood-Antis FFA Chapter
- March 13..... FFA American degree applications due in VSO office (C. Weller)
- April 1..... Proficiency and Entrepreneurship applications due to the regional coordinators (project books required)
- April 15..... Dairy Showmanship applications due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia

(Growing cont’d from p. 1)

Her program has a strong technology component with a new computer lab adjacent to her room that has software for CAD and landscape projects. Mrs. Ball’s students researched and helped write proposals for the new computer lab. The Kutztown FFA chapter raised funds for the hydroponics equipment and five of her FFA students developed a curriculum on wetlands for the special needs students. Another innovation in Mrs. Ball’s program is initiation of coops for two of her students this year.

Mrs. Ball sees about 120 students each day. Eighty percent of her students pursue agriculture or related “green” careers. But “it’s not easy being green.” With seven preps each day, Mrs. Ball hopes to have another ag science teacher on board in the future to share her program, expand the curriculum, and help start a FFA alumni chapter. There also are plans to expand the coop program and to offer more diverse and specialized courses if a new position is approved. The new courses would be turf management, agri-business, soil microbiology, and food science and food safety.

(New Teacher cont’d from p. 1)

and SAEs that are directly related to student plans are your goals for this year. Good luck!

Also, don’t forget that the New Teacher Induction Course is available to meet your needs. Call me to get the information you need to enroll in the course any semester—year round.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Biotechnology workshop on May 6 and the Equine Science seminar on July 10. Both will be great opportunities to gather new curriculum materials and interact with other teachers.

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