

Briefs for Ag Educators

The Center for Professional Personnel Development



*David Bittner and
Javier Moreno in
Red Square,
Moscow, Russia*

International Agricultural Leadership

*by: Thomas Bruening, Associate
Professor, Agricultural & Extension
Education*

Javier Moreno (past national FFA President) and David Bittner (past Pennsylvania President) are exerting their leadership abilities in new and exciting ways this semester. Both Penn State agricultural and extension education students are taking advantage of a unique study abroad project in Moscow, Russia. For the past seven years, Penn State has lead a study abroad initiative at Moscow State Agroengineering University. More than 60 US students have participated in this exciting program. Students from Montana State University, University of Florida, and University of Nebraska are also participating in this program.

Students are learning about the continuing development and transformation of agriculture while in Russia. Developing language skills and an understanding of the culture is clearly a daily experience for students. One unique aspect of this program is that students stay enrolled at Penn State

and are taught by Russian and American professors while studying in Moscow. Two Penn State professors and a professor from Florida are teaching this year.

Typically students ask, "Why study broad in Russia?" Here was Javier's response to that question.

Ever since I was a young boy, I remember that every year Mom and Dad would spend one or two weeks in places like Morocco, Portugal, El Salvador or Peru. Because of the dangers and risks involved with mission work, they didn't always think it was a good idea for me to go along. Since then, I've developed a strong desire for exploring the world and learning about different cultures. As soon as I enrolled at Penn State University in the fall of 2002, I heard about the many opportunities available for students interested in studying abroad and the agricultural industry. During my First Year Seminar, our professor showed us a video about studying agriculture abroad, and specifically the

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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

Classroom Earth – Most Popular Lessons

http://www.classroomearth.org/most_popular/

The following list consists of the most popular and widely used environmental education programs for K-12 classrooms. Each program provides proven curricula, materials, and, in many cases, in-person training on how to use the program with students. These programs are national in focus, meet North American Association for Environmental Education guidelines, and many align with state standards of learning.



Meat Goat Home Study Course

<http://bedford.extension.psu.edu/agriculture/goat/goat%20lessons.htm>

Welcome to the Penn State Cooperative Extension Meat Goat Home Study Course! Lesson materials are available any time, although the course is run during the winter. Simply click on the topic title under each lesson and you will go directly to the material to read. You may read the material on screen or print it out for future reference.



Exploratorium

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/>

Online since 1993, the Exploratorium was one of the first science museums to build a site on the World Wide Web. Our site now contains over 15,000 Web pages exploring hundreds of different topics. We currently serve fifteen million visitors a year. That makes us one of the most visited museum Web sites in the world.

The Exploratorium's educational approach provides a maximum of exposure to the phenomena of science in an environment with a minimum of apparent structure. What seems like the random excitement of blinking and beckoning exhibits is actually a very carefully devised science curriculum, appropriate for both the formal and informal teaching of science.



Milk Vending Machine Brings Profits & Health

by: Richard Moore, Cedar Crest Young Farmer Advisor

GOT MILK? Students at Cedar Crest High School in Lebanon County do! Through the efforts of the FFA Chapter and Young Farmer Chapter, in cooperation with the school district Wellness Team, a milk machine was purchased in November 2004 for the high school.

Like many school districts having soda contracts, the students at Cedar Crest had access to milk only during lunch periods while having access to numerous soda machines before, during, and after school. The effort was spearheaded by two major concerns – one national and one local. With statistics relating to increased weight, diabetes, heart disease and increased cholesterol levels on the rise, there is increasing concern for the health of the nation's youth. Also, there is something wrong with the local scene when students can look out the school windows and see cows on pasture, yet they are only offered soda and other drinks, but no milk.

A request was made to the administration and school board to purchase a milk vending machine, to be funded by the local agriculture community. The machine would be serviced by the FFA Chapter and profits would be returned to the chapter. Given the go-ahead, the 405 unit

capacity milk vending machine was purchased for \$4500. It replaced two soda machines and was placed in a high traffic area.

After purchase, the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association funded \$1000 through Dairy Vending Start-Up Offer, their school promotion program. The remaining funding was provided by Cedar Crest FFA Chapter, Cedar Crest Young Farmers, Wen-Crest Farms, Swiss Premium Dairy, and Lebanon County Dairy Promotion.

An FFA student committee was formed to handle the details relating to the operation of the machine: product selection, purchasing, pricing, stocking, servicing, and accounting records. Currently there are 20 different milk and yogurt products sold at prices ranging from \$0.75 to \$1.50. The milk product items are ordered in conjunction with the high school cafeteria vendor order. When delivered, the FFA order is stored separately and FFA has a separate account for billing. A few items not provided by the milk vendor are purchased locally.

A representative showed the students how to program, stock and maintain the vending machine. It has many features that insure quality control. A health guard keeps the products from being dispersed should the



Cedar Crest FFA members pictured with County Dairy Princesses & school Mascot in front of the Milk Vending Machine

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The Power of Pennies

by: Krista Pontius, Greenwood HS
Agricultural Educator

Shortly after Christmas a devastating natural disaster hit Asia. As Americans, we are so blessed to live in a country filled with industry and bounty. In response to the Tsunami Disaster, the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association launched a challenge to all FFA chapters in the state of Pennsylvania. We challenged each chapter to raise 20,000 pennies, in hopes of reaching a goal of one million pennies. Chapters across Pennsylvania took the challenge to heart and began collecting pennies. Although, we fell short of our goal,

we raised \$7,085. The following FFA Chapters participated: Captain Jack, Central Cove, Penn State Collegiate FFA, Cumberland Valley, Fort Cherry, Greenwood, Juniata, Kennard-Dale, Littlestown, New Oxford, Newport, North Montco, Northern Bedford, Oley Valley, Red Lion, Twin Valley, and Tyrone. Northern Bedford won the Penny Drive, raising, \$1,303.68. They will receive a gift certificate to hold a pizza party at the next chapter FFA meeting. Pennsylvania FFA Alumni would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. It was an excellent demonstration of the "Power of Pennies."



For more information on the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni, contact Kristina Watson at krwatson@state.pa.us.



For more information about Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, go to <http://cas.psu.edu>

PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Open House

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences invites you to attend our Open House on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet with deans, faculty, and current students, and tour our college and the University Park campus. The preliminary schedule of events will give you an idea of the various activities in which you may participate throughout the day.

Please RSVP by April 1, 2005. You can use our on-line reservation form at <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casuged/openhouse/Reservations.html>

E-mail confirmation will be sent approximately one week before the event.

8:00–11:00 a.m. Registration
Alumni Hall, Hetzel Union Building (HUB) - *Information Displays: Academic Programs, University Services & Opportunities*

8:15.–9:00 a.m. Admissions Process Overview

9:15–10:00 a.m. Financial Aid Overview & College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarships

10:15–11:00 a.m. Welcome & College Presentation Auditorium, HUB
- *Program includes information on majors, minors, scholarships, clubs, organizations and societies, internships, undergraduate research, & education abroad.*

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Russian program. He even brought a speaker to answer any questions related to the program. It was then that I decided I would be going on the trip some time during my college career. Considering my desire to learn more about other cultures and international agriculture, it only seemed natural for me to enroll in the program. For the past year I've been twiddling with the idea of going to Russia. The time feels right, and therefore I will be spending the next four months in Moscow, Russia. I'm looking forward to broadening my horizons by learning about their people and culture.

Each semester the students write a newsletter describing their

experiences in Moscow. The newsletter contains pictures and brief descriptions of their activities in Moscow. Take a look at the most recent issue and the previous issues of the newsletter at the following Web site: <http://intag.cas.psu.edu/>

While in Moscow, the students have many opportunities to explore the cultural heritage of a city that was founded more than 850 years ago. Museums, historic battlefields, cultural sites and Red Square are but a few of the places that students will visit. At the end of the program, students will go to St. Petersburg where they will see additional historical and cultural icons.



Milk Vending Machine Brings Profit & Health, continued from page 3

temperature exceed a safe level. It supports all available coin changers and bill acceptors. Each column can be individually priced and it answers first-in, first-out product rotation.

The FFA is very happy with the sales volume and the positive feedback from the student body on

the wide variety of milk and yogurt products offered. The machine attracts students with its large, well-lit, glass front that displays all the products. Above all, the FFA is proud to offer nutritious milk products - healthy alternative to soda and juice.



PSU College of Ag Sciences Open House, Continued from page 4

11:15–noon Group Academic Information Sessions

11:00–1:00 p.m. Brunch

1:30–2:15 p.m. Internships, Careers, & International Experiences in Agricultural Sciences
Room 101 Agricultural Sciences and Industries (ASI) Building

2:30–3:15 p.m. Residence Hall Tour

3:30–5:00 p.m. Tour Option A: Large Animal Facility Tour

3:30–4:30 p.m. Tour Option B: Equine Facility Tour

5:00 p.m. Have a safe trip home.

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

PENNSTATE



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**2005 FFA
Activities Week**

June 14-16, 2005
University Park, PA

Calendar – [\(items underlined are due dates\)](#)

March 13-15...SLLC, Grantville

[March 15...American FFA Degree Applications due to CTSO Office \(C. Day\)](#)

March 16...CDP Parli. Pro. & Public Speaking CDE's, Farm Show Complex, 9:00 AM

March 17...AFY Parli. Pro. & Public Speaking CDE's, Northern HS, 4:00 PM

March 18...Ag Advisory Committee Mtg., Duffy's Tavern, Boalsburg, 10:00 AM

March 18...PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU – 301 Ag Admin., 7:00 PM

March 22...CCC Career Development Events, Central Mt. HS, 9:45 AM

March 22...South Central Proficiency Judging, Cumberland Valley HS, 4:00 PM

March 30...AFY Ag Issues Forum, Bermudian Spring HS, 4:00 PM

April 1...Somerset Co. Parli. Pro. & Public Speaking, Berlin, 9:00 PM

April 1...FFA Board Meeting, PDA – Room 309, 6:30 PM

[April 2...South Central Public Speaking Manuscripts due \(Dianna Dellinger\)](#)

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 9...PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Open House, HUB, 9:00 AM

April 12...South Central Region Speaking CDE's, Farm Show Complex, 9:00 AM

April 12...PAAE Western Region Mtg., Hoss's, Allison Park, 6:00 PM

April 13...Washington, Fayette, Greene Counties Parli. Pro. & Public Speaking
CDE's, McGuffey High School, 9:00 AM

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 \(M. Brammer\)](#)

April 19...Lancaster County CDE's, Manheim Fairgrounds, 9:00 AM

April 20...Western Region Parli. Pro. & Public Speaking CDE's, Crooked Creek
Environmental Center, 9:00 AM

April 21...CCC Career Development Events, Penns Valley HS, 9:45 AM

April 27...Penn State AEE Department Banquet, Damon's, State College, 6:00 PM

April 28...Western Round-Up CDE's, Butler Co. Farm Show Grounds, 9:00 AM

[May 1...Regional Contest Quota Results due to regional coordinators](#)

[May 2...South Central Area Tractor Driving Winners due \(Dianna Dellinger\)](#)

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