



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: MeeCee Baker, Greenwood HS Educator

Welcome to the New and Beginning Teachers Column. The last edition of the "Briefs" introduced you to the PAAE mentoring effort for the 2000-2001 academic year by President Leroy Dreibelbis. Since then, a cooperative three-pronged approach to mentoring has been developed with our colleagues at Penn State.



PAAE-PSU Mentoring Program

1. PAAE will provide field-based mentors for all new agriculture teachers.
2. Dr. Phil Ogline, a much respected former agriculture teacher and current Penn State employee, will visit each new teacher to give support and access needs. Dr. Ogline will provide services as a bridge between the field program and the University.
3. Drs. Tom Bruening and Carol Hodes, from the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Penn State, will develop two programs designed for the new teachers and their mentors as well as interested others. These programs will occur in February and the first day of the summer conference.

How encouraging to see agricultural education professionals work together to help ensure the success of our newcomers! Don't miss the opportunity to help our rookies. Extend a handshake, a shoulder

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IT'S ABOUT STUDENTS & THE COMMUNITY

United HS - Armagh, PA



Ed Fairman, Shop Assistant, working with a small group on small engine equipment.

Richard Stumpf of United High School located in Indiana County prides his Agriculture program on the facts that the program has great community involvement and a high percentage of the students enrolled who are strong academically. Currently there are 68 students taking on the challenging curriculum offered in Agricultural Production. "Even though I could accept more students into the program, I limit the numbers so that I can maintain the personal interests of each student and know their families."

Richard also has two-shop assistants, Ed Fairman who is certified in Auto Mechanics and Bodywork with a former certification in welding and Carol Carney who owns and operates a local garden center and is a Master Gardener. Ed Fairman commented, "I got involved in the class when my son came home six years ago and wanted to know if I would

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IT'S A GIRL



Daryl and Deb Schafer became proud parents of Katherine Elizabeth on Oct 15. The baby weighed 8 lbs. and 3 oz.

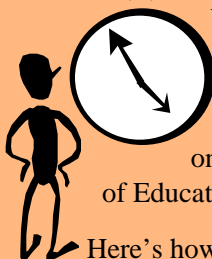
Congratulations to the Schafer's on a beautiful baby girl!

PAAE ONLINE

www.PAAE.org is your connection to the PA Association of Agricultural Educators. Thanks to Krista Pontius and Dianna Dellinger, members can find up-to-date information with a few key strokes.

CHECK YOUR HOURS

The PA Dept of Education website has a place for you to check on Act 48 hours. All hours are tracked by your social security number.



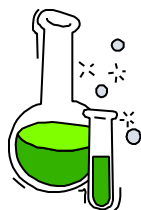
Whether your hours come from your school district, Penn State or elsewhere, they are all entered in one main place at PA Dept of Education in Harrisburg.

Here's how it works. From the PDE home page at www.pde.psu.edu, click on "Continuing Professional Education under Act 48," which is listed on the right side of the page. Next click on "Act 48 professional Education Record Management System." Then under "Educator Options," click on "Check an Educator's Continuing Education Progress." The next page has a field where you enter your social security number & click "submit."

If you have any questions contact Carol Hodes at 814-865-4592.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, & ECOLOGY STANDARDS APPROVED BY STATE BOARD

The State Board of Education at their July meeting approved standards in the subject areas of Science, Technology, Environment and Ecology. This action begins the formal regulatory review process. While there is an Agriculture and Society standard within the Environment and Ecology standards, no corresponding standard exists in the Science and Technology standards. Once the regulatory package begins to move through the process, the House and Senate Committees on education will have an opportunity to make comments and recommendations.



In as much as agriculture has been omitted from the Science and Technology standards, Fred Brown, PAAE Lobbyist, would urge you to contact your member of the General Assembly and express your concern over this issue. Even though your member of the General Assembly may not be on the Education Committee, ask your assemblyperson to express his/her concerns to a member of the committee.

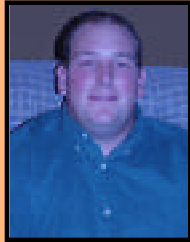
Fred Brown still believes there is an opportunity to make changes and have the Science and Technology standards recognize agricultural science within the science curriculum.

RURAL YOUTH FUNDING AVAILABLE

Currently the Department of Agriculture has federal funds available under the Rural Youth program. The amount of the grant available is \$2,500. Please check the Department's web sites for more details or contact Fred Brown at fred-brown@home.com.

Introducing... John Ewing

In May 2000, John graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education. During the summer, he accepted a teaching position at Octorara Area High School in Chester County. He hopes to help these students achieve whatever goals they may set for themselves in the coming school year and in the future.



After seeing the many opportunities that were offered to him while involved in a high school agriculture program, John decided to become an Agricultural Education teacher. He believes that many students miss opportunities to become involved in classes where they can learn and enjoy it at the same time. John's hope is that more students begin to realize that they can do this through agricultural education courses.

"The coming year will surely be full of new experiences and surprises. I am looking forward to my first year of teaching and getting to know the agricultural education teachers from Pennsylvania."

For personal hobbies John enjoys spending time hunting or fishing. "There is nothing more relaxing than just spending a beautiful fall afternoon outside all by myself."

Join the Center for Professional Personnel Development to welcome John Ewing to the Agricultural Education Family.

MORE THAN 450 IN ATTENDANCE

On October 17th, AEE 311 and 412 students planned and presented the Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development (FCLPD). Three-hundred freshman, 89 chapter officers, 55 advisors, 11 PA State FFA Officers, and FFA Foundation members converged at the Penn Stater Conference Center at University Park.

Elio Chiarelli, PA National FFA Officer Candidate, served as Master of Ceremonies for the one-day event. This year's FCLPD was entitled "Rooted in the Past, Reaching for Our Future." Each freshman selected 3 of the 12 concurrent sessions geared towards specific personal development.



AEE 412 Class with Drs. Dennis Scanlon & Thomas Bruening

Sessions were listed as Learning to Grow - Growing to Learn, FFA Opportunities: Sprouting Up Everywhere, Team Building 2000: Growing Together, Professionally Reaching Towards the Future, Cultivate Your Career, Remove the Husks from Your Ears, Planting the Seed to Travel, Branching Out to a New World of Opportunities, Essential Element Experiences, We Have a Dream, The Tree-mendous Opportunities with FFA, and Formulating the Hybrids of Tomorrow. Each 30 minute session was conducted by an AEE 412 student, who will be student teaching this spring.

Students, advisors, and other guests were motivated by Matt Lohr, Motivational Speaker, when he conducted audience participation activities and shared stories about trying new things and thinking "outside of the box." Matt currently teaches at a junior high agricultural program in Virginia and also travels the world giving motivational speeches. Matt's day also included an afternoon workshop for the chapter officers.

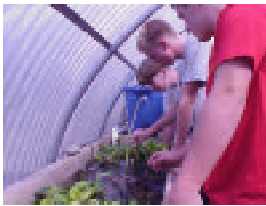
Advisors took part in the "New Trades and Technologies" session presented by Carol Hodes and Chris Weller. In the afternoon, Kerry Richards directed the "FFA Foundation Forum." During the forum session, advisors and foundation members shared ideas about how they can continue to im-

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(It's About Students... cont'd from p 1)

mind helping Mr. Stumpf with the Agricultural Mechanics curriculum. Since then my son has graduated and gone onto college. I've remained here as an assistant because I love it and enjoy it." By having assistance, students are able to expand their learning through unique hands-on projects during class hours.

Tracy Melius and Bob Henry, United HS Seniors, are reaping the benefits of the community involvement. These two students spend every Wednesday job shadowing Jack Lucas, the local Game Protector. "I got involved in the Agricultural class because I wanted to pursue a career in Parks and Recreation. Through the mentoring program I'm able to get hands-on experience and gain better knowledge of what



students exploring hydroponics/aquaculture

the requirements are for specific jobs," Tracy explained.

Richard Stumpf has also created a win-win situation for his students. "Over the years, I have increased the science and environmental aspects of

the program. I have also made FFA an integral part of the program. These changes and inclusions have helped to get other teachers and administrators involved in the students' lives. For instance, I thank the English teachers when a student wins a public speaking event. Without their help of teaching writing skills, our students would not have succeeded. The science and math teachers assist with the Envirothon event. All of these little things help to build a positive reputation for the program, which in-turn creates community involvement."

Chapter FFA members shared their insights about the Agricultural program. "We look forward to this class, it's a change from normal academic classes. We not only want to gain knowledge but apply those skills to actual projects." The students continued on to talk about Mr. Stumpf and how he gets to know their families and interests. He also promotes the importance of the FFA organization and SAE

projects.

When surveyed, all of the members in the group planned to attend college. Even though most were looking at occupations not directly linked to Agriculture, they felt that the program provided them with leadership and social skills. One chapter officer commented, "We are well-rounded individuals by the time we complete this program."

Mr. Stumpf is constantly finding areas of interests of where community members, academic departments and students can work as a team. Just recently the program received the New Community Park Grant. Community members have designed a landscape plan and with the assistance of the Agricultural students will complete the installation of the design this spring. Other areas that are being pursued are pheasant production and habitat improvement, Food For America with 4th graders and aquaculture and hydroponics systems. Currently the students are working with the community with an Adopt-A-Stream program, Festival of Lights, and Brush Valley Park.



Student using welding skills to create a metal wreath for the Festival of Lights.

United High School Agricultural Program is an example of how academics, community involvement and hands-on learning can develop citizens for the future.

PA WINS SWEEPSTAKES

During September at the Big E Exposition, Jim Mullen, PA State FFA President served as an intern to assist with the daily operations of the FFA events. Pennsylvania was well represented in all aspects of the expo.

Due to the competitors skills and knowledge, PA FFA returned home as the BIG E SWEEPSTAKES Winner.

Congratulation PA FFA Members!!!

PA AG ED SAYS GOODBYE TO TIM WELLER

As of November 3, 2000, Timothy Weller will officially resign from the Department of Education. Over the past six years, Tim has played a vital role in the success of agricultural education in Pennsylvania. He has worked on various projects from local chapter needs to national initiatives.

Tim commented, "It has been a pleasure serving as your Agricultural Education Advisor. It is time to move to new challenges. I will be pursuing a new venture as part owner of the High Country Guide and Outfitters in Craig Colorado. This move also gives me the opportunity to do some private educational consulting."

The Center for Professional Personnel Development wishes Tim Weller great success in his future.



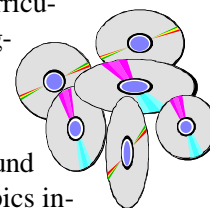
ANIMAL HELP



The American Veterinary Medical Association Website has loads of information for you and your students, about cats, dogs and horses. The site is searchable and there are numerous items about veterinary medical and animal resources available on the Internet such as Net Vet and the Electronic Zoo. Also, access to the abstracts in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association are available. Find all this by pointing your browser to <http://www.avma.org/>

Love that Technology

Agricultural teachers engaged in a top-notch learning experience sponsored by the Center on the evening of October 12 at Mifflinburg High School. Charles Kessler hosted the event and guided participants through the new curriculum materials on two new FFA CDs: "Emerging Technologies in Agriculture" and "Biotechnology in Agriculture."



The CDs contain labs, lesson plans, background materials, resources, and even videos. Topics included gene splicing, DNA protein separation, and genetically modified organisms. Teachers who were at this workshop felt that many of these units easily could be expanded into full semester courses. If you are interested, these CDs can be purchased on the FFA website, and if you are interested in similar workshops, please contact Carol Hodes at 814-865-4592.

CORRECTIONS TO OCTOBER BRIEFS

Mentoring Program Assignments (*New Teacher - Mentor*)

John Ewing – Clair Witwer, Brendan Hoover – Larry Way, Neil Fellenbaum – Carey Kalupsor, Tracey Sauder and Colleen Innert – Krista Pontius, Thad White and Brent Dahlhaus – Doug Gayman, Tabatha Jacobs – Harold Berkheiser, Steve Blackburn – Wayne Irish

Mentoring workshops are scheduled for February and July. If you would like to serve as a mentor for next year, please contact MeeCee Baker at Greenwood HS.

THE EVENT OF 2001 - DON'T MISS OUT

Governor's Institute For Agricultural Science Educators will be held on July 16 - 19, 2001 at the Penn Stater, University Park. This year's event is held in conjunction with the PAAE Summer Conference. However the institute is open to all Agricultural Educators.

There will be no cost to you the Agricultural Educator. You will received outstanding housing accomodations, two graduate credits, all meals and transportation to site visits and tours.

Don't pass up this opportunity to be part of the First Governor's Institute for Agricultural Science Educators. Keep your eyes on the Briefs for more details and registration information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- November 7 FFA South Central Region, Regional Keystone Star Selection with SAE Books, Farm Show Complex, Room A-1 or B, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- November 11 Food Science Workshop, Conrad Weiser High School, 8:30 a.m.
- December 2-6 NAAE National Convention, San Diego
- December 7-10 ... ACTE National Convention, San Diego
- January 5-11..... Pennsylvania Farm Show, Harrisburg
- January 8..... FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Large Areana Farm Show Complex, 4:00 p.m.
- February 6-8 PA Young Farmer Convention, Greensburg
- February 8-10 State Project Book Evaluation, PSU Ag Administration Building
- February 13-19 ... Vocational Education Week

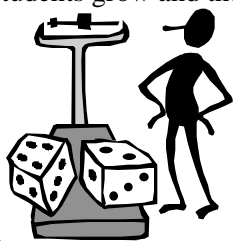
TEACHER DEADLINES.....

- December 1..... Program of Work, Budget for National Chapter Award, VSO Office
- December 15..... Reconfirm Entries for Farm Show Market Animals, Farm Show Office
- February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators
- February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications, National FFA Center

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

to lean on, or a few tips of advice. Below find my top 15 tips for newcomers.

1. Connect with your mentor.
2. Become active in your professional association.
3. Develop and work with an advisory committee.
4. Call parents frequently.
5. Keep a pleasant and orderly work space.
6. When ordering FFA jackets add six inches to the largest measurement of chest or midsection (Students grow and the jackets get small.).
7. Maintain a balanced life.
8. Have Zero Tolerance for bullying.
9. Welcome all comers to your class.
10. Inform administration.
11. Seek evaluation.
12. Take a selective approach to activities.
13. Appropriately integrate classroom instruction, SAE and FFA.
14. Use the Teacher's Manual from the National FFA.
15. Love your job.



(More than 450... Cont'd from p 3)

prove the PA FFA Association by working together on activities.

Special thanks to all of the students and their advisors for their professional conduct and enthusiasm; you are the individuals who make this day a success.

If you are interested in attending the FCLPD in 2001, keep your eye open for a summer mailing. We hope to see you next year!



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