

Briefs for Ag Educators

The Center for Professional Personnel Development

Students Gain Hands-on Experience

By: Jessica Landis, 2004 Student Teacher

Students in AEE 412, who are preparing to student teach spring 2004, are offered a unique opportunity to help them prepare for their experience. In cooperation with the State College Area School District and Paul Heasley, Agricultural Educator at State College High School, we are able to get hands-on-experience in agricultural mechanics. Twice a week, fifteen students report to State College High School for a two-hour class. Within this time we are taught methods for teaching agricultural mechanics along with application of

what we have learned.

The course is broken into sections, which focus on surveying, woodworking, welding, electricity, plumbing, and small gas engines. Although many of the students have a general background in these areas, the class is designed to give those without experience a chance to expand their knowledge. It is also used to emphasize the methods we could use to teach agricultural mechanics to our students.

Requirements for the class include completing projects such as laying

(Continued on page 5)



Jason Innerst, Renee Baker and Jessica Landis using surveying equipment during AEE 350.

Highlights:

- Sites of Interest 2
- A Mission to Become 1 of 6 National FFA Officers 3
- My Incredible Journey, Professional Development Opportunities 4
- Announcements 5
- Calendar 6

New & Beginning Teacher Column

By: Tracy Hoover, Associate Professor

The Center for Professional Personnel Development (CPPD) in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and the Pennsylvania Association for Agricultural Educators will host a workshop for new and beginning teachers November 21st & 22nd at the Holiday Inn, Grantville and Penn National racetrack. New and beginning teachers are identified as those teachers in their first to third year of teaching.

Lodging and travel expenses are covered by the CPPD. Workshop topics include: Welcome to the profession, an overview of the Pennsylvania Racing Industry, a paddock tour of Penn National race track and facilities, Who's

Who in Pennsylvania Agricultural Education, resources available from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Penn State Center for Professional Personnel Development, being part of your professional organization, and a session on floral arranging where attendees will make a table top centerpiece, corsage and boutonniere. ACT 48 credits are available for attendees. If you have questions please contact and/or RSVP to Krista Pontius, Kpontius@greenwood.org, or Tracy Hoover, tsh102@psu.edu, by November 14th.



2004 Farm Show
Landscape Exhibit Theme
– “Your Front Door”

Sites of Interest

Agriculture and Aerospace Technology

"Agriculture and Aerospace Technology" is an article that explains how NASA technology is being adapted for agricultural use on Earth. To access the articles and lessons, visit the NASA explores website, www.nasaexplores.com/show2_article.php?id=03-013 and click on "Agriculture and Aerospace Technology"

PA Farm Show Entry Forms & Information

Entry forms for the 2004 Farm Show can now be accessed at the following website:

www.pde.state.pa.us/bcte/AgEd.

These forms will not be mailed out to programs this year; they must be accessed from this website. Please read the information provided for each department and notice the due dates for each.

Curriculum & Publications

The PA 4-H continues to add curriculum and publications to the following website

<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/curric.html>.

The curriculum has been matched with the PA Academic Standards and offers some unique ideas to use during class time.

Areas include: Animal Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, Science and Technology, Environmental Education and Earth Sciences, International and Diversity, Communications and Expressive Arts, Healthy Lifestyle Education, Leadership and Personal Development, and Citizenship and Civic Education.

AG Ed Website

The website address www.pde.state.pa.us/bcte/AgEd will take you to the Ag Ed website. The agriculture education website is on the Bureau of Career and technical website, www.pde.state.pa.us/bcte, which is on the PA Department of Education website, www.pde.state.pa.us.

Things of interest that have been added to the Ag Ed website are: Vision for Agricultural Education in Pennsylvania, A Handbook for Program Planning and Curriculum Development, A Guide for Adult Agricultural Education and Young Farmers Program in Pennsylvania, Biotechnology Curriculum Framework, Establishing and Operating Advisory Committees Handbook, Basic Education Circulars, Farm and Domestic Service Permits, and the following links: Center for Professional Development at PSU, postsecondary career information.

As more items are added Chris Weller will pass them along to PA Agricultural Educators.

Items of interest on the Bureau of Career and Technical site: Guide to Student Occupational Competency Testing and 2002-2003 (NOCTI).

On the department site you will find Assessment and Testing (PSSA), No Child Left Behind, teacher certification, Act 48 and many more items.



A Mission to Become 1 of 6 National FFA Officers

By: Javier Moreno, Puerto Rico National FFA Officer Candidate and Penn State Agricultural and Extension Education Student

Running for National Office has been by far one of most exciting decisions I have ever made. In July 1999, I had the opportunity to take part in the State President's Conference (SPC) in Washington, D.C. It was at this conference that I had the honor of meeting an FFA National Officer team for the first time. These six individuals made such a positive impression on me that I immediately knew I wanted to be a National Officer Candidate. Four years later, my goal hasn't changed at all, and during that time I have been able to establish my priorities and define my intentions.

I am a sophomore at The Pennsylvania State University, majoring in Agricultural and Extension Education. During the past several months I have been working on integrating the knowledge I have gained at Penn State with the training process for my National Office candidacy. It has been a challenging, though not easy, process.

I have also had the pleasure of working with David Bittner, the National Officer Candidate from the Pennsylvania FFA Association. This summer we took a trip to Washington, D.C. and visited Tim Holden, a Pennsylvania Congressman, and Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico. We

discussed with them issues such as agro-terrorism, global trading, agricultural policy, and Puerto Rican and Pennsylvanian agriculture from a global perspective. David and I hold weekly meetings where we discuss our ideas and thoughts regarding education, agriculture, The National FFA Organization, among others.

Another part of the process has been learning agricultural facts, as well as FFA facts and history, agricultural education issues, and other personal growth activities. We use reference materials such as Farm Facts (published by the American Farm Bureau), FFA at 50, the FFA Student Handbook, the FFA Official Manual, FFA Advisors Making a Difference, LPS Guide, and others. Both David and I hold weekly meetings with Dr. Deborah Atwater, an expert in oral and written communication. We keep a daily journal, and assist each other with writing exercises and practice tests. Drs. Tracy Hoover, Dennis Scanlon, Blannie Bowen, and many other faculty members at Penn State have been of great help during the training process. Elio Chiarelli, Jr., a former National Officer, has been a great asset to our training team as well.

Now more than ever I feel very confident about my decision to run for National Office. After all, I want to be a genuine positive influence in lives of FFA members, advisors, and friends.



"These six individuals made such a positive impression on me that I immediately knew I wanted to be a National Officer Candidate."

My Incredible Journey

By: David Bittner, Pennsylvania National FFA Officer Candidate and Penn State Agricultural and Extension Education Student



"I will have the opportunity to become a National Officer and serve the 464,267 members of this life changing organization."

I can remember it well. I was sitting in Doyle Paul's freshman Ag class and we were watching that corny FFA introductory video that all first year students must see. But so vividly I can remember the part where they show the National FFA Officers being introduced at National Convention and wondering has this chapter ever had any National Officers? Ever since that time, I have always been reminded of the goal that I set for myself while sitting in that classroom: I want to be a National Officer!

The journey through the past few months has been incredible, from the moment I retired as the Pennsylvania FFA State President, to my first day of college, through my nineteenth birthday and into the preparation of becoming a National FFA Officer. The training began slowly for the most part because I had no clue where to start! I was hesitant to jump right in until I met Javier. This

amazing guy from the *Commonwealth of Puerto Rico* has been a true blessing in my life. Without him, I do not think I could have ever gotten my feet off of the ground this far. Two heads are always better than one, and it is unbelievably helpful to have him as a study partner and as a great friend.

The informational visits, mock interviews and nearly constant studying have been beneficial to me in so many ways. I can tell you anything from Ag statistics to world trade policies and from consumer confidence to water resource management. But, through it all I have met many amazing people, made some great contacts as well as friends, and become confident that I can represent Pennsylvania to the farthest extent of my abilities!

As convention approaches faster than I thought it could, I am more excited than ever before! I will have the opportunity to become a National Officer and serve the 464, 267 of this life changing organization. For the

(Continued on page 5)

Professional Development Opportunities

Are you looking to update your curriculum or need some new ideas to enhance your current curriculum? The Center for Professional Personnel Development has scheduled a variety of workshops based on the 2003 Agricultural Education Needs Assessment

Workshops will be offered in both electronical and face-to-face in-services. Topics include: Breathing Excitement into the Carbon Cycle; Hunger in the World, the U.S. and in

Pennsylvania; Animal Production and Food Safety; Greenhouse Management; New and Beginning Teacher; Pennsylvania Record Books; Biotechnology Affects Everyone Every Day; Wild about Waterfowl; Environmental Education; Small Gasoline Engines; Life in Rumen; and Updates on Programming.

For more information on dates, locations, times and how to register; refer to the insert in this newsletter.



Teachers taking part in a Bottle Biology Workshop.

My Incredible Journey continued from page 1

same reasons that I want to become an agriculture teacher, I want to be able to give back what was handed to me throughout my life thus far. It is exhilarating to think about it, and I do constantly. Every moment for the past months has been spent studying, interviewing, and preparing; all the while I have never stopped dreaming of what the outcome of convention will be.

From my experiences so far I have learned that faith is a crucial element in the process of becoming a National Officer...faith in myself, faith in my ability and faith in my values of religion, family and friendship. I will reflect back on this experience and look at it in a positive light regardless of the results because I know that through it, I have become a better person.



Students Gain Hands-on Experience continued from page 1

out a building, constructing a wooden tool box, welding a "C" clamp, and tearing down and then rebuilding a small gas engine. The other main requirement includes developing a three-week

instructional unit on agricultural mechanics. Seems to be a little overwhelming, especially for one with no experience, but I'm sure we will survive.



Curt Swineford and Bart Gill conduct surveying work at the high school, while Richard Stump, retired agricultural educator and Center field representative, supervises their work.

Announcements

Michael and Elizabeth Clark are the proud new parents of Andrea Grace born on September 4, 2003.

Congratulations on your new arrival!



On September 6, Lisa Fetscher, 2001-02 State FFA Reporter, was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. She was recently released from the hospital and is recuperating in the Lancaster area.

Lisa will need a prolonged period of time to heal from her injuries. Please feel free to send cards to: Lisa Fetscher, c/o Hershey Family, 1917 Locust Grove Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu>

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THE CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT
323 Ag Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802



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**The Center for
Professional
Personnel
Development**

323 Agricultural
Administration Building
University Park, PA
16802

PHONE:
814-863-7876

FAX:
814-863-4753

E-MAIL:
tmr175@psu.edu

Editors: Thomas
Bruening & Tiffany Hoy

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

- October 10...AEE Ag Advisory Council Mtg., Bellefonte, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- October 14...PAAE Western Region Mtg., Hoss's in Allison Park, 6:00 PM
- October 16...Fall Conference for Leadership & Professional Development, Altoona
9:45 AM – 2:00 PM (T. Hoy)
- October 20...Greenhouse Management Workshop, Columbia Montour CTE, 6:00 -
9:00 PM (Dorothy Thomas)
- October 22...Greenhouse Management Workshop, Lancaster Co. CTE, 6:00 – 9:00
PM (Dorothy Thomas)
- Oct. 29-Nov.1...76th National FFA Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
- [November 1...Farm Show Entries due to CTSO for School Demo, Window Exhibit](#)
- [November 1...Farm Show Scholarship Applications Due](#)
- [November 5...Farm Show Dairy, Poultry & Breeding Entries Due \(Farm Show Office\)](#)
- November 6...Greenhouse Management Workshop, Derry Area HS, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
(Dorothy Thomas)
- November 13...PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., Twin Valley HS, 5:30 PM
- November 13...[Keystone Applications due to Regional Coordinators](#)
- November 14-15...Keystone Application Judging, Bedford, 6:00 PM
- [November 14...New and Beginning Teacher Workshop Registration due to Krista
Pontius or Tracy Hoover.](#)