



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW TEACHER COLUMN

M. Susie Whittington
Associate Professor



The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is pleased to welcome the following new/beginning teachers to their new schools and/or the agricultural education profession (as of publication deadline); Some are familiar names with new locations while others are new agricultural educators. Welcome!

- Melissa Barner - Wellsboro
- Krista Pontius - Big Spring
- Curt Turner - Central Columbia
- Malena Perry - Cumberland Perry
- Merle Brofee - West Perry
- Chris Ochs - Lancaster Mennonite
- Andy Boyer - Cowanesque Valley
- Mike Shultz - Chambersburg
- Tom Wright - Lampeter-Strasburg
- Vince Hall - Fairfield
- Dan Overdorf - Southern Huntingdon
- Jaci Harner - Line Mountain
- Zach Uphold - Williamsburg
- Roy Campbell - Derry
- Chris McCahren - Tyrone

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Education Beyond the Classroom The 1999 Surf n' Turf Tour

by: Sharon Kinsey

Agricultural education teachers from five states gathered in Newark, Delaware from Aug. 11-13 for a "Surf n Turf Tour," gaining valuable information that can be taken back into the classroom and shared with students.

Participants visiting the Herr Farm in Nottingham, Pennsylvania, learned that waste products from the nearby Herra Potato Chip Factory are a staple of the beef cattle's diet. Dennis Burn, farm manager, jokingly referred to the leftover potato chips, pretzels, nachos and popcorn that are fed to the mostly Black Angus cattle raised there as "Steer Party Mix."



Worth Christian examine a lilly pond at Longwood Gardens

The purpose of the farm, which has been operating as a beef cattle farm for 15 years, is to serve as the recycling arm of the potato chip factory, said Burn. Some 16 tons of potato peelings are generated per day and taken through a system to recycle the waste product into a useable form. This doesn't count all of the chips and pretzels that get swept off the factory floor.

The group proceeded onto a mushroom farm, called Sherr-Okee Farms, where it takes approximately seven weeks for a mushroom crop to be ready for harvest. The mushrooms are then sold for fresh consumption and marketed to pizza chains such as Pizza Hut. A good yield, said one employee, is 72,000 pounds for one room

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Book Review –

by Dr. Richard Stinson

Perennials for the Landscape

By: Dianne A. Noldand and Kristen Bolin

The co-authors of this manual are not only nationally recognized experts in their field, but experienced educators as well. The publication would be most useful to students in grades 9 through 12. It should be especially valuable to teachers and students of Horticulture who are interested in landscape construction and maintenance, as well as wholesale nursery production and garden store operations. This manual would be particularly helpful to students who are gaining summer work experience with one of these businesses.

The introduction explains seasons of growth for herbaceous perennial plants, their use in landscapes, light requirements, and hardiness zones. The extensive list of plants is presented in two ways, by common name and by technical name. Detailed descriptions of each plant are given by season. Starting with early spring perennials and ending with mid to late summer bulbs. Each description is accompanied by a sketch of the plant, the cultural requirement, hardiness zone, and suggested companion plants. The color plates in the center of the manual are very helpful and of good quality.

Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development

Check your mail for the announcement and registration for the Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development (FCLPD) coming to Penn State October 14. Special features of this year's conference include:

- Limited enrollment to top 200 Freshmen Leaders in Pennsylvania
- Held at the Penn Stater
- Sit-down luncheon
- Visit by National FFA Officer, Andy Armbruster



- Choice of 3 of 10 FFA topics
- Professional attire by all participants

For further information, contact Joy Young or Susie Whittington at (814) 863-7852 or via email at joy101@psu.edu

Trout Stream Restoration: Ecological Proposed Plan

The colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Arts and Architecture announce a two day workshop on developing and implementing scientifically sound and cost effective strategies, focused on "freestone" trout streams, for fisheries biologists, resource managers, landscape ecologists, and non-profit groups involved in watershed-based restoration programs.

The conference will be held October 29-30, 1999 at the Penn Stater Conference Center. Cost of the conference is \$295, which does not include lodging. For more information contact Carolyn Andersen, Conference Planner (814) 863-5100.

Fish Category Expanded at Farm Show

The Farm Show Commission has added tilapia to the Farm Show Premium List. 4H and FFA students now have a competition in which to display and win money for the fish raised as their projects. The competition is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Association. The Department of Agriculture encourages instructors to work with students to expand the number of fish exhibited.



Progress A Year in Review

by: Blannie Bowen

Last year's article allowed me to detail several goals to enhance the stature and quality of our Department. Several goals were achieved during a very successful 1998-99, but many remain as we strive to be America's #1 department. This article updates you on our progress.

Hours of candid discussion allowed our faculty to unanimously approve a strategic plan earlier this year to guide our Department from 1999-2003. We thoroughly assessed our strengths, weaknesses, resources, and areas for growth. This assessment led to a consensus that (1) agricultural and extension education and (2) youth and family education will be our focus the next five years. We also agreed that our core expertise will revolve around (1) educational processes; (2) program development and evaluation, (3) administration and supervision, (4) communications and leadership, and (5) research. The plan's goals give clear directions for our undergraduate and graduate instruction, Cooperative Extension programming, and research.

Our strategic plan has already resulted in key changes. In July, Penn State's Board of Trustees approved our request to rename all *agricultural education* B.S., master's, and doctoral degrees *agricultural*

and extension education. The extension education master's that attracted few students was renamed youth and family education to better use the expertise of all faculty. Also, we are now exploring how to deliver courses and inservice activities by distance education. Pic-Tel and the Web are viable options for agricultural science teachers, extension professionals, and other audiences.

During 1998-99, we started efforts to better interact with our 1,850+ alumni. All alumni will receive a newsletter twice per year. Also, we will participate in the College's tailgate on November 13 for the Michigan football game. With the assistance of Gerald Reichard who is leading our Department's alumni group, we will have an open house during the College's tailgate. Put this date on your calendar and join us even if you do not have tickets.

Also, three of our emeriti professors (Drs. Sam Curtis, Norm Hoover, and Richard Stinson) have agreed to write our Department's history. Professor William Hall wrote the last edition in 1954 for Penn State's centennial. Countless individuals have passed through our Department since 1954! We must document our history and what better time than in the year 2000. If you have information, documents, and photographs to enrich this



effort, contact Drs. Curtis, Hoover, and Stinson at (814) 865-1688.

To cap 1998-99, we had a successful State FFA Convention that was handled professionally, thanks to Phil Hoy, our youth program management coordinator. Phil superbly navigated many housing, facilities, contest, award, and related logistics. Thanks to the state officers, the sessions were fast paced and outstanding. Dr. Susie Whittington is now working with Daryl Schafer to prepare our national officer candidate for the rigors of the selection process. We are firmly committed to Pennsylvania having a national officer and being more competitive nationally. Your thoughts on achieving these goals are needed.

Other positives also occurred. We recently upgraded the computers for our staff assistants, especially those who support teachers. We also provided better computers for our undergraduate and graduate students. Also, we added voice mail so you can communicate faster and effectively with individuals in the Department. When you communicate with
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Richard Cook - Northern

If you are: 1) in your first to third year(s) of teaching, 2) have come to Pennsylvania to teach for the first time, 3) have changed schools, or 4) have returned to teaching this year, your name should be included in this list. If it is not, and you would like to be a part of the New Teacher Induction Program in Pennsylvania, contact Dr. M. Susie Whittington or Dorothy Thomas at (814) 863-7852.

As part of the new teacher induction program, new teachers can enroll in the New Teacher Induction Course, AEE 597, by calling Dorothy.

Also, call to register for, **“Thanks I needed that: survival skills for beginning teachers.”** This workshop will be held from Friday, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. until Saturday, October 2 at noon. Flyers have been sent containing all the details.

Have a GREAT year!!

Carol Hodes Joins Center Staff

Carol Hodes has recently joined the Center as our first Project Associate. She brings with her an extensive background in curriculum development and life sciences. Dr. Hodes will work with the Center’s advisory council, faculty, and staff to develop a range of educational programs that strengthen secondary agriculture and environmental science teachers within our state. She comes to the Center from Outreach and Cooperative Extension where she developed many outreach programs for various professional groups over the past five years.

Dr. Hodes graduated from Lock Haven University and began her career as a high school biology teacher. When she finished her MS degree, she received an offer to join the Energy Technology Projects office at Penn State where she developed energy education programs. After finishing her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Penn State, she taught full time for four years at Bloomsburg University and St. Francis College.



She is active in Sigma Delta Epsilon (Graduate Women in Science) and serves as the chair of the national publications and nominating committees, as well as being advisor to the local chapter. For the past two years, she served on the state board of the PA Assn. for Adult Continuing Education as technology chair. She is also a member of Phi Delta Kappa and Pi Lambda Theta education societies.

We here at the Center welcome Dr. Hodes, and we look forward to working with her as we enter the new millennium.

Reminder

Recently Dorothy Thomas mailed the 1999-2000 Teacher Information Update Sheets. Please take a minute and complete your form and return as soon as possible.

Aquaculture Alert!

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture wants to alert all teachers who are raising tilapia in school to the fact they need licensed by the Department according to the 1998 Aquaculture Development Law. This license is required in order for the Department to protect the environment by ensuring that non-approved species of fish are not being raised in the state. However, the Department is **not** requiring educational institutions to pay the license fee of \$150. An educational institution’s license is **free**. For more information, or to receive a license application, contact Leo Dunn, Pennsylvania Aquaculture Coordinator at 717-783-8462.

(*Education cont'd from p. 1*)
or nine pounds per square feet.

The second day started with a stop at the University of Delaware's computer lab, which enabled participants to learn about the newest computer technology. For example, Microsoft PowerPoint is one computer program that can be easily integrated into the classroom for teaching purposes. Teachers were also taught how to use information from the Internet.

The afternoon of Aug. 12 was spent at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania where trainer programs were made available to tour participants in the areas of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), aquatics in the landscape, floral design and plant identification. Ideas on how to incorporate these topics into course curriculum were shared for the IPM and plant identification segments. Indoor display specialist, John Enterline, discussed with agricultural education teachers how to teach floral design on a budget.

Finally, the third day consisted of a tour of Maryland Pride Farms and Honeysuckle Hill Farms in Aberdeen, Md. where aquaculture and hydroponics systems are used simultaneously. Tilapia, is the main product of the aquaculture system. The water from the aquaculture unit is then recycled and utilized in their hydroponics system to grow tomatoes, lettuce and strawberries, said Brian Burdette, one of the farm operators.

This tour was organized through Penn State University and drew upon the alliance that

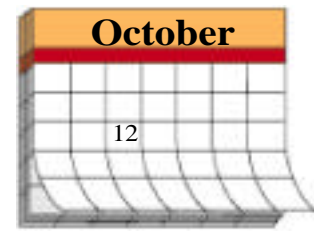
has been formed in the Five-Star Consortium of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia of the Reinventing Agricultural Education for the Year 2020 initiative.

Several attendees discussed the value of the tour. Steve Bouchard, an agricultural education teacher who has been at Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, NJ since 1981, remarked, "As an experienced agricultural education teacher, it is still amazes me how much and how fast the industry changes to meet the demands of the population. Tours such as this help keep agricultural education up to date so that we can provide a well-rounded experience to our students. Aquaponics, for example, will provide an excellent opportunity for my students."

Tiffany Roberson, who helped coordinate the tour and who will soon be a new teacher of agriculture in West Virginia noted, "The true strength of the tour is the opportunity for agricultural education teachers to share and create ideas to better tomorrows agricultural education programs."

B.J. Kelly, an agricultural education student at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pa., also agreed, "Education expands far past the typical high school classroom. As educators, there is a world of opportunity to improve the quality of instruction for students by utilizing community and industry resources."

Day of 6 Billion



As the world's population grows, there will be increasing demands on agriculture and the environment. The United Nations has declared October 12, 1999 as the Day of 6 Billion. "Six Billion and Beyond" is an hour-long show produced for PBS about trends in the world's population growth. Check your local listings or call your PBS station, since not all local PBS stations are scheduled to air the film. Some PBS affiliates are scheduled to air the film during the first two weeks of October. It may take a letter or phone call from viewers to have the film broadcast in your area.

Study of the world's population brings some interesting lessons for our students. This issue of Briefs has an insert with suggestions of topics and resources that can be used for student projects, papers, bulletin boards, or debates.

Five lessons in the "Project Food, Land & People" curriculum also have background materials and interdisciplinary lessons on population issues. Lesson titles are: What Will the Land Support?, Less Elbow Room, Almost Six Billion and Growing, Piecing Together Population Patterns, and Cows or Condos?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 1 Agricultural Education Advisory Council Meeting, Penn Stater Conference Center, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- October 14 Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development, Penn State, University Park
- FFA Foundation Board meeting, Penn Stater Conference Center, 9:00 a.m.

TEACHER DEADLINES

- September 20 Deadline for ordering jackets for Convention (1-888-332-2668)
- September 30 Deadline for FCLPD
- October 8 Preconvention Registration and Event Order Form due

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us, please congratulate Dr. Whittington who was promoted to associate professor and tenured July 1. She is a major cog in our efforts to build America's strongest secondary programs.

During 1999-2000, we have ambitious goals to enhance your effectiveness. We already have the best Department in the Northeast, but want to be America's best. Your suggestions, comments, and compliments will be appreciated. Please contact me in person, by telephone at (814) 865-1688, or by e-mail at bxbl@psu.edu. Best wishes and thanks for your many excellent efforts.



Environmental Science Curriculum

The National Council for Agricultural Education has recently released a set of new instructional materials titled: "Global Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship by Ruminant Livestock Producers." These materials were developed by The Council with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an addition to the "Applied Environmental Science" curriculum. The materials are free of charge and include an instructors guide, a student handbook, a 4-color poster and an 11-minute video. To order the materials or to request additional information contact Gordon J. Mengel, special projects director, The Council, 703-838-5881, bmengel@teamaged.org.



Textbook for Review

Interstate Publishers, Inc. has announced the release of *Introduction to Horticulture, Third Edition*. The company suggests



that the book be used as a tool to introduce students to all aspects of the horticulture industry and the scientific principles that influence production.

This sample textbook is free to the agricultural educator who authors a book review for inclusion in the *BRIEFS*.

To receive the text, please contact:

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