

News & Views

Sponsored by Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University

Volume XLVI No. 2

February 2004

Kick It Up a Notch!

Roger Teeple, NAAE President

Is your agricultural education program an “outdated relic, suitable for the classroom realities of the 1950s?” If not, then it’s time to **Kick it up a Notch!**

As you have probably read or heard, President Bush’s FY 2005 Budget Proposal does great harm to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Agricultural Education. He has proposed to cut federal CTE funding by 25 percent and to eliminate all programs under the current Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998.

It is time to contact your elected officials. You can contact them by phone, fax, or e-mail. (Regular mail is not recommended due to delays in the Capitol Hill post offices.)

Prepare for your contact by finding out from your local administration the following:

- 1) How much money does your school/program receive in Perkins funding?
- 2) How is Perkins money used in your school/program?
- 3) What local programs, equipment, or supplies would you lose if you did not have Perkins funding?
- 4) What impact would losing Perkins funding have on your students? (This is important and you must emphasize this.)

In your communications, please tell of the innovative ways you teach your students with the Perkins funds to prepare them for the 21st Century. Emphasize the importance of the funding and the effect it has on your students, school and community. Academic integration and preparation for higher education and highly skilled careers are important in these days of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

If you choose to write a letter to send by fax or e-mail, keep it concise. Elected officials do not want to read long letters – one page should be sufficient. If you choose to call your elected officials, be ready to answer questions. Have your facts ready and be prepared.

It is time to get parents, advisory councils, alumni, and friends involved. Also have your students write letters. The more people we get involved the better. I urge all to go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org> and then enter our Capitol Advantage website by entering your zip code at the “Contact Congress” or “Write to Congress” prompts. From this site, you can prepare and send letters to your members of Congress. If you choose to use the sample letter we have on-line, be sure to personalize and customize it to fit your local program. You can also find your elected officials’ phone and fax numbers on this website.

With the Easter break for Congress coming up in about one month, consider inviting your representative and senators to visit your school and program. Showcase your program and students. If your representative or senators are having town hall meetings or other types of events in your area, attend and talk with them face-to-face. Remember, this is an election year – your elected officials want to meet you and learn of your concerns.

It is really important that we all work in concert with one another to maintain, and hopefully even increase, federal funding for career and technical education, which includes agricultural education. Please don’t limit yourself to just one contact. Make several contacts and keep them up throughout the year. Every member of Congress needs to receive 20 to 30 communiqués from ag educators. If we could get this level of participation, we could have a great positive impact of federal support for CTE and agricultural education.

It is time to make an impact and to **Kick it up a Notch!**

Contents

Kick It Up a Notch!	1
Ideas Unlimited	2
New Organizational Members	2
Teacher Mentor	3
Teacher Spotlight	3
Teacher Mentor Awards	4
Convention Highlights	4
DEPCO AgriScience	4
FY 2003 USDA SPEC Grant Awards	5
Regional Updates	6
Washington Beat	7
ACTE Financial Situation	7
The View From My Front Porch	7
Ag Ed Teacher and Program Awards	8
Teachers Turn the Key/Young Members	9
I Support Learning	9
National Gardening Association	10
Popcorn Board	10
Outstanding Service Awards	10
Cooperation/Lifetime/Ideas Awards	11
Dates and Events	12

2003-04 NAAE Board



Seated left to right: **Roger Teeple** (NC), President; **Jeff Maierhofer** (IL), President Elect. Standing left to right: **Allan Sulser** (UT), Region I Vice President; **Dr. Bill Hunter** (KS), Region II Vice President; **Harold Eckler** (MO), Region IV Vice President; **Lee James** (MS), Region V Vice President; and **Terry Hughes** (NY), Region VI Vice President. **Paul Larson**, Region III Vice President, was not available for the photograph.

Ideas Unlimited

DNA Structure Bracelets

Katie Thalman-Silcox, agriculture teacher at North Summit High School in Coalville, Utah, found a way to put the abstract world of DNA structure in the hands of her students, or at least, on the hands of her students! Thalman-Silcox makes DNA pairing hands on by having students construct DNA structures they can wear as bracelets.

The students use pipe cleaners as backbones and beads as bases, stringing the first bases and then using their knowledge about pairing to string the second bases. To receive a passing grade on this assignment, students wear the bracelet until the next class period, explaining to at least ten people the significance of the bracelet and the basic idea of DNA.

For more information about Katie's award winning teaching idea, contact her by calling (435) 336-5656 or sending e-mail to kthalman@nsummit.k12.ut.us. For more information about the NAAE Ideas Unlimited award program, contact the NAAE Office by calling (800) 509-0204 or sending e-mail to NAAE@uky.edu. **Katie Thalman-Silcox** was the 2003 NAAE Ideas Unlimited award winner for Region I. The program is sponsored by **Delmar Thomson Learning**.



Katie Thalman-Silcox, left, received the NAAE Region I Ideas Unlimited award from **Dave Rosenbaum**, Delmar Thomson Learning.

(800) 477-3692



www.delmar.com



The National Association of Agricultural Educators, Inc.

News & Views

Volume XLVI No. 2

February 2004

News & Views is published quarterly by the NAAE, Inc. as a service to its members through the sponsorship and support of:

The Ohio Curriculum Materials Service in Columbus, Ohio.

Wm. Jay Jackman, Ph.D., CAE, Editor
NAAE, Inc.

300 Garrigus Bldg., UK
Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0215

Phone: (800) 509-0204

or (859) 257-2224

Fax: (859) 323-3919

E-mail: NAAE@uky.edu

Web Site: <http://www.naae.org>

New Organizational Members

NAAE is very pleased to welcome three new Organizational Members.

I Support Learning, Olathe, Kansas
(<http://isupportlearning.com>)

Tulsa Welding School, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Jacksonville, Florida
(<http://www.tulsaweldingschool.com>)

Weed Science Society of America, Clemson, South Carolina
(<http://www.wssa.net>)

Please be sure to go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org> and, from there, access the websites of these new organizational members.



Teacher Mentor

Ted Turner – Covington, Tennessee

2003 was the second year of the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award Program sponsored by CEV Multimedia. Teacher mentors are those special experienced teachers who go the extra mile to assist early career teachers. An effective mentor/protégé relationship can be the difference in an early career teacher becoming an experienced mentor teacher himself/herself or leaving the agriculture teaching profession prematurely.

The 2003 Region V winner was **Ted Turner** from Covington High School in Covington, Tennessee. From encouraging his high school students to become agriculture teachers to supervising student teachers and advising neighboring high school agriculture students, there are not many in the western Tennessee agricultural education community that have not been mentored by Turner at some point in time.

Two of Turner's former students, Liz Flanagan and Ann Johnson became agriculture instructors with his guidance. One of his former student teachers, Glenn Goulder, was named the 2003 Outstanding Tennessee Ag Ed Teacher. Turner reaches out to programs in the surrounding communities, helping teachers by providing curriculum ideas, demonstrations and workshops as well as simple advice to help them and their students succeed.

For more information about successful teacher mentoring ideas, contact **Ted Turner** by calling (901) 475-5872 or by sending e-mail to turner476@aol.com. For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor award program, contact the NAAE office by calling (800) 509-0204 or by sending e-mail to NAAE@uky.edu. **CEV Multimedia**, Lubbock, Texas, sponsors this award program.



Ted Turner (right), TN, received the 2003 NAAE Region V Teacher Mentor award. Clayton Franklin, CEV Multimedia presented the award.



www.cevmultimedia.com
(800) 922-9965

Teacher Spotlight

“Educators must find a variety of ways to teach, inspire and motivate students to action.” At **Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School** in Lyons, Nebraska, **Kevin Anderson's** philosophy on education has led him to vary what he teaches and the way he teaches to develop his students into life-long learners. Kevin helps to stay current by attending numerous professional development workshops and by reading periodicals and books.

He focuses on the continual need for change to ensure that he stays current with the times and to keep the variety that he believes is key. He also carries this over to the community organizations he has partnered with, working with different kinds of businesses to give his students as many options as possible.

Kevin Anderson was the 2003 NAAE Region III Outstanding Young Member. The award is sponsored by **John Deere**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. If you want to learn more about Kevin and his program, call the Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School at (402) 687-2363 or send e-mail to keanders@ldn.esu2.org.



Kevin Anderson (right), Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School, Nebraska, was recognized as the 2003 NAAE Region III Outstanding Young Member. Cheryl Salley (center) and Tom Hughes, both of John Deere, presented the award.



JOHN DEERE

2003 Teacher Mentor Awards

Sponsored by CEVMultimedia



Left to right: **Scott Mortimer**, WA, Region I; **Larry Liston**, OK, Region II; **John C. Hobert**, MN, Region III; **William S. Wheeler**, MI, Region IV; **William Ted Turner**, TN, Region V; **Howard C. Hill**, VA, Region VI; and **Clayton Franklin**, CEVMultimedia.



2003 NAAE Convention Highlights



Highlights of the NAAE convention included a keynote address by **Corey Flournoy** (left), sponsored by **Applied Technologies** and the retiring officer recognition sponsored by AAVIM. Retiring president **Sarah Osborn Welty** was



recognized by **Dr. Will Waidelich**, right in far right photo, representing AAVIM. Retiring vice presidents and their spouses were also recognized: right couple in near right photo, **Larry Long**, Region II, and spouse **Linda**; and **Jeff Maierhofer**, Region IV, and spouse **Jenna**.



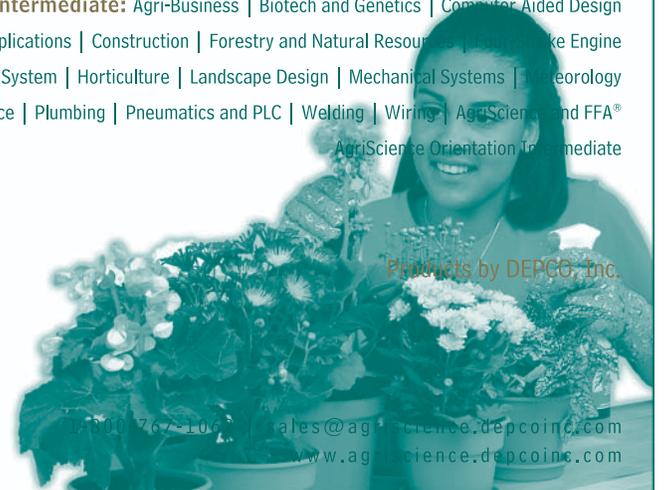
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

DEPCO's hands-on, modular-based AgriScience curriculum covers a wide variety of topics.

AgriScience Basics: Animal Science | Aquaculture | Aquaponics | Food Science | Maze Construction
Maze Design | Plant Science | Soil Science | Metalworking Project | Woodworking Project
AgriScience and FFA® | AgriScience Orientation | Lawn Mower Safety | Power Tool and Shop Safety

AgriScience Intermediate: Agri-Business | Biotech and Genetics | Computer Aided Design
Computer Applications | Construction | Forestry and Natural Resources | Internal Combustion Engine
Global Positioning System | Horticulture | Landscape Design | Mechanical Systems | Meteorology
Plant Science | Plumbing | Pneumatics and PLC | Welding | Wiring | AgriScience and FFA®
AgriScience Orientation Intermediate

Products by DEPCO, Inc.



1-800-767-1066 | sales@agri-science.depcoinc.com
www.agri-science.depcoinc.com

FY 2003 USDA Secondary and Postsecondary Education Challenge (SPEC) Grant Program Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals and institutions for receiving grants under the FY 2003 USDA SPEC Grants Program.

Secondary School Awards

Cecil Monte Gant	Section High School, AL	Bridging Generations with HortiCORPS (Connecting with Outside Resources for Program Success
Dina Brosowsky	Alabama School of Fine Arts, AL	Art and Science of Agriculture Project (ASAP)
Michael Yates	East Bay High School, FL	Aquaculture Internship for High School and Community College Students: Research and Mentoring Experiences
Owen Thomason	Franklin County High School, GA	Franklin Co. Secondary Aquaculture Project: Development of Agribusiness Skills to Guarantee Career Success
H. Michael Winston	Shelley High School, ID	The AG Solutions Model for Secondary Curriculum Enhancement
Grace Gochenour	Tri County High School, IN	Indiana Future Agricultural Science and Business Teacher Academy
Donna Remington	Washington County High School, KY	Merging Agri-Science Technology and Traditional Agriculture Education
Robert Marzoff	Forest Lake Area Schools, MN	Minnesota Biotechnology Initiative- A Collaborative Effort
Stephanie Mann	Crofton Community Schools, NE	Increasing the Agricultural Literacy of Secondary Teachers: A Northeast Nebraska Example
Angela Leifeld	Mead High School, NE	Mead Agriculture Sciences Magnet High School
Nancy Pierce	Seacoast School of Technology, NH	Pioneering Biotechnology Education in New Hampshire
Randi Hunewill	Smith Valley High School, NV	Backpack Natural Science
Maxson J. Sherman	Canby High School, OR	Alternative Growing Biological Environment
Gayla Kessinger	Canutillo High School, TX	Mechanized Agriculture: The Technology of Education (MATE Program)
Maureen Deppman	Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, VT	Vermont Agribusiness Workforce Development Center

Two-year Postsecondary Institution Awards

John Morgan	Yavapai College, AZ	Hydroponic Produce Cottage Industry Development in Rural Arizona
Larry Dutto	College of the Sequoias, CA	Job Entry Skill Training for Secondary and Post Secondary Students in Dairy Food Processing
Franz Rulofson	College of the Redwoods, CA	Student Agriculture Enterprise Project
James A Inglis	West Campus, Valencia Com. Col., FL	Food and Hospitality Management
Robert J. Denson	Northeast Iowa Com. Col., IA	The Development of "Activity-Centered" Curriculum Modules for Classroom Instruction by High School Agricultural Science Teachers
Neal Williamsen	Iowa Lakes Com. Col., IA	Enhancing Awareness and Teaching of Animal Production and Food Safety
Phil Reilly	Allen County Com. Col., KS	Agriculture Career Education
Jim Molenaar	Ridgewater College, MN	Rural Mental Health Support Program
Michael Stoll	Genesee Com. Col., NY	Growing Aware Institute
Susan Everett	Clark State Com. Col., OH	Advancing Agricultural Education
Bruce Koike	Oregon Coast Com. Col., OR	Project Pisces: Linking Oregon Coast Community College's Aquarium Science Curriculum to Lincoln County Middle and High Schools
Holly J. Morris	Lehigh Carbon Com. Col., PA	Regional Horticulture Program Implementation
Timothy C. Sharp	Jackson State Com. Col., TN	"Pilot Test" Project to Validate and Improve the Skill Standards as Identified in the State's Agriculture Career Cluster Initiative
Rosa K Slavik	Virginia Highlands Com. Col., VA	Expanding Educational Opportunities in Agribusiness and Aquaculture in Southwestern Virginia

Regional Updates

Region I

Thanks to all of you who attended and participated in the NAAE convention in Orlando. I thought it was a huge success. Region I was again well represented. Special thanks to those of you who served as chairs and delegates on committees. I challenge you to keep up the extraordinary work and leadership.

A heartfelt thank you to Elaine Lewis for her two years of dedicated service to the NAAE as Alternate VP. Congratulations to Kevin Fochs of Montana on his election as the first Region I Secretary. I am looking forward to working with Kevin this year.

Plans are underway for the Region I meeting in April at the Ocean Resort Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. For information, please contact me, Marty Frick of MSU, or Michael Swan of WSU. We will be having a pre-conference tour to the Big Island on Wednesday April 21.

Congratulations to all the Region I winners at the recent convention. In case you weren't there or missed the names they were: OYM, Jolene Christensen, UT; OT, Mike Martin, WA; OMS, Michael Gowans, UT; OPAP, Charles Bigo, UT; IU, Katie Thalman-Silcox, UT; TM, Scott Mortimer, WA; OS, Michael Schrag, WA; OC, Dorothy & Butch Carlson, WA; LA, Keith Hyatt, ID; and TTTK, Jamie Nelson (MT), Erica Guhlke (ID), David Wilson (UT), Damien Christensen (WY), Rosealee Livorsi (CA), Marlene Mensch (OR), and Mathew Mounts (WA). It's not too early to start your own application for next year's convention in Las Vegas.

Remember to contact your legislator this week, thank them for supporting agricultural education or encourage them to do so if they are not. Plant the seed and watch it grow....

If I can be of any assistance to you or your state, please feel free to contact me at any time. **Allan Sulser**, (435) 654-0640, or allan.sulser@m.wasatch.k12.ut.us.

Region IV

The New Year brings many different thoughts to those involved in agricultural education. For some, including my seniors, it's thank goodness the school year is half over and only sixteen more weeks of this place. For some of my fellow teachers, it may be a New Year's Resolution that they are trying to keep – or one that has long been broken. As we go through this New Year, may we all remember that by working together we can all accomplish more.

Region IV congratulates our new President Elect Jeff Maierhofer (IL). Jeff has done a terrific job leading Region IV during the past three years and will continue to make a positive difference in our organization. Welcome to Greg Curlin (IN) as the new Region IV Secretary. He will do an excellent job of keeping us organized.

Congratulations to all of the states in Region IV for receiving the Distinguished Professional State Association Award again and to all of our award winners. The continued leadership and commitment to agricultural education by the state leaders is to be commended. I encourage you to keep up the good work in these trying financial times. What you do today will make a difference in the lives of our students and young teachers.

Start making plans to attend the NAAE Region IV Summer Conference that will be held in Ohio, June 21 - 23. Kevin Kremer, Tim Niemeyer and the Ohio Association are planning an exciting conference to be held in Sandusky, home of the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster. Complete details will be available on the Region IV website, which can be accessed through the NAAE website.

If I can assist you through the year, please contact me. I am pleased to have been elected to be your new regional vice president. **Harold Eckler**, (573) 633-2525, or oreckler@marktwain.net.

Region II

Greetings from Region II! Thanks to Larry Long (OK) for his service on our behalf for the last three years. Larry sacrificed many hours for us and I want him to know that we appreciate his efforts.

Congratulations to all who were recognized at our convention in Orlando. OYM, Jona Kay Squires, OK; OT, Becky Smith, OK; OMS, Kevin Stacy and David Maxey, OK; OPAP, Dale Beerwinkle, OK; IU, Jason Larison, KS; TM, Larry Liston, OK; OS, Brad Ashpaugh, OK; OC, DJ's Fundraising, OK; and LA, Guy Finstad, TX. I also want to recognize our Dodge Teachers Turn the Key winners from Region II, Patti Priest (AR), Donna Karspeck (CO), Linda Chase (KS), Jody Perkins (LA), Leslie Morrison (NM), Tommy Milligan (OK), and Margaret Alexander (TX). We are very proud of you!

There are many outstanding teachers and programs in the region that are worthy of recognition. Don't put it off! The deadline for applying for this year's awards will be here soon. Make up your mind now, and apply!

All of us need to stay up to date on legislative activities, both on the national and the state levels. We need to speak up as a profession to make sure that the voice of agricultural education is heard. Even after the current crises are over, we need to continue to make contacts with legislators and develop relationships with them **and their staffers**. Invite legislators to come to your school for special events. Help them to put a face on what career and technical education is, what it can be, and the difference it is making in the lives of our students.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer conference June 20-23, at the Ramada Inn in Glenwood Springs, CO. The Colorado association has put in a lot of work getting ready. This will be an outstanding conference. **Bill Hunter**, (620) 672-5641 or billh@prattcc.edu.

Region V

It is hard to believe that a semester of school is behind us already. It was great to see many of you at the NAAE conference at Orlando. Thanks to those that attended for your hard work in our regional meetings and in committee work. We had a great conference and I hope that each of you took something back from the conference that will prove useful in your own states and classrooms. Congratulations to all of our award winners again for their outstanding achievements in their particular areas.

Now it is time to get back at it and start making plans for those award applications to be prepared and submitted this spring. We want to be represented well again at the next conference—so urge individuals to get those applications prepared and ready to submit. I challenge each state to have a Dodge Teachers Turn the Key representative this year; this is a wonderful program for early career teachers. Let's all give a hard push on membership this spring and get our numbers back up and be well represented at the conference.

I am looking forward to a great Region V Conference in Black Mountain, North Carolina this summer. I am sure the North Carolina Association will do a fine job hosting the conference. I will pass on information about the conference as I get it and I am sure Dennis will have it on our Region V website.

If I may be of any assistance at anytime please contact me. **Lee James**, (662) 285-3205 or leejjames@yahoo.com.

Region III

Greetings Region III. I hope you all had a blessed holiday season and a very Happy New Year. The NAAE had a very successful year and recently wrapped up a tremendous National Convention in Orlando. Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to attend the convention to recharge your batteries, secure new ideas, and connect with colleagues to help you advance the future of agricultural education. I extend my sincere thanks to Tom Hofmann and the rest of Region III for covering for me in my absence at the recent convention. As most of you have now heard, my wife is in a battle with cancer, which required me to remain home and take care of things in Wisconsin. I am happy to report that we have made it through the first round of chemotherapy treatments and the surgery. We are now doing the second round of chemotherapy. We certainly have appreciated all the cards, well wishes, and prayers to help guide our family through this challenge. To date everyone is doing well. Please keep us in your prayers as the days progress toward our cure.

Congratulations to Pam Koenen from Minnesota, on being elected our new regional secretary. Pam will have big shoes to fill as Tom Hofmann did a great job. As we move ahead through winter and into spring, continue your efforts to stay in contact with your state's representatives in support of Perkins funding for career and technical education. You have more influence and can apply very specific examples on how important Perkins funding is for your program and state. Keep up your efforts by dropping a note or e-mail to your representatives. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the regional conference in Minnesota this summer. As always if I can be of any assistance to you, please call or e-mail. **Paul Larson**, (920) 730-3820 or plarson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.

Region VI

Greetings From Region VI. Thanks to everyone attended the NAAE convention in Orlando. What a great opportunity we all had to "Catch The Magic" that occurs when agricultural educators gather to celebrate our colleagues' accomplishments, rejuvenate our energy, and discover new areas of agriculture that we can share with our students. Thanks also to the Florida Association for being so hospitable and providing excellent tours for all of us to enjoy. A special thank you to Sarah Osborn Welty for providing outstanding leadership to NAAE for the last two years.

It is hard to believe but it's already time again to complete the awards applications for all of the recognition programs for the awards that will be presented in Las Vegas at the 2004 NAAE Convention. What a great way to get the attention of both your school and community leaders! Let them know how good your program is by winning an award. I encourage state leaders to make sure that there are applications for each award area from your state. The "Teacher Turn The Key" debut was a tremendous success that gives the opportunity for an early career teacher from every state to attend the NAAE convention for the first time. Don't let your state miss out on this teacher retention program.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Region VI conference in Danville, VA, July 6-9. This looks to be an exciting program at a very affordable price. Come experience Danville, VA, "Where the South Begins." Check out all the details at <http://www.aged.vt.edu/VAAE.html>.

As always, I'd be happy to support your state association's efforts in any way I can assist. **Terry Hughes**, (518) 255-5538 or hughestr@cobleskill.edu.



FY 2005 Executive Budget Proposal

President Bush's proposed budget for FY 2005 cuts federal funding for career and technical education (CTE) by 25 percent. Further, the proposal eliminates current programs under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 and replaces them with a new program called Secondary and Technical Education State Grants that will provide money to local education agencies and community colleges through competitive grants. Clearly, this change is not good for CTE. As the budget and appropriations bills go through Congress this year, agricultural educators need to be sure their elected officials

understand that federal support for ag ed comes through the Perkins programs, since ag ed is a part of the CTE system.

Perkins Appropriations and Reauthorization

In the FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill, CTE actually received a slight increase in federal funding for this year. However, congress will begin work soon on the FY 2005 appropriations bills. It will be critical for ag educators to communicate with their members of congress regarding the FY 2005 appropriations. The Perkins legislation is scheduled to be reauthorized with debate continuing in 2004 and 2005.

What Can You Do?

The best thing you can do to ensure the continuation of federal funding for ag ed is to be sure your members of congress are aware of your good work and that your federal funding comes from Perkins. Please make a point to invite your elected officials to visit your program this year. Showcase your quality program! Legislative activity can change very quickly; visit the NAAE website often to keep up with the latest news and information.

ACTE Financial Situation

If you are a member of ACTE, you are aware that ACTE is going through a difficult time financially. Attendance at the ACTE convention was down considerably in 2003. Further, since convention attendance was down, hotel reservations were down. As such, ACTE did not realize revenue from the convention—revenue that was budgeted to pay operating expenses of the organization. And, ACTE is looking a potentially large penalties from unused hotel rooms.

To get through this difficult time, ACTE has accessed each member \$30.

The NAAE board encourages ag educators to pay the \$30 assessment to ACTE.

NAAE has made an organizational contribution to ACTE to represent support for the assessment.

ACTE is critically important to the continuation of federal support for career and technical education. Our profession cannot afford to not have ACTE.

Please support the assessment.

The View From My Front Porch

Jeff Maierhofer, NAAE President Elect

*....Now I look out from my front porch at this panoramic view,
I can sit and watch the fields fill up with rays of golden sun
Or watch the moon lay on the fences like that's where it was hung...*

Lonestar was kind enough to describe the view from my front porch, the porch my ancestors built almost a century ago. I don't know how they knew the picket fence that spreads in front of the house reflects the moonlight on a clear winter night or how the sun is soaked up by dad's corn and beans standing tall on the land that has been in the family for generations. They did forget to mention Jake Chapman's Herefords grazing on corn stalks on the horizon, the emerald "pony patch" that sprawls along the cedar lined lane or the one of a kind Larch that waves softly to the neighbors that pass by. Looking in or out, my front porch is my favorite room of the house.

But the view is slowly changing. The corn field between the porch and the cattle is owned by somebody from the suburbs and is farmed by somebody living forty miles away. Unfortunately, the sun's glow is replaced in the evening by beacons in the eastern sky. They are the lights from Minooka, Chicago, Morris, and Joliet beaming to disrupt the peace that makes it special to live here. The

neighbors are joined on E. 29th Road by commuters to the city, as more people make their home in the valley.

The view from the front of my classroom is changing too. The room is now filled with the sons of the owners of the farms like the one across the road, the daughters of those commuters to the cities, and the grandchildren of those turning on all the lights. They are young people that don't know that Herefords eat corn, Larches are supposed to lose their needles in the winter or that this land is actually already "developed."

I am not so naïve to know that life is going to change everywhere over time. However, we as agricultural educators must be on the front lines to educate those making the changes and preserve our ability to produce a safe food supply while earning a living. I am also not so short sighted to realize that agriculture happens in the urban areas as well, and I actually have an appreciation for those involved in the ag industry on concrete. From my view on the porch, we have a lot of educating to do.

The need has never been greater to reach out of our classrooms, with the help of our students, alumni, and parents to inform "every man, woman and child" about our food supply. We have heard for many years about changing curriculum, being the voice of agriculture, and marketing our agricultural education programs. But are we doing that? Have each of us made a contact from someone outside of agriculture that needed a lesson or a refresher course? Has an Average Joe been invited into your program or agricultural event? Does your legislator or county board member know when National FFA Week is or what you're doing for National Agriculture Day?

If you're ever north of Seneca, Illinois, stop by and join me on my porch. I'll try to get that fence a fresh coat of paint this summer. And, if you don't like Larch or Herefords, there's a little boy on the inside that will melt your heart.

2003 Outstanding Ag Ed Teacher Awards

Sponsored by Syngenta

Left to right: Mike Martin, WA, Region I; Becky Smith, OK, Region II; Andrew E. Rowe, IA, Region III; Bill Kittinger, IL, Region IV; Al Griffin, AL, Region V; Deb Seibert, PA, Region VI; and Sarah Hull, Syngenta.



syngenta

2003 Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program Awards

Sponsored by Syngenta



Left to right: Charles H. Bigo, Provo High School Adult Ag Ed Program, UT, Region I; Dale Beerwinkle, Caddo Kiowa Technology Center, OK, Region II; Tad Mueller, Northeast Iowa Community College, IA, Region III; Bruce Henrikson, Parkland College, IL, Region IV; Owen Thomason, Franklin County Young Farmer Program, GA, Region V; Michael Reed Shultz, Midwest Young Farmer Program, PA, Region VI; and Sarah Hull, Syngenta.

syngenta

2003 Outstanding Middle/Secondary Ag Ed Program Awards

Sponsored by Case IH

Left to right: Dennis Hehn, CNH; Michael Dan Gowans, Lone Peak High School, UT, Region I; Kevin Stacy and David Maxey, Oklahoma Union High School, OK, Region II; David R. Laatsch, Beaver Dam High School, WI, Region III; Tim Reller and Mike McCrory, Clopton High School, MO, Region IV; Raymond N. Caviness, Eastern Randolph High School, NC, Region V; and Jason E. Hughes, St. Marys High School, WV, Region VI.

CASE IH



2003 Teachers Turn the Key Awards

Sponsored by
Dodge Division and DeimlerChrysler Corporation

Region I

Kari Williams, AZ
Rosealee Livorsi, CA
Erica D. Whitmore, ID
Jaime R. Nelson, MT
Marlene Mensch, OR
David F. Wilson, UT
Matthew Mounts, WA
Damein Christensen, WY

Region II

Donna Karspeck, CO
Linda Chase, KS
Jody Purvis, LA
Leslie D. Clark, NM
Tommy W. Milligan, OK
Margaret Alexander, TX

Region III

Amy Driftmier, IA
Laura Zehnder, MN
Kevin L. Anderson, NE

Region III (continued)

Craig A. Zimprich, ND
Kristin M. Hanson, WI

Region IV

Lindi Kocher, IL
Travis Scherer, IN
Melanie Block, MI
JoAnn Pfeiffer, OH

Region V

Alicia Tomlinson, GA
Patrick Lemoine, MS
Brian C. Stewart, NC

Region VI

Rachel Anderson, NY
Lawrence M. Way, PA
Kate Hawkins, VA

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS

Dodge Division and DeimlerChrysler Corporation



DODGE

Technology and Vocational Educators,
We are Your Source for Products And Curricula

**HORTICULTURE
AND
LANDSCAPE
DESIGN
CURRICULUM**

Mention this ad for
10% OFF
Any of our curricula!

**i support
LEARNING**

Supporting learning wherever we find it.

Toll Free: 877-828-1216
www.isupportlearning.com



U.S. Ag Ed Listserv

If you want to keep up-to-date with all current information in agricultural education and NAAE, **subscribe** to the **U.S. Ag Ed Listserv!**



Go to the NAAE web site at <http://www.naae.org> for details.

2003 Outstanding Young Member Awards

Sponsored by John Deere

Right to left: Cheryl Salley, John Deere; Jolene Christensen, UT, Region I; Jona Kay Squires, OK, Region II; Kevin L. Anderson, NE, Region III; Tate Forbush, MI, Region IV; David Nixon, SC, Region V; Mia J. Haaland, CT, Region VI; and Tom Hughes, John Deere.



Growing With School Greenhouses

A working greenhouse presents multiple learning opportunities. Our range of greenhouse models and sizes fit any program or budget.



Send for NGA's FREE School Greenhouse Information Packet:

- 4-page Greenhouse Brochure listing all our models and accessories
- Our exclusive 24-page Guide to School Greenhouses (an \$8.00 value)
- 4-page Fundraising Tips packed with ideas for how to finance a school greenhouse

Mail the coupon or visit www.kidsgardening.com/greenhouses

For a **FREE School Greenhouse Information Packet**, fill out coupon and mail to National Gardening Association, Dept. NAAE, 1100 Dorset St., South Burlington, VT 05403.

Name _____
 School _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

*Offer expires June 30, 2004

Popcorn Makes Learning Fun

Help your students learn more with a subject they love... Popcorn!

The Popcorn Board now offers lesson plans that use popcorn as a teaching tool, covering a range of grade levels and subjects, from agriculture science, math, social studies and business to health, nutrition and the arts.



Visit us on the Web today at www.popcorn.org and make popcorn a part of your teaching strategy.

Good Times are Poppin' with Popcorn
FREE Lesson Plans — www.popcorn.org



PIONEER
 A DUPONT COMPANY

NAAE is grateful to **Pioneer HiBred International** for their support of the 2003 NAAE Convention, as a special project of the **National FFA Foundation**.

Thanks to **Chevy Trucks** and **GM Powertrain** for providing a major donation to the scholarship auction at the 2003 NAAE Convention. This contribution was made possible by the **National FFA Foundation**.



POWERTRAIN

2003 Outstanding Service Awards

Sponsored by the Animal Agriculture Alliance



Left to right: **Michael P. Schrag**, WA, Region I; **Brad Ashpaugh**, OK, Region II (accepted by Craig Smith); **Richard Douglass**, NE, Region III; **William Bartow**, MI, Region IV (accepted by Ron Worth); **William T. McGrew**, MS, Region V; **Clair Zerby**, PA, Region VI.



2003 Outstanding Cooperation Awards

Sponsored by Forrest T. Jones & Company

Left to right: Dorothy and Butch Carlson, Stewart's Meat Market, WA, Region I; DJ's Fundraising, OK, Region II (accepted by Dick Lowe); Patrick Plonski, Past Executive Director, MAELC, MN, Region III; Greenstone Farm Credit Service, MI, Region IV (accepted by Bill Fowler); James Bowers, MSFFA Leadership Training Center, MS, Region V; Dr.

Kerry Hoffman-Richards, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, Region VI; and John Liipfert, Forrest T. Jones and Company.



2003 Lifetime Achievement Awards

Sponsored by the National Pork Board



Left to right: Keith Hyatt, ID, Region I (accepted by Richard Dozier); Guy Finstad, TX, Region II (accepted by Dennis Ellebracht); Philip Miller, NE, Region III; P. James Faust, OH, Region IV; Charles P. Griner, GA, Region V; Charles Cramer, MD, Region VI; and David Meisinger, National Pork Board.



2003 Ideas Unlimited Awards

Sponsored by the Delmar Thomson Learning

Left to right: Katie Thalman-Silcox, UT, Region I; Jason M. Larison, KS, Region II; Tony Boehm, ND, Region III; Brian Matchett, MI, Region IV; Mike Bartholomew, NC, Region V; Sally W. Shomo, VA, Region VI; and Dave Rosenbaum, Delmar Thomson Learning.



NAAE, Inc.

**300 Garrigus Building
Lexington, KY 40546-0215**

Phone: (859) 257-2224

Toll-free: (800) 509-0204

Fax: (859) 323-3919

E-mail: NAAE@uky.edu

Website: www.naae.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OHIO
Permit No. 711

Join the U.S. Ag Ed Listserv.
Details at <http://www.naae.org>.

Dates & Events

PAS Conference — March 10-13, 2004 — Green Bay, Wisconsin

ACTE National Policy Seminar — March 14-16, 2004 — Washington, DC

NAAE Region I Meeting — April 21-24, 2004 — Honolulu, Hawaii

NFRBMEA Conference — June 6-10, 2004 — Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

NAAE Region III Meeting — June 15-17, 2004 — Chaska, Minnesota

NAAE Region II Meeting — June 20-23, 2004 — Glenwood Springs, Colorado

NAAE Region V Meeting — June 20-22, 2004 — Asheville and Black Mountain, North Carolina

NAAE Region IV Meeting — June 21-23, 2004 — Sandusky, Ohio

NAAE Region VI Meeting — July 7-9, 2004 — Danville, Virginia

NAAE and ACTE Conventions — December 7-11, 2004 — Las Vegas, Nevada