

# News & Views

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## Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!

Keri Haars, ACTE Advocacy Manager

The shifting political landscape poses several challenges for career and technical education (CTE). President Bush has recommended cutting all funding to the Perkins program to fund his High School Reform Initiative, Congress is under pressure to cut the deficit in half over the next five years, and revenues are down due to a series of tax cuts. How does CTE compete in this atmosphere of tight budgets? Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!

I know this buzz word has been circulating in the agricultural education community lately, but we can not stress enough how important advocacy is to your programs and the future of CTE. The reason some block grant and funding cut proposals have been stopped is because of you. Your voice, joined with other voices of the CTE community, allows CTE to exist as it does today.

To strengthen the voice of CTE, the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the National Council for Agricultural Education (The Council), and the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) have joined forces to collaborate on advocacy efforts. Our organizations raise awareness on your behalf, build relationships with members of

*“... we need your help to succeed.”*

Congress, form partnerships with other related organizations, businesses and industry groups, and keep our members up-to-date on important issues affecting CTE.

One challenge before us [ACTE, The Council, and NAAE] is strengthening our grassroots advocacy. How do we get the CTE community - teachers, administrators, students, parents, businesses, and industries - to see themselves as advocates for CTE and to take action? Relationship building and networking are vital keys to expanding our advocacy programs.

We at ACTE, The Council, and NAAE are reaching out to our membership and asking for help in advocating for CTE. We also ask that our members also reach out to others in the community for support. Through this networking process, NAAE has identified an agricultural education (Ag Ed) advocacy leader in every state. We are committed to keeping our Ag Ed advocacy leaders well-versed on the latest information and resources affecting CTE, and ask that our Ag Ed advocacy leaders pass our information and action alerts to others in their states.



Keri Haars, ACTE Advocacy Manager

ACTE and NAAE have also developed resources to assist our members in their advocacy efforts. ACTE has developed an Online Advocacy Toolkit, an exciting resource that provides “how to’s” on visiting and building relationships with Members of Congress, hosting site visits, targeting the media, just to name a few. The toolkit also has talking points, and supportive CTE ...

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## 2005 NAAE/ACTE Convention

*“A Step Ahead”*

**December 6-10, 2005 – New Orleans**

Check out <http://www.naae.org> for registration and hotel information.

# Ideas Unlimited

## Milking Cow

**Jerry Schmidt**, the agricultural teacher at Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, Kansas, created a four-foot long, three-foot tall and one-foot wide wooden cow that the program has used in a variety of activities for a cost of only \$50.00. Schmidt created the cow by projecting an image onto a piece of particle-board. He then cut the image out and painted it to look like a dairy cow. For the udder, he used a strawberry bucket and replacement teats from nipple buckets.

The Minneapolis FFA Chapter uses the cow at the Ottawa County Fair Kiddy Barnyard to teach children about the dairy industry. A local dairy farmer provides the chapter with a bucket of milk, and children are able to practice milking while sitting on a wooden milk stool. Jerry plans on using the cow in his animal science class to help teach about the digestive system using a poster attached to the side of the cow.

Jerry Schmidt from Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, KS was named as the 2004 Region II Ideas Unlimited Award winner. To learn more about Jerry and his innovative ideas, contact him at (785) 392-2113 or via email at [jschmidt@usd239.org](mailto:jschmidt@usd239.org).

For more information about the NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award program, contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or via email at [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu). The Ideas Unlimited Award is sponsored by **Delmar Thomson Learning**.



**Jerry Schmidt (KS)**, center, received the NAAE Region II Ideas Unlimited award from **Dave Rosenbaum, Delmar Thomson Learning (right)** and **Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President (left)**.

(800) 477-3692



[www.delmar.com](http://www.delmar.com)

## 2004-05 NAAE Board



Seated left to right: **Jeff Maierhofer** (IL), President; **Allan Sulser** (UT), President Elect. Standing left to right: **Kevin Fochs** (MT), Region I Vice President; **Dr. Bill Hunter** (KS), Region II Vice President; **Paul Larson** (WI), Region III Vice President; **Harold Eckler** (MO), Region IV Vice President; **Lee James** (MS), Region V Vice President; and **Andy Seibel** (VA), Region VI Vice President.

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...continued from page 1:  
**Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!**

... research and fact sheets. You can find the toolkit on-line by visiting [www.acteonline.org/policy/grassroots\\_action/toolkit.cfm](http://www.acteonline.org/policy/grassroots_action/toolkit.cfm).

In addition, ACTE and NAAE are strengthening the voice of CTE through our advocacy workshops and legislative presentations. During the 2004 ACTE and NAAE conventions and the 2005 National Agricultural Education Inservice, we presented workshops on advocacy at the local level and gave legislative updates on Perkins funding and reauthorization. The workshops were designed to increase members' awareness of advocacy and provide an in-depth, hands-on training to help members increase their advocacy efforts at the federal and state levels.

The combined effect of these advocacy efforts will provide a strong voice for the CTE community, but we need your help to succeed. Contact ACTE or NAAE to find out what you can do in your community to ensure CTE programs receive the support they deserve.



# Teacher Mentor

**James Summers** has served as an agricultural teacher for 30 years. Having supervised 27 student teachers and mentored three first-year teachers, he has helped contribute to the expansion and growth of many agricultural programs. A majority of the student teachers that Summers mentored have remained in the teaching profession.

Clinton Aston, a former student intern and present teacher at Sky View High School in Utah, nominated Summers to receive the Teacher Mentor Award. "Mr. Summers supported my student teaching performance with many days of observation and many hours of counsel," said Aston. "He was a continuous mentor for me in my first four years of teaching. Although Mr. Summers and I now teach in different states, the support and encouragement have continued."

**James Summers** from West Side High School in Dayton, Idaho was named as the 2004 Region I Teacher Mentor Award winner. To learn more about James and his mentoring success, contact him at (208) 747-3411 or via email at [jsummers@wssd.k12.id.us](mailto:jsummers@wssd.k12.id.us).

For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award program, contact the NAAE office. The Teacher Mentor Award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia, Lubbock, Texas.



**James Summers, UT (center), received the 2004 NAAE Region I Teacher Mentor award. Gordon Davis, CEV Multimedia (left) and Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President, presented the award.**



[www.cevmultimedia.com](http://www.cevmultimedia.com)  
(800) 922-9965

# Teacher Spotlight

In the last two years, **Jim Caudle** and **Jeff Bash**, instructors at **Spoon River College** in Canton, Illinois, have worked to create a program that gives students opportunities to learn the most current topics in agriculture. Caudle and Bash implemented a special topics class at Spoon River College to explore options for possible classes. As a result, in 2003, Caudle and Bash introduced a Computers in Agriculture class to the curriculum. In addition to the 12 classes Caudle and Bash each teach every semester, the instructors expect to add additional courses in natural resources and horticulture in the near future. To compliment the cutting-edge classes, the curriculum at Spoon River College has been designed for the most effective use of internships. Each student in Agriculture Business Management must complete two eight-week internships. Often times, the students are then hired into the business where they completed their internship.

**Spoon River College** in Canton, Illinois was named as the 2004 Region IV Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award. To learn more about Jim, Jeff and the program at Spoon River, contact them at (309) 649-6269 or via email at [jcaudle@spoonrivercollege.edu](mailto:jcaudle@spoonrivercollege.edu).

For more information about the NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award program, contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or via email at [NAAE@uky.edu](mailto:NAAE@uky.edu). The Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award is sponsored by Syngenta as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



**Spoon River College (IL), represented by Jim Caudle, center, received the NAAE Region IV Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program Award from Anne Burt, Syngenta (left) and Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President (right).**



## NAAE Joins Pioneers in Education Alliance

During the 2004 NAAE Convention in Las Vegas, attendees were introduced to an innovative new group, the Pioneers in Education (PIE) Alliance. PIE is a working alliance of representatives from the National Museum of the United States Army; the DuPont Office of Education; NASA Science Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy; SECME, Inc.; and Pioneer Hi-bred International. NAAE has just recently joined the PIE Alliance.

This group's goal is to inspire, educate and prepare youth to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. PIE has established several initiatives to move toward its goal including a student leadership academy; an award program to recognize those who are making significant impacts in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and mentoring; and a mentoring network to link alliance partners, supporters and educators dedicated to mentoring pioneer academy interns and other students.

Colonel Jim Paige, U.S. Army, retired, spoke on behalf of the Pioneers in Education at the NAAE membership awards luncheon during the 2004 NAAE Convention. "While at first glance, you may wonder why someone from the U.S. Army is here, let me reassure you that we have much in common," Paige says. "We are all working to inspire, educate and prepare young people for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. NAAE members are the kind of partners we're seeking. We focus on science, technology, engineering and math. Agriculture is an applied science – it fits perfectly with what we're all about."

When asked for further details, Paige expounded, "Agriculture feeds our nation. We in the Army understand that. As a commander, feeding our soldiers is our most important task. The strength of our force is largely determined by how well we take care of them in the field, how well we implement logistics. That's my background and why I see agriculture as such a critical component of the PIE effort."

"What you do in your classrooms has implications far beyond your communities. Beyond teaching the next generation how to provide food and fiber world wide, you produce quality young people who graduate with a solid sense of values. The PIE alliance is looking for partners like you. We're looking for curriculum and intellectual capacity. Agriculture teachers can help us development better curricula for our academies and can serve as mentors for PIE interns," continued Paige.

The Pioneers in Education Alliance was well represented at the dedication ceremony of the Selma Early College High School (ECHS) in Selma, Alabama on February 25. The ECHS is an initiative of SECME, a PIE Alliance member, supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Selma ECHS is the first school of its kind in the United States with a focus in agriscience, agribusiness, and agricultural engineering. In collaboration with the local community college and universities, Selma ECHS students will have the opportunity to graduate from high school having already completed an associate's degree. After high school graduation, the students may enter university as juniors. Dr. Wm. Jay Jackman, NAAE Executive Director, delivered the keynote address at the ceremony.

NAAE hosted a working meeting of the PIE Alliance on April 14 in Alexandria, Virginia. Plans are forthcoming on how NAAE members can get involved with the initiatives of this exciting alliance.



**The Pioneers in Education Alliance. Left to right: Roger Teeple, 2003-04 NAAE President; Diana Harper, The Global Touch; Thomas Phillips, Pioneer Hi-bred; Carl Butler, MANRRS and USDA; Dr. Yvonne Freeman, SECME, Inc.; Jeb Bennett, National Museum of the United States Army; Phyllis Buchanan, Dupont Office of Education; Col. Jim Paige, U.S. Army (retired); and Jeff Maierhofer, 2004-05 NAAE President.**

## 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.

## The View From My Front Porch

*“Get in the Game”*

**Jeff Maierhofer, NAAE President**

I just returned from a night out with my college roommates watching the Fighting Illini fail in their bid for a National Championship in basketball. I thought the front porch might be a good place to sit and sulk for awhile and realize that it was just a game. But then again... I always thought that if “it’s *just* a game; you shouldn’t be playing.”

It’s been an uplifting basketball season in this area. The Fighting Irish of Seneca placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state tournament, losing only two games all year. Like Illinois, they lost one late in the year by a point and then one in the tournament. Those boys, most of which were FFA members, didn’t think it was *just* a game.

My college buddies and I were just departing college the last time Illinois made the final four – 1989. At the time they thought soil science was mixing dirt and water to get mud, and ag communications meant talking to animals. They used to think the best use of the farmland in view of my front porch would be to plant houses. I’ve made a few adjustments in their thinking since then. Lots has changed since that ’89 contest... my new IBM 286 computer wouldn’t have supported the internet even if it did exist. My Grandpa Maierhofer was probably sitting here on the front porch with his dog Blackie listening on an AM radio, tuned into opening day for the Cubs.

The profession of Ag Education is like a game. We’ve got goals, players, teams, equipment, strategies, etc. Right now the game centers on funding, marketing, and advocating for agriculture education. What’s nice about this game though, is that everybody gets to play. There aren’t any officials there to call ticky tack fouls on you like they did James Augustine of the Illini in the championship game. (Sorry, those grapes tasted sour.) In fact, the more players in the game at the same time, the better the chances are at winning. Perhaps you’ll be the one though who gets in the game. The person who steps forward and volunteers for a committee, the one that creates a relationship with a legislator that will eliminate any misconceptions of agriculture education, or the one who serves as a team captain of your district, state, or region.

Or, will you be one to sit in the third row just cheering your teammates on? Or the really obnoxious loudmouth in the back row who criticizes boldly the official’s calls or only degrades the team that you are supposed to be rooting for? (Why does every high school sporting event have one of those people in attendance?)

My basketball coach always told us that the most important time of the game is the first two minutes after halftime. It sets the tone for the second half, he said. We are at half time in our game against the forces, whoever they may be, that are against us reaching our goals. In the first half, we have been successful for the most part in reauthorizing Perkins legislation. In the second half, our challenge will be getting monies appropriated. The game plan is not to stall and wait for an opportunity to arise and then make a last second shot. Instead, it is to make every decision maker aware of the unbelievable opportunities involved in all levels of agriculture education and that our country’s education system and agriculture industry depend on us.

This isn’t *just* a game. Illinois vs. North Carolina is just a game. This is much bigger. More than a trophy and pride. More than headlines and shirt sales. More than bragging rights and high fives. Because it’s bigger, I look down the bench and see thousands of ag educators ready to play. If I were the coach, I’d tell you all to take off your warm-ups, report to the scorer’s bench, and *get in the game*.

What’s it going to be like next time the Illini make it to the Final Four? Will Levi be playing for Illinois or against them? Either way, stop by and listen to the game with me on my front porch, and we’ll talk about our victory back in ’05.



**Jeff Maierhofer,  
Illinois, 2004-05  
NAAE President**

### The Agricultural Education Magazine

has a new website. Check it out at:

[www.depts.ttu.edu/agedmagazine/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/agedmagazine/)

**For the latest information related to advocacy for agricultural education, check out the semi-monthly *Advocacy in Action* reports on the**

**NAAE website at:**

**[www.naae.org/advocacy/aianewsletter/](http://www.naae.org/advocacy/aianewsletter/)**

National Association of Agricultural Educators

*Advocacy In Action*

A semi-monthly update of advocacy efforts in Agricultural Education.

# Regional Updates

## Region I

Spring is here in Montana but we're finally getting some of that much needed late winter moisture. I am pleased with the NAAE's work this past year and I feel that *YOUR* NAAE has really defined some of the strengths and goals it has for an organization. The vision put forth this past year will create some tremendous value to our membership as we step into the future. We are actively working towards new advocacy efforts and initiating a strong marketing program for agricultural education. We can't stop here and need to pursue new proactive ideas to enhance our profession. As I said before and will continue to say, I am your voice on the board and look forward to any new ideas or thoughts you may have.

I was impressed with the National Policy Seminar in Washington D. C. and the timing seemed right to make an impact on our legislators. We need to have an agricultural education representative from every state there next year, so have your state associations try to budget for it next time!

Region I conference in Arizona, April 20-23, is quickly approaching and I invite you to attend. It is a great way to become involved professionally by serving on a committee, running for office, or just observing for a few days. Don't feel that you need to be an officer in your state Ag. Ed. organization to partake. We will be electing a new Region I Secretary in Prescott.

A reminder to get to work on those award applications as many of them are due May 15<sup>th</sup> to the NAAE office. Outstanding Service, Outstanding Cooperation and Lifetime Achievement need to be brought to the Region I conference. All application forms are on the NAAE website.

Thanks for the great input and attitude that Region I demonstrates. If I can be of service feel free to write, call or email.

Kevin Fochs, Region I Vice President

## Region IV

Greetings Region IV!

The school year is quickly coming to an end. I hope that each of you has had a successful year. As you start to make plans for the summer, I hope you have the opportunity to "sharpen your saw" by taking some time for you and your family and by including some professional development activities in your busy schedule.

As you plan your summer calendar, I would encourage you to make plans to attend the Region IV Summer Conference in Nappanee, Indiana on June 27-29, 2005. Registration information and the conference schedule are available on the NAAE website under affiliates. For additional information contact Chad Berger at [cberger@bbs.k12.in.us](mailto:cberger@bbs.k12.in.us). Remember to bring your state's applications for Outstanding Cooperation Award, Outstanding Service Citation, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Plans are under way for the National NAAE Convention in New Orleans on December 6-10. As you make plans, keep in mind that the last business session is scheduled to end at 2:30 pm on Saturday so make flight plans accordingly. Off-site tours which have had tremendous response over the years will be available on both Tuesday and Friday afternoon. Early bird registration is open until July 18, 2005, so get your registration in now and save.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me.

Harold Eckler, Region IV Vice President

## Region II

Greetings from Region II! I don't know where the year has gone, but it will soon be over and time for the Region II summer conference June 19-23, 2005, at the Howard Johnson's in Thibodeaux, Louisiana. It looks to be an outstanding conference and I know that many of you will be there. Our hosts have put in a lot of work preparing for our visit and I'm sure that the rightly famous Louisiana hospitality will be much in evidence. If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late, but you will have to pay the late registration fee. Go to the Region II section of the NAAE website for the registration form, schedule, and more details: [www.naae.org/affiliates/regionsIV/region2.html](http://www.naae.org/affiliates/regionsIV/region2.html).

From my vantage point, it looks as though all of career and technical education, including agricultural education, has been and continues to be under the gun. The search to find funding for other educational areas and programs deemed a higher priority than our programs is not only happening at the national level, but at the state level in many of our states. There can be no more critical time for each of us to be involved in building the legislative drumbeat at the state and national levels than now. We can prevail, but we must stay the course.

In order to show policymakers that our programs should also be a high priority, we also need to continue to make sure every day that agricultural education is making a difference in the lives of our students. How are your students' lives better because they are involved learners in agricultural education? How will the world of agriculture be better because your students are better prepared to enter that industry? Don't get so busy with the everyday that you lose sight of why we are here!

Dr. Bill Hunter, Region II Vice President

## Region V

Well here it is springtime in the South, cool and raining almost every day. I hope each of you is doing fine, busy with all the things ag teachers do this time of year.

I want to thank each of you for your efforts and contacts with your members of Congress. I do believe that we made an impact on their views on Perkins. Let's all do one more thing - contact our Congressional delegations again to thank them for their support.

Please remember that the deadline for NAAE Award Applications is May 15 postmarked to the NAAE office. Let's have a full slate of applications from each state! We all have ag teachers in our states who do a fine job and should be recognized. For Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Cooperation, and Outstanding Service, please bring those applications to our Region V summer conference. All other applications need to be sent to the national NAAE office.

I am sure the South Carolina delegation is busy putting together our Region V conference, June 21-23, 2005, and I am sure that it will be great. If you have not reserved your rooms yet, please do so ASAP to help South Carolina in planning. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Oceanfront at Hilton Head Beach. The number to reserve rooms is 843-785-5126 and the reservation code is NAAE. We are looking forward to a large turnout and great conference.

If I can be of help in any way with award applications or conference information, please contact me. Have a great spring and wonderful end to the school year.

Lee J. James, Region V Vice President

## Region III

As I write my regional update it is a sunny forty-degree day here in Wisconsin. I can finally see some bare patches of brown grass and even a few tips of tulips testing to see if it is time to take on the challenge of growth and blooming. Just as my tulips start their spring challenge, we as educators are embarking on our spring journey and drive to the end of the school year. These are the busy days of banquets, applications, PAS events, contests, and other programs too numerous to mention. As NAAE members, it is also our responsibility to assure a bright and blooming future for agricultural education in our states. I speak of course of our continued need to advocate for Carl D. Perkins legislation and drive home our message to our congressional leadership the importance of this legislation. The reauthorization is going well, the real fight will be the appropriation of funding for the legislation. Just like my tulips, we must take on the challenge of spring and write letters and e-mails, make phone calls and personal contacts with our legislature in DC and at home in our districts. This contact is essential for our programs to continue to see the appropriations necessary to cause our programs to flourish and bloom. Please do your part to make contacts with your legislative leaders.

Through the winter months, my tulip bulbs worked on reserves to gather the necessary energy to burst forward this spring. Ag Educators have the same chance for renewal this summer at our NAAE Region III Conference June 21-23 in Beulah, North Dakota. Watch for the registration information in the coming weeks. This program will help renew your energy, provide you with new ideas and support, and of course root you with some of the best colleagues any professional could ever hope to have. National President Jeff Maierhofer, will be in attendance to help update us on NAAE activities and nourish us with the hope of bright sunny days ahead.

Also, please be sure to get award applications filled out and mailed. State Presidents don't forget about the Professional State Award application. This award recognizes you for your year of growth and is often easier to fill out as you conduct activities. I hope your Ag Education garden is full of blooms this spring and look forward to seeing you in Beulah. As always if I can be of any assistance don't hesitate to contact me!

Paul Larson, Region III Vice President

## Region VI

Spring is in the air and the school year is starting to wind down but, for an agriculture teacher, it seems like this is the busiest time of the year. It has been a challenging, but rewarding, spring so far for me serving as your Region VI Vice President. I have been to Massachusetts for their state conference and had an enjoyable time learning about the challenges and successes of another state in our region.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to the National Ag Day celebration in Washington D.C. on March 20 and had the opportunity to meet agricultural leaders from across the country. Orion Samuelson, of WGN Radio, served as the chair of the 2005 AGDAY celebration, and encouraged Congress to support Perkins funding.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (VA), Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, addressed the press and reminded everyone of the impact that agriculture plays in foreign trade. Jay Kelly, spoke on behalf of the National FFA and informed the members of the press that ag ed develops skills that all students can benefit from. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, spoke of the important role that American agriculture plays in the US economy. Secretary Johanns grew up on a dairy farm in Iowa and credits growing up on the farm for his deep respect for the land and the people that work it.

One interesting fact that surprised me was the number of individuals that recognized the blue and gold jacket worn by our students. It seemed like someone stopped us every five minutes to say that they had either been in FFA or knew someone that had benefited from the program.

I hope that all of the states in Region VI will find a young teacher to participate in the "Teacher Turn the Key" program this year. Please remember that you need to send in your state winning applications to the NAAE office by May 15, 2005. Please consider attending this year's Region VI conference in Uncasville, Connecticut on July 5- 8. The early bird registration ends on May 1. Additional information about the conference can be found at <http://www.caaonline.org/>

Andy Seibel, Region VI Vice President



## Washington Beat

**Reauthorization of the Perkins Act** — Both the House and the Senate education committees passed their versions of the CTE

(Perkins) reauthorization

on Wednesday, March 9, 2005. The full Senate also passed its CTE reauthorization bill on the Senate floor on Thursday, March 10, 2005. The full House has not yet taken up the House version of the CTE reauthorization; this could happen, however, at any time now. There is some speculation that the House bill could be presented to the full House on the “suspension calendar,” which is a procedural maneuver similar to “unanimous consent.” That is, the bill would pass without debate or vote as long as there is no objection from any member. There has also been some speculation that the Bush White House may try to block the House bill because of their continuing objections to the bill. But, keep in mind that this is just speculation at this point. After the full House approves its version of the CTE reauthorization, there will be a conference committee appointed of both Representatives and Senators and these conferees will work out the differences between the two bills. The conference report, or the final bill, will then be sent to the President for signature. Once the President signs, the new CTE authorization bill will be enacted (that is, the bill will become law).

The good news is that both the House and Senate are moving on CTE reauthorization in spite of the President’s continuous initiatives to eliminate CTE programs, the most recent of which were letters dated March 9, 2005 from U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings to Senator Mike Enzi, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, and Representative John Boehner, Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, slamming the Senate and House for supporting S. 250, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2005, and

## Legislative Update

H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act. This Administration is relentless in its desire to eliminate our programs. We are so fortunate to have a Congress that supports our programs – and we must keep working with Congress to ensure the future of our programs.

The House bill did not fix our concerns regarding the reduction in state administration set-aside from five percent to two percent, the elimination of the Tech Prep set-aside, or changing the language to career and technical education rather than vocational education. The Senate bill did fix our concern of 4-year degree granting institutions having access to the funds appropriated to Perkins programs. So, there are still some concerns to be worked out in conference committee.

**FY 2006 Budget Resolution** — On March 17, 2005, both the House and Senate approved their respective versions of the FY 2006 Budget Resolution. There are major differences in the two budget resolutions. In fact, the differences are so great that many Congressional observers are speculating that Congress will not get a final budget resolution this year. Recall that the Congress did not get a final budget resolution last year either. However, some Washington insiders are predicting that the Budget committee conferees will meet to try to work out a compromise before the Senate takes a week off beginning May 2. Please keep in mind that the budget resolution is a non-binding resolution that establishes the upper limits on spending for each of the appropriations bills. If a budget resolution is not agreed to, the appropriations process will proceed ... however, it makes it much more difficult for Congress to agree on final appropriations bills.

The House budget resolution sticks pretty close to President Bush’s proposed budget, with major cuts to many education programs, including the elimination of Perkins funding. The Senate budget resolution, on the other hand, restores funding to education programs, including Perkins.

We have posted information on the NAAE Legislative Action Center about the House and Senate Budget Resolutions. By clicking on “Issues and Legislation” you can

view the resolutions and check to see how your members of Congress voted on the resolutions and the amendments. Note the House amendment by Representative Obey (WI) that would have reinstated funding for education programs, including Perkins; this amendment failed by a vote of 180 to 242. Also, note that the Senate amendment by Senator Harkin (IA), which would have restored Perkins funding, failed by a vote of 44 to 56. However, the good news – make that excellent news – is that the Senate Kennedy (MA) amendment, which restored funding for lots of education programs, including Perkins, passed by a vote of 51 to 49! So, Perkins was saved in the Senate budget resolution.

If your members of Congress voted in favor of the Kennedy, Harkin, and Obey amendments, please send them thank you messages. And, by all means, please send thank you messages to your members of Congress if they were co-sponsors on the Kennedy or Harkin amendments.

**FY 2006 Appropriations** — The budget resolution is supposed to be completed by April 15. However, even if it isn’t, the appropriations committees can begin work on their bills. (Recall that the budget process allocates sums of money to appropriations committees. Then, the appropriations committees determine how much money will be appropriated on specific programs, such as Perkins programs.) The fact is, the appropriations committees have already begun their hearings for their FY 2006 appropriations bills.

**Reorganization at USDE** — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings has announced a reorganization of the U.S. Department of Education. The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) will report under the Under Secretary of Education. We are not sure of the overall impact on our programs, such as Perkins programs, that are administered by OVAE. However, we do anticipate some major staffing changes within the upper ranks of OVAE. We’ll keep you posted on this as we learn more.

Please keep in mind that our advocacy initiatives are all about BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS! So, thank you messages to your members of Congress are just as important – maybe more important – as messages asking members of Congress to support our programs. Multiple contacts to your members of Congress are very necessary – especially when we can express our appreciation to them!

## Advocacy in Action ... at the National Policy Seminar

NAAE's advocacy efforts continue to grow. On March 6-8, 2005, over 20 NAAE members, board members and staff took advantage of the annual ACTE National Policy Seminar (NPS) to become more informed on the legislative activities related to Career and Technical Education and to conduct Capitol Hill visits with their Congressional delegations and staff.

As part of its increased efforts in the area of legislative advocacy, NAAE offered state affiliates the opportunity to send a NAAE member to the NPS, with NAAE covering the registration fee for that participant.

State association representatives were involved in sessions that included working with policy makers and the media, an issues briefing and a Congressional perspective on Perkins Reauthorization from key Congressional staff members. In addition, Ag Ed Strand participants of the NPS attended a dinner at which Dr. MeeCee Baker, former NAAE President and current member of the staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, spoke of the importance of increased efforts for advocacy at the state level.

For more information on the events of the 2005 National Policy Seminar, visit the ACTE website at [http://www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative\\_resources/NPS\\_2005.cfm](http://www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative_resources/NPS_2005.cfm). To view more photos of NAAE members in action during their Congressional visits and to keep up-to-date on legislative activity that impacts agricultural education, visit the *NAAE Advocacy in Action* page at <http://www.naae.org/advocacy/aianewsletter/>.



**U.S. Senator Herb Kohl** from Wisconsin (center) met with **Jenifer Bos**, Wisconsin ag teacher and **Paul Larson**, NAAE Region III Vice President.



Minnesota career and technical educators visit with **Monica Jirik** of **Representative John Kline's** staff. NAAE members and Council board members **Brad Schloesser**, **Rich Baumann**, and **Joel Larsen** were part of the Minnesota delegation.



**Farrah Johnson**, Florida ag teacher, at the office of **Senator Bill Nelson** just prior to her visit with the Senator's staff.



**Dr. MeeCee Baker**, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and former NVATA/NAAE President, was the keynote speaker during the ag ed dinner.



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## Support Ag Teachers in Iraq!

Some NAAE members are living a line from the Ag Teacher's Creed in a way most would not imagine: "I will strive to set before my students by my deeds and actions the highest standards of citizenship for the community, state and nation." A number of NAAE members currently are serving our country in Iraq as part of the National Guard and other military units. Some of their stories will be shared in upcoming issues of FFA publications.

NAAE members in Iraq have noticed a need for school supplies. In an e-mail message, Jesse Cornelius, agricultural educator at Nettleton High School in Tupelo, MS, currently serving in Iraq says, "the children here are so eager to learn. Most of their parents have no education. They will run you over if you pull out a pen like you are going to give it to them. They are so cool."

If your state ag teachers association or local FFA chapter would be interested in helping provide school supplies to Iraqi children, contact your local National Guard support unit for the best way of delivering supplies to Iraq.

Supplies like pens, pencils, notebooks, coloring books, classroom posters and soccer balls are needed and would be greatly appreciated.

We'd like recognize all NAAE members who are currently serving our country. If you are serving, or if you know of someone else who is serving, please submit information including name, branch of service, rank, state association information, and any story you would like to share of the experience. We would also like to share information on what your state association does for members who are part of the U.S. Armed Forces. Contact Samantha Alvis at [salvis.naae@uky.edu](mailto:salvis.naae@uky.edu) or at (800) 509-0204.

*Thanks to Jeri Omernik, Rocky Mountain Marketing Communications, for assistance with this piece.*

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**DRAFT — 2005 NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division Convention Schedule — DRAFT**  
**December 6-10**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Tuesday, December 6**

8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
12:00–7:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
2:00–5:30 p.m.	NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Sessions I & II (by invitation only)
2:00–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Optional Off-site Tours (tickets sold in advance)
6:00–8:30 p.m.	NAAE Award Dinners (Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program, Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program, and Outstanding Teacher – by invitation only)

**Wednesday, December 7**

7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
7:30–8:00 a.m.	NAAE Continental Breakfast
8:00–9:00 a.m.	NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division General Session I
8:00–9:00 a.m.	NAAE Spouses' Meet-and-Greet
9:00–12:00	NAAE Spouses Event (to be determined)
9:15–10:45 a.m.	NAAE Regional Meetings I (six separate break-outs – one for each NAAE region)
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	NAAE Committee Meetings I (seven separate break-outs – one for each NAAE standing committee)
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Session III (by invitation only)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	NAAE State Presidents' Luncheon (by invitation only)
1:30–4:30 p.m.	NAAE Professional Development Workshops
2:00–4:30 p.m.	NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Session IV (by invitation only)
5:00–6:00 p.m.	NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division General Session II
6:00–7:00 p.m.	NAAE John Deere Reception (in honor of the Outstanding Young Members)
7:00–9:30 p.m.	NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award Dinner (by invitation only)

**Thursday, December 8**

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
8:30–10:30 a.m.	ACTE Opening General Session
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	ACTE Career Tech Expo (dedicated time to network with exhibitors)
1:00–4:00 p.m.	ACTE Professional Development Breakout Sessions (Mega Issues–Legislation, Advocacy, etc.–and Exhibitor Workshops)
5:00–6:00 p.m.	NAAE Committee Meetings II
6:00–7:30 p.m.	ACTE President's Reception
7:00–9:00 p.m.	NAAE Host State Social (Mississippi River boat cruise with dinner – tickets sold in advance)

**Friday, December 9**

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
8:30–9:30 a.m.	ACTE General Session
10:15–11:15 a.m.	NAAE Regional Meetings II
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division Luncheon
1:30–4:30 p.m.	NAAE Optional Off-site Tours (tickets sold in advance)
5:00–7:00 p.m.	NAAE Organizational Members and Partners Reception (with Ideas Unlimited exhibits)

**Saturday, December 10**

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	NAAE Convention Registration
8:30–9:30 a.m.	ACTE General Session
10:00–11:15 a.m.	NAAE Professional Development Breakout Sessions
12:00–2:30 p.m.	NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division General Session III and Business Sessions
3:00–4:00 p.m.	NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
4:30–6:00 p.m.	ACTE Assembly of Delegates
7:30–10:30 p.m.	ACTE Wrap Party

**NOTE:** This is a **draft** of the convention schedule. The schedule is subject to change.  
Please check the NAAE website, <http://www.naae.org>, for the most current convention schedule information.

## 2005 NAAE/ACTE Convention Registration

The 2005 NAAE Convention schedule and the 2005 ACTE Convention schedule are being planned carefully so that NAAE members may attend sessions at both conventions. NAAE members will pay one registration fee and have full access to both conventions. All registration fees for the NAAE and ACTE conventions will be processed by ACTE. You may register for the conventions now on the ACTE Convention Registration Website at <http://www.acteonline.org/convention/registration.cfm>.

**IMPORTANT:** It is imperative that you select “**Agricultural Education (AGR)/NAAE**” on Part A of the registration form. The NAAE convention registration fee will be paid from ACTE to NAAE for all registrants who check “Agricultural Education (AGR)/NAAE” on Part A of the registration form.

**Early Bird Registration (\$260) is open until July 18, 2005. Register NOW and save \$45!**

For the 2005 convention, NAAE MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO ACTE MEMBERS are, of course, eligible for the ACTE member convention registration fee rates. NAAE members who ARE NOT ACTE members will only have to pay an additional \$60.00, a savings of \$120.00 over regular non-ACTE member rates.



## John Deere Presents DealerJobs Website for Job Seekers

**CARY, N.C.** – No matter where you live, finding your ideal job can be a challenge, whether calling around to see who’s hiring or making sure your skills will be put to good use. Out of a monstrous sea of online employment sites, John Deere introduces the DealerJobs Web site at [www.deere.com/dealerjobs](http://www.deere.com/dealerjobs). Job seekers who want a dealership job, whether in sales, supervision or maintenance, can now find positions throughout the United States and Canada in parts, service and sales, ranging from entry to management levels.

The DealerJobs Web site is free for both job seekers and the John Deere dealers who post positions. In its first month online, more than 375 jobs were listed on the site. The site will link applicants from universities, community colleges, trade schools, military and state employment agencies to actual openings at John Deere dealerships. The first Web site of its kind, DealerJobs offers a focused, dedicated way for applicants to find jobs on the local level without having to be local. While many companies offer corporate career opportunities on their home page, independently owned dealerships are generally forced to either advertise locally or take their chances on large and generic online job-search sites.

“Dealers had been asking for an easier way to find qualified employees,” said Melissa Lycan, project manager from the John Deere Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division’s Service Marketing department. “We’ve seen an increase in the demand for quality service, both at our dealerships and through our at-home service Ready to Mow™, and we wanted to assist our dealers in recruiting great employees,” said Lycan. “This is really a winning solution for everybody: applicants, our network of dealers and John Deere,” Lycan explained. “But the customers are the ones who will really benefit. Their machines will be able to get the top-notch service they’ve come to expect from John Deere.

**Please forward all sales inquiries to John Deere Inquiry Department, P.O. Box 13603, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709. Readers may also call (800) 537-8233 or visit <http://www.JohnDeere.com>.**



# JOHN DEERE

The National Association of Agricultural Educators, Inc.

# News & Views

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## Dates & Events

NAAE Region I Meeting — April 20-23, 2005 — Prescott, Arizona

NFRBMEA — June 12-16, 2005 — Wooster, OH

NAAE Region II Meeting — June 19-22, 2005 — Thibodeaux, Louisiana

NAAE Region III Meeting — June 21-23, 2005 — Beulah, North Dakota

NAAE Region V Meeting — June 21-23, 2005 — Hilton Head, South Carolina

NAAE Region IV Meeting — June 27-29, 2005 — Nappanee, Indiana

NAAE Region VI Meeting — July 5-8, 2005 — Uncasville, Connecticut

NAAE and ACTE Conventions — December 6-10, 2005 — New Orleans, Louisiana

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