

News & Views

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Agricultural Education - "Planning for a Year of Success"

Allan Sulser, NAAE President

I had the opportunity to ride my sled to the top of the divide the other day. The view from the mountain was spectacular, with everything in a clean white suit. As I sat in the sun reflecting on that, I realized that the snow in the valley would be a good start for next spring's hay crop and the snow on the mountain would mean that there would be plenty of irrigation water for the second and third crops of hay. Nature had planned well for the coming year.

I started to wonder if I too had planned well for the coming year, reflecting on my students and FFA members at school. Had my lessons taught the students to be prepared for their future? Am I making a difference in their chosen career fields? Are they learning life long skills that will make them employable? Have my record book

I started to wonder if I too had planned well for the upcoming year...

lessons and FFA activities been enough to plant the seed and inspire members to become State and American Degree holders or proficiency award applicants or well rounded citizens?

I also wondered if the NAAE had planned well for the coming year. Are we being more responsive to our members in communicating the activities of our organization? Are more of our members taking advantage of the training in advocacy and being

advocates for our organization? Have we been able to achieve the desired results in meeting our member's needs in professional development? Are our awards programs being

utilized to their fullest potential?

We will each answer these questions differently. My answers are yes we are doing better. I am extremely pleased with our *Advocacy in Action* monthly report. Our lines of communication have opened up; I have noticed that the regional VP's are asking more questions and wanting more input from the membership. Each of you needs to feel free to call on any of us at anytime.

We all need to do more and become more active in the advocacy arena. Our national office can only make the process easier for us to communicate with our elected officials; we have tried to do that with the addition of all the states legislative information now available on the website. We need all of you to make the connection with your elected officials.

We are always trying to make our national convention and regional meetings more beneficial to the membership. You can aide in the procedure by filling out the evaluations and letting us know what to change and what to add. We need the data to show that we are making a difference on the national level.

The last question is always the hardest. If you have never filled out an award application for yourself, (I know that you all do it with your students) try it this year and then you can let us know if we are using the awards programs to their fullest potential. Remember that the deadline to have your applications in to the national office is May 15, 2006.

If you are ever in Utah, stop by, winter or summer, and I will share with you one of the prettiest views in the country. We can exchange ideas and plan ahead for the coming year. I've seen a lot of changes from my front porch, mostly this week. A few inches of snow, covered by some ice mean that it might be a good time to stay inside and catch up on my advocacy work with the NAAE.



Allen Sulser, Utah, 2005-06 NAAE President

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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.



Ideas Unlimited

Flavorful Floral Arrangements

Serving as the agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor for Fairbury High School, Robyn Graham uses a variety of lessons and hands-on learning activities to teach her students. One of the more creative lessons Graham has developed for her students has been in the floral design unit, which she has playfully entitled "Flavorful Floral Arrangements."

Graham's students are taught the principles of floral design such as: balance, focal point, proportion, scale, accent, rhythm, harmony, unity, and basic floral design shapes. As a fun and inexpensive activity, Graham has her students demonstrate their floral design skills by designing a floral arrangement using Dum-Dum Suckers, tissue paper, a coffee cup and a styrofoam ball.

By combining the knowledge students have acquired through in-class instruction and applying it to a fun hands-on activity, Graham's students are able to walk away with great new skills and a great new present idea for Mother's Day!

For more information about this innovative idea, contact **Robyn Graham**, 2005 Ideas Unlimited Region III winner, at **(402) 729-6116**. For more information about the NAAE Ideas Unlimited award program, contact the NAAE office by calling **(800) 509-0204** or by sending e-mail to **NAAE@uky.edu**. The Ideas Unlimited Award Program is sponsored by **Delmar Thomson Learning**.



Robyn Graham (NE), center, received the 2005 NAAE Region III Ideas Unlimited award from Dave Rosenbaum, Delmar Thomson Learning (right) and Jeff Maierhofer, 2005 NAAE President (left).

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2005-06 NAAE Board



Seated left to right: **Allan Sulser** (UT), President; **Lee James** (MS), President Elect. Standing left to right: **Kevin Fochs** (MT), Region I Vice President; **Dr. Bill Hunter** (KS), Region II Vice President; **Tom Hofmann** (NE), Region III Vice President; **Harold Eckler** (MO), Region IV Vice President; **Ray Nash** (MS), Region V Vice President; and **Sally Shomo** (VA), Region VI Vice President.

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Teacher Mentor

Richard Ross, of Newbern, TN, is one of six individuals who received the NAAE Teacher Mentor Award at the 2005 NAAE Conference held in Kansas City, Mo.

As a teacher Ross has been an outstanding example not only to his students, but has also had a lifelong impact on young teachers and student teachers entering the agricultural education profession. A teacher for 27 years, Ross has spent the past 18 years as a mentor to Dan Smith, his co-teacher at Dyer County High School. Smith nominated Ross for this award.

Smith expressed that Ross, "Took this inexperienced teacher under his supervision and together, began a new era in the agriculture/FFA program at Dyer County High School."

Ross has hosted and mentored nearly one dozen student teachers during his tenure at Dyer County. Ross's leadership continues to inspire lifelong learning in his students and young teachers.

For more information about successful teacher mentoring ideas, contact **Richard Ross** by calling (731) 627-2229 or by sending an e-mail to ross@dycs.net. For more information about the NAAE Teacher Mentor award program, contact the NAAE office. **CEV Multimedia**, Lubbock, Texas, sponsors this award program.



Richard Ross, TN (center), received the 2005 NAAE Region II Teacher Mentor award. Steven Akers, CEV Multimedia (right) and Jeff Maierhofer, 2005 NAAE President (left), presented the award.



www.cevmultimedia.com
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Teacher Spotlight

Todd Rightmire, of Deming, Wa., is one of six educators that received the 2005 NAAE Outstanding Teacher Award.

"I emphasize student responsibility in everything I do and provide opportunities for all of our students to succeed in our program whether raising animals or completing projects," stated Rightmire, the vocational director and agricultural educator at Mount Baker High School. "Our goal is to prepare students for careers that will make them productive citizens and give them the tools necessary to be lifelong learners." Since August 1993, Rightmire has taught students to accept responsibility, be accountable, do more than what is expected, and has challenged them to be their best.

Rightmire focuses his course work on careers and provides opportunities for his students to apply skills they have learned. Under his direction, students manage 100 acres of timber and a steelhead hatchery, manufacture trailers, and conduct lab analyses on feed samples.

In addition to teaching, Rightmire is active in his community, serving as the Vice-President of Trout Unlimited, as a tour guide for the Black Mountain Forestry Center, and is a member of the Science Curriculum Review Committee.

To learn more about **Todd Rightmire** and the program at Mount Baker High School, contact him at (360) 383-2085 or via e-mail at todd@mtbaker.wednet.edu.

For more information about the NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award Program contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or via email at NAAE@uky.edu. The Outstanding Young Member Award Program is sponsored by **John Deere**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Todd Rightmire, (WA), center, received the NAAE Region VI Outstanding Young Member award from Lee James, Region IV VP (left), and Allan Sulser, NAAE President-Elect (right).



JOHN DEERE

The View From My Front Porch

The Value of The National Council for Agricultural Education

Jeff Maierhofer, 2005 NAAE President

*....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...*

Go ahead and step outside on your porch before you read this. Take a deep, fresh breath. When you let that breath out, send with it your old perceptions, reservations or negative thoughts about The National Council for Agricultural Education. Go on, DO IT!

There's a full moon in the eastern sky tonight. That would explain a few actions of certain students today at school. Come to think of it, Levi and Calvin are acting a little odd, too.

Welcome back. That fresh breath that filled the depths of your lungs is exactly what The National Council for Agricultural Education should do to renew your passion for agricultural education on the national level. I am humbled to have served on The Council and, as someone who has sat on the Council's Porch, I am proud to report on its progress and ask for everyone's support of The Council.

A History Lesson...

The concept for The Council was first presented in November at the 1982 American Vocational Association (AVA) Ag Ed Division meeting in St. Louis. Articles of Incorporation were signed in December 1983. During the 1980s and mid 1990s, The Council struggled financially and, although it was accomplishing great things, it began to lose direction and focus.

In 1997, The Council board was reorganized. The elected representatives from NAAE, NASAE, and AAAE were placed on the board and The Council became the

Policy Committee of the Agricultural Education Division of the AVA (now the Association for Career and Technical Education, ACTE).

The Council Today...

In October 2002, The Council board of directors eliminated all staff positions and began refocusing their resources on the needs of the total ag ed program. The plan was to no longer be a producer of instructional materials, but to serve as a "think tank" for the broader picture of agricultural education. The Council board developed a strategic plan. Individual board members accepted work assignments. Colman Harris became the executive secretary, coordinating the Council meetings/activities. Larry Case continued to serve as the national advisor.

What is being accomplished...

An advocacy partnership between the Council, NAAE and ACTE has been established to take on the Perkins reauthorization and appropriations through the United States Congress. The grassroots advocacy network continues to strengthen as more agricultural educators become involved in advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

The Council, along with AAAE, has funded a project to develop a research agenda for agricultural education.

Other recent activities include:

- the first status report on agricultural education was produced;

- work is taking place to develop program standards and an annual report of agricultural education;
- progress is being made toward the development of national curriculum standards for agricultural education;
- white papers have been developed on a variety of topics, including the agricultural education teacher shortage; and
- marketing and advocacy efforts for agricultural education are being developed.

The Council board members are not kidding around here. These are the big dogs; nobody sitting on any porches.

The Council board members are the people who are working on behalf of all agricultural educators. Whether you are the teacher who is waiting for retirement or a new teacher more concerned about what you're going to do with your 3rd hour class tomorrow, The National Council for Agricultural Education deserves your appreciation, support and comments as they set direction for the entire profession.

The Council is looking at the entire agricultural education profession: teachers, students, teacher educators, state staff, student organizations, agricultural literacy, postsecondary and adult education, and sitting with all of them on the same porch – not just talking – but working on building a new game plan for all of agricultural education.

The Council is really all of us.

NAAE Legislative Action Center

Keep up to date with legislative alerts and contact your elected officials! Let your members of Congress know about the accomplishments of your local agricultural education program through the ***NAAE Legislative Action Center.***

Go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter/> for details.



NAAE Scholarships

Future Teachers Scholarship

Ten students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the fall of 2006 academic term by The Florida Department of Citrus Future Teachers Scholarship Program.

Applicants must: a) be an agricultural education student and an FFA member; b) be a high school senior planning to pursue a career as an agriculture teacher; and c) attend a high school where the agricultural education/FFA program conducts a Fresh Florida Citrus Product Fundraiser. Applications must be postmarked by **March 15, 2006**.



Upper Division Scholarship

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Delmar Learning and proceeds from the auction at the NAAE convention, NAAE will once again be able to award scholarships to university juniors, seniors or post-baccalaureate students who are majoring in ag ed and who intend to become ag teachers. Three applications will be accepted from each university that offers a teacher education program in agricultural education. Fifteen scholarships of \$750.00 each will be awarded for the fall 2005 term. Previous recipients of the NAAE Upper Division Scholarship are not eligible. Applications must be postmarked by **May 15, 2006**.



NAAE Scholarship Applications

Applications can be found online at <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/> and are due to the NAAE office.

Seeds of Hope

NAAE Members,

Thank you for the generous contribution to the ACTE fund established to assist career and technical education professionals impacted by Hurricane Katrina. NAAE's contribution of \$5,000, presented during the Opening Session in Kansas City, was a heartwarming surprise and most certainly got the fundraising efforts off to a rousing start. The challenge Jeff Maierhofer presented to the audience on behalf of the NAAE contributed to the enthusiasm and open wallets evident throughout the convention and, especially at the Division meetings and Thursday evening networking/fundraising event. A total of \$11,551.25 was raised for Katrina aid during the Convention.

ACTE is sincerely appreciative of and grateful for the increasingly strong relationship with the NAAE. By supporting each other, we are significantly advancing the value of career and technical education and providing effective support to CTE professionals. Together we *can* move mountains!

On behalf of the ACTE leadership, thank you for your vision, leadership and support.

Janet B. Bray, CAE

Executive Director for ACTE

HELPING STUDENTS DISCOVER AWESOME OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE

By Erika Brandt

The National Association of Agriculture Educators has joined in a partnership with AgForLife—an exciting, new initiative that will increase awareness of career opportunities in agriculture.

“AgForLife will bring attention to the diverse career opportunities in agriculture, food and life sciences among middle school, high school and college students. The number of rural youth continues to shrink, so now we can send the message to young people who didn't grow up on a farm, know little about agriculture or may have the wrong perception of what a job in agriculture entails,” explained Eric Spell, president of AgCareers.com.

The new web site, www.agforlife.com, features a virtual career guide that takes visitors on an interactive journey through opportunities in agriculture, food and life sciences. It depicts the full spectrum of opportunities—from the various degrees and majors students can earn at agricultural colleges, to the many ag-related career paths and job possibilities they can pursue.

“The AgForLife project will help assure that agriculture is given adequate consideration during career planning by young people, so they know about the job opportunities that exist and the education required to get those jobs,” said Gerald Barlow, an agricultural education teacher from Union High School in Sampson County, NC.

The visual model for the virtual career guide was developed by Edward Romero, assistant dean at the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Texas A&M University; and Pablo Ramirez, a Texas A&M graduate student pursuing a master's degree in agribusiness. The initiative received a major boost through a grant from Altria and matching funds from Pioneer Hi-Bred International. AgCareers.com has been granted marketing rights for the AgForLife program.

“The AgForLife web site shows students the many untraditional, highly rewarding and downright fun careers in agriculture,” Spell explained. “It goes beyond traditional farming operations and highlights positions that require training from agriculture college programs, such as global positioning systems specialists, golf course superintendents and agricultural journalists,” explained Eric Spell, president of AgCareers.com.

Spell said AgForLife will benefit agricultural companies that are challenged by the low number of job applicants interested in agricultural careers, and even fewer minority students who seek agricultural-related positions.

“As an industry, I hope we will come together to support AgForLife, show our pride as agriculture professionals and share this enthusiasm with our youth and future workforce,” encouraged Spell.

Editors Note: Erika Brandt is the Marketing and Communications Manager at www.agcareers.com and is working with the AgForLife Initiative. You can contact Erika at erika.brandt@agcareers.com with any comments.

Regional Updates

Region I

Howdy and Hi from Region I!

It was great to see the large delegation at the NAAE National Convention and those of you in attendance at the National Ag Ed In-Service. Congratulations to all NAAE national award winners. You represent your school, state and region well. Your dedication to agricultural education is amazing. It is fantastic to see the involvement and the efforts that Region I put into the NAAE committee structure and everyone's participation in that process. I know all committee chairs, vice-chairs and committee members value the committee structure and will do a great job at representing our region.

Tom Clifton and the Idaho delegation have been busy organizing our Region I conference. The 25th Western Region Agricultural Education Conference will be held April 19 - 22, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel Boise Riverside in Boise, Idaho. Information can be found at <http://aee.ag.uidaho.edu/westernconference/default.asp> and a link is also provided on the NAAE website. I am hopeful that each state will be sending representatives to Region I conference and will also have a teacher from each state presenting a unique teaching idea in our newly added Ideas Unlimited session. Our conference will focus on agricultural education teacher shortages and how we can address this problem.

I encourage you to contact me with any issues or concerns you may have. As I have always said, I am your voice on the NAAE Board and want to carry your message. Have a great spring!

Kevin Fochs, Region I Vice President

Region IV

Thank you to everyone who attended the National Convention in Kansas City and helped to make it a success. Cold weather and snow didn't seem to have a negative impact on attendance. Also thanks to the Missouri crew for hosting an outstanding social on such short notice.

Congratulations to each state and their leaders as we were all recognized as Distinguished Professional State Associations. Keep up the quality work that you do within your state for the advancement of Agricultural Education. Congratulations also to the regional award winners who were recognized at the Convention. Now is the time to be preparing applications for the 2006 Convention. Keep in mind that your state may have an earlier due date.

Make sure that you include the Region IV Summer Conference to be held in Jackson, MO on your summer calendar. The dates are June 26 - 28, 2006. The conference will start out with shotgun golf on Monday morning, followed by the first regional meeting that afternoon. Tuesday is tour day with tentative stops at the Pavestone Factory, the Mississippi River port, Flower's Fish Farm and a rice mill and farm. Wednesday morning the conference will conclude with the final business session. For registration, housing and additional information see the Region IV webpage on the NAAE website. Remember to bring your state's applications for Outstanding Cooperation Award, Outstanding Service Citation, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

I look forward to serving you again this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Harold Eckler, Region IV Vice-President

Region II

I want to begin with congratulating all of the outstanding individuals and programs who were recognized at the convention in Kansas City. Our profession should be proud of the accomplishments everyone recognized. I am doubly proud of the way our organization pulled together, shifted locations, and pulled off the convention without a hitch. Many thanks to our national staff members, the ACTE staff, and the Missouri ag teachers for their hard work to pull it all together.

I am also proud of the way our profession is stepping forward for the future. The generosity of our teachers in starting the ag teacher emergency fund, the NAAE contribution to ACTE's disaster fund - all of these make me proud to be a teacher of agriculture.

With all of the FFA activities, CDEs, livestock shows, and other activities that happen this time of year, it is easy to lose sight of our classrooms and labs and the important work we have to do. Just yesterday, I took a bus load of my agriculture students away all day on a field trip. At one of the stops, the person in charge of hiring talked to the students at some length about how difficult it has been for him to hire a person of integrity to work there, and the importance of being a person of integrity. The life lessons we teach are important to our industry as well!

I look forward to seeing my Region II colleagues at our summer conference June 18-22, 2006, at Farmington, New Mexico. I know that our friends in the New Mexico association have put in a lot of work and it looks to be an outstanding conference. Make plans now to attend!

Dr. Bill Hunter, Region II Vice President

Region V

Hello from Northeast Mississippi! I hope each of you were blessed with a fantastic holiday season and are prepared for the challenges of spring. We had an excellent convention in Kansas City and it was great to see each of you that attended.

Congratulations to the regional winners. Special recognition goes to Charlotte Emerson, of Florida, for being selected as the Region V Secretary. It is also a time to celebrate Lee James' role as NAAE President-Elect. Also, thanks so much for selecting me as your personal representative on the NAAE Board of Directors as your Region V Vice-President. My goal is to be your voice on the board and to make the wishes of Region V my own.

The situation with funding for agriculture education remains uncertain for each of our states. In order to maintain and grow our programs we must continue to increase the number of those who can act as advocates for us. Identify people in your community that are willing to promote your program to policy makers.

Our regional conference is slated to begin on the evening of June 19th in Chattanooga, Tenn. Don't forget that you will be required to preregister for the conference this year.

The spring is a time for recognizing our outstanding teachers and supporters, begin today by filling out NAAE awards applications found at www.naae.org. Let's showcase Region V by submitting applications in every area from each state.

Take care and have a Blessed 2006. See you in Chattanooga!

Ray Nash, Region V Vice-President

Region III

Greetings from an unseasonable Nebraska. Yes, the Sun has been out and about this winter bringing above average temperatures and below average precipitation. I would like to thank everyone from Region III who attended the National Conference in Kansas City this past December. Congratulations to all winners and special thanks to Paul Larson for serving our region with such enthusiasm and energy.

President Bush has once again proposed the elimination of Perkins in his federal budget proposal for FY 2007. Let's be proactive in contacting our representatives about preserving federal funding for our programs.

This year's Region III Conference is planned for June 19-21 in Estherville, Iowa. We are working to set-up online registration for the conference with links on each state website to the registration page. This year's National Conference will be held November 28 - December 2 in Atlanta, Ga. Don't forget about early bird registration.

The 2006 NAAE Award Applications are now available at <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/>. Make sure your state nominates a winner in all 10 categories. State winning OS, OC and LA applications should be brought to the regional conference. State winning TTTK, TM, IU, OT, OYM, OMSP, and OPAP applications should be sent to the NAAE office no later than **May 15, 2006**.

I want to wish everyone the best of luck with the rest of the year. As Dr. Case said, it is our job as teachers to help students find their passion.

Until Next time,
Thomas Hofmann, Region III Vice-President

Region VI

Have you taken the time lately to consider the importance of our profession as agricultural educators? Ever think about how many lives we touch as we go through our everyday routine of teaching? Agricultural Education teachers are special and the more of you I meet, the more I realize this to be true.

Greetings from Virginia! As I begin this year as the Region VI Vice President, I want to thank Andy Seibel for his many years of outstanding service and dedication to the NAAE organization. The National Convention was an awesome event where teachers networked and celebrated the successes of many. Congratulations again to all Region VI award winners.

Our Region VI Conference will be held in conjunction with the Delaware State Conference, June 27 - 30, at the Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Educational tours and activities, professional development workshops and family events are being planned. Information for the conference will be posted in March.

Items of concern for our region include: increasing NAAE membership, staying up-to-date with legislative activities on state and national levels and keeping in close contact with our legislators, and completing award applications. I encourage state leaders to make sure there are candidates for each award area from your state.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Region VI Conference. Bring the family and enjoy some time on the beach! If I may be assistance to you or your state, please feel free to contact me at any time and remember, every day we touch the lives of our future. Keep up the outstanding work and thank you for your support.

Sally Shomo, Region VI Vice-President



Washington Beat

Wm. Jay Jackman

Here We Go Again!

FY07 Federal Budget Proposal Eliminates Perkins Programs

On February 6, 2006, President Bush released his federal budget proposal for FY07 to the United States Congress. The President requested \$54.4 billion in discretionary appropriations for the U.S. Department of Education, a \$3.1 billion (5.5 percent) reduction in funding from FY06 levels. In large part, this decrease in funding is due to the elimination of 42 education programs, such as career and technical education, including agricultural education (Perkins programs).

The Department of Education states that “The President’s 2007 Budget continues the successful pro-growth policies that have encouraged robust economic growth and job creation. A strong economy, together with spending restraint, is critical to reducing the deficit. The Budget builds on last year’s successful spending restraint by again holding the growth of overall discretionary spending below inflation, proposing to reduce non-security discretionary spending below the previous year’s level, and calling for the elimination or reduction of programs not getting results or not fulfilling essential priorities.”

The Administration continues to contend that career and technical education is not worthy of federal funding. The Administration’s rationale for eliminating Perkins is clarified on White House Office of Management and Budget website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget07/summary/edlite-section2c.html>.

“The Administration is requesting no funding for current Vocational Education programs. The Administration’s Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process rated Vocational Education State Grants as Ineffective because the program has produced little or no evidence of improved outcomes for students despite decades of Federal investment. In particular, the latest full-scale evaluation of the program, the National Assessment of Vocational Education published in

June 2004, found no evidence that high school vocational courses themselves contribute to academic achievement or college enrollment.”

As noted in previous years, this justification is flawed. The National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) data related to CTE’s impact on academic achievement and college enrollment was nearly a decade old – before the passage of Perkins III. And the PART review’s rating of Perkins was mostly unsupported by research, or relied on opinion rather than fact or data to support the deeming of vocational education ineffective.

You will recall that the Administration recommended the elimination of 48 education programs in last year’s budget proposal, including Perkins programs. In the end, Congress eliminated only five of these 48 programs.

The Administration’s proposal does note that states and school districts are still allowed to use their own funds for vocational education, tech-prep programs, and other purposes, depending on State and local needs and priorities.

What to do Now

The President’s budget proposal has repeatedly called for the elimination of Perkins funding. Congress has rejected these recommendations each year, both the elimination of Perkins as well as the reduction in funding. In fact, with both the House and the Senate having overwhelmingly voted to reauthorize Perkins last year, we fully expect that reauthorization process will be completed in the second session of the 109th Congress and that funding will move forward positively for FY07.

It may be our inclination to say, “Well, this got fixed last year; it’ll get fixed this year too. So, why should I get involved?” Even though this does seem like a repeat from last year, we must not let down our guard. It is critically important for us to remind our members of the United States

Congress that we need them to continue federal funding for career and technical education, including agricultural education.

EVERY member of NAAE needs to contact their respective members of Congress and EVERY member of NAAE needs to call on their advisory councils, FFA Alumni members, school administrators, parents of students, local agribusiness leaders, and others to contact their members of Congress on this issue as well. Congress needs to hear a clear message on this from the agricultural education profession ... “Please continue federal funding for career and technical education.”

As you communicate with your members of Congress, be sure to tell them about your local program. Convince them that your program is worthy of federal funding. To the extent possible, give them specific examples of how federal Perkins funds benefit your local programs. Consider inviting your

Congress needs to hear a clear message on this from the agricultural education profession ...

“Please continue federal funding for career and technical education.”

members of Congress to visit your program this spring – perhaps invite them to speak at your FFA banquet or some other event or activity. If you invite them, they will come!

To assist you in communicating with members of Congress, please go to the **NAAE Legislative Action Center** at <http://www.naae.org>. You’ll find it is very easy to use this web-based resource to send messages to your federal elected officials. (You can also use this site to communicate with your state legislators.)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact **NAAE** by calling (800) 509-0204 or by sending e-mail to NAAE@uky.edu.

2005 Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Awards

Sponsored by Syngenta

Left to right: (Front Row) **Todd Rightmire**, WA, Region I; **Larry Liston**, OK, Region II; **David Hill**, IA, Region III; **Greg Curlin**, IN, Region IV; **Raymond Caviness**, NC, Region V; and **Jason Hughes**, WV, Region VI.



2005 Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program Awards

Sponsored by Syngenta



Left to right: (Front Row) **James Perey**, Yavapai Community College, AZ, Region I; **Everett Wollenburg**, Mid America Technology Center, OK, Region II; **Dennis Schroeder**, Minnesota West Community & Technical, MN, Region III; **Troy Otto**, MN, Region III; (Back Row) **Ryan Klatt**, MI, Region IV; **Sarah Denkler**, Commercial Turf and Grounds Management, MI, Region IV; **Tim Maye**, Central High Young Farmer Association, NC, Region V; and **Garland E. King**, East Augusta Young Farmer Association, VA, Region VI.



2005 Outstanding Middle/Secondary Ag Ed Program Awards

Sponsored by Case IH

Left to right: (Front Row) **Brian Feldpausch**, Monticello High School, IA, Region III; **Burton Henry**, Alma High School, MI, Region IV; **Clark Adams**, NC, Region IV; **Mike Bartholomew**, Southern Nash High School, NC, Region IV; **Teresa Lindberg**, Edward W. Wyatt Middle School, VA, Region VI; (Back Row) **Elaine Lewis** and **Matt Mounts**, Yelm High School, WA, Region I; **Dennis Hann**, Case IH, NC, Region V; and **Gaea Wimmer** and **Cary Granzow**, Centre High School, KS, Region II.



2005 Outstanding Young Member Awards

Sponsored by John Deere



Left to Right: Cheryl Salley, John Deere; Danell Blair, OR, Region I; Kevin Barenburg, AR, Region II; Grace Roberts, WI, Region III; Marie Carity, OH, Region IV; Erin Johnson, FL, Region IV; and James Beatty, WV, Region VI.



2005 Teacher Mentor Awards

Sponsored by CEV Multimedia



Left to right: Steven Akers, CEV Multimedia; JoAnna Kotar, MT, Region I; Hals Beard, LA, Region II; Mark Ketelhut, SD, Region III; Gary Geswein, IN, Region IV; and Richard Rose, TN, Region V. Not pictured: Cyndee Roszel, NJ, Region VI.



Special Thanks



NAAE is grateful to **Pioneer HiBred International** for their support of the 2005 NAAE Convention, as a special project of the **National FFA Foundation**.

NAAE is also appreciative of **AAVIM** sponsorship of the 2005 NAAE Retiring Officer Recognition!



New Organizational Members

NAAE is pleased to welcome three new Organizational Members.

ITCS Instructional Materials
Urbana, Illinois



<http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/im/>

Agrowknowledge
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



<http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/im/>

Meister Pro
Information Resources
Willoughby, Ohio



<http://www.meisterpro.com/>

Please be sure and go to the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org> and click on Organizational Members, and visit the websites of our new and existing Organizational Members.

2005 Teachers Turn the Key Awards

Sponsored by

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



Dodge Division and DaimlerChrysler Corporation



NAAE is grateful to the Dodge Division and DaimlerChrysler Corporation for their continuous support of the NAAE Teachers Turn the Key program. Through this program, NAAE encourages early-career agriculture teachers to continue in the agricultural education profession. We also express our appreciation to the agricultural education faculty at the University of Arizona for providing, for the past two years, excellent professional development for the Teachers Turn the Key award winners at the NAAE convention. Thanks Drs. Billye Foster, Jack Elliot, and Ed Franklin.

Following are the names of the 2005 Teachers Turn the Key Award recipients:

Region I

Ben Meyer, MT
Justin Patten, ID
Kasee Sweat, UT
Kimberely A. Gallagher, MT
Mackenzie Behrle, OR
Patrick Wellert, AZ
Sara Groeneweg, WA
Stacy L. Child, WY
Tamara J. Whitcomb, WA

Region II

Gaea Wimmer, KS
Nick Brown, OK
Sadie G. Phelps, LA
Saralynn Brown, CO
Sheyenne Krysher, TX

Region III

Aaron Kilsdonk, WI
Amanda Buynak, ND
Jeff Eppen, MN
Matthew S. Kriefels, NE
Michael Christopherson, SD
Monty Larson, NE
Pandi Pittman, SD
Ryan M. Foor

Region IV

Allissa F. Smith, KY
Emily Marie Opper, MI
Jay Solomonson, IL
Jody French, IN
Kari L. Beckener, OH
Ryan Wildman, IL
Tammy Vogler, MO

Region V

Daryl Behel, MS
Erin Emery Elixson, FL
Karen Cook, MS
Mindy W. Sandifier, SC
Phillip McKie, GA
Sherilee Strickland, NC

Region VI

Christine P. White, VA
David Steinfelt, PA
James C. Beatty, WV
Julia Rotman-Smith, NY
Kevin Okes, WV
Kristina Mayberry, NJ
Michele Sutton, NY
Natalie Aurand, PA

2005 Outstanding Service Awards

Sponsored by the Animal Agriculture Alliance



Left to right: Dale Crawford, OR, Region I; Mary Kane, KS, Region II; Gary Anderson, WI, Region III; Robert Parsons, MO, Region IV; Steven Gass, TN, Region V; Dan Swafford, VA, Region VI.



2005 Outstanding Cooperation Awards

Sponsored by Forrest T. Jones & Company

Left to right: Ron Dinius, Mt. Baker High School, WA, Region I; Larry Erpelding, Kansas State University, KS, Region II; Michael Brammer, Pennsylvania FFA Association, PA, Region VI; and Mike Williams, Forest T. Jones. **Not Pictured:** W.D. Hoard & Sons, The National Dairy Farm Magazine, WI, Region III; Don Copenhaver, MI, Region IV; and William "Billy" McCoy, Mississippi House of Representatives, MS, Region V.



2005 Lifetime Achievement Awards

Sponsored by the National Pork Board



Left to right: R. Bruce Frazier, LA, Region II; Merle James Richter, WI, Region III; Dale Butcher, IN, Region IV; Glenn Ross accepting for Billy Vestal, TN, Region V; and Doyle Paul, PA, Region VI.
Not Pictured: Roy Hallstrom, WA, Region I.



2005 Ideas Unlimited Awards

Sponsored by Delmar Thomson Learning

Left to right: Dave Rosenbaum, Delmar Thomson Learning; Kasee Sweat, UT, Region I; Corey Wedel, LO, Region II; Robyn Graham, NE, Region III; Eric Richer, OH, Region IV; Michael Johnson, NC, Region V; and Cheryl Matthewson, WA, Region VI.



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Dates & Events

NAAE Region I Meeting — April 19-22, 2006 – Boise, Idaho

2006 Farm Business Management Conference — June 5-8, 2006 – Omaha, Nebraska

NAAE Region II Meeting — June 18-21, 2006 – Farmington, New Mexico

NAAE Region V Meeting — June 19-22, 2006 – Chattonooga, Tennessee

NAAE Region III Meeting — June 19-23, 2006 – Estherville, Iowa

NAAE Region IV Meeting — June 26-28, 2006 – Jackson, Missouri

NAAE Region VI Meeting — June 27-30, 2006 – Rehoboth, Delaware

NAAE and ACTE Conventions — November 28 - December 2, 2006 — Atlanta, Georgia

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Details at <http://www.naae.org>.**