

NEWS & VIEWS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS, INC.

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Atlanta Fernbank Science Center



National Convention 2006

Atlanta offers many opportunities

As you prepare to head to Atlanta, be sure you're ready to take advantage of all NAAE and the city has to offer.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Visit the NAAE website to view a complete listing of the professional development workshops available. There's no better opportunity to connect with your peers around the nation and learn new skills and concepts than through professional development workshops. You can even earn professional development credit for the workshops you attend. Check with your school's administration about their policy on earning professional development credit.

OFF-SITE TOURS

Enjoy a little professional leisure time on Friday, December 1, by participating in one of our four off-site tours. Please pre-register for tours by mailing the registration form with payment to NAAE before November 10. Any tour that has fewer than 20 pre-registrants will be cancelled, and persons signed up for that tour will be bumped to their second choice. Cost for all tours is \$25.00 per person. For more information and a registration form, please visit www.naae.org/convention/tours.

Atlanta Fernbank Science Center

The Fernbank Science Center is a unique education science resource center,

classroom, and woodland complex located in the suburban area of northeast Atlanta. The Fernbank offers tours of the forest, exhibit hall with a variety of interpretations of life and physical sciences, home composting demonstration site with vegetable and butterfly gardens,

World of Coke



and test rose gardens of the All-American Rose Selections and American Rose Society organization.

World of Coca-Cola®

Browse the world's largest collection of memorabilia that celebrates the refreshing beverage created in Atlanta in 1886. Coca-Cola was first served at a small pharmacy soda fountain near Underground Atlanta, and has evolved until is now served over 1 billion times a day and is enjoyed in over 200 countries across the globe. Come discover the history of this global brand and how it relates to the ever expanding area of food science.

CNN Headquarters-Atlanta

Immerse yourself in CNN on a tour offering a dramatic look at the history of
continued on page 2

NAAE Convention: It Has the Right Stuff



*Lee James, Mississippi
2005-'06 President-Elect*

I can still recall my first NAAE convention, (it was even my first time to fly), and I went as one of three representing my home state. Having no idea what to expect, I was in for a real learning experience. It was a whirlwind of activities and I was impressed with all the opportunities available for me to gather information that would benefit me as a teacher. In regional meetings I had the opportunity to discuss issues, share ideas, and have great fellowship with other teachers in the southern region. Workshops seemed to be geared to exactly what I needed to make my program a success and help me provide leadership and information back home. It was quite evident that serving on a committee required dedication to the task and a desire to see NAAE and agriculture education improve through the efforts.

Has the NAAE convention experience changed? I don't think so; our conventions continue to provide the resources, information and opportunities for all teachers to improve themselves and their programs. Each year the convention program seems to provide more and more areas for teachers to take advantage of. I think we have our sponsors, NAAE staff, and officers to thank for making this possible. The NAAE convention is only as good as you make it. We look to you for new ideas and items of interest that will help you succeed. Your participation in all activities during the convention is vital to see that NAAE continues to be the service organization it should be.

So, if you have already registered for the NAAE convention in Atlanta, great. If not, it's not too late. Hope to see you in Atlanta!

...Convention (from page 1)

the CNN News group networks, their coverage of the events that shape our world, and the state-of-the-art studios responsible for bringing the news to over one billion people around the globe.

Discover how agricultural communications plays a major part in the news we receive each day.

Eastlake Golf Club

Designed by renowned architect Ted Robinson, the Eastlake Golf Club is a well-manicured par 72 championship course with undulating fairways and six lakes. This golf course has served as the site of several PGA Tour events. Come tour with the staff and learn about what it takes to keep this golf course maintained for the champions who frequent it.

HOST STATE SOCIAL

Experience a taste of Georgia at the Atlanta Farmers Market. Enjoy a menu that will include "Georgia's finest," including BBQ chicken, pecan pie, beverage, peach cobbler and all of the fixin's. Beer will be available to purchase on-site. Transportation will be provided. To pre-register, mail the completed registration form along with payment to NAAE no later than November 10, 2006. A limited number of tickets will be

available at the convention, but once they're gone, they're gone. For more information and a registration form, please visit www.naae.org/convention/hoststatesocial.

SPOUSE'S TOUR

Registered spouses are invited to participate in a free activity on Wednesday, November 29th from 9:45 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The tour is limited to 55 participants, and tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis at the NAAE registration desk. The tour will take place immediately following the Spouse's Meet and Greet, which will be held from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the "A Point of View" room at the Hilton Atlanta. Lunch is on your own at the Mall of Georgia.

Buses will depart the hotel to go to Underground Atlanta where spouses can shop in the numerous boutiques or walk to the Atlanta State Capitol, the World of Coke, or Centennial Park. Tour participants will then head to the Mall of Georgia, the 2nd largest mall in the southeast offering over 2.2 million square feet of shopping and fun. For more information, please visit www.naae.org/convention/tours

See Atlanta on Your Own

Just in case you have some spare time while you're in Atlanta, here's a great way to check out the city on your own.

The Atlanta CityPass covers admission to many sites, including the Georgia Aquarium and the High Museum of Art, with entry to a collection currently there from the Lovure. The ticket for the Georgia Aquarium includes a pass for immediate admission without waiting in line or making a reservation. The cost for a pass is \$59.00 for adults and \$45.00 for children 3-12.

The ticket booklets are valid for nine days from the first day of issue and may be purchased in advance at www.citypass.com (1-888-330-5008) or at the first attraction visited.

The pass also includes several additional options -- a choice between Zoo Atlanta or the Atlanta History Center, and between Atlanta Botanical Garden or Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

The pass comes with a map of the Atlanta Tourist Loop and information on Atlanta shopping, historic sites and walking tours.

2006 NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division Convention Schedule

November 28-December 2, 2006 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Tuesday, November 28

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
 12:00–7:00 p.m. NAAE Convention Registration
 2:00–6:30 p.m. NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Sessions I & II (by invitation only)
 6:00–8:30 p.m. NAAE Award Dinners (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 29

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 (Featuring Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program, Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Awards)
 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. NAAE Spouses' Meet-and-Greet
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NAAE Spouses Event – Underground Atlanta & Mall of Georgia (tickets available at the Registration Desk)
 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.–12:15 p.m. NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Session III (by invitation only)
 12:00–1:30 p.m. NAAE State Leaders' Luncheon (by invitation only)
 12:30-2:00 p.m. NAAE TTTK Luncheon (by invitation only)
 1:30–4:30 p.m. NAAE Professional Development Workshops
 2:30–4:30 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 (Featuring Outstanding Young Member Awards)
 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, November 30

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)
 1:00–4:30 p.m. ACTE Professional Development Sessions (Mega Issues–Legislation, Advocacy, etc.,& Exhibitor Workshops)
 4:30–6:00 p.m. NAAE Regional Meetings II
 6:30–9:00 p.m. NAAE Host State Social – “A Taste of Georgia” – Atlanta Farmers Market
 6:30–9:00 p.m. ACTE Networking Reception and Silent Auction

Friday, December 1

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. NAAE Convention Registration
 7:30–9:00 a.m. ACTE General Session
 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. USDA SPEC Grant Workshops
 9:30–10:45 a.m. NAAE Committee Meetings II
 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division Luncheon (Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Cooperation, Outstanding Service Awards)
 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 (featuring Ideas Unlimited exhibits)

Saturday, December 2

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. NAAE Convention Registration
 8:30–9:30 a.m. ACTE General Session
 10:00–11:30 a.m. NAAE Professional Development Breakout Sessions
 12:00–2:30 p.m. NAAE/ACTE Ag Ed Division General Session III and Business Sessions (Featuring Teacher Mentor, Ideas Unlimited Awards, and Teachers Turn the Key Awards; NAAE Officer Elections)
 3:00–4:00 p.m. NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
 3:30–5:00 p.m. ACTE Assembly of Delegates

Increase Program Enrollment

By Thinking Outside the Box

*Alissa Smith
NAAE Associate
Executive Director*



Many agricultural education departments in schools across the U.S. are struggling to maintain their teachers and their programs. It may be time to start thinking outside of the box and take a long hard look at curriculum to help alleviate this problem. Agriculture production curriculum, traditionally the foundation of many ag programs, may be a great fit in some schools, but it can also limit your enrollment when it doesn't fit the needs of the local community. Non-traditional classes can really put a new spin on your program. Classes like Floral Design, GIS/GPS Ag Systems, Agribiotechnology, Vet Science, and Food Science can open possibilities for current students and encourage new students to get involved. If you are teaching in a large school, you might find that you will attract a larger percentage of the students in the school, whereas before you may have been limited to students who were from a traditional farm background. More students in your program provide you with more opportunities to spread the word about agriculture, agricultural education, and the FFA.

Many times hesitancy to expand stems from fear that we lack the background or knowledge to teach a class. Instead of shying away from these challenges, look to professional development opportunities offered by your

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Professionals making a difference

Spotlight

Outstanding Secondary Program

Yelm High School, Yelm Washington

The five instructors in the Agriculture Department at Yelm High School work to develop citizenship, leadership, and cooperation skills in their students.

Over half of Yelm High School's 1,400 students are enrolled in the agricultural education program.

"The school has developed an outstanding five-person program that delivers unique and cutting edge curriculum in production agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, agribusiness and agricultural mechanics," stated Dennis Wallace, Career and Technical Education Director.

The Yelm agricultural education program offers up-to-date curriculum while incorporating new technologies with hands-on activities, as well as providing cross credits in Social Studies, Fine Arts, and Science. Among other activities, students raise trout and salmon; manage a 5-acre wood lot; and design, install, and maintain landscape plots.

Yelm FFA has been a 3-Star Chapter for the last 9 years and is one of the largest and most successful chapters in Washington. The instructors at Yelm work continually to establish and maintain strong partnerships within the



Yelm students plant native trees along Muck Creek in Roy, WA, to help create a salmon-friendly habitat

community. One example is the program's work with the Nisqually Tribal Hatchery. Several times during the salmon spawning season, students will assist in the spawning of 300,000 salmon eggs and milt collection. In return



Students collecting salmon eggs at Nisqually Tribal Hatchery in Kalma Creek, WA.

students receive more than 500 salmon eggs and fry to be raised in the school aquaculture facility. This particular partnership has resulted in the spawning and release of thousands of salmon into tribal streams.

Yelm is the 2005 NAAE Outstanding Middle/Secondary program winner for Region I. For more information about the Yelm High School Agricultural Education program, contact Dusti Nash at dustina_nash@yca.wednet.edu or at (360) 458-2965.

Spotlight your program by entering the NAAE Outstanding Program competition. For details, call the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or e-mail NAAE@uky.edu. The Outstanding Middle/Secondary Program Award is Sponsored by Case IH.

CASE IH

Students design new food product



Cheryl Matthewson
2005 Ideas Unlimited
Winner Region VI

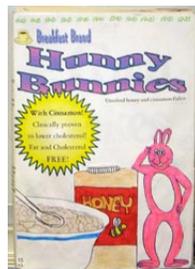
Creating a new brand of breakfast cereal allowed students in Cheryl Matthewson's Introduction to Agriculture course to experience first-hand the work that goes into the creation of a new food product.

As part of their food science unit, teams of students designed, created and marketed a new, healthier breakfast cereal for children. This involved several steps, including:

- * Interviews to research what parents want in a healthier cereal
- * Ingredient selection
- * Creation and testing of samples
- * Creation of an accurate nutrition label

- for the new product
- * Designing an educational panel for the cereal box
- * Designing a front panel to market the cereal to both children and parents
- * Calculation of a selling price for the cereal
- * Creation of a marketing plan to promote the cereal
- * Presentation of the new product to a consumer panel
- * Examination of panel feedback

Matthewson reported that her students learned a great deal from the project, and were enthusiastic about the



Winning cereal box

topic because it was presented in a fun, hands-on way. The designs were judged, and the winning team represented the Nathan Hale-Ray High School FFA chapter at the Connecticut state FFA Food Science Career Development Event. For more information about Matthewson's lesson, contact her at cmatthew@easthaddamschools.org.

Have a great idea? Tell us how you make your program more effective by entering the NAAE Ideas Unlimited award program. To learn more, call the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or send an e-mail to NAAE@uky.edu.

The Ideas Unlimited Award program is sponsored by Thomson Delmar Learning.



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- Blueprint Reading and Welding Symbols
- Shop and Field Safety
- Welding Theory
- Inspection Codes, Standards & Terminology
- AWS D1.1 Certifications
- ASME Section IX Certifications
- Limited Access Welding
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BUT
COME TO THE BEST!!**

Outstanding Mentor



*Gary Geswein
2005 Outstanding Mentor
Region IV*

Gary Geswein has been involved in agricultural education for over 35 years. During his tenure in the profession, Geswein has been a high school agriculture instructor as well as the agriculture education curriculum development consultant for the Indiana Department of Education. Throughout his career, Geswein has served as a mentor on many levels.

Archie Sauerheber is first-hand evidence of Geswein's mentoring abilities. A former student of Geswein's, Sauerheber was hired to replace Geswein

upon his retirement from North Harrison High School in Ramsey, Indiana. Geswein has continually mentored Sauerheber through school visits, sharing lesson plans and other materials, and by being available to Sauerheber any time he has questions. Sauerheber stated, "In the four years of my teaching career, Mr. Geswein has been a great source of resources and valuable advice which have greatly augmented my success as a teacher. Gary Geswein will continue to influence both young teachers and his students far into the future through his involvement in teaching and in the teacher mentor program."

Although semi-retired, Geswein helped establish and serves as the coordinator for the Indiana New Teacher Mentoring Program, a statewide program of matching mentors with mentees in the

agricultural education profession. He also serves as a University Supervisor for Student Teachers for Purdue University. In this role, Geswein visits three times with student teachers and their supervisors during their student teaching experience.

To learn more about Geswein's mentoring, contact him at 11665 School Lane N.E., Palmyra, IN 47164 or at (812) 364-4289.

Do you know a great mentor? Nominate someone for the NAAE Teacher Mentor award program. For program details, contact the NAAE office at (800) 509-0204 or by sending an e-mail to NAAE@uky.edu. The Teacher Mentor award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia of Lubbock, Texas.



Opportunity

Recognition for Educators & Students

Apply for USA Today's All-USA Academic and Teacher Teams

USA Today honors outstanding students and educators four times each year with the All-USA Academic and Teacher Teams.

Student Awards

The All-USA Academic teams honor students at the high school level, as well as students enrolled in four-year and two-year programs. Judges consider grades, activities and leadership, among other factors. Students selected for the All-USA First teams will be profiled in USA

TODAY and will receive \$2,500.00 cash. **Educators**

The All-USA Teacher Team honors outstanding individuals and instructional teams teaching grades K-12. Team members are profiled in USA TODAY throughout the school year and are invited to join the All-USA Teacher Team network, founded by former winners to serve as a resource for each other.

All-USA Teacher Team award money is divided between the teacher and their schools, with each teacher getting \$500.00. Nominees must be certified, full-time teachers teaching K-12 students in an accredited school, public or private. Individuals must have at least four years

of full-time experience, and teachers who form an instructional team must average at least four years of experience. Teachers may be nominated by anyone willing to describe in writing why the nominee is outstanding.

For more information and downloadable application forms, visit <http://allstars.usatoday.com>

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Up-to-date information about what's going on with your elected officials. www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter

Tools for Your Program

We asked a few agriculture educators from each of NAAE's six regions about teaching tools they'd love to have but don't. Many responses were for major items -- enough laptop computers for an entire classroom, wireless internet, eight more hours in the day. Some things though, were simple requests for neat tools that anyone might be able to use. We're sharing those here, along with a few suggestions contributed by our organizational members.

Tag Placement Cow Ear Model



Nasco's lifelike cow ear allows you to teach proper ear tag placement. Molded from an actual cow's ear, cartilage and other anatomical landmarks are readily

visible. The ear can actually be tagged, so you could tag one correctly and one or two incorrectly for demonstration purposes, or mark correct and incorrect tagging sites with a marker. Thick rubber material gives realistic feel, allowing students to get hands-on experience before practicing on the real thing. Ear measures 7-1/2" H x 4-1/4". For more information, visit www.enasco.com/farmandranch, or click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the page.

Share the Wealth!

Do you have a great tool other educators need to know about? Maybe it's something you don't have, but wish you did.

Tell us about it by e-mailing jjfritsch.naae@uky.edu

ELMO Visual Presenter

ELMO's TT-02 Visual Presenter allows graphic display of anything you can put under the camera. Connect to a PC, projector or video monitor to display pictures, text, or 3-D objects. The presenter captures and displays moving objects in real-time, making hands-on lessons easier to demonstrate. The TT-02 also includes a microscope viewing mode to display slides for viewing by the entire class. For more information, go to www.elmoussa.com.



Feedstuff Education Kit



Save yourself the legwork of collecting and labeling samples.

The ITCS *Feedstuff Education Kit* from the University of Illinois includes 27 commonly used feed ingredients and six processed feeds packaged in protective plastic jars. The jars are numbered, and come in a tote box along with a key to the numbered samples. The kit also includes a PowerPoint CD-Rom with lessons, photographs, quizzes, and student handouts. The CD also includes an onscreen interactive quiz for feedstuff identification. For more information, go to <https://pubsplus.uiuc.edu/AK-19.html> or call (800) 345-6087.

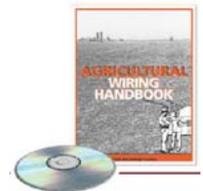
Show Me The Moolah

Students will get excited about business management when you incorporate Reap: A Business Management Simulation curriculum into your classroom. The curriculum uses the classic favorite "The Farming Game" along with the interactive Reap Simulation CD to teach students management principles. Students will make management decisions, and then track money flow and produce financial statements, just like in any real-world business environment.

Classrooms that already have the Farming Game can simply purchase the Reap CD, or packages of both the game and the curriculum are sold. For more information, visit www.ahhtomoney.com or call (866) 855-REAP.

Electrical Wiring Techniques

Students will actually feel like they are in a farm building, wiring the switches, lights and outlets when they use the *Safe Electrical Wiring Techniques* CD from the National Food and Energy Council. This easy-to use, interactive teaching tool covers concepts from the most basic to the actual point-and-click assembly of circuits. Students complete exercises on the computer using dozens of color graphics. The lessons run directly from a single CD-ROM, and are appropriate for students from sixth grade to adult. For more information, go to www.nfec.org.



2007 USDA Secondary and 2-Year Postsecondary Agricultural Education Challenge (SPEC) Grants Program

www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/educationchallengesecondaryhep.html

This grant is designed to promote and strengthen teaching programs in agriscience and agribusiness. It is available to secondary schools (grades 9-12) and Junior or Community Colleges (2-year postsecondary programs). Single-institution awards may be up to \$35,000, and joint project awards may be up to \$50,000. Recipients are required to match awarded funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis (cash or in-kind). Proposals must be received by January 11, 2007.

NEW THIS YEAR

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov

To submit through Grants.gov, submitters must have a DUNS number and be registered with the Central Contractor Registry. It can take up to a month to become registered with CCR and obtain a DUNS number (if your organization does not already have one).

The Request for Applications (access by clicking on above link) provides specific information on how to become registered to submit proposals through Grants.gov and how to obtain a DUNS number.

Other Grant Opportunities

Think creatively about your program when seeking funding opportunities. An agriscience class is just as much science as a traditional biology class, and it's hard to find classrooms that are much more hands-on than most run by agricultural educators. Don't limit yourself to these grants, either, the web has lots of sites that are clearing-houses for grant information -- try doing a GOOGLE search for "education grants."

Grants for Community Improvement Programs

www.myhometownhelper.com

Hamburger Helper is looking to lend a helping hand to neighborhoods nationwide with its "My Hometown Helper" grant program. Individuals from communities and organizations across America can submit a written essay of 250 words or less describing how the "My Hometown Helper" grant would help improve their community project.

Maximum Award: \$15,000.

Eligibility: Requests for funding must be sponsored by a municipal or civic organization or public school.

Deadline: May 31, 2007.

Grants for Outstanding Science Educators

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry>

Toyota TAPESTRY grants recognize outstanding educators who are making a difference by demonstrating excellence and creativity in science teaching.

Maximum Award: \$10,000.

Eligibility: K-12 science teachers.

Deadline: January 18, 2007.

Awards for Innovative and Progressive Thinking in Education

www.ing-usa.com/us/stellent2/groups/dc/documents/companylobinformation/001143.pdf

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes innovative and progressive thinking in education.

Maximum Award: \$27,000.

Eligibility: full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and classified staff members with projects that improve student learning at K-12 public or private schools.

Deadline: April 30, 2007.

2007 SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards

www.swbg-animals.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm

These grants recognize the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment.

Maximum Award: \$10,000.

Eligibility: All schools (grades K-12) and community groups.

Deadline: November 30, 2006.

President's Message: *Building towards the future*

*Allan Sulser
2005-06 NAAE
President*



I had occasion to make it to the divide last weekend; the seasons have come full circle. The leaves have left the trees and snow has started to accumulate on the mountain. It seems that fall was the shortest of the seasons this year.

We too have come full circle. Many of the pressing issues from the past couple of years have been dealt with and many accomplishments have been reached. The NAAE office is once again fully staffed, Perkins has been passed and looks to be funded soon at past years levels, advocacy remains a top priority and we have our foot in the door for the next revision of the Farm Bill. Regional meetings and state conferences have been successfully held; National FFA Conven-

tion was a great success, and membership is up. Thanks to each of you who helped to make these events successful. If not for professional members like yourself and your neighbors we could not have accomplished all these great things.

So what is next? I foresee that the "10 X 15" initiative, (that is 10,000 quality agriculture programs by the year 2015), is the next issue to be addressed. This not a problem just for NAAE and agriculture educators to meet the needs of students for the next generation. It is a problem for the entire Team Ag Ed. If you have not organized in your state as of yet I hope that you can get there soon. We need your help. I can visualize that "10 X 15" can change the view of agricultural education across the nation. It can open new programs, revitalize existing programs and even be a shot of adrenaline for the quality programs that now exist. No one can do this alone; every organization must be a part of this. I think that

"It takes the whole organization to make things happen."

NAAE can have a very active and persuasive influence in the area of teacher recruitment and retention -- one of those items that has been in the strategic plan with not a lot of action taken on it. We can solve this problem together.

Again, thank you to all for your hard work and dedication over the past couple of years. One board of directors, or small group cannot solve things alone. It takes

the whole organization to make things happen.

I hope to see many of you at the NAAE

Convention in Atlanta.

Thanks again. It has

indeed been a pleasure to serve dedicated professional agriculture teachers.

If you are ever in Utah, stop by and I'll show you one of the prettiest places around. You can share some of your views with me and I'll share mine with you.

NAAE President Allan Sulser elected President of The Council *Sulser will lead National Council for Agricultural Education in 2007*

Allan Sulser, current president of the NAAE, has been elected as president of The National Council for Agricultural Education (The Council).

Beginning in January 2007, Sulser will be leading The Council as it works toward its mission of providing leadership and coordination to shape the future of school-based agricultural education. Some of The Council's key initiatives are:

- *10 x 15 Initiative* – The Council has adopted a goal of having 10,000 quality agricultural education programs by 2015.
- *Development of national program standards for agricultural education*

- *Development of national curriculum standards for agricultural education*

- *Providing an annual report on school-based agricultural education in the United States*

Sulser was elected to his post by the current Council members, who are leaders of entities that represent students, teachers, teacher educators, state leaders, alumni, industry, and government.

Sulser has been an agriculture education instructor for 26 years, and has spent the past 24 of them teaching at Wasatch High School in Heber City, Utah. Sulser attained a B.S. in Agricultural Education from Utah State University and an M.S. in Counseling from the

University of Phoenix.

Sulser's appointment adds another entry to his growing list of leadership roles in agricultural education. In addition to his five years of service on the NAAE board of directors, including his term as 2005-06 NAAE president, he has also served as both president and treasurer of the Utah Association of Agricultural Educators. Sulser has received the Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Program Awards from both the Utah Association of Agricultural Educators and the Utah Association for Career and Technical Education, and the NAAE Teacher of Teachers Award.

Regional Update

Region I



Kevin Fochs, Region I VP
Email: kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us

Greetings from Region I. I guess I'll just get down to business! I would really appreciate your feedback on a few important items. First, I need all members to voice concerns they may have about the agricultural education profession. Two years ago at Region I in Arizona we chose to address pertinent issues at our regional meetings. What issues would you like to see addressed at our next regional meeting in Cody, WY on April 25-28?

In addition, please make comments about receiving the News and Views through six electronic copies. Do you like this change, YES or NO? Our goal with the change is to have a timely newsletter that is something you will read and that will keep you up to date.

Take a good look at the four proposed amendments to the bylaws. One of particular importance is the issue of lifetime dues. We have dealt with lifetime dues numerous times during the last few years. Our organization really needs to make an effort to find a workable position on dues that will provide a benefit in support of our members yet be designed to change with inflation.

Finally, I know many of you have various committee assignments to national committees. You should be receiving minutes and committee information from your board members. Please take time to prepare for the committee work at national convention.

In conclusion, thanks for all you do for your students and for the profession. You are what makes this organization run so efficiently.

Please send me a quick email or phone call with any thoughts and concerns you have about these issues. I am your voice on the board and am happy to visit with you anytime.

Region II



Bill Hunter, Region II VP
Email: billh@prattcc.edu

Greetings from Region II! By the time this newsletter arrives, those of you who took students to the National FFA Convention will have returned from the first convention in Indianapolis. No matter what activities you and your students were involved in at the convention – CDE's, leadership training, listening to dynamic speakers, bonding with each other the way that only a trip like that can do – the National FFA Convention will get your juices flowing as a agricultural educator. I trust that you all had a productive convention, and picked up ideas that will make your program better in the coming year.

Another convention is looming that can also get your creative juices flowing – the NAAE convention in Atlanta. I hope to see many of you there. Our annual convention packs into just a few days a lot of professional development activities, fellowship with colleagues, and, just as important, the business of the organization. I don't know about your experience, but I know that I have never been to a meeting with other agriculture teachers where I have not learned something that I can take home to improve my program or to make me a better teacher. In looking at the agenda for Atlanta, this meeting will follow that same pattern of excellence.

As my term of office draws to a close, I want to thank the regional secretaries who have worked with me the last three years. In David Dorrell, Dennis Ellebracht, and Kathy Conerly, I could not have asked for three better colleagues or better people to work with to serve Region II. I also want to say thank you to my colleagues in Region II for your support and your help in getting this job done. I have a lot of terrific memories of my term, and I owe it all to Region II. Thanks!

Region III



Tom Hofmann, Region III VP
Email: thofmann@spsne.org

Greetings from rural Nebraska (Home of the Huskers). Start your engines! I hope that everyone had a positive experience in Indianapolis while attending the national FFA convention. Let's use that positive energy generated from convention to motivate students, and maybe more importantly you, through the next two months until Christmas break. My personal recipe for recovering after convention is to sleep, watch some college football, spend time with family, and be a couch potato for a couple of days. Believe me, we deserve it.

Don't vacation too long though, because NAAE convention is just around the corner. Refuel the gas tank and come on down to Atlanta. Be an active participant while attending the NAAE convention by taking advantage of tours, workshops, committee meetings and regional meetings. Remember that NAAE is a grass roots organization and your ideas and concerns are an important part of improving NAAE.

Congratulations! I finally received all the Professional State Applications from Region III. My condolences to the Iowa State fans on your recent defeat by the Cornhuskers. I'm sure it was an accident. I have been wearing my Iowa State cap with pride since the Region III conference this past summer. Did I jinx the 'Clones? Quick, someone send me a Missouri Tiger cap! Never fear, it's almost basketball season, which doesn't exist at Nebraska.

Please remember to read the newsletter and check out the website often for vital information. Remember there are no more paper copies of the News and Views. This message probably doesn't apply to you if you are reading this article, but it is our responsibility is to help our fellow colleagues turn on a computer and surf the web.

Regional Update

Region IV



Harold Eckler, Region IV VP
Email: eckler@marktwain.net

Although we normally think of mentoring as something formal associated with beginning teachers, it can be much more. Mentoring has been going on informally for years in almost every profession, especially education. When we chose to help a fellow teacher, we can serve as a role model for that person in some special area and be their mentor regardless of their experience level.

Why should I get involved, you might ask? The most obvious reason is to help perpetuate the profession by helping other teachers become more successful. But think of the other benefits. No one can be an expert in every area and everyone has something to share. When I go to meetings or get together with other teachers, I try to take away at least one thing that I can use. When I work with student teachers, I enjoy their enthusiasm and fresh outlook on teaching. A different perspective can help change the way experienced teachers relate to their own students and fellow teachers.

How can you get involved? Call up a neighboring teacher and ask what you can do for them. As the end of the year approaches, closing out recordbooks, FFA activities for next semester, Career Development Event preparation and other additional responsibilities start catching up with all of us. By informally sharing with our neighbors we can strengthen our own programs as well as theirs. Just remember to keep it positive. It's easy to get together and complain, but don't drag others down or allow them to drag you down.

As I write this, the lyrics of the song "Get Right with The Man" by Van Zant keep popping into my mind, "Fight your fights, find the grace in all the things you can't change, and help somebody if you can." If I can help you, give me a call.

Region V



Ray Nash, Region V VP
Email: rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us

Greetings from the Deep South. It was great seeing many of you at the national FFA convention. Crunch time is upon us. Many of you are returning from convention, completing your fall fruit sale, preparing for fall CDEs, and trying to teach a few classes. Just so you don't get bored, we have tossed in a little event we call the NAAE national convention. I know you may be stressed just a bit to get everything done. I plan to relieve some of the tension by doing a little deer hunting. I hope you will take advantage of some time for yourself and your family between dates away from home.

During this celebratory time (conventions) for both the NAAE and FFA, let us not forget to take time to send out thank-you notes and cards to all those many individuals, companies, and organizations that make our awards programs possible. I know that convention travel for my students would have been almost impossible without the support of local businesses within our community. Without the support of our sponsors neither our students or us as teachers could be rewarded for our successes in the classroom, SAE and FFA activities. A bit of thanks goes a long way.

Speaking of the NAAE convention, I want to remind those of you that will be representing Region V during committee activities that you should soon be receiving information from your chairperson that will prepare you for duties. You can further prepare yourself by reviewing the historical actions of your committee by going to the NAAE website at www.naae.org. Look under the membership tab for Board Minutes / Committee Reports. On the website you can also check out the convention agenda, professional development workshop offerings, and off-site tours. See you in Atlanta.

Region VI



Sally Shomo, Region VI VP
Email: sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us

Wow, another national FFA convention has come and gone. Is there any other organization that can put on a convention quite like the National FFA? I took my principal and husband to the national FFA convention last year and both are still talking about the tremendous experiences. If you can sit in the last session with a dry eye... I can't, such emotion and excitement. Even after 25 years of teaching, it just keeps getting better and better! And now that national FFA convention is over, are you ready for Atlanta?

I hope that everyone is looking forward to our national NAAE convention, starting on November 28th. This is time to get our batteries charged, socialize and meet new people, share ideas, learn new teaching techniques and work to better our professional organization. And Atlanta should be a great place for our convention. Have you checked out the workshops and tours? Many thanks to our staff for organizing our upcoming convention. Also, it's very important that everyone stay for the last delegate session on Saturday afternoon. There are some amendments coming forward that will need your thoughtful consideration as well as the election of our president-elect. I look forward to being able to visit with all of you in our regional meetings. We will have lots of things to talk about as well as bettering ourselves and our profession. Again, we are a very unique part of the educational programs across our nation. Pre-congratulations to all of the winners from Region VI and I look forward to recognizing you at our convention. Also, Happy Thanksgiving. Never forget to take the time and remember just how much we really do have to be thankful for. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.



*Wm. Jay Jackman
Executive Director
NAAE*

For agricultural education, Capitol Hill is rather quiet right now. With the mid-term elections looming (November 7th), members of Congress are in their home districts and states campaigning for themselves or for their colleagues. Since the members are at home now, this is the perfect time to meet with them on the local turf. As we've said many times before, you don't have to visit Washington, DC to meet with your national elected officials. They represent you in the home districts and states, so now is a great time to call on them to support agricultural education.

If you would like to schedule a visit with your representative or senators while Congress is on recess, you can find the contact information for their district and state offices by visiting the NAAE Legislative Action Center, partially sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association. Point your web browser to www.naae.org and follow the links.

Everyone is still very excited that Congress passed the Perkins reauthorization and that the President signed the bill. Even though the President is opposed to our career and technical education programs at the secondary level, he signed the reauthorization of Perkins given the overwhelming support from Congress.

The real test of the President's support for our programs will come in February 2007 when he releases his

Executive Budget Request to Congress. For the past several years, the President's budget request has zeroed out Perkins funding. It will be interesting to see his budget recommendations for FY 2008. If the President does not request funding for Perkins programs in FY 2008, we will continue to work with Congress to fund our programs anyway — just as they have the past several years.

In addition to our continuous battle for Perkins appropriations, we are hopeful that there will be opportunities for us to get more attention placed on school-based agricultural education in the next Farm Bill. United States Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns spoke at the 79th National FFA Convention this past week. Secretary Johanns was most complimentary of agricultural education and FFA. His challenge to the FFA members at the convention was to "help all the young people to make the connections so they

Technical Education (ACTE) has already begun working on the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. I am serving on an ACTE task force that is developing our position of the reauthorization of NCLB. If you have specific concerns with NCLB, I'd like to hear from you. Please communicate with me on this subject via e-mail at JJackman.NAAE@uky.edu.

Karen Hutchison, state director for agricultural education in Delaware, and I had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Troy Justesen, United States Assistant Education Secretary, and Dr. Gail Swartz, also with the U.S. Department of Education, during the national FFA convention. Dr. Justesen and Dr. Swartz spent Tuesday afternoon through Saturday morning with us and they gained a greater understanding of what agricultural education and FFA are all about. We will have the opportunity to see Dr. Justesen again at the ACTE and NAAE conventions in



While speaking at a session at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on October 27, Dr. Troy Justesen, U.S. Assistant Education Secretary, selected an FFA member from the audience to photograph him with the thousands of members in attendance

understand agriculture in today's world."

You can review the complete transcript of Secretary Johanns' comments at the national FFA convention at www.usda.gov.

The Association for Career and

Atlanta.

Finally, please exercise your democratic privilege on November 7th! Choose wisely the candidates for whom you will vote ... and above all, VOTE!

Book Review

Textbook Review: Vegetable Insect Management

Vegetable Insect Management, published by Meister Media Worldwide and edited by Rick Foster and Brian R. Flood, is designed to be a straightforward guide to managing insect pests of vegetables. The book accomplishes this through a user-friendly format that is organized by crop. An instructional CD is also included with the book, and includes supplemental material in the form of PowerPoint presentations, PDF fact sheets, and links to resources on the web.

Chapter one outlines some basic principles of Integrated Pest Management, including the impact of weather and climate and effective timing of pesticide

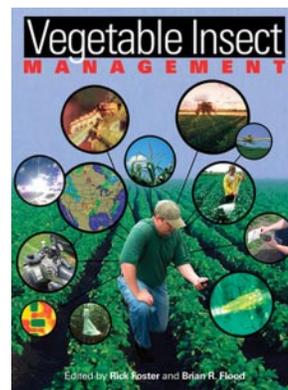
application. Subsequent chapters build on this foundation by moving directly into specific crops. Each chapter is a detailed look at the types of pests that affect each crop and how to control those pests.

The book's strength lies in its user-friendly design and succinct delivery of information. Graphic symbols denote important sections throughout the book, including key points, rules of thumb, and areas where the CD can add pertinent information. Photographs and drawings of pests and crop damage are plentiful, and charts condense information into an easy-to-digest format.

Over 30 professionals in the field of vegetable insect management have contributed to this book, evident in the

straightforward, detailed way in which chapters are presented. Information is timely and detailed, but not so technical that is difficult to grasp.

For more information about Vegetable Insect Management, including how to purchase the book and CD package, go to www.meisterpro.com/vim.



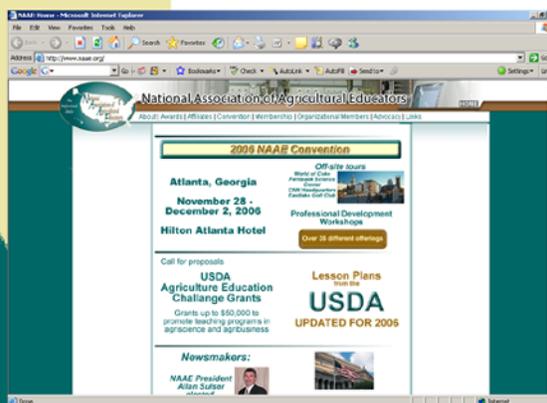
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Increase Enrollment

professional organization. A major focus of the NAAE convention is professional development, with over 40 workshops offered. This year's convention will be held on November 28-December 2, 2006 in Atlanta. Check out the website at www.naae.org for more information. While you're surfing the NAAE website, you'll find that it is a great resource for all types of professional development opportunities.

Think outside of the box, make a change if necessary, and grow your aged program. Next year your biggest challenge might be finding a teacher for your newly created additional teaching position!

The Professional's Connection



www.naae.org

- Lesson Plans
- Association News
- Ag. Education in the News
- NAAE Convention
- Grant Announcements
- Recognition Opportunities
- Advocacy

Dates & Events

NAAE & ACTE Convention -- November 28-December 2, 2006 -- Atlanta, Georgia

National Ag. Education Inservice -- Feb. 8-10, 2007 -- Indianapolis, Indiana

National Agriculture Week -- March 18-27, 2007 -- www.agday.org

NAAE Region I Conference -- April 25-28, 2007 -- Cody, Wyoming

NAAE Region II Conference -- June 17-20, 2007 -- Pittsburg, Kansas

NAAE Region III Conference -- June 18-20, 2007 -- Sioux Falls, South Dakota

NAAE Region IV Conference -- June 25-27, 2007 -- Detroit, Michigan

NAAE Region V Conference -- June 18-21, 2007 -- Alabama

NAAE Region VI Conference -- July 10-12, 2007 -- Monroe, New Jersey

News & Views

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