Teach Ag Lessons & Resources
Over 40 lessons and activities are available on the Teach Ag website for teachers, state staff, and alumni to use to celebrate and promote the profession of agricultural education. The lessons are laid out in an easy to use format with objectives, outcomes, and material lists included. Details>>

Teach Ag website
www.naae.org/teachag
The Teach Ag website is the central command center for all Teach Ag news, updates, information, lesson plans and resources related to becoming an ag education teacher. Highlights of the website include monthly Teach Ag campaign updates, Teach Ag workshop share portal, A Day in the Life Blogger bios, Teach Ag resources and lessons, Ag Ed Degree College Finder, License Certification information by state, and job openings by state.

Teach Ag Campaign sign ups
Students and current educators who are interested in either becoming agricultural educators or helping promote the profession of agricultural education are encouraged to sign up for the Teach Ag Campaign. The Teach Ag website has an online form to sign up for the campaign as well as the opportunity to sign up at the various events where the National Teach Ag Campaign is represented. There are currently 2741 Teach Ag campaign members, all of whom receive monthly communications from the Teach Ag Campaign.

National Teach Ag Day Events
On Thursday, March 24th, agriculture programs, teachers, alumni groups, FFA organizations, and colleges took part in the 2nd National Teach Ag Day, Tag Your Replacement campaign. National Teach Ag Day was celebrated in a variety of ways from using the lesson plans on the website to holding statewide Teach Ag rallies. Details>>

Teach Ag Day Grants
The National Teach Ag Day grant fund was offered for the second year in a row. The grants are designed to help agriculture teachers and stakeholders conduct Teach Ag Day related events. All NAAE members were encouraged to apply for the grants. The grants ranged from $100-$200 each and required a summary wrap-up with pictures. There
were a total of 30 grant applicants from all corners of the United States. Details>>

**Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest**
As a means of including the next generation of agriculture teachers in the Teach Ag Day celebration the Teach Ag Campaign hosted the second annual Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest for all college and university organizations to participate. There were 8 entries of extremely high quality. Details>>

**Teach Ag Day Statewide Contest**
New this year was the inclusion of a statewide National Teach Ag Day contest. The contest was designed to encourage states to work together to spread the Teach Ag message on or near National Teach Ag Day, March 24, 2011. A total of 3 entries were submitted and were awarded “Most Unique and Creative,” “Greatest Student Impact,” and “Best Use of the Media”. Details>>

**Teach Ag Day Media Relations**
An extensive media plan was created and enacted leading up to National Teach Ag Day on March 24, 2011. The media plan emphasized specifically agriculture and education related outlets as well as social media. On Teach Ag Day, the #teachag hashtag was the #1 trending topic on Twitter for tweets originating from the Lexington, Ky area (NAAE headquarters). News release templates, and sample letters to the editor were also provided on the Teach Ag website to local events could spread the word on their own. See the archive of news stories>>

**Teach Ag Campaign Trade Shows & Events**
The Teach Ag Campaign attended several events to spread to the Teach Ag message. The events were designed to be interactive while bringing awareness to the size and scope of agriculture education as a career. A total of 5 events were attended each reaching a broad and diverse audience.
- National FFA Convention
- National PAS Conference
- MANRRS Conference
- National Ag Ed Summit
- National Ag Day Celebration
Details>>

**Teach Ag Workshop Resources**
One important aspect of the National Teach Ag Campaign is providing resources to states for further outreach. Teach Ag workshops can be a vital tool for spreading the Teach Ag message to students who are unaware of the opportunities for a career in ag education. The Teach Ag Workshop best practices area on the Teach Ag website has numerous resources related to hosting and delivering a Teach Ag workshop. Visit the resource area>>

**New Teacher News**
This monthly newsletter is meant to serve as a consistent connection between agricultural educators in their first 1-2 years and NAAE. Each month features tips, advice, benefits of NAAE membership, a NAAE board member feature, and information on a theme topic. While the intended audience of the newsletter is those teachers who are early in their career, all experience levels may benefit from the newsletter. The newsletter is distributed electronically around the 15th of every month. Read New Teacher News>>

**A Day in the Life of an Ag Teacher Blog Series**
The Blog series highlights the daily lives of eight ag teachers across the US who share their experiences and joys of being an ag teacher through a special blogging area on the NAAE Communities of Practice online ag teacher portal. The eight bloggers consist of five secondary teachers, one post-secondary teacher, and two undergraduate ag education majors. Each blogger has a different background and perspective. The bloggers are encouraged to share pictures and stories. While the original intent of the bloggers was to provide insight into the life of an ag teacher the blog series has also been a favorite of current ag teachers as they enjoy reading the stories and relating to the experiences.
Excerpt from Blogger Matt Eddy, Southeast Polk High School, Iowa

“I had my first “Iowa Star Finalist in Ag Production” this year and Southeast Polk’s first as well. Very satisfying for me, as this girl was a model FFA member, works hard, is a great person to be around, chapter president, wants to be an Ag Teacher (despite the ag teacher she got saddled with for her high school career). Can’t wait to see what exciting things she will accomplish in her future. Sometimes, you couldn’t pay me enough to come back on Monday and sometimes, I’d do this job for free. This is probably a great example of the latter.”

Visit the blog>>

Teach Ag Campaign Monthly Contact
Members who signed up for the Teach Ag Campaign either online or at the Teach Ag booth receive a monthly e-newsletter related to the career of agricultural education or becoming an agricultural educator. The themes are designed primarily for high school students considering a career as an ag teacher, and include topics like job shadowing, maximizing your campus visit, and applying for scholarships. Details>>

National Teach Ag Campaign CoP Community
http://naae.ca.uky.edu:8080/clearspace_community/community/teachag
The National Teach Ag Campaign has its’ own community where updates, blogs, and information about the National Teach Ag Campaign is shared. Given that the NAAE Communities of Practice site has such a large volume of traffic it offers a great opportunity to share Teach Ag information and resources with ag teachers instantly while providing a holding place so the information is available long after it is posted. Go to the community>>

National Teach Ag Campaign Social Media
The National Teach Ag Campaign utilizes a variety of social media sources to promote the profession of ag education while encouraging students to consider a career as an ag teacher. There is a Teach Ag Facebook page and Teach Ag Twitter account that are updated and posted to almost daily. They have a combined followership of 2096.

Teach Ag Campaign Follow-up Survey
An electronic survey was distributed widely in early May after National Teach Ag day to gather feedback about the National Teach Ag Day and the National Teach Ag Campaign in general. See results>>
Teach Ag Lessons & Resources

Through the Teach Ag website (www.naae.org/teachag) interested parties are able to access everything needed to host a Teach Ag celebration, conduct a Teach Ag lesson, or find out more about a career in agricultural education. There are five basic categories on the Teach Ag website; About Ag Education, Promote Teaching Ag, National Teach Ag Day, Get Started, and News.

About Ag Education
This area has an agricultural education Q&A section, along with background information on what an ag teacher does, an explanation of the ag teacher shortage and tips on how to start working towards a career as an agricultural educator.

Promote Teaching Ag
The clearinghouse of all the Teach Ag lessons, merchandise, Teach Ag video, Teach Ag games, and Teach Ag activities are located in this section of the website. It contains everything one would need to plan, promote, and implement a Teach Ag event or activity. There are materials for every ladder in the profession; middle and high school teachers, post-secondary instructors, university faculty, farm management instructors, state staff, alumni, and the general public are given activity guides and lesson plan outlines for their specific area. The activities are organized accordingly with each lesson/activity containing a quick guide data sheet providing the details needed to execute the lesson. Having these lessons available make implementing Teach Ag events a breeze.

National Teach Ag Day
http://www.naae.org/teachag/teachagday.php
National Teach Ag Day is a day designed to encourage students to consider a career as an ag teacher while celebrating the contributions that ag teachers make in their communities. National Teach Ag Day took place on Thursday March 24, 2011 this year in conjunction with National Ag Week. The National Teach Ag Day link has information on what National Teach Ag Day is, who it is for, how to get involved, and who the sponsors are. In addition links are available at the top of the page for the Collegiate and Statewide Contest Entry. Teach Ag grants, Teach Ag lesson plans, and links to the Teach Ag poster.

Get Started
http://www.naae.org/teachag/find-a-school.php
This useful area of the website is a great tool for anyone thinking about becoming an ag teacher or is currently enrolled in an ag education degree program. There are interactive clickable links to find colleges by state that offer a degree in ag education, as well as ag ed job listings by state, and license certification requirements for each state.

News
http://www.naae.org/teachag/news.php
Keeping abreast of the latest Teach Ag information and publications has never been easier than simply following the News link on the Teach Ag website. The most recent and former issues of the New Teacher News and National Teach Ag Campaign monthly theme update are available here. In addition bios on the A Day in the Life Bloggers along with Teach Ag Campaign information and news stories from around the country.
National Teach Ag Day Events

The Second Annual National Teach Ag Day was held Thursday, March 24, 2011. National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to corroboratively bring awareness to the career opportunities in ag education and celebrate all the contributions ag teachers make in their communities and in the lives of their students.

National Teach Ag Day was promoted through state and regional meetings, on the NAAE list serve, ag education publications, and via the Teach Ag website among others. Teach Ag Day was a huge success. Teachers, students, undergraduates, university/college faculty, state staff, and ag education stakeholders came together and celebrated in a variety of ways.

Given the fact that there are over 8000 agriculture education programs in the US and numerous post-secondary, FBM, and collegiate level instructors, the total impact may never be known. We estimate, however, that at least 1/3 of NAAE members celebrated National Teach Ag Day in one form or another, whether it was by simply hanging a Teach Ag poster on their classroom wall, planning a special lesson, or attending a state-wide event. If each of those teachers delivered the Teach Ag message to only 30 students (which is a very conservative estimate, considering most teachers see as many as 6 times that many students in a single day), that’s 70,830 students who were exposed to the Teach Ag message. The majority of activities included in this report took place on Teach Ag Day.
What does it mean to be an agriculture teacher?

Everything.

Agricultural educators teach hands-on skills, incorporating science, math, leadership and more. It’s a challenging, rewarding career for passionate people who want to make a difference in the lives of students and in the world around them. Are you up to the challenge?

National Teach Ag Day - March 24, 2011
National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to share the story of agricultural education and encourage students to consider careers as agriculture teachers. It is also a day to recognize and celebrate the contributions of current agricultural educators.

Here are some simple ways to share the opportunities within the agriculture education profession & celebrate the contributions agriculture teachers make to their students and communities.

For a description of these ideas and many more, visit www.naae.org/teachag/teachagday-ideas

Middle & Secondary Level

• Start an ag teacher of the month award for students in the program who display ag teachertish qualities.
• Host an open “teach” night at your school where students plan, prepare, and deliver lessons to an open forum audience.
• Coordinate an ag teacher swap with an ag teacher from a surrounding school.
• Play Think Like Your Ag Teacher in your ag classes.
• Invite undergraduate ag education majors to speak to your students.
• With help from your students develop a series of agriculture lessons and have the students teach the lessons to others in the school or community.
• Host an open house in the ag department for people to come and check out the program. Enlist your students to show off their work and demonstrate some of the skills they have learned in their agriculture classes.

Post-Secondary Level

• Host an Ag Department Open House showcasing student work and achievements.
• Make arrangements to speak to local leaders about the impact of agriculture and agricultural education on the community and economy.
• Write thank you letters to all agriculture teachers on campus.
• Host an informational booth in the student union about agriculture.
• Set up speaking/teaching engagements at area public schools to teach others about agriculture.

University Instructors

• Hold a statewide ag education essay contest
• Work with local news, print, and radio media to share the Teach Ag message.
• Host a statewide Teach Ag reception and recognize ag teachers across the state.
• Have students set up a meeting with various university faculty and staff about ag education.
• Put on a campus VIP day for potential ag education students.
• Coordinate an ag education booth for display in the student union or other high traffic area.
• Create an online portal where students may be nominated as good ag teacher prospects.

Farm Business Management

• Send a note to those enrolled in your program thanking them for allowing you to be an ag teacher.
• Write a letter to the editor about why you love being an ag teacher.
• Contact a local school district or ag program and ask to speak to the students about your career path.
• Invite the Dean of your college along on an on-site farm visit.

State Leadership

• Invite ag ed undergraduates to your summer ag teachers’ conference and offer workshops designed just for undergraduates and first year teachers.
• Recognize senior students who will be majoring in ag education on stage at the state FFA Convention.
• Implement a Teach Ag CDE at your state FFA convention.

Alumni

• Have a guess the ag teacher contest at state convention and include pictures and facts about ag teachers from across the state while students try to guess who the picture or fact is.
• Have students create mini commercials about their ag teacher and show the commercials at convention or at the summer ag teachers’ conference.
• Work with other leaders in your state and offer a Teach Ag workshop for students considering a career in ag education.

Ag Education Supporters

• Mentor and connect with new teachers in your state to encourage them to stay in the profession.
• Join the National Teach Ag campaign at http://www.naae.org/teachag.
• Send a letter of appreciation to the local ag teacher.
• Offer a special discount or honorary status to ag teachers at your business.
Teach Ag Day Grants

The Teach Ag Day grant award process allowed NAAE members to access funds to support Teach Ag Day events. Since Teach Ag Day is still a fairly new initiative it was important to provide financial resources to encourage programs to take part while not imposing costly burdens. Of the thirty Teach Ag Day grant applications that were submitted, the Teach Ag Campaign was able to fund twenty of them. The grants were awarded in the amount of $100, $150, and $200 respectively depending on the size and scope of the project. Following implementation of the grant project, awardees were required to submit a summary along with photos.

2011 Teach Ag Day Grant Award Listing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/University/Organization</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATA Chapter Penn State</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Statewide Teach Ag Teaching and Essay Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal Poly- San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Teach Ag Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County Vocational School</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>Teach Ag Day Kick-Off Event CASE Lesson, Proclamation,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Defiance School District</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>Teach Ag Countywide Teacher Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntingdon High School</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Teach Ag Week Scavenger Hunt, Brochures, Teach Ag Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana FFA</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>Social Media Campaign leading up to Teach Ag Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Applied Agriculture</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Teach Ag Day VIP Day on Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO FFA Association</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Teach Ag Workshop State FFA Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Assn Agricultural Educators</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Teach Ag Luncheon During State FFA Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico State University</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>Teach Ag Posters created for distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota State University</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>Live Radio Broadcast, Interviews, TQs, Posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pettis Co R-V School</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Ag Ed Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota State University</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>State Teach Ag Reception, Teacher Panel, VIP Campus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strom Thurmond Career Center</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Teach Ag Games with t-shirt prizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Assn Ag Teachers</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Teach Ag Rally, Booth, Internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Write Letters, Ag Ed Major Mentoring Program, Display Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois-Urbana</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Statewide Media campaign, Classrooms, TQs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin-RF</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Teach Ag Booth, Read to Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick Valley Central School District</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Teach Ag Elementary Get Tagged Event on TAg Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Perry High School</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Students Create and Teach Ag lessons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of creative ways Teach Ag Grant recipients worked to spread the Teach Ag message
National Teach Ag Day Activity Grant Application

Due by the end of the day Tuesday, March 1, 2011
Email to Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Coordinator ethompson.naae@uky.edu
Only emailed applications will be accepted
Applicant must be a current member of NAAE

The purpose of this grant is to help programs and associations offset costs associated with celebrating National Teach Ag Day. This grant and all Teach Ag Campaign activities have been made possible by sponsorships from Campbell Soup Company, the CHS Foundation and Landmark Nurseries, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Name of Group/Association or School:
Contact Person:
Contact Phone Number:
Contact Address:
Contact Email:
NAAE Region:

Please indicate the grant option for which you are applying:
  Statewide Teach Ag Day Event (up to $200)
  University Teach Ag Day Event (up to $100)
  Individual School District/Farm Business Management Program (up to $100)
  Other, Please Explain:

Please describe your Teach Ag Day Event (box will expand):

Anticipated Total Budget for the event:

Responsibilities of Stipend Recipients:
Upon receipt of your application you will be notified of approval. Stipend recipients are required to submit a final report of project activities to NAAE upon the project completion (no later than April 15th) to be shared with the grant program sponsor and to be featured in NAAE publications and other public sources. This report should consist of a short (few paragraphs) narrative of Teach Ag Day activities and digital photographs or other related media. Grant recipients are required also to cooperate with any public relations and media outlets as identified by NAAE and/or the grant program sponsor.

___________________________________________________________
Applicant Signature

_______________________________________________           ___________________________________________
Administrative Signature (NAAE)    Date Received

_____Approved  _______Amount  _____Denied  ____________Reason
New Mexico State University:

On behalf of the National Teach Ag Campaign congratulations on receiving a Teach Ag Day grant. The total grant applications exceeded expectations so please feel honored that your event was chosen. The Teach Ag Campaign will be awarding New Mexico State University $100 for implementation of your Teach Ag Day event. You will be receiving a check for 70% of the grant in the mail. The remaining 30% will be sent upon receipt of your grant summary. You must also submit a copy of the grant with your signature ASAP; electronically or mailed.

As per the grant agreement you will be required to submit to the NAAE Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator a brief summary wrap-up of the event including at least 5 photos. The deadline for the wrap-up summary and photos will be April 30th. However, the sooner you are able to send these items the better. Please email your materials to ethompson.naae@uky.edu. The wrap-up and photos will be used as promotion and publicity for the Teach Ag Campaign and may also be shared with our sponsors. Attached to this email you will find a photo release form for any underage students in the pictures.

National Teach Ag Day is a part of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The National Teach Ag Campaign is sponsored by Campbell Soup, Landmark Nurseries, and CHS Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. For more information on the Teach Ag Campaign along with Teach Ag related resources visit http://www.naae.org/teachag .

Thank you for your ingenuity and commitment to Tagging the Next Generation of Ag Teachers! Please feel free to direct any comments or questions regarding the Teach Ag Day grant to:

Ellen Thompson
National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator
Ethompson.naae@uky.edu
605.350.3842

Please take a moment to send a note to the Teach Ag Campaign sponsors thanking them for their contribution to the Teach Ag Campaign.

Landmark Nurseries
Jim Prewitt
jprewitt@landmarknurseries.com

CHS Foundation
5500 Cenex Drive
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest

The National Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest is an exciting way to include the college and university agriculture education clubs and organizations in the Teach Ag Day festivities. The Collegiate Contest is promoted starting in October at the National Alpha Tau Alpha conclave meeting during the National FFA Convention. There were eight outstanding entries this year. After completion of the Teach Ag Day events the organizations had to submit a summary with pictures explaining how their organization promoted the Teach Ag message. The winning organization, scored on a rubric scale, was awarded $250. All entries will be displayed and promoted throughout the remainder of the year through media publications, email list serves, and at the National FFA Convention and National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference. The President or Chancellor of each submitted college was sent a congratulatory letter as well highlighting the entry.

Collegiate Contest Entries

First Place

University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign

Students in the Agricultural Education Club at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign used every communications method at their disposal to spread the word about agricultural education. UIL students contacted media in the Urbana-Champaign area, resulting in a TV interview on WCIA’s “Ag Answers” morning news segment, as well as several mentions on other radio and television stations. Students also utilized social media by promoting National Teach Ag Day on their club’s Facebook page as well as on their personal pages. Club members wanted to recognize current agriculture teachers for their hard work and dedication, so they sent a handwritten note to every agriculture teacher in Illinois, 408 total. Several students submitted letters of appreciation to their local newspapers as a more public way to thank their agriculture teachers and draw attention to the profession of agricultural education.

Two of the many places UI students spread the Teach Ag Message for their Teach Ag celebration and awareness events

Outstanding TaGgers

South Dakota State University

The South Dakota State University Collegiate FFA/Ag Education Club held several Teach Ag events. The SDSU students hosted a statewide Teach Ag reception on campus where ag education teachers, stakeholders, ag education undergraduates, and faculty came together to celebrate the profession of ag education. An ag teacher Q&A panel was held in conjunction with the reception. The SDSU students organized a VIP day on campus for potential Ag Education majors and their parents. The students also sent letters of appreciation to their former ag teachers and administration and shared the impact that ag education had on their lives.
Penn State University
The Penn State University Alpha Tau Alpha Club hosted a statewide Teach Ag essay contest. Ag teachers from across the state were asked to identify a student who would make a great ag teacher. The student then worked with the ag teacher to prepare their own lesson and teach it. After completion of the lesson the student wrote a short essay reflection on the teaching experience and submitted the entry to the Penn State ATA club who scored the essays. There were 27 total entries from around the state. The winners will be recognized at the PA State FFA Convention in June.

Cal-Poly
The Cal Poly Agricultural Education and Communication Department held a Teach Ag workshop on campus inviting high school students and students from neighboring community colleges. Potential Ag Education students attended the event. Highlights of the event included remarks from the Ag Education Department staff, current student teachers, lunch, a campus tour and a keynote speaker. This workshop was held in conjunction with the Cooperating Teacher Orientation. Delaware Valley- The Delaware Valley College FFA Chapter held several on and off campus Teach Ag events. The students wrote thank you letters to current agriculture teachers expressing their appreciation. In addition the Del Val students prepared and delivered lessons on the importance of agriculture to over 100 local elementary school students. The Del Val students had the elementary students create tags to share what they learned and shared those tags with others.

Illinois State University
The ISU Sigma Alpha Sorority conducted an event on National Teach Ag Day to celebrate contributions of agriculture to society. The ISU students set-up an interactive Agriculture literacy booth on the campus of ISU and encouraged students to learn more about impact of agriculture in their lives.

North Dakota State University
The NDSU Ag Education Club/PAS Organization held numerous events on National Teach Ag Day to celebrate the profession of ag education and encourage students to consider a career as an ag teacher. The NDSU students conducted live on air interviews with the Red River Farm Radio Network, set-up a promotional display in the Student Union and delivered numerous presentations to ND high school classrooms.

University of Florida - Gainesville
The UFL Ag Education Club held several Teach Ag events. The UFL students worked with FL State Officers to clarify the ag education degree at UFL. Along with promoting the degree program UFL ag education students recognized ag education faculty and staff members. In addition a promotional booth was set-up in front of McCarty Hall. Furthermore the ag education program started a mentoring program for new students to help with the transition of starting college and majoring in ag education.

University of Minnesota - St. Paul
The UMN Ag Education Club participated in several on and off campus Teach Ag events. The UMN recognized current ag education teachers and UMN faculty members through thank you letters and letters to the editor around the state. Furthermore UMN students were in attendance at a statewide Capitol Rally in St. Paul along with utilizing numerous print and online media sources to promote ag education.
You know Teaching Agriculture is a great career - share that message with others! Celebrate National Teach Ag Day, spread the word about Ag Ed, and win big for your organization!

Who may participate?
Any postsecondary level agricultural education student organization who celebrates National Teach Ag Day. Examples may include but are not limited to Collegiate FFA, Ag Ed Society, Collegiate NAAE, and Alpha Tau Alpha.

How the contest will be judged?
NAAE will pick the winner based on the creativity, uniqueness, and effectiveness of your National Teach Ag Day Celebration. Areas that will be scored may include; Did you raise awareness of agricultural education? Did you encourage people to sign up for the National Teach Ag Day Campaign? Did you have fun and celebrate the great career of teaching agriculture? You can see a copy of the scoring rubric at www.naae.org/teachag/collegiatecontest

To Enter:
Mail the completed Teach Ag Collegiate contest entry form, along with digital photos, to:
National Association of Agricultural Educators
ATTN: 2011 Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest
300 Garrigus Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40546-0215
Entries and photos must be postmarked by April 15. Winners will be announced by May 15.

Questions?
Contact Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Day Coordinator at ethompson.naae@uky.edu

The Winning Organization will get:
* $250 cash
* A special display featuring the organization and the award-winning Teach Ag Day activity in the Teach Ag/ NAAE booth at the 2011 FFA Convention.
* Your organization and Teach Ag Day activity will be highlighted in a special announcement to all members of the National Teach Ag Campaign.

For more information on the National Teach Ag Campaign and Ideas for celebrating go to:
www.naae.org/teachag
National Teach Ag Day Collegiate Contest Entry Form

Name of Group/Organization and School:

Contact Person:

Contact Phone Number:

Contact Full Mailing Address:

Contact Email:

Please describe in detail your Teach Ag Day Event(s) minimum of 100 words (type on a separate page if necessary):

What made your activity particularly creative, unique and/or effective?

Total number of people who were impacted by the event, be specific:

___________________________________________________________
Contact Person Signature

___________________________________________________________
Administrative Signature (NAAE)

- ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15, 2011

Date Received
Statewide Teach Ag Day Contest

The statewide Teach Ag Day contest is designed to encourage states to work together to spread the Teach Ag Day message. This was the first year for this contest and the National Teach Ag Campaign received three outstanding entries, each with their own unique spin. The entries were awarded in three categories; “Most Unique and Creative”, “Greatest Student Impact”, and “Best Use of the Media”.

The three entries will be recognized at the NAAE Convention in St. Louis, showcased on Communities of Practice and highlighted in other online and print publications.

Best Use of the Media
Minnesota
The Minnesota entry submitted by Melissa Nasers, UMN Ag Education Recruitment Coordinator was awarded the winner in the “Best Use of the Media” category for the comprehensive Teach Ag coverage in newsprint and online promotions. In addition Minnesota held a statewide Capitol Rally, and distributed Thank you letters and notes to ag teachers across the state.

Most Unique and Creative
North Dakota
The North Dakota entry submitted by Todd Boehm of Richland 44 was awarded the winner in the “Most Unique and Creative” category for coordinating an ag teacher swap among two schools and the ag teachers at each school along with a student teacher. The two school districts were Kindred and Richland 44. During the swap the teachers discussed their path to ag education and talked about the rewards of being an ag teacher.

Greatest Student Impact
Pennsylvania
The Pennsylvania entry submitted by Krista Pontius was awarded as the winner in the “Greatest Student Impact” category for coordinating a Teach Ag workshop to over 900 students during an FFA conference. In addition the Penn State ATA Chapter conducted a statewide Teach Ag Day essay contest to encourage students to work with their ag teacher to plan, develop, and deliver an Agriculture lesson and then submit an essay about the experience.
Statewide 2011 National Teach Ag Day
Contest Details and Rules

What?
This is a contest for states to compete against each other by implementing Teach Ag Activities before, during, and after National Teach Ag Day March 24, 2011. The state that has the most impact will win. Entries will be judged in such a way that smaller states will have the same opportunity as larger states.

When?
Your Teach Ag Activities must take place sometime during the month of March 2011 and be completed by March 31st. All entries must be postmarked and mailed via traditional mail no later than April 15, 2011.

How?
This is the fun part. There are no limits on the ways you can celebrate or the number of different events you can have. You may do a statewide collaboration in which every program takes part or have individual programs/people implement their own activity and submit them all as one. Maybe you want to hold a rally at the capital, or have a teaching minutes challenge. Perhaps your state decides to participate in an ag teacher swap across the state. The sky is the limit. If you need ideas check out the Teach Ag website www.naae.org/teachag. Check out the scoring rubric at http://www.naae.org/teachag/statecontest.php for judging criteria.

Who?
A current NAAE member must submit the state entry; however participation is not limited to NAAE members. Enlist the help of your local advisory groups, alumni organizations and state staff. This may also be a good time to reach out to new audiences like extension and university faculty. The more the merrier.

Prize:
Glory, fame and of course bragging rights! Also $250 for your state association, onstage recognition at the 2011 NAAE convention in St. Louis, publicity in the News and Views, MMM, and at Teach Ag events.

Submission:
Mail your completed entry form (available at http://www.naae.org/teachag/statecontest.php) along with at least 5 digital photos on a CD Rom postmarked no later than April 15th to

NAAE
Attn: Statewide Teach Ag Day Contest Entry
300 Garrigus Building
Lexington, KY 40546-0215

*photos must be submitted as individual .jpg files. Do not submit collages or photos embedded in Word documents.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>IMPACT Ratio:</th>
<th>INVolVEMENT</th>
<th>CREATIVITY</th>
<th>MEETING REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>The profession of ag education in general was promoted extensively. Used the Teach Ag resources and Teach Ag Day logo/slogan.</td>
<td>Presented to a non-traditional ag audience. Held events in multiple locations or had one big event. Encouraged people to sign-up for the Teach Ag Campaign.</td>
<td>Worked with 3 (is this too high? I need an example) or more state ag education entities for inclusion of activities. (Maybe we should give points for working with other ag or educational entities? Partnered with the state Ag Educators Association. Publicized the event beyond the classroom walls.</td>
<td>The Teach Ag event was fun and uniquely designed. The event was catchy and attracted the target audience. Group went above and beyond to promote the profession.</td>
<td>Followed ALL the requirements of the Contest Rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Promoted the profession of ag education. Did not utilize Teach Ag resources or logo/slogan.</td>
<td>Had at least one major event or multiple locations. Reached mostly traditional ag audience, but some non-traditional. Awareness of Teach Ag Campaign Sign-Up.</td>
<td>Worked with one or two state ag education entities. Partnered with the state Ag Educators Association. Event was publicized beyond the classroom walls.</td>
<td>TaGd event was colorful and appealing to the audience but lacked a creative flair.</td>
<td>Majority of the requirements were followed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Promoted only the ag program. Did not include information on the Teach Ag campaign or Ag Ed profession.</td>
<td>Involved traditional ag audiences only. Event was on a small scale. No Teach Ag Campaign Sign-up.</td>
<td>Utilized one outside resource. Again, not sure what you mean here. Lacked partnership with the state Ag Educators Association. Event was only publicized within classroom</td>
<td>TaGd event was not catchy or attractive. Not directed at target audience.</td>
<td>More than half of the requirements were not followed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1/0</td>
<td>Did not promote the profession/major of ag education at all.</td>
<td>Event was within the classroom only. Other audiences were not reached.</td>
<td>Did not utilize outside resources or state ag education entities. Event was not publicized at all.</td>
<td>Strayed off the Teach Ag Day message.</td>
<td>Did not adhere to the contest requirements at all.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Comments:
Teach Ag Campaign Trade Shows & Events

The National Teach Ag Campaign was in attendance at five venues to reach a diverse audience of potential agricultural educators. The four events were the National FFA Convention, Post-Secondary Agriculture Students (PAS) National Conference, Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) National Conference, the National Ag Day Celebration, and the National Ag-Ed Summit.

2010 National FFA Convention Career Show Teach Ag Booth

October 20-22, Indianapolis, IN

The Teach Ag booth consisted of an interactive informational exhibit representing the three components of agricultural education. Students took the “Teach Ag Challenge by working their way through each of the three circles, answering questions about agricultural education (answers could be found within the exhibit), talking with current agricultural education majors, and completing hands-on tasks. At the end of the challenge, students sat at teacher’s desk and had their photo taken to help them “picture” themselves as agricultural educators.

The National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator facilitated two Teach Ag workshops during the convention. Over 300 students attended one of the two workshop offerings. In addition ten teachers from seven different states were on hand to assist with the workshop and serve on a teacher Q&A panel at the conclusion of the hour long workshop.

The National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator also addressed the ATA conclave meeting attendees, the National FFA Alumni group and held an interactive “Think Like An Ag Teacher” game in the Collegiate Area of the Career Show along with four ag teachers from four different states.

At the Teachers World Booth Ag Teachers from across the US participated in a Teach Ag poster build. In each of the weeks leading up to National Convention one part of the new Teach Ag poster was released via social media and email. Teachers were asked to slowly put together the poster in their classrooms and use it as a discussion starter for their students about the career of agricultural education. Any teacher who brought a hard copy or digital image of their Teach Ag poster hanging in their classroom was entered into a drawing for $350 in classroom supplies. The winner, Clyde Johnson from Laurens-Marathon High School in Laurens, IA, received the $350 grant.

114 teachers took part in the poster build contest.
1026 students signed up for Teach Ag Campaign at FFA Convention

Left - one of the posters created by students during a Teach Ag workshop, depicting an “ideal” ag teacher
Above - a bulletin board created by a teacher in the Teach Ag poster build contest, using the Teach Ag poster as the centerpiece
Postsecondary Agriculture Students National Conference
March 9-12, Springfield, IL
The PAS National Conference brings college students from across the United States who are majoring in an agriculture related field together to compete in career planning and development events. In addition students mingle with potential employers, attend workshops, and tour local agriculture entities.

The National Teach Ag Campaign was present at the PAS Conference in a couple of different ways. A Teach Ag booth was displayed and manned over the three-day conference where students could receive Teach Ag information. PAS Conference goers also had the opportunity to attend a one to two Teach Ag workshop presented by Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator. The workshop was engaging and fun for the students while exploring the wide world of opportunity in the agricultural education profession.

The conference draws over 600 students annually. 35 students attended the Teach Ag workshop 30 students signed up for the Teach Ag Campaign

National Ag Day Celebration
March 15, Washington D.C.
The National Ag Day celebration was held one week prior to National Teach Ag Day. The National Teach Ag Campaign and National Ag Day had partnered this year to spread the message on the importance of Agriculture and the need for Agricultural Education teachers. Ellen Thompson-National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator, Dr. Jay Jackman-NAAE Executive Director, and Jason Camp-2010 NAAE Advocacy Intern attended on behalf of the National Teach Ag Campaign. The day-long festivities included a coffee welcome in the morning at the USDA building that was facilitated by Orion Samuelson, a mix and mingle luncheon at the US Capitol with an evening program back at the USDA building where four outstanding young farmers were honored along with the winning Ag Day essay contest and Ag Day video winners. The National Teach Ag Campaign is looking forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

MANRRS National Conference
March 31-April 2, Kansas City, MO
The MANRRS National Conference is for minority students who attend a college or university majoring in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or other related sciences. The students who attend the conference vary in age, degree, gender, and ethnic background. While at the conference students attend workshops, business sessions, and a career fair.

During the MANRRS conference Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator was able to address the entire MANRRS student and adult body. This took place during the pinnacle event of the conference, the MANRRS Talent Show. The National Teach Ag Campaign had a Teach Ag booth on display during the Career Fair in addition to offering a Teach Ag workshop. There were forty students in attendance at the engaging workshop.

Over 700 students attend this conference
National Agricultural Education Summit
March 2-4, Orlando, FL
The National Ag Ed Summit is a conference for state Team Ag Ed leaders from across the United States. The Summit has time devoted to discussing and improving Ag Education throughout the country. The NAAE Executive Director Dr. Jay Jackman spoke to the Summit attendees on behalf of the National Teach Ag Campaign and also provided Teach Ag materials during breaks and sessions.
Please check a category that best describes your role in ag education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Ag Teacher</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 Ag Teacher</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Secondary Instructor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Instructor</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Student</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Staff</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Member</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

| Total Responses | 179 |
| Sum             | 588.0 |
| Average         | 7.0 |
| Max             | 7.0 |

Did you celebrate National Teach Ag Day on March 24th?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

| Total Responses | 179 |
Why not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I plan to celebrate a different day</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough time</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I forgot about National Teach Ag Day</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn't know it was National Teach Ag Day</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please comment</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

Total Responses 92

Have you used the NAAE Teach Ag Website?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>69.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Statistics

Total Responses 180

Lesson plans and activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Statistics

Total Responses 125
Sum 401.0
Average 4.1
StdDev 0.70
Teach Ag Video

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 413.0
- Average: 4.3
- StdDev: 0.82
- Max: 5.0

Teach Ag Day Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 294.0
- Average: 4.0
- StdDev: 1.20
- Max: 5.0
Press release template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 273.0
- Average: 3.6
- StdDev: 1.03
- Max: 5.0

New Teacher Newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 374.0
- Average: 4.2
- StdDev: 0.94
- Max: 5.0

A Day in the Life of an Ag Teacher Blog Series
### Teach Ag Workshop Resource Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics**
- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 389.0
- Average: 4.2
- StdDev: 0.78
- Max: 5.0

### Listing and contact information for Universities with Ag Ed programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics**
- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 395.0
- Average: 4.1
- StdDev: 1.01
- Max: 5.0
### Ag Ed Job Listings by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statistics
- Total Responses: 125
- Sum: 362.0
- Average: 4.0
- StdDev: 1.08
- Max: 5.0

---

### Do you read the monthly New Teacher News electronic newsletter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statistics
- Total Responses: 180

---

### Do you follow the "Day in the Life of an Ag Teacher" blog?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statistics
- Total Responses: 180
Do you think your state is experiencing a shortage of ag teachers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics
Total Responses: 180

Please rank in order of priority (1 being highest priority) The Teach Ag Campaign should be focusing on...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of the profession to high school students</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of the profession to college students</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of Teach Ag support materials</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention related programs/workshops</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representation at events (FFA Convention, PAS, School Administrators Conference, etc.)</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of the profession to administration</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Teach Ag resources</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Teach Ag Day</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of the profession to those who may enter via a non traditional route</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 180

1 Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.

Please drag and drop the Teach Ag Resources below to show us which ones we should focus on developing. Put your highest priority at the top.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Activities</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Lessons</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Merchandise</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 180

1 Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.

Please drag and drop the Teach Ag Day resources below to tell us which we should be focusing our time on. Put the most important one at the top.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Day Grants</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media coverage for Teach Ag Day</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Day Contests</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 180

1 Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.
Please drag and drop the Teach Ag support materials below to place them in order of priority for development by the campaign. Put the most important on top.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag workshops</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Video</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Education CDE</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Ag Train the Mentor program</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural education job openings listing</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 180

1 Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.
Teach Ag Campaign Media Coverage

3/31/11
Effingham Herald
ECHS FFA Marks National Teach Ag Day
http://www.effinghamherald.net/news/article/13747/
SPRINGFIELD – Students in the Basic Agriscience and Forestry classes at Effingham County High School celebrated National Teach Ag Day on March 24 by watching a video on why various agriculture teachers entered the field, discussing qualities held by agriculture teachers and playing “Think Like Your Ag Teacher” with Ms. CJ Satterfield. “Celebrating Teach Ag Day is important to me because it gives me a chance to give the students an inside look at what all is involved in my career and the dedication that all ag teachers put into their programs,” said Satterfield. The number one quality that the students named about the ag teachers from the video and from their experiences with the ECHS agriculture teachers was passion. Other qualities listed by students included leadership, patience, dedication, outgoing and energetic.
During “Think Like Your Ag Teacher”, students had to try to answer questions such as: What is my favorite Career Development Event? How many hours a week do I work on average? and What is my favorite thing about being a teacher? as closely to Ms. Satterfield’s answers as possible.
“I really enjoyed learning more about the agriculture education area. I didn’t realize how much more time ag teachers spend at school and with their students than academic teachers do. This is definitely an area I would enjoy going in to,” Andrea Freeman said.
Agriculture teachers prepare students for high-demand careers in cutting edge industries like biotechnology, renewable energies, engineering, food production and more. They also teach students how to be leaders and prepare them to take on the challenges of the next generation.
National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to celebrate agricultural education, and for teachers to share with their students the possibilities of a career in the profession. There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the United States, and National Teach Ag Day is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the career.
National Teach Ag Day is a part of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. For more information about teaching agriculture, visit www.naae.org/teachag. The National Teach Ag Campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.

3/23/11
Wisconsin FFA Officer blog
National Teach Ag Day
http://www.wisconsinffa.org/section_5.php

Where would we be without our ag teachers? Who would we be without them? Thursday, March 24th is national Teach Ag Day. It’s a day we get to look back on what our ag teachers have done for us and ask ourselves if we could have that same impact if we taught agriculture.

I can remember, it was when our state officer team got together for the first time at BLAST-Off Conference, and Mrs. Zimmerman said that it was amazing how much we are like our advisors. I thought she was crazy! I was nothing like my advisor! However, the more I go through this year, the more I see that I am more like Mr. Engelke, than I ever imaged! And I am proud of that.

There are so many times that our ag teachers have taken extra time to make things happen for us. Weather it is spending five days with a group of students at national convention, early morning activities during FFA week, or even a detour when someone forgets their car keys!

Our advisors are like best friends… they listen to our life problems and poke fun at us when they get the chance. They inspire us when we need to be uplifted, give us a reality check when our heads get to big and they teach us about life and instill the wisdom of the owl into us.
We should all give our ag teachers a hearty slap on the back and a great big thank you for all that they do! I have one more question. If you want to change the lives of others the way your advisor had changed yours. Have you considered Teaching Ag?

4/5/11

Executive Dean Goodman Speaks at National Teach Ag Day Celebration in New Jersey

Rutgers – New Jersey Ag Experiment Station News

On March 31, New Jersey celebrated National Teach Ag Day with an event at the Essex County Vocational Technical School in West Caldwell, NJ, that was designed to encourage students to consider careers in agricultural education. Rutgers Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources Robert M. Goodman joined New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher, Director of Career and Technical Education for the New Jersey Department of Education Marie Barry, as well as county, municipal, and school officials at the celebration.

Goodman highlighted the role of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences in preparing the next generation of leaders in the agricultural sciences and pledged Rutgers continuing efforts to educate teachers qualified to teach agricultural sciences in the state. The goal of Teach Ag Day is to celebrate school based agricultural education and draw attention to the dire need for agricultural educators in the United States.

Tiffany Morey, who earned a master’s degree in teaching from Rutgers in 2010, is a first-year West Caldwell Tech agriculture teacher. She is also certified as a Teacher of Agriculture through the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), an instructional system that provides intense teacher professional development and curriculum that is changing the culture of agriculture programs.

Morey conducted a hands-on CASE lesson during the celebration at the Essex County Vocational Technical School, which offers students Introduction to Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources, the first course in the CASE program. This summer, Morey is scheduled to take the training for the next CASE course, Principles of Agricultural Science – Plant, which will be offered at the school next year.

Also participating in the National Teach Ag Day celebration was Frank Yesalavich, Essex County representative on the Rutgers NJAES Board of Managers. Yesalavich is an agriculture teacher in New Jersey.

According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, approximately 75 students are taking the introductory course at the West Caldwell school. This year, seven other schools in New Jersey have also implemented the CASE program into their curriculum.

The National Association of Agricultural Educators reports there are not enough agricultural educators graduating from college each year to fill all the open positions across the country.

3/31/11

State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture

FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL OFFICIALS CELEBRATE NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY


(WEST CALDWELL) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher and Marie Barry, Director of Career and Technical Education for the New Jersey Department of Education today visited Essex County Vocational Technical School in West Caldwell to encourage students to consider careers in agricultural education.

“it is important to have well-trained teachers who will supply us with the personnel who are ready to take jobs in our state’s high-tech, fast-paced agriculture industry,” said Secretary Fisher. “There currently is a shortage of agriculture teachers so we want students getting ready to choose their career paths to know that agricultural education is not only a rewarding field to go into but one that is in need of motivated individuals.”

Fisher and Barry presented a proclamation from Governor Chris Christie proclaiming March 31 as Teach Ag Day in New Jersey. The goal of Teach Ag Day is to have every agricultural educator in America inform students of the teaching opportunities in agricultural education.

“Career and technical education is critical to our nation’s economic success,” said Marie Barry, Director. “CTE programs, such as those that deal with agriculture, prepare individuals for a wide range of careers to help meet the demands of a global economy.”

The National Association of Agricultural Educators reports there currently aren’t enough agricultural educators
graduating from college each year to fill all the open positions across the United States. Without qualified agricultural educators, agriculture programs may close, and students could lose the opportunity to receive the unique blend of academic and personal development offered by agricultural education.

Essex County Vocational Technical School offers students Introduction to Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources, the first course in the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), an instructional system that provides intense teacher professional development and curriculum that is changing the culture of agriculture programs. The CASE Program includes lessons that build on each previous lesson coupled with inquiry-based lesson delivery style, leading students to a higher understanding of big-picture science, technology, engineering and math concepts. About 75 students are taking the introductory course at the West Caldwell Center. Seven other schools also have implemented CASE in New Jersey this school year.

“Opportunities for a career in Agricultural Science will expand as more and more emphasis is placed on environmental preservation and sustainability,” said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. “Combining the traditional classroom setting with a ‘get your hands dirty’ approach in the greenhouse and garden provides our students with real-life experience and head start on a career. We are proud to have our Essex County Vocational Technical School District used as a model for Agricultural Sciences education.”

West Caldwell Tech Agriculture teacher Tiffany Morey, a first-year teacher with a Masters in Education from Rutgers University, demonstrated a hands-on CASE lesson during today’s program. Over the summer, Morey will take the training for the next CASE course, Principles of Agricultural Science – Plant, which will be offered at the school next year.

“Our mission is to provide students with a strong foundation for their career path and a well-rounded education that helps them succeed professionally and personally,” said Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael A. Pennella. “Our revamped curriculum takes our students beyond the basics and prepares them to a broad spectrum of careers in the agriculture science field. Today’s event is great to recognize our teachers in the agriculture science field and raise awareness for our students. It also allows us to highlight the technical assistance the State has provided us in implementing the new curriculum.”

3/28/22
Harvest Public Media.org
Ag teachers take to the field
http://www.harvestpublicmedia.org/article/499/ag-teachers-take-field/5
Danielle Reynolds, a junior at Tuscumbia High School in rural Miller County, Mo., digs into class work in the school’s greenhouse. Tuscumbia’s agricultural education program is equipped with this greenhouse, a metal working shop and a conventional classroom. (Photo by Jessica Naudziunas) Colleen Abbott is perhaps the only teacher in Tuscumbia, Mo., who incorporates raw chicken breasts into her lessons. But the lessons aren’t about cooking. Abbott’s focus is what’s happening long before mealtime. With a greenhouse and a large “instruction shop” at her disposal, Abbott — like other agricultural education teachers — takes hands-on instruction to a whole new level. “It’s a mini-farmer, a mini-cattle farmer, a mini-hog farmer, a mini-greenhouse operator ... a real jack-of-all-trades job,” Abbott said. “If you have a multi-teacher department, you can get specialized in one of those, but most agriculture programs are single teacher.” Abbott launched the one-person agricultural education program at Tuscumbia School in rural Miller County, Mo., in 2005. Today, she instructs multiple subjects year-round and is available outside the classroom to junior and senior high students.

By the numbers
The supply of secondary teachers of agricultural education nationwide has rebounded since 1992 but is well below the highs of the late 1970s. Researchers noted that in 2006 there were 78 more positions than there were teachers. Missouri stands out for its commitment to agricultural education. With 474 ag ed high school teachers in the 2006-07 school year, Missouri trailed only Texas and California. And Missouri schools filled 62 positions that year — 25 with newly qualified ag education degree holders. Nationwide, though, there is a shortage of ag educators, according to a recent report. Many school districts have...
trouble finding certified agriculture teachers to staff high school programs. Researchers also point to difficulties keeping people in the field.

"You’ve got to be made out of something to be an ag teacher. It’s not a lackadaisical kind of thing. You have to be passionate about it. If people leave, it’s just not what they signed up for," Abbott said.

The life of an ag teacher

Agricultural education teachers generally follow a three-part program:
- Teaching hands-on class work that may vary from fuel comparison labs to greenhouse maintenance.
- Mentoring students in the summer in an agricultural setting. An ag teacher may visit several students in a week to monitor their behavior and applied knowledge from previous semesters.
- Serving as the go-to adult for FFA, formerly Future Farmers of America. This may mean trips around the state for various organizational events, community agriculture presentations, fundraisers and in some FFA chapters, participation in FFA Church day.

"As you’re passing the school at 8 o’clock at night on your way home, you still may see the ag teacher’s vehicle sitting in the parking lot while they’re there working," said Adam Kantrovich, the current author of an ongoing National Study of the Supply and Demand for Teachers of Agricultural Education, sponsored by the American Association for Agricultural Education.

Since the late 1970s, the association has documented a “precipitous decline” in ag ed graduates who pursue a teaching career. Recently, only 70 percent of agriculture education majors have gone on to teach. Kantrovich’s study of the 2006-07 school year found 78 teachers were needed, but were unavailable, so 40 high school departments nationwide were unable to employ a full-time ag teacher.

Not so abstract

Abbott, the Tuscumia Schools teacher, said students need agricultural education.

“Agriculture education teaches real career skills today. They’ll be learning English, but then when they come to the ag room, we’re turning that into a newspaper article something that they did, you know, curing over the winter, and then showing them at the fair," she said. "And that’s something I even saw as a student. Physics was so abstract, I got an A in it, but did I really learn anything? Some of the things that are physics principles made so much more sense when they were applied to the agriculture context.”

Some rural schools have resorted to hiring professionals who don’t have years of agriculture education training. The teachers may have real world experience to share but don’t have the skills to manage a classroom and young minds. Some neighboring school districts also may share ag ed teaches. That’s how Abbott began at Tuscumia, until the school funded a full-time position.

University professors and education researchers said Missouri has overcome ag teacher shortages because public universities such as the University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri State University in Warrensburg, heavily recruit ag-minded high-schoolers.

Still, the state’s ag education majors don’t always continue in the education career. Graduates sometimes jump from the teacher track to working for seed companies or farm equipment re-sellers. These careers offer more pay, less overtime and expect less from one person.

To avoid losing valuable certified teachers, the state works to retain them once they’re in a classroom. And professional ag education organizations specifically focus on mentoring new teachers.

This creates a network of support that Abbott said helped give her more time to build a program that can make a difference.

“Two years ago, I had a student that, he’d actually moved here and they paid tuition for him to come to school here so he could be a part of the ag program," Abbott said. “Even looking at my own life, I don’t know where I would be without my ag teacher. Because you spend so much time with them, and you become very close to them. It’s like they’re your own kids a lot of times.”

3/24/11
Stories of a First Generation Farm Wife
 Teach Ag Day
http://sdfarmwife.blogspot.com/2011/03/teach-ag-day.html

As promised here is some additional information on Teach Ag Day.
Remember...Thank an Ag teacher today!
Thanks Mrs. Weiss!

WHAT IS NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

National Teach Ag Day is a campaign to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education and encourage them to consider careers as agricultural educators. It is also a day to recognize the contributions of current ...agricultural educators.

WHO IS IT FOR?

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to share the story of agricultural education and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators. We anticipate that the bulk of our participants will be secondary-level agricultural educators. However, National Teach Ag Day will include agricultural education at every level, from elementary classes to postsecondary agriculture programs.

WHAT HAPPENS ON NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

Agricultural educators and agricultural education advocates will engage in a variety of activities to promote the career of agricultural education. These activities may include capitol rallies, special lessons, community activities, and more. The Teach Ag website is a clearinghouse of resources to help teachers teachers and advocates introduce the topic on that day, including a video, suggested teaching activities, games, and giveaway items.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

* Write the Teach Ag Day date (March 24, 2011) on your calendar and plan to include a lesson about the opportunities in agricultural education. Click here for lesson plans and activity ideas specifically for Teach Ag Day.
* Tell everyone you know about National Teach Ag Day.
* Vist the National Teach Ag Campaign community on NAAE’s Community’s of Practice to get involved in the discussion and share your ideas.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACH AG DAY?

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). It is sponsored by Campbell Soup Company and Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

3/24/11
The Wise Owls – Tales from an Ag Ed Classroom
Do What you Love, Love What You Do
“The mediocre teacher tells. The teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”
- William Arthur Ward
First off, HAPPY TEACH AG DAY!!!! If you didn’t know, today was National Teach Ag Day. I must admit I was quite pumped all day to share my passion for teaching with my students. As I tell my students, there is nothing else I would rather be doing than to be a teacher of agriculture.

I was set becoming an Ag Education teacher even before I was in high school. My family has had a little history in the field of agricultural education with my father who taught Vo-Ag for 15 years and my great-uncle who finished his career by serving as Department Chair for the Agricultural Education Dept. at The Ohio State University. So, I was quite aware of how the life of an Ag Education teacher was early on.

When I was in high school, I had one of the best teachers in the nation as my Ag teacher. She possessed all of the great qualities you would expect an Agricultural Education teacher should have. I have thanked her many times for always pushing me to strive to do my best and for all the hard work she did to help our FFA Chapter reach #1 in the state.
It is because of my father and my Ag Ed teacher I am the teacher I am today. I set the standards high for my students. My classmates and I were held to high standards when we were in class and it paid off greatly. I know my students can achieve success too. I will bend over backwards and do everything I can do to help my students succeed. I know that even though I spend endless hours at school for FFA activities, competition practices or just planning lessons for the next day, that it is all worth it. I really enjoy seeing my students succeed and having those “ohhh now I get it” moments.

I have been fortunate to see a big change in my students over the past two years from when I walked in Day 1 to now. It is amazing to see them from being shy freshman or stubborn sophomores to leading others by becoming an officer and by participating in Career Development Events and encouraging others to join them.

I can’t wait to see what the next few years will bring for me and my students. It hard to imagine that I am training them for jobs that have not been created and for skills that have not yet been needed. All I can do is help them find their passion and guide them to the tools that will help them succeed.

Here are some interesting statistics about Agricultural Education via National FFA

- There are about 8,200 Agricultural Education programs across the U.S. and Puerto Rico
- Within those programs there are around 12,000 educators employed
- 23% of teachers have five or fewer years of teaching experience
- Of all the programs - 92% offer Agriscience; 71% offer advanced agriscience and biotechnology; 59% offer agricultural mechanics, 49% offer horticulture; 43% offer animal science; and 24% offer environmental science.

How has a teacher that you’ve had inspired or has had an impact on who you are today?? Leave a comment and share.

3/24/11
Agriculture's Promise blog
Happy National Teach Ag Day!
http://agriculturespromise.wordpress.com/2011/03/24/happy-national-teach-ag-day/
It's National Teach Ag Day. What is it you might ask?

National Teach Ag Day is a day to celebrate school-based agricultural education and to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education.

WHO IS IT FOR?
National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education’s importance and effectiveness in the United States, and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators. Anyone who wants to participate can find a variety of resources to help them talk about agricultural education at www.naae.org/teachag.

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative to bring attention to the career of agricultural education, get students thinking about a possible career in agricultural education, and to support current agricultural educators in their careers.

The Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). It is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.

You can find the A Day In The Life Of An Ag Teacher Blog here.

2/11/11
Ag Day.org
Ag Day & The Teach Ag Campaign Team Up to Bring Awareness to National Shortage of Agricultural Educators
http://agdayblog.blogspot.com/2011/02/ag-day-teach-ag-campaign-team-up-to.html
Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign announced today that they are combining forces to celebrate two very important things - American agriculture and the need for more agricultural educators.

National Ag Day on March 15th is about recognizing and celebrating the abundance provided by agriculture in the United States. One key to that abundance has been a steady supply of people choosing careers in the agriculture industry. Many people learned about those career opportunities in an agriculture program, whether at the high school level or beyond.

Agricultural educators not only expose students to opportunities in agriculture, they give those students the practical and academic skills they need to be successful – whether they’re going into the production, technology or science areas of ag.

However, agriculture programs are struggling to find qualified educators to fill open positions. National Teach Ag Day was started as a way for agricultural educators and advocates to celebrate the career of agricultural education and encourage students to consider a career in the field. This year, National Teach Ag day will fall on March 24th, the week after Ag Day.

“We are excited about our alliance with Ag Day,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign coordinator. “It’s a natural fit. Agricultural educators are in the classroom every day teaching students about the amazing industry that is agriculture. Teach Ag Day is about promoting our own amazing career and helping more students choose to become agricultural educators.”

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative to bring attention to the need for more agricultural educators in the United States. It provides resources for those who wish to help promote the profession of agricultural education as well as for those who are interested in learning more about a career in agricultural education. It is led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries and the CHS Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, and also by Delmar Cengage Learning.

To learn more about the career of agricultural education, visit www.naae.org/teachag.

3/2/11
Wisconsin Agriculturalist
Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign Team Up
http://wisconsinagriculturist.com/story.aspx/ag/day/and/the/teach/ag/campaign/team/up/9/46954
Focus is on bringing awareness to shortage of ag educators.

Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign announced that they are combining forces to celebrate two very important things - American agriculture and the need for more agricultural educators.

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To learn more about the career of agricultural education, visit www.naae.org/teachag.
AgriView newspaper

Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign Team up to Bring Awareness to National Shortage of Ag Educators

Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign announced today that they are combining forces to celebrate two very important things - American agriculture and the need for more agricultural educators.

National Ag Day on March 15 is about recognizing and celebrating the abundance provided by agriculture in the United States. One key to that abundance has been a steady supply of people choosing careers in the agriculture industry. Many people learned about those career opportunities in an agriculture program, whether at the high school level or beyond.

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AgriNews online

National Teach Ag Day will be observed March 24
http://m.agrinews-pubs.com/mobile/articles/default.aspx?title=National+Teach+Ag+Day+will+be+observed+March+24&id=3613&sid=50

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Agriculture’s impact on the economy is far-reaching, and its future success hinges on developing new leaders in the classroom.

In celebration of those who provide the tools for future leaders to hone their craft, the second annual National Teach Ag Day will be observed on March 24.

National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to celebrate agricultural education and for teachers to share with their students the possibilities of a career in the profession.

There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the U.S., and National Teach Ag Day is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the career.

The special day is a part of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural
Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education’s importance and effectiveness in the U.S. and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators.

Agricultural education teaches students about agriculture, food and natural resources. Through these subjects, agricultural educators teach students a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

Agricultural education uses a three-circle model of instruction. These are classroom and laboratory instruction, leadership development and experiential learning.

The successful integration of each of these three components results in a strong program that produces well-rounded individuals who are prepared to be leaders in agriculture, business and industry.

Universities and community colleges offer opportunities for students to pursue a career as an agricultural educator. The University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University are among those that offer degrees in agricultural education.

There currently are 49 undergraduate and graduate students studying agricultural education at the U of I.

“Undergraduate students can choose from two concentrations, ag sciences education-teacher certification and ag leadership,” said Sarah Carson, vice president U of I Ag Ed Club. “With these options, students can have many different careers in agriculture including but not limited to teaching agriculture.

“Agriculture education gives students the opportunity to be involved in agriculture and the flexibility to focus on the aspects of ag that they enjoy most.”

There are about 30 students currently enrolled in the agricultural education program at SIU at Carbondale.

“Some of the students choose to combine ag ed with a minor in something specific, such as ag communications or agronomy or animal science, for example,” said Michelle Sullivan, SIU College of Agricultural Sciences coordinator of recruitment, retention and placement. “Many of our ag ed students are also very active in Collegiate FFA, which allows them to network with the high schools throughout the year.

“We also have a resource room with approximately $20,000 worth of materials for the current students, student teachers and alumnae in ag ed. It has kits, textbooks, curriculum guides and hands-on activities that you could incorporate into a classroom.”

Twenty-eight students are enrolled in ISU’s agricultural education program.

“Successful completion of this sequence prepares students to become certified teachers,” said Rob Rhykerd, ISU’s ag department chair and professor. “Students are encouraged to consider a second certification in an academic area such as biological sciences, chemistry or mathematics.

“Students are also encouraged to participate in Collegiate FFA and/or postsecondary agriculture student organization, which enhance the collegiate experience through service and engagement to create premier leaders, enable individual growth and ensure career success.

“Agricultural education is housed in the Department of Agriculture which emphasizes the relationship between theory
and practice and focuses on problem solving, skill development and the use of the latest technology.”

Twenty students have declared agricultural education as their major at WIU.

“Roughly 60 percent of the students are transfer students coming from a variety of institutions across the country. These students will graduate with a bachelor of science in agriculture within the agricultural education degree option,” said Andy Baker, WIU agriculture professor. “They will be certified to teach grades 7-12 in the agriculture content.

“Students have the option to secure the science endorsement while here at WIU, if that is their wish. Most do not receive this endorsement, because it will delay their graduation date.

“However, the program has established an 80 percent placement rate among the graduates and 73 percent retention rate for the graduates who decide to pursue the teaching field. The students who graduate from the program and do not teach generally are employed within industry.”

3/25/11
Minnesota Ag Connection
Minnesota Celebrates National Teach Ag Day

There are 216 agricultural educators and 188 agricultural programs in high schools across the state of Minnesota. While some may have the impression that agricultural programs are dying and are a thing of the past, that could not be farther from the truth. The truth is that our agricultural programs are growing and evolving. Enrollment numbers in high school agricultural programs saw a 26 percent increase in 2009-2010 with 31,247 students enrolled in high school food, agricultural, and natural resource education courses in Minnesota.

The agricultural courses are evolving to include not only the traditional production agriculture courses like animal science and soil science, but also courses in companion animals, fisheries and wildlife, landscape management, leadership, and business. Our agriculture teachers are training the next generation for careers in agriculture that include biotechnology, veterinary medicine, engineering, and agribusiness. A study from the USDA shows that careers in the agricultural, food, and renewable natural resource sectors of the U.S. economy will generate an estimated 54,400 annual openings for individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees in the areas of food, renewable energy, and environmental specialties between 2010 and 2015.

National Teach Ag Day was started by the National Association of Agricultural Educators to draw attention to the hard work and dedication of our agricultural educators and show that there is a demand for future agricultural educators. On National Teach Ag Day, teachers across Minnesota and the country are working with their students to show them the career opportunities available in agricultural education. In recognition of National Teach Ag Day, we encourage you thank those agricultural educators that made an impact on you and encourage youth passionate about agriculture to consider a career in agricultural education.

3/15/11
Illinois Corn.org
Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign Team Up to Bring Awareness to National Shortage of Agricultural Educators

More than 100 FFA, 4H members and corn farmers attended the National Ag Day events in Washington, DC, today. Bart Schott, National Corn Growers Association President; Martin Barbre, NCGA Corn Board and farmer from Carmi, IL; and Aron Carlson, Illinois Corn Growers Association District 2 Director from Winnebago, IL, listened to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan on the patio in the USDA Building.
The following is a press release by Agday.org:
Ag Day and the Teach Ag Campaign announced today that they are combining forces to celebrate two very important things - American agriculture and the need for more agricultural educators.
National Ag Day on March 15th is about recognizing and celebrating the abundance provided by agriculture in the United States. One key to that abundance has been a steady supply of people choosing careers in the agriculture industry. Many people learned about those career opportunities in an agriculture program, whether at the high school level or beyond.

Agricultural educators not only expose students to opportunities in agriculture, they give those students the practical and academic skills they need to be successful - whether they’re going into the production, technology or science areas of ag.

However, agriculture programs are struggling to find qualified educators to fill open positions. National Teach Ag Day was started as a way for agricultural educators and advocates to celebrate the career of agricultural education and encourage students to consider a career in the field. This year, National Teach Ag day will fall on March 24th, the week after Ag Day.

“We are excited about our alliance with Ag Day,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign coordinator. “It’s a natural fit. Agricultural educators are in the classroom every day teaching students about the amazing industry that is agriculture. Teach Ag Day is about promoting our own amazing career and helping more students choose to become agricultural educators.”

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative to bring attention to the need for more agricultural educators in the United States. It provides resources for those who wish to help promote the profession of agricultural education as well as for those who are interested in learning more about a career in agricultural education. It is led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries and the CHS Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, and also by Delmar Cengage Learning.

3/24/22
Indiana FFA
In Celebration of National Teach Ag. Day!

National Teach Ag Day is a day to celebrate school-based agricultural education and to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education. Agricultural education teaches students about agriculture, food and natural resources. Through these subjects, agricultural educators teach students a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

I had the opportunity to sit down and talk to a couple Ag teachers about their careers:

Mr. Ben Leu
Prairie Heights FFA Chapter Advisor

How many years have you been teaching Ag?
“I am in my 4th year of teaching.”

Why did you want to become an Ag teacher?
“Family tradition – my grandfather was an Ag teacher for over 35 years at Prairie Heights even through serving in the Army. Being an Ag teacher that long and creating so many relationships and impacting so many students like he did made it seem like a logical decision especially after all my time in FFA. So with that being said, a lot of it was my family and understanding the opportunities that come with receiving a degree of Ag Education. I saw that there are countless benefits of becoming an Ag Teacher.”

What do you enjoy most about teaching Ag?
“The competitive nature of being an Ag Teacher and an FFA advisor is very enjoyable for me. Just a few weeks ago we won Top Chapter in our district. The other thing is working with students that you know probably wouldn’t succeed in other areas and finding a niche for them to fit into, and grow, and set them up for career success.”

What is your favorite CDE in FFA to have students compete in?
“My favorite CDEs would have to be the speeches and demonstrations. I love to see a student who isn’t a great public speaker take a topic that they enjoy and put a demonstration together then present it well. We push students to do just that a lot. It’s amazing how many contests we can do in one year. I’ve been impressed with our novice Chapter Meeting team that consists of 7th and 8th graders and Freshmen. This year we were able to win district. Competitions like that allow teachers to be able to see students of all ages shine.”

Do you have any success stories of any members you’ve taught over the years?
“The biggest success story in four years is tough to draw from all the students I’ve seen in four years now. There is one student in particular that I’ve had in various Ag classes in the past four years. He lives in what is probably not the nicest house you could imagine can comes from a tough home life. He loves to fish, and before he came to us he had never been around Ag at all. When he got into middle school we got him into fundamentals and now he stays every day after school helping around our Ag building and he takes care of our fish in our aquatic science tanks and has really found a niche to grow and develop in as he becomes more and more involved with us. Watching him grow and watching him make positive life decisions because of his involvement with Ag is a perfect example of why Ag Education and FFA can have such a positive effect on students lives.”

Mrs. Diana Arellano
Knightstown FFA Chapter Advisor

How many years have you been teaching Ag?
“I’ve been teaching Ag for 4 years.”

Why did you want to become an Ag teacher?
“Becoming an Ag teacher was something that came to me very unexpectedly. I fell into it. Looking back on it, it was a “by the grace of God” type event in my life and now looking back I wonder why I haven’t taught Ag for the last 20 years in my life instead of the past 4! I love it and I’m having a great time doing it.”

What do you enjoy most about teaching Ag?
“I enjoy working with the students. I enjoy the fast paced nature of it. There is always something that changes. Until you’re exposed to that educational environment, I feel that as you grow older you maybe stop learning information. There is simply so much to learn out there in our Agriculture Industry and I enjoy learning about all I’ve been exposed to through Ag Education.”

Before teaching Ag, did you have an Ag background?
“I have an extensive background in agriculture. I was raised on a purebred cattle operation. I was involved in 4-H and FFA during my high school career. I went on to Purdue University where I received an Animal Science Degree. I spent some years working for some beef breed registries including the American Shorthorn Association in Omaha, Nebraska, as well as the American Gelbvieh Association in Denver Colorado. And now, here I am employed as an Ag Teacher!”

What is your favorite CDE in FFA to have students compete in?
“My favorite CDE is Livestock Evaluation. Simply because that’s where my background is, that’s where my passion is, and that’s where my interest is. It’s my favorite to coach and recruit new people into. I do love, in my new experience in teaching and FFA, seeing students compete in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. I’ve learned a lot about the CDE and I love seeing students step up to their leadership potential in that area.”

The state of Indiana was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the NAAE to assist our IAAE foundation. Indiana is very lucky this year in being able to claim this year’s NAAE President, Greg Curlin of the Switzerland County FFA Chapter.
Visit these links to help in promoting National Teach Ag Day!

2/16/11
Indiana Prairie Farmer
National Teach Ag Day Coming Up
http://indianaprairiefarmer.com/story.aspx/national/teach/ag/day/coming/up/8/46633
Ag instructors will tell their story to encourage youth to pursue ag education career.

Compiled by staff

Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with not enough agricultural education graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. To help close that gap, agriculture teachers across the nation will be telling their own stories to their students on Thursday, Feb. 24 in observance of National Teach Ag Day.

Agriculture programs teach the science and production of food, feed, and fiber, as well as subjects like natural resources and veterinary science. Lessons are delivered in a hands-on way that helps students more fully understand concepts, retain learned information, and apply material to real world situations. Agricultural education also includes a strong leadership component that helps develop students’ sense of responsibility and civic service.

Jay Jackman, Executive Director of the National Association of Agricultural Educators, points out that a lack of agricultural educators means we’re cutting off the supply of employees to the agriculture industry at the wellhead. Agricultural education is one of the best-kept secrets in education right now. If there’s no one there to prepare students for these careers, then one of the industries that has been a corner post of American success will begin to weaken.

2/16/11
Michigan Farmer
National Teach Ag Day Coming Up
http://www.michiganfarmer.com/story.aspx/national/teach/ag/day/coming/up/8/46633

Ag instructors will tell their story to encourage youth to pursue ag education career.

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2/16/11
MidSouth Farmer
National Teach Ag Day Coming Up

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2/26/10
BEEF magazine
Alltech celebrates National Teach Ag Day
http://blog.beefmagazine.com/briefingroom/2010/02/26/alltech-celebrates-national-teach-ag-day/

[Lexington, KENTUCKY]- Alltech, a global animal health company, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, with more than 2,300 employees in 120 countries, is proud to support National Teach Ag Day on February 25, 2010. Not only does this day celebrate agriculture as a whole, but it emphasises the importance of education within the agriculture industry. Education represents the cornerstone of Alltech’s endeavour to create and innovate. Alltech’s educational focus is embodied through two education initiatives, Alltech’s Young Scientist Program and Kidzone. The president and founder of Alltech, Dr. Pearse Lyons states the importance of this day, “The future of agriculture is in education. As leaders within the agricultural industry, it is our job to engage and educate the next generation on the important role of agriculture in our lives and to nurture a passion for our industry. Alltech is doing its part by providing global programs such as the Young Scientist Program and Kidzone.”

The Young Scientist Program was created by Alltech to continue the company’s commitment to furthering education in science. Alltech created this global competition to promote research and talent. The Alltech Young Scientist Award brings together the world’s brightest scientific thinkers from colleges and universities across the globe. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to register and submit a scientific paper on a topic involving animal feed technologies, agricultural developments or agriculture management. Since the inception of this program in 2005, the program has grown from 86 applicants in its first year to nearly 4,000 for the 2010’s competition.

Alltech Kidzone, has been developed in conjunction with Agri Aware, the Irish Agri food educational body. Kidzone is an online resource which is designed to engage, educate, and inspire children and to nurture a passion for agriculture and the agri-food industry. Presented in an entertaining and fun manner, the interactive website features a full range of curriculum-linked educational material for teachers and students all over the world. The program offers factual information on farming, food and the environment to children of all ages so that they can learn the important role that agriculture plays in their lives and how much choice and opportunity the industry has to offer. Ten years after the implementation of Agri Aware’s ongoing program in Ireland the number of students interested in entering the agriculture industry rose from 30 to 70 percent in 2009.

The primary purpose of National Teach Ag Day is to open the minds of young people to consider a career in teaching agriculture science. In acknowledgement of the day’s importance, National Teach Ag Day has been sponsored by Rep. Travis Childers, (D-MS) and endorsed by the House of Representatives.

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). The day is sponsored by Campbell Soup Company and Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Alltech is a global leader in natural animal nutrition, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. With more than 2300 employees in 120 countries, the company has developed a strong regional presence in Europe, North America, Latin America, the Middle-East, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

2/14/11
Oklahoma Farm Report
National Teach Ag Day Coming Up

Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with not enough agricultural
education graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. To help close that gap, agriculture teachers across the nation will be telling their own stories to their students on Thursday, February 24th in observance of National Teach Ag Day.

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3/19/11
Feedstuffs Foodlink
Teach Ag Day Celebrates, Promotes
http://www.feedstuffsfoodlink.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=124ECF05FDF84451B3E79A337664CA3C&nm=Blog&type=Blog&mod=View+Topic&mid=67D6564029914AD3B204AD35D8F5F780&tier=7&id=C13381ADABA246A0B6FC63CD9A9B3F7C
By Mark Klaus

March 24 is National Teach Agriculture Day -- a day to celebrate and promote those agricultural educators within our school systems.
For many of us, it may be a day to remember an instructor who shaped our lives during those “early years” and gave us the passion for agriculture that has stayed with us for a lifetime.
For others, it will be a day to reflect upon all the friends we made during our agricultural instruction, whether they were from across the section, across the state or somewhere farther down the road.
However, it may be a day in which we stop for a moment to realize how vital agricultural education is within the entire realm of agriculture.
Many are concerned about educational budget cuts, yet it may be even more alarming to note that there is a growing shortage of people who pursue careers in agricultural education. Most students starting out at an agricultural college are instead choosing a more “glamorous” career in agriculture.
I wonder, though, if there could possibly be anything more glamorous then sharing one's passion for agriculture -- as well as developing that passion -- with young people?
As I wrote in a previous column, many anti-agriculture groups are presenting young minds with their own messages. They do this by targeting a specific age group with each particular monthly propaganda magazine that gets delivered right to the doors of the schools.
I have heard from countless parents who are concerned when their child comes home with tales of “agriculture destroying the planet” that they learned from perhaps an overzealous science instructor at their public school.
Maybe having an agricultural educator within the school could help agriculture's cause the most by first educating the educators, who may have gotten their own “knowledge” of agriculture from a biased professor’s book or a documentary film.
In the future, agriculture, in its broad definition, simply will not need many more producers beyond those who currently are in that career. The “support” industries and sciences will continue to need bright new talent, and an interest in those careers develops from a young age.
For this reason, it is vitally important that we also maintain and develop agricultural instruction in urban areas. Urban schools, which are so good at recognizing students who are gifted in science and math, could benefit from having an agricultural instructor because students may not be fully aware of all of the opportunities available to them within agriculture.
As I mentioned, there simply will not be enough gifted students coming from a background in production agriculture to satisfy all of the needs for other agricultural careers.
For those students who come from production agriculture backgrounds, agricultural education in high school or even earlier may be the only exposure they have to the other sectors of agriculture in which their families may not be
Having that broad knowledge base is vitally important as I feel that it will continue to be a necessity for everyone involved to help spread agriculture's positive message -- even if it means going beyond one's comfort zone or area of expertise.

The discussion in most agricultural circles is how to reach consumers or how to “bridge the gap” of disconnect. I suggest that we start young, with the “pre-consumers,” and there are no better people to handle that task than those with careers in agricultural education.

Those of us involved in agriculture often wish we could have an audience of open-minded individuals to whom we can teach the facts of agriculture. Instructors have this on a daily basis, but the fact remains that there are far too few of them.

For this National Teach Agriculture Day, take a moment to thank those who may have played a large role in shaping your life and your current career. Thank them for developing within you that passion for agriculture that you still have today.

Better yet, approach a bright, young mind who may show an interest in an agricultural career, and give him or her that gentle nudge toward becoming an agricultural educator.

*Mark Klaus of Chancellor, S.D., has a bachelor’s degree in animal science from South Dakota State University. He was raised on a small crop and livestock farm near Estherville, Iowa, that was home to a Holstein herd, beef cattle, some 200 sows and a flock of 500-1,000 broilers. In the late 1980s, Klaus took over the livestock facilities, finishing 200-500 feeder pigs annually and also buying light calves in the spring, putting them out on grass and selling them as yearlings in the fall. Klaus can be contacted at mklaus2010@hotmail.com

3/24/11
My life, as shaped by agricultural education
In honor of National Teach Ag Day, I wanted to share my vision of the power of agricultural educators. As the daughter of an ag teacher, I was practically born in a blue, corduroy FFA jacket and had Ag Sales CDE practicums memorized better than the high school kids when I was 10. To this day, it catches me off guard when someone has never heard of high school agricultural education, since I was raised with it from day 1 – my dad’s first year teaching was the year I was born.

Growing up in the classroom, it was really easy to see the impact a single teacher can make on so many students. When I was 5, I was at the meeting where my dad announced to his chapter officers that he would be leaving the school to take a new position. There were lots of tears and sadness — he had made such a difference in a few short years that these students obviously had formed a connection and did not want him to leave. In the years after we moved, I got to watch as he mentored students who went on to become USDA meat inspectors, agronomy researchers, 4-H leaders, and – like him – ag teachers. I also got to see his former students go on to become more important things, like husbands and wives, moms and dads, and friends. I like to think that, even though not solely responsible, ag teachers do play a role in developing youth so they can be the most successful in the latter roles.

I’m now a senior at Michigan State University and, like my dad, I am majoring in Agriscience Education. Next year, I will student teach with another great ag teacher and work to learn as much as I can about youth, education and agriculture. I’ll admit, I have my moments when I don’t know if being an agriculture teacher is the right career choice for me. Who knows, life may throw a curve ball my way and take me down another path. For the meantime, however, whenever I have one those ‘moments’ I think about my life with agricultural education and the difference ag teachers – including my dad – have made for me. It would be my greatest hope to make that difference for others.

3/24/11
Celeste Laurent – A Farm Girl’s Perspective

National Teach Ag Day: A Tribute to My Ag Teacher
http://celestelaurent.com/?p=3054
Without FFA, my life would be completely different.
It was through FFA that I learned how to be a part of something bigger than myself, to stick up for agriculture and make life long friendships.
I even met my fiance through FFA!
Mr. York, my state officer teammate, Tyler, and I in 2008.

I’ve written several posts about my fond FFA memories and my experience as an active FFA alumni member. I’ve never written about the fact that I almost didn’t join FFA. As an eighth grader, my older friends had told me stories about the freshman ag teacher, Mr. Wes York. They said he picked on students and when it came time for tests he didn’t cut anyone any slack. They said that he expected his FFA members to take their contests seriously and practice constantly. To further confuse my 14 year-old self, Mr. York was the teacher version of Larry the Cable Guy. His office was decorated with Nascar and hunting decor. He wore camouflage button-up shirts with a hunter orange ties.

I admit it, I was intimidated.

Luckily, my mom was a former FFA member and made me take the freshman agriculture class. She insisted that I give FFA and Mr. York a chance and if I hated it I was welcome to quit. On the first day of school, I nervously entered the classroom. Mr. York came inside, handed us a syllabus and said to get out a blank piece of paper and write out every word to our favorite song.

Everyone looked around, confused but too scared to question the assignment. When we had all finished, Mr. York took our stack of song lyrics to the front of them room. In his right hand, he held up someone’s assignment. In his left hand, he held up the FFA manual, opened to the page that shows the FFA Creed. “If you can memorize these lyrics, you can memorize the FFA Creed,” he said. “Don’t tell me you can’t because you’ve just proven you can. And trust me…you will.”

This unorthodox teaching style was unlike anything I had ever experienced before but it worked. We all said the FFA Creed. For the rest of the semester, we knew that this was one class where we couldn’t make excuses and we actually had to give it our all.

Mr. York with students at the 2009 National FFA Convention

The assignments were designed to actually make us learn and think critically instead of repeat facts like my other classes. He made cheerleaders learn to weld and the most redneck boys give speeches. Every class assignment made us step out of our comfort zone and grow not only as a student but as a person.

That intimidating ag teacher did pick on his students but not because he was a bully. Mr. York knew that as high school kids we would work harder if we knew that a half-finished assignment would make us the subject of his jokes for the rest of the day. And it worked!

He was a stickler for punctuality and professionalism among FFA members.

He constantly reminded us that when we wore our FFA jacket we were not just representing ourselves but our FFA chapter and the entire agriculture industry.

Right before I retired from state office, my team had an “Adviser Thank You” banquet. We honored our ag teachers, shared stories from our chapters and thanked them for supporting us throughout our FFA career.

As the years have gone by, however, I’ve realized that I now appreciate everything Mr. York did so much more. Ag teachers make an impact every day in the classroom. What makes them even more special is that they continue to make an impact long after their students have graduated.

This National Teach Ag Day, I’m so thankful that Mr. York embraced the challenges of being an ag teacher. Even after three years hanging up my blue jacket, I still look to my ag teacher as a friend and a mentor.

3/21/11

Minnesota Ag Connection
Thank Your Ag Teacher: Celebrate National Teach Ag Day

With a shortage of agricultural educators across the country, National Teach Ag Day has a great deal of significance.
Not only does the day raise awareness the importance of agricultural educators, it also reminds everyone of the impact that their agricultural educator had on them. This year, National Teach Ag Day will be held on March 24.

Agriculture teachers prepare students for high-demand careers in cutting edge industries like biotechnology, renewable energies, engineering, food production, and more. They also teach students how to be leaders and prepare them to take on the challenges of the next generation.

National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to celebrate agricultural education, and for teachers to share with their students the possibilities of a career in the profession. There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the United States, and National Teach Ag Day is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the career.

National Teach Ag Day is a part of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. For more information about teaching agriculture, visit www.naae.org/teachag. The National Teach Ag Campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.

“Currently there is not only a shortage of agricultural educators in Minnesota, but also nationwide,” reports Melissa Nasers, academic advisor and recruiter in the agricultural education department of the University of Minnesota. “With FFA membership reaching an all-time high and high school agriculture programs continuing to grow and develop, National Teach Ag Day is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness of agricultural education and the importance of our ag teachers.”

The Ag Ed Club at the University of Minnesota is currently working on a number of activities to celebrate National Teach Ag Day, including hand-written thank you’s to every faculty member in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences as well as promotional materials for campus and media materials.

3/24/11
High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal
National Teach Ag Day is March 24

On March 24, National Teach Ag Day, agriculture teachers all over the U.S. will be introducing students to an exciting and demanding career—their own.

Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with not enough agricultural education graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Last year, agriculture exports increased by 11.9 percent to $107.5 billion dollars. USDA studies show that every billion dollars in agricultural exports supports more than 8,000 jobs.

National Teach Ag Day, set for March 24, is a day to celebrate the contributions agricultural educators make in their communities and in the lives of their students, and is also a way to encourage young people to consider a career in agricultural education.

“School-based agriculture programs are too important to lose, especially in the current economic climate,” said Jay Jackman, executive director of the National Association of Agricultural Educators, the organization that facilitates National Teach Ag Day.

“A lack of agricultural educators means we’re cutting off the supply of employees to the agriculture industry at the wellhead,” said Jackman. “If there’s no one there to prepare students for these careers, then one of the industries that has been a corner post of American success will begin to weaken.”

Agriculture programs teach the science and production of food, feed, and fiber, as well as subjects like natural resources and veterinary science. Students in agriculture programs learn a wide variety of skills and concepts through these subjects, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology. Agricultural education follows a unique model—lessons are delivered in a hands-on way that helps students more fully understand concepts, retain learned information, and apply material to real world situations. Agricultural education also includes a strong leadership component that helps develop students’ sense of responsibility and civic service. Teaching agriculture can be a smart and fulfilling career choice for students from a variety of backgrounds. Many agriculture programs are strengthening the rigor of their already science- and math-rich courses to meet the needs of
an increasingly technology-driven agriculture industry. Agriculture programs are teaching students concepts that will not only allow them to produce food on an unmatched scale, but also become chemists, geneticists or engineers. Expansion into urban areas is also a current agricultural education trend, leading to even more employment opportunities for agriculture teachers. There are currently many agriculture programs in large urban centers, and the opportunity to open more is growing.

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2/17/11
National Hog Farmer
NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY ON MARCH 24 BRINGS ATTENTION TO NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS IN U.S.

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Teaching agriculture can be a smart and fulfilling career choice for students from a variety of backgrounds. Many agriculture programs are strengthening the rigor of their already science- and math-rich courses to meet the needs of an increasingly technology-driven agriculture industry. Agriculture programs are teaching students concepts that will not only allow them to produce food on an unmatched scale, but also become chemists, geneticists or engineers.

Expansion into urban areas is also a current agricultural education trend, leading to even more employment opportunities for agriculture teachers. There are currently many agriculture programs in large urban centers, and the opportunity to open more is growing.
Kimberly Fogle is a CTE Agricultural Science Teacher at W.E.B. Dubois High School in Baltimore, Md. This is the first year for the agriculture program at her school.

“My students are 100 percent urban,” she said. “They like this class because it’s hands on and they like the interaction with animals and plants they get. It doesn’t take them long to see that through our program they can become a scientist or biologist or another professional in addition to farming. Our administrators were very supportive in getting an agriculture program at the school. They feel like students need hands-on activities, community involvement, and leadership skills. This class brings that out. It also helps give them focus in other classes. They know they have to stay out of that fight or get good grades in everything if they want to run for FFA president, for instance. It gives them a goal to work toward.”

“Agricultural education is one of the best-kept secrets in education right now,” said Jackman. “We need to let the secret out of the bag and show people what great opportunities exist in a career as an agricultural educator. That’s what National Teach Ag Day is all about.”

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries and the CHS Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, and also by Delmar Cengage Learning. For more about Teach Ag Day and the National Teach Ag campaign, visit www.naae.org/teachag.

About NAAE

The National Association of Agricultural Educators is a federation of state agricultural educators associations with more than 7650 members. NAAE seeks to advance agricultural education and promote the professional interest and growth of agriculture teachers as well as recruit and prepare students who have a desire to teach agriculture.
On March 24, agricultural education students and teachers across the country will be celebrating the second annual National Teach Ag Day. National Teach Ag Day was started by the National Council for Agricultural Education as part of the National Teach Ag Campaign. The campaign began to celebrate agricultural education and to promote the possibilities of a career in the profession. There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the United States, and the National Teach Ag Campaign’s aim is to raise awareness of the career.

Anyone who has been in agriculture classes in high school or participated in FFA understands the important role an ag teacher can play in the life of a high school student. However, many people do not have those opportunities and therefore, do not know that ag teachers don’t just talk about cows and corn.

Agriculture teachers prepare students for high-demand careers in cutting edge industries like biotechnology, renewable energies, food production, and more. Ag teachers also teach students how to be leaders and prepare them to take on the challenges of the next generation. Many people do not realize that students enrolled in agriculture classes at the high school level are learning things they cannot get elsewhere. Not only are they learning basic shop, horticulture, and ag science concepts, but they are getting math, science, and language arts skills in a hands-on way that helps them apply their lessons to real life.

So to celebrate National Teach Ag Day, help share the importance of agriculture programs in schools and consider the possibilities of a career in agricultural education. Get involved in your local ag programs. Join the FFA alumni, go to your FFA pork chop dinners, talk to the ag teacher, do anything to show the students and teachers that the community supports the program. Happy National Teach Ag Day and remember to tell the ag teachers in your life thank you for all their hard work!

Today, March 24, is National Teach Ag Day. The National Association of Agricultural Educators states, “National Teach Ag Day is a day to celebrate school-based agricultural education and to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education.”

Watch this great video to learn more about why agricultural educators do what they do.

This brings back memories of my high school agriculture teacher, 4-H and FFA competitions, and the great love for agriculture she instilled in me. Though I didn’t really have a set idea of what I wanted to do for a career when I graduated from high school I knew that it would definitely be something in agriculture. Three years later when I decided to pursue an animal science degree at Penn State University she supported me all the way. I am glad to still call her a friend to this day.

To learn more about National Teach Ag Day, visit their website.

And since this is a day celebrating teaching others about agriculture I thought I’d share some facts about agriculture from my home state of Pennsylvania!

- There are approximately 63,200 farms in Pennsylvania.
- The average farm size is 124 acres.
- There is a total of 7.8 million acres of farmland in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania ranks the first nationally in producing mushrooms with annual production of 443 million pounds.
- Winter wheat is an important crop in the southeast whereas Buckwheat is a major crop in the northeast. Other important crops include potatoes, oats, rye, barley, and a variety of truck crops.
- Pennsylvania also grows apples, cherries, peaches, and grapes.
The sale of livestock and livestock products accounts for 69% of Pennsylvania's farm income.

Milk production is the leading segment of the agricultural industry, with annual sales of 2.1 billion and 6.7% of the nation's total supply in 2008.

The total value of all cattle, hogs, and sheep was 1.59 million in 2000. The combined value of the poultry production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys, plus the value of chicken sales was 644 million in 2000.

The value of agricultural exports including food and forest products was 960 million during 1999.

3/21/11
BRC news.com (Bureau County Republican)
Celebrating National Teach Ag Day
http://www.bcrnews.com/articles/2011/03/21/r_qvr4f30trvgbq4o5kr07dg/index.xml
Students enrolled in agricultural education courses at the University of Illinois are celebrating the second annual National Teach Ag Day on Thursday, March 24.

National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to celebrate agricultural education and for teachers to share with their students the possibilities of a career in the profession. There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the United States, and National Teach Ag Day is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the career. Agriculture teachers prepare students for high-demand careers in cutting edge industries like biotechnology, renewable energies, food production, and more. Ag teachers also teach students how to be leaders and prepare them to take on the challenges of the next generation. Many people do not realize that students enrolled in agriculture classes at the high school level are learning things they cannot get anywhere else. Not only are they learning basic shop, horticulture and ag science concepts, but they are getting math, science and language arts skills in a hands-on way that helps them apply their lessons to real life.

I am pursuing a career in agricultural education at the University of Illinois not by chance, but by choice! A career in ag education gives me the opportunity to share with others the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. It allows me to be involved in various aspects of the agriculture industry such as livestock, horticulture, crops, shop skills, business and more by teaching these subjects to students. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my ag teacher, Dan Foes, who showed me the value of ag education for a high school student. Like Mr. Foes, I hope to be a dedicated ag teacher and inspire my students to seek a career in ag education.

The U of I Ag Ed students who are passionate about the profession are promoting National Teach Ag Day to show others what a great career it could be for them as well and to let others know what this career entails and that there is a need for agricultural educators. Some of the efforts for this year's national campaign is writing thank you notes to all of the ag teachers in Illinois for their hard work and dedication to the profession as well as using media outlets to inform others that agricultural education is a great career pathway to explore because you can be a positive role model for students and help them to make smart life choices.

2/18/11
GRIT magazine.com
http://www.grit.com/Community/National-Teach-Ag-Day.aspx
Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with an inadequate number of agricultural education graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Last year, agriculture exports increased by 11.9 percent to $107.5 billion dollars. USDA studies show that every billion dollars in agricultural exports supports more than 8,000 jobs. (1)

National Teach Ag Day is a day to celebrate the contributions agricultural educators make in their communities and in the lives of their students, and is also a way to encourage young people to consider a career in agricultural education. “School-based agriculture programs are too important to lose, especially in the current economic climate,” says Jay Jackman, executive director of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), the organization that facilitates National Teach Ag Day.

“A lack of agricultural educators means we’re cutting off the supply of employees to the agriculture industry at the wellhead,” Jackman says. “If there’s no one there to prepare students for these careers, then one of the industries that has been a corner post of American success will begin to weaken.” Agriculture programs teach the science and production of food, feed, and fiber, as well as subjects like natural...
resources and veterinary science. Students in agriculture programs learn a wide variety of skills and concepts through these subjects, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology. Agricultural education follows a unique model – lessons are delivered in a hands-on way that helps students more fully understand concepts, retain learned information, and apply material to real world situations. Agricultural education also includes a strong leadership component that helps develop students' sense of responsibility and civic service.

Teaching agriculture can be a smart and fulfilling career choice for students from a variety of backgrounds. Many agriculture programs are strengthening the rigor of their already science- and math-rich courses to meet the needs of an increasingly technology-driven agriculture industry. Agriculture programs are teaching students concepts that will not only allow them to produce food on an unmatched scale, but also become chemists, geneticists or engineers. Expansion into urban areas is also a current agricultural education trend, leading to even more employment opportunities for agriculture teachers. There are currently many agriculture programs in large urban centers, and the opportunity to open more is growing. Kimberly Fogle is a CTE Agricultural Science teacher at W.E.B. Dubois High School in Baltimore, Maryland. This is the first year for the agriculture program at her school.

3/24/11
AgriNews online
BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Agriculture's impact on the economy is far-reaching, and its future success hinges on developing new leaders in the classroom.

In celebration of those who provide the tools for future leaders to hone their craft, the second annual National Teach Ag Day will be observed on March 24.

National Teach Ag Day is a day set aside to celebrate agricultural education and for teachers to share with their students the possibilities of a career in the profession.

There is a national shortage of agricultural educators in the U.S., and National Teach Ag Day is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the career.

The special day is a part of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education's importance and effectiveness in the U.S. and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators.

Agricultural education teaches students about agriculture, food and natural resources. Through these subjects, agricultural educators teach students a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

Agricultural education uses a three-circle model of instruction. These are classroom and laboratory instruction, leadership development and experiential learning.

The successful integration of each of these three components results in a strong program that produces well-rounded individuals who are prepared to be leaders in agriculture, business and industry.

Universities and community colleges offer opportunities for students to pursue a career as an agricultural educator. The University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University are among those that offer degrees in agricultural education.
There currently are 49 undergraduate and graduate students studying agricultural education at the U of I.

“Undergraduate students can choose from two concentrations, ag sciences education-teacher certification and ag leadership,” said Sarah Carson, vice president U of I Ag Ed Club. “With these options, students can have many different careers in agriculture including but not limited to teaching agriculture.

“Agriculture education gives students the opportunity to be involved in agriculture and the flexibility to focus on the aspects of ag that they enjoy most.”

There are about 30 students currently enrolled in the agricultural education program at SIU at Carbondale.

“Some of the students choose to combine ag ed with a minor in something specific, such as ag communications or agronomy or animal science, for example,” said Michelle Sullivan, SIU College of Agricultural Sciences coordinator of recruitment, retention and placement. “Many of our ag ed students are also very active in Collegiate FFA, which allows them to network with the high schools throughout the year.

“We also have a resource room with approximately $20,000 worth of materials for the current students, student teachers and alumnae in ag ed. It has kits, textbooks, curriculum guides and hands-on activities that you could incorporate into a classroom.”

Twenty-eight students are enrolled in ISU’s agricultural education program.

“Successful completion of this sequence prepares students to become certified teachers,” said Rob Rhykerd, ISU’s ag department chair and professor. “Students are encouraged to consider a second certification in an academic area such as biological sciences, chemistry or mathematics.

“Students are also encouraged to participate in Collegiate FFA and/or postsecondary agriculture student organization, which enhance the collegiate experience through service and engagement to create premier leaders, enable individual growth and ensure career success.

“Agricultural education is housed in the Department of Agriculture which emphasizes the relationship between theory and practice and focuses on problem solving, skill development and the use of the latest technology.”

Twenty students have declared agricultural education as their major at WIU.

“Roughly 60 percent of the students are transfer students coming from a variety of institutions across the country. These students will graduate with a bachelor of science in agriculture within the agricultural education degree option,” said Andy Baker, WIU agriculture professor. “They will be certified to teach grades 7-12 in the agriculture content.

“Students have the option to secure the science endorsement while here at WIU, if that is their wish. Most do not receive this endorsement, because it will delay their graduation date.

“However, the program has established an 80 percent placement rate among the graduates and 73 percent retention rate for the graduates who decide to pursue the teaching field. The students who graduate from the program and do not teach generally are employed within industry.”

3/1/11
Teachers.net
Teach Ag Day Focuses on Need for Agricultural Educators
http://teachers.net/gazette/wordpress/editor/agricultural-educators/
NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY ON MARCH 24 BRINGS ATTENTION TO NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS IN U.S.
On March 24th, National Teach Ag Day, agriculture teachers all over the U.S. will be introducing students to an exciting and demanding career – their own.
Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with not enough agricultural education
graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Last year, agriculture exports increased by 11.9 percent to $107.5 billion dollars. USDA studies show that every billion dollars in agricultural exports supports more than 8,000 jobs.¹

National Teach Ag Day, set for March 24, 2011, is a day to celebrate the contributions agricultural educators make in their communities and in the lives of their students, and is also a way to encourage young people to consider a career in agricultural education.

“School-based agriculture programs are too important to lose, especially in the current economic climate,” said Jay Jackman, Executive Director of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), the organization that facilitates National Teach Ag Day.

“A lack of agricultural educators means we’re cutting off the supply of employees to the agriculture industry at the wellhead,” said Jackman. “If there’s no one there to prepare students for these careers, then one of the industries that has been a corner post of American success will begin to weaken.”

Agriculture programs teach the science and production of food, feed, and fiber, as well as subjects like natural resources and veterinary science. Students in agriculture programs learn a wide variety of skills and concepts through these subjects, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

2/17/2011
Science Matters (e-Newsletter of the NSTA)
National Teach Ag Day

National Teach Ag Day (March 24, 2011), sponsored by the National Association of Agricultural Educators, is a campaign to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, postsecondary, preservice programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education and encourage them to consider careers as agricultural educators. It is also a day to recognize the contributions of current agricultural educators. Visit the website for interactive games, lesson plans, and activities, designed for middle level, high school, and university students.

2/15/11
Missouri Ruralist
National Teach Ag Day Coming Up
Ag instructors will tell their story to encourage youth to pursue ag education career.

Agricultural educators prepare students to fill jobs in one of the only major sectors of the U.S. economy that grew in 2010. Currently, agricultural educators are in short supply all over the United States, with not enough agricultural education graduates being produced each year to fill job openings. To help close that gap, agriculture teachers across the nation will be telling their own stories to their students on Thursday, Feb. 24 in observance of National Teach Ag Day.

Agriculture programs teach the science and production of food, feed, and fiber, as well as subjects like natural resources and veterinary science. Lessons are delivered in a hands-on way that helps students more fully understand concepts, retain learned information, and apply material to real world situations. Agricultural education also includes a strong leadership component that helps develop students’ sense of responsibility and civic service.

Jay Jackman, Executive Director of the National Association of Agricultural Educators, points out that a lack of agricultural educators means we’re cutting off the supply of employees to the agriculture industry at the wellhead. Agricultural education is one of the best-kept secrets in education right now. If there’s no one there to prepare students for these careers, then one of the industries that has been a corner post of American success will begin to weaken.

12/8/10
Education Week via the AP
Agriculture Teachers in Shortage

A shortage of agriculture teachers has prompted the National Association of Agricultural Educators to launch the National Teach Ag campaign, which seeks to attract more people to the profession. A large number of agriculture
education teachers have retired or are nearing retirement age, and agriculture classes remain popular ways for students to fill science requirements.

12/6/10
NBC Action News via AP
Missouri Bucking National Trend of Few Agriculture Teachers
COLUMBIA, Missouri - National agriculture education officials have started a campaign to address a shortage of agriculture teachers, but the effort isn't necessary in Missouri. The University of Missouri says it has seen a steady increase in the number of undergraduates majoring in agriculture education. The Columbia Tribune reports that this year, about 100 undergraduates are pursuing ag-education degrees, with between 80 and 85 of them interested in becoming high school ag teachers.

That comes in the face of a nationwide shortage that began several years ago and is likely to grow as more current teachers reach retirement age.
Ellen Thompson, coordinator of a Teach Ag campaign, says businesses are also starting to hire more ag students because of the skills they've learned -- keeping those people out of the classroom.

12/6/10
mysanantonio.com via AP
Missouri Bucking National Trend of Few Agriculture Teachers
(longer version)

11/29/10
The Bismarck Tribune
A shortage of ag teachers means many opportunities
http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_617f3c3e-f9a6-11df-8d99-001cc4c002e0.html