

THE AG EDUCATOR

FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTOR

DO WHAT YOU LOVE, LOVE WHAT YOU DO -
TEACH AG

SEPTEMBER 2009



Changes Coming in SDAAE

Josh Christensen, SDAAE President

Whenever a new school year begins, teachers anticipate changes from previous years. Different students, improvement to curriculum and guidelines, new teachers and faculty members and maybe even a new school are all possible adjustments to the daily activities of the teacher. A new year for the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators (SDAAE - formerly SDVATA) organization will bring about many changes as well this year. The officers met recently to discuss and strategize some ideas for improving the organization over the next year. We, as a group, have many goals for the association that have the potential to significantly change the face of South Dakota Agricultural Education. In the following article, you will read about many of these goals.

Communication within the membership is important. District I recommended that the SDAAE website be kept up to date with association matters. The officer team will continually be working to update things. If you have suggestions for updates that need to be made, please contact one of us. We will also be sending three newsletters like this one. You will receive them electronically at the beginning of September, in January and at the beginning of May every year. Please take the time to read and understand what is happening in the Ag Education community.

Another major goal that each member of SDAAE will be able to help accomplish is to increase the involvement in association business and activities. This is OUR organization! Just like in your FFA chapters, the officers should guide and lead the membership not be the independent decision makers; in the association, assistance is required from all members for the successful operation of business. You each will be called on to step into leadership positions for the SDVATA and I hope that you will all be willing to share your time and talents with other members.

Many of your local programs have an Ag Education Advisory Committee which helps you to determine what is best for your students in your community. The SDAAE is working on developing a similar program called Team AgEd. Most of you have heard of Team AgEd at the national level and are familiar with the group's responsibilities. By January, the group will be meeting and developing a plan to increase the effectiveness of Ag Education, increase interest in Ag Education by high school and college students, create industry useful knowledge that teachers can implement into their programs and many other helpful activities. Be on the lookout for more information about SD Team AgEd.

After talking with Floyd and Sylvia following conference, we were informed that the SDAAE has nearly 100% membership in our organization. Nationwide, membership of Agriculture Educators is somewhere between 45% – 55%. This makes South Dakota among the top in the nation for membership percentages. Congratulations, South Dakota!

South Dakota Agricultural Education has a lot to be proud of; strong and growing programs, committed educators, talented students, and a strong level of support within the state. I look forward to serving you over the next year. My phone, e-mail, and door are open to you for sharing comments, questions, concerns, or ideas. Have a great fall!

Dates of Interest:

- NOV. 17-21, 2009
NAAE CONFERENCE, NASHVILLE, TN
- APRIL 19, 2010
STATE CONVENTION BUSINESS MTG.
- MAY 1, 2010
NAAE STATE AWARDS DEADLINE
- JUNE 22-24, 2010
NAAE REGION III, MANKATO, MN
- AUGUST 1-4, 2010
SDAAE CONFERENCE, PIERRE

Inside this issue:

CHANGES IN SDAAE	1
SD FFA NOTES,	2
AWARD WINNERS	2
NATIONAL AGRISCIENCE TEACHER AMBASSADORS	3
STORIES	4
OFFICER CONTACTS	5

The Ag Educator

HELLO FROM SD FFA: *Chelsey Abler, SD FFA Reporter*

Traveling, Learning, and Representing- what a busy summer it has been for the South Dakota FFA! The state FFA officers traveled to Aurora, Nebraska early in the summer to attend National Leadership Conference for State Officers where they were trained by national FFA officers, Nessie Early and Hannah Crossen. As summer heated up and July rolled around, it was officially time to kick off the 3 Leadership retreats planned for this summer. The three FFA Leadership retreats were hosted at Camp NeSoDak in Waubay(1) and Camp Bob Marshall in Custer (2), and drew in 215 members overall. CTSO Officer training followed soon after camp where the officers learned the role of FFA in the scheme of Career and Technical Education. The South Dakota FFA wrapped up the summer with FFA at the Birdcage, SDVATA Conference in Pierre, state fair set up day, and helped at the Soy Biodiesel booth at DakotaFest. With state fair right around the corner and chapter visits beginning September 16, the SD FFA Association is sure to stay busy.



Communities of Practice

ADAM FRANKEN

South Dakota Facilitator

www.naae.org/communities



2009 SDVATA Awards

Outstanding Young Member: Josh Christiansen
Outstanding Member: Dave VanderWal
Ideas Unlimited: Kelly O'Donnell
eachers Turn the Key: Kelly O'Donnell
Sarah Stratmeyer
Honorary Member: Richard Lubinus
Gerri Eide
Hall of Fame: Denny Brenden
30 Minute Club: Myron Sonne, Marie Jaacks, Kent Frerichs, Fred Zenk, Jim Wilson, Tom Wolff, Etta Balo, Kelly O'Donnell, Jamie Swan, Lori Williams, Josh Christiansen

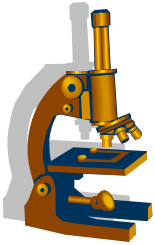
Years of Membership Awards

5 Years: Adam Franken, Ken Jones, Mark Roelfsma
10 Years: Mike Postma
15 Years: Duane Cunningham, Gary Elsinger, Lee Friesen, Brandy Knutson, Kevin Quail, John Rist
20 Years: Jerry Wegleitner, Tom Wolff, Fred Zenk
25 Years: Lynn Brace, Linda Peterson, Terry Rieckman
30 Years: Roger DeRouchey, Darold Hehn, Williams Lehman

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE RECOGNIZED AT THIS YEARS BANQUET!!!

Dave VanderWal also won Outstanding Member for Region III and will be receiving a trip to the National Conference in Nashville and a 2 year lease on a Toyota Tundra pickup.

National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy



“Learning science is something students do, not something that is done to them.”

-National Science Education Standards

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Sounds pretty familiar, doesn't it? Maybe someone should mention to the science folks that that's the law that we as career and technical educators abide by.

The week following the SDAAE conference, Pandi Pittman from Wall, Dr. Amy Smith from SDSU and I packed our bags, headed to Des Moines, IA and spent a week on the campus of Pioneer investigating inquiry-based instruction.

It was awesome! I get jazzed pretty easily when it comes to science, but this week was unbelievable. We dove into agriscience labs, experienced super effective teaching strategies and worked on ways to weave those strategies into the professional development we offer in the state and, in turn, the courses you teach your students.

Throughout the coming months and years, you'll see more and more of what we learned and experienced – we can't wait to share with you!

During the last afternoon that we spent at Pioneer, Dean Oestreich, Pioneer's Chairman and DuPont's Vice President, spent an hour with our group talking about where his company's work is headed and the people that they need in order to accomplish their goals. Here are a few of his lines that you may find interesting (feel free to share these with students!):

“If you have the same set of

skills, the same set of knowledge, as you did 3 years ago, you're obsolete.”

On answering the question, “What's made you successful?”

“Learning that you look best in the reflected light of your people. Bring your integrity to work with you every day.”

If you love teaching science through agriculture concepts or are interested in learning more about incorporating high-level science into your agriculture courses (See how that includes almost everyone? Hint, hint!), seriously consider attending the 2010 National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy (NATAA). The all-expense paid (thank you DuPont!), week of intensive learning will be held in Chestertown, MD July 11-16, 2010. Apply by contacting Craig Frederick

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*Submitted By:
Tiffany Sanderson—SD ANFR
Cluster Specialist*



Pictured: Tiffany Sanderson, Dr. Amy Smith, Pandi Pittman

The Ag Educator

Agriculture Education's Great Offerings for CTE

By Stacie Turnbull, Alcester Ag Instructor

While sitting through recent interviews for our new school superintendent, I asked each candidate, "What role to you feed that Career and Technical Education plays in the school's curriculum". Without fail, each of the candidates gave answers which focused on the specific career skills learned as well as the valuable options it gives to those students who will not be attending a 4-year post-secondary school.

While I agree that Agricultural Education does all of this, we do so much more than that. Alcester-Hudson High School has made signifi-

cant changes to the Agricultural Education curriculum in the past two years, in an attempt to provide not only the career skills training but to also focus on the academic skills.

Another new addition to the curriculum this year included Internship. While this class is open to all high school seniors, having it coordinated through Ag Ed meant that there was an increased focus on agricultural careers. Additionally, students used the SAE record books throughout the semester. For the 2009-10 school year, Senior Capstone Experiences will be of-

fered. Again, the SAE record books will be heavily utilized as a portion of the writing component.

Recently, a student in the Agricultural Mechanics class remarked, "Hey, that's algebra" as we were working on problem sets in the classroom. Ag Ed classes have long provided students with this link from the academic classroom to the real world setting. The next step is to make sure the community is aware of what of what we do in the Ag Ed Classroom. Not only do we provide career and technical skills, but we also provide a valuable link, for all stu-

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THE PARLIAMENT

CURRICULUM SWAP

LOGON TODAY!!!

Plasma Cam Success By David Koupal, Wagner Ag Instructor

In the year 2002, Wagner Community School purchased a Plasma Cam machine. Since then the company has made improvements to the Plasma Cam and has developed other new machines.

For the first several years, the shop students and I experimented with settings, thickness of metals, and ideas for projects. Students found out that there are many factors that contributed to quality projects such as metal thickness, machine speed, air pressure, moisture in the air and other uncontrollable features. All high school students have their own laptop computers so students were able to work on designing during class and

study hall or at home. Though teachers have noticed that laptops have decreased students' creativity or imagination, the same is not true in this ag class. During the designing period, students were able to use their own imagination to create a project from start to finish. During this process students used math skills to determine measurement and cost, design skills that they might use in the engineering area and construction skills during the process of assembling. All these skills are life long skills students will use even though they might not enter a career in these areas.

Some of the projects

students have constructed in the past are shadow boxes, tractor rims used as fire pit, signs, mailbox address and purlins for rafters. This past year metal cost has been the largest increase. Last year I paid \$77.00 for a 14-gauge 4ftX8ft sheet. This year I was quoted a price for \$55.00 for the same size sheet. The first projects students will complete is a shadow box. From there they have to make a project to use for a fundraiser and the third project is a large sign or project using the 4x4 sheet. So far, we have not had to spend any money on repairs to the machine. We have only had to purchase new plasma tips. Throughout

the state of South Dakota, many ag programs have purchased plasma machines. I would suggest that districts who are considering purchase of a Plasma Cam would buy from a company that is willing to provide service and technical support without charging for every service provided. Also purchase a 4ft.X8ft. table to give students more space to work on large projects. Finally, purchase a machine that is capable of cutting 1/2 to 3/4 inch metal.

The machine, which is definitely worth purchasing, gives students many different areas to work in, especially computer-generated design and metal fabrication.



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Stories or Ideas should be
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