

THE AG EDUCATOR

FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTOR

DO WHAT YOU LOVE, LOVE WHAT YOU DO –
TEACH AG

January 2010

2009 NAAE Convention Report

Ross Hudson – SDAAE Secretary

The 2009 NAAE Convention was held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. If you've never been to this facility, put it on your list of things to see. It is an amazing place with several different restaurants, clubs and shops all under one huge roof. The meeting rooms and banquet rooms were spectacular as well.

South Dakota was well represented at the convention as nine individuals took part in the sights, sounds, activities and awards of an action packed week. Topping the list was our award winners. Dave VanderWal, DeSmet, received the Outstanding Agriculture Education Teacher of the Year Award and gets to drive a Toyota pickup for the next two years. Our Teacher Turn the Key recipients were Kelly O'Donnell, Arlington, and Sarah Stratmeyer, Faulkton. Others in attendance were Donna Kinsella, Darold Hehn, and Bobbie Jo Donovan from Rapid City, Duane Cunningham from Sturgis, SDAAE President Josh Christiansen from Flandreau, and Ross Hudson, SDAAE Secretary from Bon Homme.

There were numerous professional development workshops for everyone to attend. The workshops available to attendees varied greatly to meet the needs of the teachers in attendance, and we were able to bring home many materials to implement into the classroom. Members also attended committee meetings to help improve the workings of our organization. Josh presented our state report in the Region III meeting and made a few jokes about Iowa.

The Host State Social was across the street from the hotel at the Nashville Palace, with traditional BBQ being served. A live band played as Sarah learned how to 2-Step with a handsome ag educator from Texas. Of course, a trip to Nashville wouldn't be complete without a tour of Music Road and a night (or two) of downtown Nashville. It was neat to see the famous Country Music Saloon's you always hear about.

The trip to Nashville was very productive and useful to attend as an ag educator. I encourage you all to put the 2010 NAAE Convention in Las Vegas on your schedule for next year and become active in your organization.



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(Back L-R) **Ross Hudson** (SDAAE Secretary), **Josh Christiansen** (SDAAE President), **Darold Hehn**, **Dave VanderWal**

(Front L-R) **Donna Kinsella**, **Bobbi Jo Donavan**, **Sarah Stratmeyer**, **Kelly O'Donnell**, **Ray Nash** (NAAE President), **Craig McEnany** (Region III VP)

The Ag Educator

Get Ready for the Spring Meeting



It's hard to believe we are already on to the second semester of the 2009-10 school year! Where does the time go? Leadership CDEs are completed and it is time to start thinking about spring production CDEs. Before we know it, State FFA Convention will be upon us.

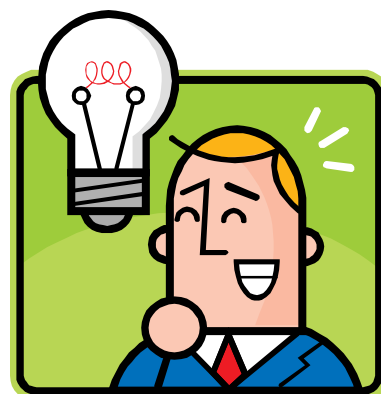
Speaking of state convention, the SDAAE has a spring meeting during that time. The officers have already started planning for that meeting and are looking to modify a few things from previous years. If you have topics or ideas of things that need to be addressed at the spring meeting, please e-mail an officer.

In the spring of the year, we look back to all the activities that we did in your Ag Education programs and reflect on the things that need to improve. I hope that you also see the things that you did really well and the great ideas that you implemented. Following the spring SDAAE meeting will be a time for teachers to share those ideas with the rest of the Ag Ed family.

The Ideas Unlimited award was set up by the national association to encourage sharing of great ideas. Winners of Ideas Unlimited at the state level present their idea at the Region III meetings (this year in Mankato in June). The winner there is awarded a \$400 travel stipend to NAAE conference in Las Vegas in December. At the state level, applicants will present their idea to the association at the spring meeting. The assembly will vote to decide a winner for the state. Please bring your great classroom, lab, and FFA ideas to convention to share with everyone. This award application can be found at --<http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/2009apps/2009%2010%20Application.pdf> --

Josh Christiansen—SDAAE State President

NEW: IDEAS UNLIMITED STATE CONVENTION Spring Meeting



January 2010 Teacher Spotlight—Russ Swanson ; Canton



School District: CANTON since 2003 MARION 1995-2000

Family :Wife Heather-self employed horse trainer-Grandview Farms

Life outside of School /

FFA :Outside of school I am lucky enough to be able to live and farm on the same land my

Great-Great Grandfather homesteaded in 1870 as well as raise horses with my wife Heather. Hobbies include old west history, music, camping, Dutch oven cooking, firearms & working in the shop. I also serve as Dayton Township Supervisor

Courses Taught:

8th Grade Ag, Ag 1 & II, Animal Science, Ag Mechanics, Advanced Welding, Natural Resources. Next year I will also be teaching Civil Engineering & Architecture through Project Lead the Way.

Number in FFA: 78

Specialty Contests : Ag Mechanics & Horse Judging. 2008 Canton School District Teacher of the year

Participation in SDAAE : Hopscotch patron of the year award :)

Russ was recently named the 2008 Canton School District Teacher of the Year. Congratulations!!!

Graduation Requirements Affect CTE



Attracting students to our programs is usually not a problem, or at least if a student tries CTE; immediately they feel a connection to our style of learning in education. However roadblocks established by graduation requirements often times present a roadblock

to allowing students to enroll in our classes. This last legislative session I was proud to partner with Sen. Russ Olson (R-Madison) as well as the State Department of Education in removing the “two-tiered” graduation requirements and switch gears toward one common set of graduation requirements. The Department of Education and Board of Education approved a new set of graduation requirements just a few months ago. Left hanging over our heads are the requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship. These are the requirements that are very restrictive to students who need and should be taking CTE courses! I plan on working with both sides of the aisle and the Governor’s Office this session to add the option of taking an approved CTE course to the world language category in any combination. The Opportunity Scholarship is for students attending any postsecondary institution in South Dakota; yet nothing in the requirements tailors the scholarship for the Technical Institutes and our CTE students who attend a four-year college. I encourage all of you to contact your Legislator’s and ask for their support of CTE in the Opportunity Scholarship!

Jason Frerichs (D-Wilmot) is an Agriculture Instructor at LATI, serves as the Watertown Area FFA Advisor, farms with his family and represents District 1 in the South Dakota House of Representatives.

“What are we doing in class today”? Who has heard that question recently? Well I hope that all of you on February 25th will answer “We’re celebrating National Teach Ag Day”! The NAAE website is your one stop shop for all things related to National Teach Ag Day. You will find resources for all levels of Ag Education from Middle and High School programs to Farm Business Management and Universities as well as ideas and lessons plans. You see National Teach Ag Day is about recognizing the contributions that Ag Teachers make to the communities and students they serve. It is also about TAGging Your Replacement. So take a minute and think about a student or two in your classroom that would make an excellent addition to the Ag Education family and then tell them “You’ve been TAGGED”. It has been exactly 194 days since I left the classroom to move to SD with my family. Not one of those days has gone by that I have not missed the students. Ag Education is about more than teaching valuable life skills through agriculture. It is about making connections and being a role model. Ag teachers make an impact every day, and National Teach Ag Day is a great excuse to share your enthusiasm and passion for being an agricultural teacher. So check out the <http://www.naae.org/teachag> link for activities to help you answer “What are we doing in class on February 25th”? Do you have a great idea on how to celebrate National Teach Ag Day? I want to hear about it or better yet share it in the National Teach Ag Day Community on Communities of Practice <http://www.naae.org/communities>. Do you need help planning a National Teach Ag Day event in your school or state? Let me know. Do you want your school or state National Teach Ag Day activity featured? Drop me a line. Ethompson.naae@uky.edu or 605.350.3842. Enjoy the New Year, the students, and your profession!

**TAg Day—
February 25th**

Region 3

NORTH MANKATO, MN

June 22-24, 2010

Best Western Hotel and Conference Center

www.neaged.org/region3

Use this website to register. It will be available soon.

These are the district nominations submitted at Summer Conference. Please take the time if you are nominated to fill out the award applications. If you nominated someone please fill out applications for them. We don't do a good enough job of showing the great things we are doing!! If you did not get nominated and would like to apply, feel free to do so!
These nominations are quite an honor, take advantage of them!

The application information can be found at:
www.naae.org or www.acteonline.org

Applications are due to Josh by May 5th

District Award Nominees

NAAE Outstanding Young Member : Kelly O'Donnell (2), Chas Fleschner (4), Tara Beitelsbacher (6), Sarah VanDerVliet (7)

NAAE Outstanding Teacher: Fred Zenk (1), Todd Marks (3), Lori Tonak (4), Mark Ketelhut (6), Ed Mueller (7)

NAAE Outstanding Secondary Program: Webster (1), Viborg (3), Woonsocket (4), Faulkton (6), Tri-Valley (7)

NAAE Outstanding Post-Secondary Program: LATI (1 and 6)

NAAE Teacher Mentor: Jim Chilson (1), Sarah VDV (2, by Charlene Weber), Bill Lehman (6)

NAAE Lifetime Achievement : Rich Lubinus (3 and 6)

NAAE Outstanding Service: Lance Howe (4), Farm Credit Services (7)

NAAE Outstanding Cooperation: Theresa Derr (5), Minnehaha NRCS (7)

NAAE "Teachers Turn the Key": Jason Frerichs (1), Charlene Weber (2), Michelle Nelson (2), Bridget Twedt (3), Etta Balo (4 and 7), Jamie Swan (4), Tara Beitelspacher (6)

NAAE Honorary Member: Jim Chilson (1), Richard Lubinus (2 and 5), Floyd Lehman (3), Lance Howe (6), Rechelle Dissing (7)

ACTE Carl Perkins Humanitarian: Pandi Pittman (5)

ACTE Outstanding Service: Clark Hanson (6)

ACTE Outstanding Teacher in Community Service: Malisa Niles (4), Bill Lehman (6)

ACTE Teacher of the Year: Jeff Hoffman (4), Craig Shryock (6)

ACTE Outstanding CTE Educator: Dave Ollila (6)

ACTE Outstanding New CTE Teacher: Etta Balo (6)

Agriculture is top dog in South Dakota. The industry holds the lion's share of our job market (40% or 173,000 jobs). It makes up one-third of our state's economy. Fifty percent (Yes! One-half!) of our tax revenue comes from agriculturists working to feed the world and create energy to power our lives.

As we walk down our main streets, though, what percentage of the people we pass truly understand that impact? What percentage of them recognize the potential that lies in instructing our youth in the technology, business and science of today's agricultural industry? From my experience, there's a gaping disconnect between realizing what drives this state and the need to educate those who will lead the industry.

In the last two weeks, I've taken a renewed vow to create awareness about agriculture's critical role. I'm not saying you're going to see me on the evening news as I shout agriculture's message from a protest line along some city street. No way! I'm talking about making sure that the people I'm surrounded by understand today's agriculture. My intention is not to lecture, not to insult, not to undermine. It's all about being considerate in my approach and sharing the most holistic message I know.

I ran some numbers last week. This is interesting stuff. Of the 10 percent of 9th-12th graders who shared their career interests through SDMyLife.com approximately 43 percent have a career interest in agriculture or a related area (including the business, marketing, science and transportation of agriculture). Seventy-four percent of those students were male, 26 percent were female. That's good news, right? Only 10 percent of the state's 9th-12th graders, however, are enrolled in Agriculture, Food or Natural Resources courses. So, we have a ways to go in connecting with the whole student population. Those numbers speak highly of our need to stay current in our course offerings and to address the demands of students' future careers.

So what does "current" look like? Check out the following projections for 2006-2016 from the SD Department of Labor (there are more careers than I've listed...these are just some highlights!):

The following career areas are expected to **grow by 30% or more** in the next seven years: Industrial Engineers, Toxicologists (Animal, Plant and Environmental), Ag Lenders, Veterinarians, Heavy Equipment Operators, Mining and Geological Engineers, Environmental Scientists, Welders/Cutters/

Solderers/Blazers

The following careers will have **starting salaries of \$31,200 or more** in the next seven years: Quality Control Specialists, Bio-medical Engineers, Food Scientists, Conservation Technicians, Golf Course Superintendents, Grain Storage and Distribution Managers, Ag Lenders, Farmers and Ranchers, Plant and Soil Scientists, Animal Scientists, Wildlife Biologists, Veterinarians, Conservation Officers, Mining and Geological Engineers, Pulp and Paper Managers, Cartographers, Hydrologists, Environmental Engineers, Agriculture Engineers

Thank you for all of your work. By no means do we have an easy task at hand, but I indisputably appreciate the efforts put forth for students and the industry we represent.

***"People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing. A leader's job is to help people have vision of their potential."** – John Porter*

Tiffany Sanderson is the ANFR cluster specialist in the SD Office of Curriculum and Career and Technical Education.

Brag Page

Exciting news in the lives of our Ag Education Family!

Weddings:

Etta Balo—May 1st
Sarah Stratmeyer—
June 5th

Expecting:

Bobbi Jo Donovan
Charlene Weber
Jamie Swan

New Baby:

Bridget Twedt: Baby
Girl Jade Marie
Sarah VDV—Taygen
Everett

If you have a brag to share, email lori.christensen@kl2.sd.us.

The Ag Educator

Undergraduate Forum

SDSU Agricultural Education Undergraduate Forum
In effort to increase the presence of Agricultural Education in the state of SD and improve the retention of Ag Teachers, an Undergraduate Forum is being planned for this spring. This event will be a collaborative effort of South Dakota State University Agricultural Education and SDAAE.

There are many anticipated outcomes of the forum that will benefit both current teachers and students majoring in Ag Education. The forum will be held on the campus of SDSU and all undergraduate Ag Education

majors will be encouraged to attend. In addition, prospective Ag Education students will also be invited to learn more about the daily life of a secondary agriculture teacher. Current teachers will answer questions from the undergraduates in addition to sharing personal experiences. The undergraduates will hear firsthand what it is like to walk in an ag teacher's shoes. The SDSU Ag Education faculty is optimistic the event will increase the connection between the undergraduates and current teachers by building relationships and contacts. When the undergraduates begin their careers as teach-

ers, they will already have an arsenal of people resources that they know and can turn to for assistance. This is a tremendous benefit because one of the biggest factors in ag teacher burnout is the feeling of isolation.

Though this will be the first forum of its kind at SDSU, our goal is to have yearly or bi-annual forums to continually foster collegiality and bridge the gap between undergraduates and the profession of Ag Education. Current teachers will also gain from the experience by sharing and mentoring the next generation of ag teachers. Such mentoring is another means for im-

proving career satisfaction among ag educators. Hopefully, this Undergraduate Forum will serve as another example of SD leading the way to strong and successful Ag programs. Additional information will be sent when the date and details are confirmed.

For more information, or to get involved in the forum contact Josh Christiansen (605-997-2455) or Amy Smith (605-688-6464).

FFA DATES—Spring 2009

CDE's

February

24—Bowdle

March

3—Howard

5—Redfield

9—DeSmet

15—Gettysburg

19—Little I

22—Flandreau

24—Sturgis

27—Groton

30—Tri-Valley

31—Eagle Butte

April

1—Miller

7—Lennox

7—Phillip / Wall

State Convention April 18-20, 2009



Other

January

29—State Degrees and Star Greenhand Due

30—Exec Meeting

February

12—Scholarships Due

12—WLC Scholarship Due

16—Proficiency Judging

20-27—FFA Week

26—National Chapter Due

27—Corduroy Classic

March

12—State Officer Apps Due

19—Agriscience Due

April

1—American Degrees Due



Past President

Kent Frerichs

Wilmot High School

Kent.frerichs@k12.sd.us

605-938-4647

President

Josh Christiansen

Flandreau High School

Josh.christiansen@k12.sd.us

605-997-2455

President Elect

Lori Christensen

Madison High School

Lori.christensen@k12.sd.us

605-256-7706

Secretary

Ross Hudson

Bon Homme High School

Ross.hudson@k12.sd.us

605-589-3388

Exec. Treasurer

Floyd Lehman

Lake Area Tech.

flehman@lati.tec.sd.us

605-882.5284 ext. 457

Publication Edited by:

Lori Christensen

Stories or Ideas should
be submitted to any
SDAAE officer.

Newsletters will be pub-
lished in January, May,
and September of each
year.

