

# NEWS & VIEWS

Volume XLVV No. 3

May/June 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS, INC.

WWW.NAAE.ORG

## In This Issue

National Policy Seminar .....	1
Communicating with Your Legislator .....	2
President's Message -- Advocacy: It Starts at Home .....	3
NAAE Convention .....	4-5
Outstanding Mentor .....	6
Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Agricultural Education Program ..	6
Ideas Unlimited .....	7
Regional Updates .....	8-9
NAAE President Lee James Receives Honor .....	10
Hummert International Short Courses .....	10
Washington Beat .....	11
News Briefs .....	12



*Zane Vaughn, Legislative Assistant to Senator Pete Domenici, talks to NPS attendees about building relationships with legislators*

## Agricultural Educators Attend National Policy Seminar in Washington DC

Agricultural educators from across the country participated in the 2007 Association for Career and Technical Education National Policy Seminar (ACTE NPS), held March 5-7 in Washington, D.C. While attending the conference, NAAE members visited their respective members of Congress on Capitol Hill, learned about current initiatives related to agricultural education and career and technical education, and attended issues briefings.

One key message during both the main NPS and the NAAE breakout sessions was the continued need to push for increased funding for programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Although the Bush Administration has recommended that Perkins programs be funded for FY 2008 at \$600 million, that amount is still a 50 percent decrease from the current funding level. To effectively meet the needs of career and technical education, of which

agricultural education is a part, it is estimated that funding needs to be at least \$1.67 billion.

Dr. Troy Justesen, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education in the U.S. Department of Education, spoke to NPS attendees about the need for hard



*Wm. Jay Jackman, NAAE Executive Director; Troy Justesen, Assistant Secretary for Adult and Vocational Education in the U.S. Department of Education; and Harold Eckler, NAAE President-elect discuss Perkins appropriations at NPS*

data to back up requests for increased funding. Without numbers, said Justesen, it would be difficult for educators to convince Congress to increase Perkins funding. He specifically challenged attendees to collect data that proves that career and technical education effectively lowers the dropout rate of high school students.

In a NAAE breakout session, Dr. MeeCee Baker, Education Coordinator

*continued on pg. 3*

# Advocate for Your Ag Program

## Communicating with Your Legislator

### *Five tips for building relationships and getting what you need from your elected officials*

As a concerned agricultural education professional, of course you understand why pushing for more funding for the Perkins Act is critical. You also almost certainly understand why keeping up to date on agriculture and education issues that come up in Washington, DC is important. What too many ag teachers fail to understand, though, is that they, not hired lobbyists, are the best people to convince their legislators to support agricultural education.

Sure, the excuses are plentiful – I don't have time, I hate politics, I don't know what to say... The truth is, though, that your representatives in Congress don't want to hear from anyone more than they want to hear from you — and why shouldn't they? After all, you're the one who donated to his or her last campaign, staffed the grill at his last rally, or got up an hour early to stand in the freezing cold at the polls and cast your vote. As an important figure in your community, you influence what people think, and ultimately how they act, whether you realize it or not.

Your elected or appointed official is in office to represent the interests of the people from his or her district. Is there something that's going on locally that needs her attention? Talk to her about it. Would you like to see something change? Talk to her about it. That's her job. That's why she is there. After all, legislators who can't make things happen for their home district aren't usually in office for very long. Their top priority should be making their constituents happy – and that's you!

During the recent ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., MeeCee Baker, Education Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, gave these five tips for getting the most from your relationships with elected officials.

#### **1. BE INFORMED**

Read the papers, listen to NPR, become informed at a policy level. Know the background on key issues, and take the time to become an expert in your areas of concern.

#### **2. RAISE YOUR PROFILE**

Be visible, attend local functions, go to town meetings. You probably do a lot of this already. Take the time to market your

program's success stories, whether through your local media or by applying for awards, or just through enthusiastic word of mouth. Officials pay attention to what's going on in their districts, and they want to talk to the people who are out there making things happen.

#### **3. BE GRATEFUL**

Thank elected and appointed officials for support, and offer to help out in any way you can. Send thank you notes for grants and affirmative votes; this lets officials know you're paying attention to what they're doing. Take the time to visit or call when you don't want anything. An hour of time spent without bringing any demands could be worth miles of support when you do.

#### **4. BE ACCESSIBLE**

Return calls or emails from elected or appointed officials or their staffers immediately. Take the initiative to introduce yourself to key individuals. Be friendly; make sure officials and staffers know who you are and how you can help.

#### **5. BE AUTHENTIC**

Your greatest strength as an agricultural educator is your authenticity. Bring no pretense, be genuine and provide real life situational examples – you've got plenty!

By keeping these five simple parameters in mind, you can ensure that everything you do will help position you for a more successful relationship with your officials. After all, they're the ones who hold the key to the funding dollars that we all need.

### 5 great uses for the

### NAAE Legislative Action Center

1. Brush up on the names of your elected officials --then give them a call!
2. Have your students invite their state and U.S. legislators to a FFA event
3. Thank your legislator for their support of your program (and how you're looking forward to their continuing support)
4. Tell your legislator why funding Perkins is important
5. Find contacts for your local newspaper -- submit a story about what you're doing in your program!

Do all this and more at

[www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter](http://www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter)



# Advocate for Your Ag Program

## President's Message

### Advocacy: It starts at home



*Lee James, Mississippi  
2006-07  
NAAE President*

How many times have you really needed help with a problem or task? Who did you go to for help? I bet in most cases it was someone you could count on to listen and provide the help you needed. When it comes to advocacy it should be the same.

Successful advocacy work begins at home, with the people who are around you on a daily basis. We can develop these strong ties with people in our communities by having a strong program, involving people in the community in that program, and keeping them aware of the issues and concerns that impact program success.

Individuals who see the value of the program and feel they have a vested interest will be more than eager to contact decision makers about issues. Numbers make the difference; one of the speakers at the National Ag Ed In-Service commented that a few letters or emails never get noticed, but hundreds get attention. This holds true on both the state and national level. Policy makers need to know what we think, and working together results in a stronger voice. Having a strong advocacy program on the local, state, and national levels can benefit our programs and ensure we have what we need to conduct our programs efficiently.

Advocacy is not restricted to our state and U.S. legislators; having a strong advocacy program on the local level can benefit our programs as well. Parents, businessmen, and community leaders who support our programs can have influence on Boards of Education, County Supervisors, and other elected officials. So work hard, promote your program, publicize accomplishments, and be involved in the community; the rewards will be worth the effort.

On another note, our regional conferences will be kicking off soon. I hope that you can take advantage of the activities offered during the conferences. I know the regional vice presidents and host states are working hard to provide a conference that will be valuable to you and your program. Don't forget about the awards deadline, it is coming up fast.

## Thinking about running for a NAAE office?

Memorandums of Understanding must be submitted to the NAAE office by September 15, 2007

This applies to anyone planning to run for Regional Vice President, NAAE President-Elect or NAAE President

Download a Memorandum of Understanding at [www.naae.org/membership/stateleaders](http://www.naae.org/membership/stateleaders)

## 2007 National Policy Seminar

*continued from pg. 1*

with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, talked with members about making the most of visits and other communications with legislators. "Use your genuineness and authenticity to your advantage," she said. She also encouraged attendees to go into their visits well informed, and to remain accessible to legislators even after visits were completed.

Also during the NAAE breakout sessions, NAAE Executive Director Wm. Jay Jackman and Kent Schescke, Senior Division Director for Partner Development with National FFA, reviewed key messages for agricultural education advocates to carry to their elected officials. Schescke also gave an overview of the 2007 Farm Bill Proposal and outlined how agricultural education initiatives might be fit into this piece of legislation.

"Local agricultural educator involvement in advocacy for career and technical education, especially agricultural education, is absolutely critical," said Jackman. "Decision makers need to hear from their constituents. The NPS provides great opportunities for agricultural educators to learn about the current legislative issues important to agricultural education, to learn first-hand how to conduct an effective Congressional visit, and then to actually have the visit with members of Congress."

# NAAE Convention 2007

## *Las Vegas, December 11-15*

### Invest in Your Future

#### *Attend the NAAE Convention in Las Vegas*



*Alissa Smith  
NAAE Associate  
Executive Director*

As an agricultural educator, one of your most precious resources is time. You juggle classes, FFA, your personal life, and you still have to find time to continue your own growth as a professional. You need to find a smart time investment that will pay fantastic dividends.

You can bank that the 2007 National Association of Agricultural Educators' convention is just what you need! To be held in Las Vegas, December 11-15th, the convention will offer a wide range of professional development activities, as well as opportunities to network with agricultural educators from across the nation.

#### **WHY CONSIDER THE NAAE CONVENTION?**

If you are looking for professional development that is designed for your needs, look no further. This year's convention will provide over 30 different options for professional development, including the DuPont Agriscience Institute. Topics will include biotechnology, plant and animal sciences, ag mechanics, agribusiness, technology in agriculture, and issues specifically related to developing and promoting your agricultural education program. Last year, over 500 professional development credits were issued to members who attended the NAAE convention in Atlanta. Let your school

administrator know you need to take part in these great opportunities. Check our website regularly for updated information on the specific workshops that will be available this year.

The NAAE Convention is also a great place to network with agriculture teachers from across the United States. The schedule includes blocks of time for meeting with educators from your region, along with activities designed for sharing ideas amongst all attendees. This is a great opportunity to gather ideas for your program and share common issues with your peers.

This year's convention will also offer the chance for you to see the newest agricultural education products on the market at the Organizational Members & Business Partner's Reception. Last year, over 35 vendors with products exclusively designed for agriculture teachers and their students were on display during the reception for teachers. This year's reception looks to be even better with more vendors and more time to talk with those individuals about how their products and services can fit into your program.

This year's convention will be held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Room rates are \$79.00 for single or double occupancy. Early bird registration is due by July 13, 2007. Register now and save \$125.00! You can find out all the details about registration, hotel, schedule, etc. at our website, [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org) under the convention button. So as you plan your professional development for the next school year, consider all that the NAAE convention has to offer. Make a smart investment in your future by attending this year's convention! See you in Vegas!

# NAAE Convention 2007

## Las Vegas, December 11-15

### Convention Info

#### CONVENTION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

*Register by July 13th for great savings!*

We're gearing up for the best NAAE Convention yet! Get ready to network with your aged peers from across the Nation in Las Vegas. Make an investment in your future!

Early bird registration is due by July 13th -- save up to \$125! To register, go to [www.naae.org/convention/registration](http://www.naae.org/convention/registration).

#### CONVENTION HOUSING & TRAVEL

This year's convention will be held in the Riviera Hotel and Casino. Room rates are \$79 per night plus applicable taxes. Click here for the Riviera's website.

To make reservations, contact the Riviera at (800) 634-6753 and make reservations for the NAAE Convention. This will ensure that you are within the NAAE reservation block and receive the convention pricing.

Visit [www.naae.org/convention/housing](http://www.naae.org/convention/housing) to find information about booking flights, rental cars, and what to do once you get to Vegas!

#### ACTE FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES STIPEND

If this is your first NAAE Convention, be sure to apply for the ACTE first-time attendees stipend. The stipend is to help defray the cost of attending the ACTE Annual Convention (of which the NAAE convention is a part). The number of stipends awarded varies from year to year, and recipients will be selected by drawing.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be ACTE members in good standing who have pre-registered for the 2007 ACTE Convention by September 28, 2007. Deadline for application is September 28, 2007. To get a copy of the stipend application form, go to [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org) and click on the convention button.

#### WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

One of the best things about the NAAE Convention is the fantastic professional development workshops that are offered.

We accept proposals on a variety of topics, including classroom instruction techniques, exceptional instructional materials, pertinent research, etc.

If you would like to have the opportunity to present, please submit a Workshop Proposal Form to NAAE by June 15, 2007. (Click here to download a form or go to [www.naae.org/convention/profdevworkshops](http://www.naae.org/convention/profdevworkshops).)



*Visit [naae.org](http://naae.org) for more information*

*Investing in  
the future*



## Outstanding Mentor



**Veril Nelson**  
**2006 Teacher Mentor Winner**  
**Region I**

Veril Nelson has been an agricultural science instructor in Oregon for the past 27 years. Fifteen of those have been at Sutherlin High School, where he is credited with turning a low-performing

program around, even being named educator of the year in his school district in 2005.

Nelson has long taken an active interest in helping new teachers realize their potential. Raymon Smith, one of Nelson's former student teachers, decided to accept a teaching position in a school near Nelson after graduation because he knew how much he would benefit from Nelson's guidance.

"His mentoring gave me the confidence that I could and would be successful as an agriculture teacher," said Smith. "He would have me over for dinner at least once a week just to see how things were going and what he could do to help."

Nelson's involvement in the agricultural industry on a personal and professional level keeps him up to date with new technology and information in the agricultural education field. His abundance of knowledge has influenced many young teachers to be actively involved in the agricultural industry and professional organizations.

"Nelson truly cares about agriculture education and its future, and enjoys being a part of helping future educators reach students," said Smith.

Nelson was the 2006 Region I Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award Winner. The NAAE Teacher Mentor Award is sponsored by CEV Multimedia. For more information about this and all other NAAE educator achievement awards, visit the NAAE website at [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org) and click on Awards.



## Outstanding Postsecondary/ Adult Program



**Manheim Central Young  
Farmer Program**  
**2006 OPAP Winner**  
**Region VI**

The three-teacher agricultural sciences department at Manheim Central High School, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, currently serves anywhere from 650 to 700 students per year and has the largest Young Farmers group in the state, consisting of 210 members. The Adult

Agriculture Education program partners with the Young Farmers to provide an excellent outreach program to the rural farming community. The National Young Farmer's theme is "a Young Farmer is anyone willing to learn," and the Manheim group exemplifies this with a group of agriculturalists ranging from 18

to 90 years old. The program offers a variety of meeting topics, from ag production to ag law to financial planning. The program also incorporates member recognition and community interactions that are designed to meet the diverse interests of its members.

Adult educational meetings have been developed in the areas of agriculture production, agriculture law and financial planning at Manheim. They also hold two dinner meetings each year so that their members can obtain recertification credits for their pesticide applicator license. Deb Siebert, one of the agriculture instructors at Manheim, says that her "daily personal teaching goal is to make every student, young or old, feel like their time in the classroom made a difference in preparing them for the future." She goes on to say that "Experiential learning is the key to the success of our agriculture program," and develops lessons that combine both academics and applied learning.

The Manheim Central Young Farmer Program is the 2006 Region VI Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award Winner. The NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Award is sponsored by Syngenta. For more information about this and other NAAE Awards programs, visit the NAAE website at [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org) and click on awards



# Ideas Unlimited

## Art & Ag Combine for Unique Learning Experience



**Joe Green**  
2006 Ideas Unlimited  
Winner Region V

Joe Green, a horticulture instructor at Pope High School in Marietta, Georgia, integrates different areas of the arts into the teaching of agriculture to create a unique learning experience for his students.

As he completed his Master's Degree in Creative Arts in Learning, Green came to realize what a valuable tool the arts could be. Since then, he has used this knowledge to create meaningful lessons that keep his students interested. Green has developed lessons integrating all learning styles and intelligences with the use of music, drama, visual arts, movement, storytelling, and poetry.

Green's most popular lessons are Theme Park Drawing, Agriculture Career Skit, and Word Bowl. Within the theme park

drawing activity, students use landscape drawing tools accurately, creatively identify plants, and demonstrate knowledge of scale and balance to design and draw their ideal theme park.

Students are able to show their creative and dramatic sides with the agriculture career skit lesson, where basic duties of various agriscience career options are defined and students present/demonstrate these duties and skills to their fellow classmates.

The word bowl lesson integrates storytelling and poetry and can be used as an ongoing method to study terms. Students begin by identifying horticulture terms, then use those terms to create poems and story lines.

For additional ideas about how Green integrates the creative arts into his lessons, visit his website; [www.popehorticulture.com](http://www.popehorticulture.com)

Green is the 2006 Region V Ideas Unlimited Award Winner. The NAAE Ideas Unlimited award is sponsored by Thomson Delmar Learning. For more about this or other NAAE awards programs, visit [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org) and click on Awards.

**THOMSON**  
DELMAR LEARNING  
[www.delmarlearning.com](http://www.delmarlearning.com)



**Missouri Welding Institute, Inc.**

[www.mwi.ws](http://www.mwi.ws)  
3300 North Industrial Parkway  
P.O. Box 445 • Nevada, MO 64772  
1-800-667-5885 or 1-417-667-5800

### Welders Are In Extreme Demand Nationwide!

- Two Classes to Choose From
  - Master Structural Welding & Fitting
  - Master Pipe Welding & Fitting

- 5 National Certifications
- Student to Instructor Ratio 18:1
- Lifetime Placement Services



*~ Our philosophy is to train superior welding craftsmen to fulfill their dreams. It is our definite goal to prepare our students for a broad background in welding with many diversified alternatives of employment. ~*

### Missouri Welding Institute Courses Include:

- Master Pipe Fitting and Welding
- Master Structural Fitting and Welding
- Advanced Welding
- GTAW, SMAW, FCAW, & GMAW
- Pipe Fitting Laboratory
- Pipe Layout and Assembly
- Blueprint Reading and Welding Symbols
- Shop and Field Safety
- Welding Theory
- Inspection Codes, Standards & Terminology
- AWS D1.1 Certifications
- ASME Section IX Certifications
- Limited Access Welding
- Recognition of Welding Defects
- Welding Repair and Troubleshooting
- Pipe Isometric Drawing and Interpretation
- Lifetime Job Placement Assistance
- Complete Gear Kit, Toolbox, and Books

**MISSOURI WELDING INSTITUTE**  
"A PREMIER WELDING SCHOOL"

**CHECK OUT THE REST  
BUT  
COME TO THE BEST!!**

# Regional Update

## Region I



**Kevin Fochs, Region I VP**  
Email: [kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us)

It's that time of year when we see new growth flourish with the spring rains, fresh green grass and budding trees. Hope that this spring full of energy will fire you up for the remainder of the year and give you the excitement for new growth in your agriculture education departments.

We just finished State FFA convention in Montana and it's always nice to see the energy that the students bring to convention. It's also nice as the pace slows down a bit and we can catch up on tasks we maybe have put on the back burner. I hope one of those tasks would be to get some recognition for yourself, your agriculture education department or to say thanks to someone who has supported what you do. Please take a look at the award applications on the NAAE web site and seriously consider this step of recognition by completing an application for you or someone who supports agricultural education in your state.

If time permits, try to make it to your regional conference to pick up some new ideas and provide input to the future direction of your organization, the NAAE! Think about what you can do in working towards the lofty goal of 10 X 15. We all need to be a part of the goal if it is going to be attained. Have a great spring.

*NAAE Members toured the Fiddleback Ranch in Wyoming during the NAAE Region I Conference*



## Region II



**Kathy Conerly, Region II VP**  
Email: [kconerly1@bellsouth.net](mailto:kconerly1@bellsouth.net)

There are a hundred reasons for ag teachers to turn our heads away from being an advocate for our profession. We're just too busy. It's not the right time. We don't feel comfortable around politicians.

The fact is, we all must be advocates if we want our profession to flourish. What does getting involved take? Sometimes just a quick e-mail or fax will let your legislator know how you feel. Keep his/her information in your address book. Use a form letter and revise it as you need.

Why do you have to worry about advocacy? Do you receive Carl Perkins funding? Are your courses used for academic credit? Do you have a 12-month contract? Do you get a travel stipend? Is there a qualified program coordinator at the state level? Most states now realize that advocacy is important for program survival, so get involved!

Speaking of getting involved, don't forget that the NAAE awards applications are due by May 15. See the Awards button on the website at [naae.org](http://naae.org) to download this year's forms. Double check that the information page and all other required documentation is included.

If you haven't registered for our Region II conference yet, there is still time. It will be held June 17-20 in Pittsburg, KS. Registration forms can be obtained from your state president or downloaded from [naae.org/affiliates/regionsIVI](http://naae.org/affiliates/regionsIVI), click on Region II on the map. Please have your registration forms in by May 17 to avoid a late fee. See you there, it's going to be a great conference!

## Region III



**Tom Hofmann, Region III VP**  
Email: [thofmann@spsne.org](mailto:thofmann@spsne.org)

Knock Knock! Who's there? Ben. Ben who? Ben wonderin' what you're up to!

The year is winding down and our attention should be turning to NAAE professional development opportunities such as the upcoming Region III conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 18-20th. I hope that each state will have many members attend. Each state needs to bring its completed Strategic Plan Evaluation to the conference. Additionally, we have been asked to capture our conference with photos that can be used during the upcoming NAAE convention, so bring your camera. Registration and lodging information is located on [naae.org](http://naae.org).

Have you been developing relationships with your state and U.S. legislators? Many of us have new representatives in Washington D.C. It is our responsibility to communicate the importance of Agricultural Education to newly elected as well as long time members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Make use of the Legislative Action Center on the NAAE website to correspond with your elected officials.

With the end of the school year coming soon several new teachers are going through the process of interviewing and starting their career as Agricultural Educators. I hope that you will take the time to welcome them to our profession, explain the advantages of NAAE, and let them know you are ready, willing and able to be a mentor. The key to a successful first year has and always will be having a mentor to bounce off ideas and vent.

# Regional Update

## Region IV



**Greg Curlin, Region IV VP**  
Email: [gcurlin@switzerland.k12.in.us](mailto:gcurlin@switzerland.k12.in.us)

When I think of the word advocacy, I wonder how can I apply that word as an agriculture teacher? We as educators can make positive impressions on our legislators that will influence their decisions. As we strive to maintain our funding and continue to develop new curriculum, we need to build relationships with all decision makers, from our local policy leaders to our U.S. representatives and senators.

Summer is a good time to invite your legislators to local and state events. Paint a clear image of your mission. Show the individuals who make the decisions why you are a major contributor. From chapter banquets to county fair events, our agriculture programs are important to the public.

I hope teachers are clearing their calendars for the upcoming region IV conference in Detroit, June 25-27th. Registration is due by May 4th. Visit [www.naae.org/affiliates/regions/region4](http://www.naae.org/affiliates/regions/region4) to download the agenda and registration. The Michigan association has an excellent agenda planned for us.

On another topic, do you have a unique lesson that you would like to share with others? The NAAE may be interested in having presented at the national convention in Las Vegas. Workshop proposals are due by June 15th to the NAAE office. Go to [www.naae.org/convention/profdevworkshops](http://www.naae.org/convention/profdevworkshops) for more information.

As many of us plan ahead for the next school year, the NAAE Convention in Las

*continued on pg. 14*

## Region V



**Ray Nash, Region V VP**  
Email: [rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us](mailto:rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us)

For all of us the school's year's end is quickly approaching. Our focus is on trying to keep our students attention, while they are thinking of summer break, prom, and graduation. We are also focused on urging our students to apply for proficiency awards, advanced degrees, and scholarship applications. We do this because we want to see our students get their due recognition for their efforts. However, we as teachers often overlook being recognized for the things that we do. Either it's, "I don't have time to fill out the application," or "I don't want to toot my own horn," or "I don't feel as if what I am doing is noteworthy compared to others." Don't let those excuses inhibit you from applying one of the many awards programs that our organization offers. Your program is making a difference in the lives of many, why not be recognized for your efforts just has you have encouraged your students to be recognized? All award applications are available on the NAAE website. The application deadline is fast approaching — take time to apply today.

Spring also marks the end of many of our states' legislative sessions. I hope that efforts in your respective states have been successful in securing those things necessary to make your programs successful. Congratulations to the Tennessee teachers for securing \$500,000 for their FFA Foundation and to the Mississippi teachers for receiving \$375,000 for renovation and additions for their FFA leadership center.

Don't forget to make plans to attend

*continued on pg. 14*

## Region VI



**Sally Shomo, Region VI VP**  
Email: [sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us](mailto:sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us)

Are you proud to be an agricultural educator? Are you proud to be an FFA advisor? Are you proud of your past experiences of being an FFA member? To these questions, most of us would answer a definite YES! The other day, I was wearing a shirt with the FFA emblem on it and a lady asked me if I was a den mother for boy/girl scouts. That opened the door for me...after five minutes, she knew all about the FFA, agricultural education and the opportunities that are available to young people involved in this great organization. All it took was being willing to share...be proud of what you do and who you work with on a daily basis! It's time you take the stand and tell everyone the advantages of being an agricultural educator. What other occupation allows us the opportunities that we, as agricultural educators, have? Strut your stuff, wear your logo clothing, get a NAAE tattoo (only kidding) – but let people know the quality of educational activities that you, as an agricultural educator offer, - this is advocacy on the most basic level!

The Region VI Conference is just around the corner, July 10-12 in Monroe, New Jersey. Thanks to New Jersey for hosting and providing us with many educational workshops and the opportunity to check out the uniqueness of this small state. I look forward to seeing you in New Jersey for our Region VI meetings!

As we end another year of school and agricultural education, let's plan family time and time to re-energize ourselves.

*continued on pg. 14*

## NAAE President Lee James Receives Honor

### *James named 2007 Outstanding Member of Mississippi Association for Career and Technical Education*

Lee James, current president of the National Association of Agricultural Educators and 30 year agricultural education veteran, was recognized the 2007 Outstanding Member of the Mississippi Association for Career and Technical Education (MSACTE) at the association's annual meeting on March 12.

"I have been involved in my professional organizations since I began my teaching career," said James. "I believe it is important to be a member and be involved in the organizations. This award means so much to me and hopefully has resulted from my being able to give back to organizations that have given so much to me as a teacher."

The MSACTE Outstanding Member Award takes into consideration a member's contributions to career and technical education, as well as leadership positions held within the profession, and works published in an effort to promote and further the profession.



"Lee James is one of only 164 agriculture teachers who are certified by the National Board on Professional Teaching Standards and he is one of ten certified in Mississippi," said Don Connerly, MSACTE's Outstanding Member Awards chairman. "As a career/technical educator, Lee ensures that his students are well prepared for higher education and for high demand, high wage careers."

## Professional Development Opportunity

Hummert International is offering two Agricultural Education Short Courses at their corporate office in Earth City, MO.

### **GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

**JUNE 26 – 28**

Course topics include: Plant propagation, growing media, nutrition, poinsettia production, spring crop production, perennials and herb production, insect identification and control, plant diseases, lighting, irrigation and greenhouse maintenance. Included is a tour of Monsanto research greenhouses.

### **LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT**

**JULY 31 – AUGUST 1**

Course topics include: Basic landscape design, landscape plant selection, turf grass species and blends, seeding rates, turf diseases, insect control, turf nutrition, pre and post herbicides and irrigation. Included is a tour of St. Louis Community College Horticulture Department.

For further information please e-mail Shannon Dieckman at [sdieckman@hummert.com](mailto:sdieckman@hummert.com) or call Hummert International at 800-325-3055 and ask for Shannon Dieckman at extension 124.

Visit [naae.org/links/workshops](http://naae.org/links/workshops) for a complete listing of professional development workshop opportunities from across the country.



**Greenhouses and Shade Houses  
Environmental Systems & Supplies  
Horticultural Training Centers**

**Gothic Arch Greenhouses, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1564, Mobile, AL 36633-1564  
1-800-531-GROW (4769)**

[www.GothicArchGreenhouses.com](http://www.GothicArchGreenhouses.com)



*Wm. Jay Jackman  
NAAE Executive Director*

## ***New Congressional CTE Caucus Formed in House***

Two members of the U. S. House of Representatives, Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) and Representative Phil English (R-PA) are forming a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Caucus in the House of Representatives. The caucus will be bipartisan and will work to highlight the importance of CTE in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in America. Caucus members will also become aware of how CTE affects their district specifically, and they will seek out ways to continue to grow CTE courses throughout the country.

As of April 25, the members of the CTE Caucus are Brian Baird (D-WA), Phil English (R-PA), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Adam Smith (D-WA), Denny Rehberg (R-MT), Gene Green (D-TX), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Jim McDermott (D-WA), John Peterson (R-PA), Adam Smith (D-PA), Zach Space (D-OH), Mike Honda (D-CA), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Vic Snyder (D-AR), Bob Filner (D-CA), Tim Holden (D-PA), Ike Skelton (D-MO), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Thelma Drake (R-VA), and Betty Sutton (D-OH).

There is no deadline for joining the caucus. If your member of the U.S. House of Representatives is not already a member of the CTE Caucus, please contact him/her and encourage him/her to join the CTE Caucus. To join the caucus, members of Congress should contact Representative Baird or Representative English.

## ***OVAE Creates Student Appointment Opportunity in Agriscience Education***

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has created a student appointment in which participants will assist in the development of public information, program administration and policy initiatives in the area of agricultural science/FFA – a part of the Division of Academic Technical Education. Students will gain knowledge and experience in federal program development and educational policy administration. Among the benefits of participation:

- The discovery of new and innovative resources that will support the continuation and growth of agricultural science education and other program opportunities.
- Developing a good understanding of education and agricultural policy and the dissemination of key information to related professional organizations.
- Developing good working relationships and open communication with government, business and industry partners.
- The opportunity to publish an article in a professional publication emphasizing their experience.
- The student may take part in the National Ag Ed In-service and lead discussions on topics to increase professional development of those participating.
- Students may receive college credit.

Among the position's assignments will be opportunities to help determine the role and function of Ag Ed in education policy; provide a more comprehensive understanding of agricultural science education /FFA to key leaders in the education department; assist U.S. Department of Education Ag Ed staff in accomplishing goals and objectives; and help determine how agricultural education can assist in the support of No Child Left Behind. This will be the first year for the position. To be eligible students must be U.S. citizens, enrolled in an agricultural science education teacher preparation program at the university level, and should be near completion of the program. This is a paid position located at OVAE's office in Washington, D.C. The position requires a commitment of one semester, which could be extended up to one year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students who are interested in the policy side of agricultural education. The application deadline for this year's position has already passed, but this might be a good opportunity to keep in mind for next year.

## ***NAAE Legislative Action Center***

Please take every opportunity to communicate with your members of Congress. Advocacy is about building relationships. We must build a relationship with our members of Congress before we ask for their help in a crisis situation. Feel free to use NAAE's Legislative Action Center (<http://www.naae.org/advocacy/legactioncenter/>) to communicate with your Congressional delegation.

## Identity Theft -- It Can Happen to You!

*The Federal Trade Commission estimates that 10 million Americans — 1 out of every 30 — will be victims of identity theft this year.*

The FTC estimates that Americans will spend a combined 300 million hours this year to repair the damage of identity theft. Here are ways to minimize your risk of becoming a victim:

- Shred financial documents and other papers containing personal information before throwing them away.
- Don't give out account numbers, Social Security numbers or other personal information by phone, mail or the

Internet unless you have initiated the contact.

- Use complex character strings for your accounts passwords, mixing upper and lower case alpha and numeric characters.
- Monitor your credit report and your account statements for suspicious activity
- Subscribe to an identity theft protection service such as ID Theft Assist, which is available at a special rate to NAAE members. ID Theft Assist can alert you via e-mail whenever there is a change to your credit report, and it will handle the entire recovery process if you become an identity theft victim.

For more information on ID Theft Assist and to enroll online, visit [www.ftj.com/tie/idtheft](http://www.ftj.com/tie/idtheft).

© 2006, Forrest T. Jones & Company. Used by Permission.

## New Utility Arborist Curriculum Available

Are you looking to prepare your students for a high-demand career where their work benefits the community, the economy and the environment? Utility arboriculture has become a vital profession in today's world of balancing the need for electricity while slowing the effects of global warming.

Technical education in utility arboriculture, offered at the high school vocational level, will develop basic tree skills, subsequently providing students with many exciting career opportunities. Students of the utility arborist program will learn the fundamentals of tree care so they may enter the workforce in a productive capacity or continue their academic learning by attending a two or four-year college in a tree care or forestry related program.

The program is aligned with internationally recognized training and certification programs. Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the tree care industry. They will participate in a structured classroom learning environment that will cover safety, electrical hazards, tree health and science, climbing, pruning, rigging, and removal.

To learn more, contact the Utility Arborist Association (UAA) or visit [www.utilityarborist.org](http://www.utilityarborist.org) or [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com). To get more information on careers in arboriculture visit [www.isa-arbor.com/careersInArboriculture/careers.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/careersInArboriculture/careers.aspx). Student friendly study guides and textbooks can be found at [secure.isa-arbor.com/store/](http://secure.isa-arbor.com/store/).

## Resources on the Web



**MENTORING & TEACHER INDUCTION PROGRAMS ACROSS THE U.S. --** <http://www.naae.org/links/mentoring>

Check out the new section of NAAE's website that features information about mentoring and induction programs for new agriculture teachers. There is a page that outlines how different states conduct their mentoring programs, as well as links to Dr. Dick Joerger's National Teacher Induction and Mentoring Website -- a great resource for anyone looking to set up a new program or improve their current one.

**FREE-TEACHING RESOURCES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --** <http://www.free.ed.gov>

Find more than 1500 free teaching and learning resources from the federal government. Resources are included from dozens of federal agencies, and new sites are added regularly.

This site even includes an RSS feed, so you can have new resources delivered to you several times a week. FREE is among the most popular K-12 websites maintained by the U.S. Department of Education because of the many great resources being offered by participating federal agencies.

**WIKI SITE FOR TEACHING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**  
<http://teachagedwiki.wiki-site.com>

A new WIKI site has been created to promote the career of Agricultural Education in high schools. The goal is for this to become a place that high school students and others can go to learn about the profession. This WIKI page can be edited by anyone who has something to contribute – this means you!

*News & Views is published bi-monthly by the NAAE, Inc. as a service to its members.*

## EDITOR

Julie Fritsch  
JFritsch.NAAE@uky.edu

NAAE, Inc.

300 Garrigus Bldg.  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546-0215  
Phone: (800) 509-0204 or  
(859) 257-2224  
Fax: (859) 323-3919  
Website: <http://www.naae.org>

## SUBMISSIONS

To submit letters to the editor or to send article queries or manuscripts, e-mail [jfritsch.naae@uky.edu](mailto:jfritsch.naae@uky.edu).

## ADVERTISING

Information on purchasing advertisements in News & Views is available online at <http://www.naae.org/about/NVadvertising/index.html>

## NAAE BOARD & STAFF

### PRESIDENT

Lee James.....lames@choctaw.k12.ms.us

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Harold Eckler.....eckler@marktwain.net

### REGION I VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Fochs.....kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us

### REGION II VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Conerly.....kconerly1@bellsouth.net

### REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Hofmann.....thofmann@spsne.org

### REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Curlin.....gcurlin@switzerland.k12.in.us

### REGION V VICE PRESIDENT

Ray Nash.....rnash@alcorn.k12.ms.us

### REGION VI VICE PRESIDENT

Sally Shomo.....sshomo@augusta.k12.va.us

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wm. Jay Jackman.....jjackman.naae@uky.edu

### ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alissa Smith.....asmith.naae@uky.edu

### COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING COORDINATOR

Julie Fritsch.....jfritsch.naae@uky.edu

### STAFF ASSOCIATE

Linda Berry.....lberry@uky.edu

# Dates & Events

**National Farm Management Conference** -- June 11-14, 2007, Rochester, MN  
**NAAE Region II Conference** -- June 17-20, 2007, Pittsburg, KS  
**NAAE Region III Conference** -- June 18-20, 2007, Sioux Falls, SD  
**NAAE Region IV Conference** -- June 25-27, 2007, Detroit, MI  
**NAAE Region V Conference** -- June 18-21, 2007, Montgomery, Alabama  
**NAAE Region VI Conference** -- July 10-12, 2007, Monroe, NJ  
**NAAE Summer Board of Directors Meeting** -- July 16-18, 2007, Washington, D.C.  
**NAAE Convention** -- December 11-15, 2007, Las Vegas, NV

## Regional Updates (continued)

### Region IV

from pg. 9

Vegas will have plenty of activity. Check the website for potential activities, including the Teacher Turn the Key for our young teachers. It is an awesome time to share ideas with peers about what is working in the classroom.

As I close, remember to take the time to visit our new leaders of our communities and states. Check the updates and award deadlines in your home states. The awards may take time to complete but the honor is well worth the time.

### Region V

from pg. 9

our Region V conference in Montgomery, Alabama, June 18-21. The deadline for registration is May 22nd and hotel reservations is June 4th. All regional conference forms can be downloaded at [naae.org/affiliates/regionsIVI/region5.html](http://naae.org/affiliates/regionsIVI/region5.html).

### Region VI

from pg. 9

2007-2008 is just around the corner. Take a vacation, go fishing, shopping, catch up on your home improvement projects and rest. We have to take care of ourselves first so that we can continue to do the great job that we do with our agricultural youth! My best to you and your families.

Wishing you a wonderful summer. Rest up and get ready for 'Investing in the Future' of agricultural education...

A special note...thanks for all of the support, emails and prayers after the tragedy on the VA Tech Campus. What a wonderful show of caring from our Ag Ed family.

## LAST CHANCE!

### Apply for a NAAE award

We offer awards in many categories, with great prizes and recognition in each.

For complete details and applications, visit [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org)

Deadline for submission is  
May 15th

## DON'T MISS OUT!