

The Yellow Dog

Editor: Jo L. Egelund

Utah Vocational Agriculture
Teachers Association Newsletter
September 26, 1996

A Note From Our President

Jerry Hurst
UVATA President

We are now in-and-amongst-em' again. The summers get shorter and shorter where I'm at. It's hard to get everything done in the 'Old Summer Program' when you get out in June and are back at it in the middle of August. I'm afraid they're easin' up on year round school and that's a scary thought. In a recent poll, seventy-five percent of the sample group of ag. teachers admitted that the main reason they went into teaching was summers off. Right!

I hope your year has started with a bang. The State Fair is behind us and Greenhand Initiation is around the corner. I think back to the initiations I went through and the realization is how 'barbaric' they were when you look at them from today's perspective. Imagine the lawsuits that would be flying if we still had the marshmallow races. What would happen if the chapter farmers still cracked eggs into the open sparrow - like mouths of the new greenhands. I just don't think the old 'Ben Gay in the athletic supporter trick' would go unnoticed these days by parents and administrators. Dang, you just can't have any fun now days. We take flack now just for painting their hands green and making them dress like old farmers.

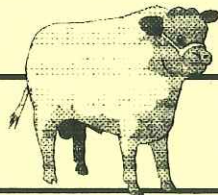
We have a great thing going. I tell my students that the FFA is the absolute best youth program going. No other club, team, or organization can match the opportunities available to students like the FFA does. (I just wish the letters FFA still meant something.)

I still think that we need to blow our horns a little louder to let people know what we're all about. You could do that by writing an article to the Yellow Dog. - Good Idea! We need to put the following poem into practice:

Early to bed
Early to rise
Work like hell
and advertise.

I hope you have a great year. A lot of things are happening too fast. I hope you can keep up. Of course some things are happening to slow, like new record books. I hope your students have the proficiency of Bill Schell's, the judgment of Ray Little's, and the wisdom Fred Christensen thinks he has.

In closing, I'd like to say to Lynn Wyatt, "My cow just died, so I'm not going to be needing your bull this year!"



UEA Time Who Should Attend The NVATA Convention Each Year?

Kent Staheli
UVATA Treasurer
Woods Cross High

I really think that more of you need to attend the National NVATA Convention each year. I have had many experiences when I have been at the conventions. Last year our convention was in Denver and there were only 2 teachers from Utah there. While at this convention, I learned the committee process in action. After the National Convention in December, I had the chance to attend the Western Regional Convention in Moscow, Idaho. At this convention as well as at other regional meetings, business is taken care of by the committees. At Moscow, I was made Co-chair to a committee, so I will get the chance to attend the convention this year in December. I will admit that we have a great Vocational Director that encourages the teachers to be members and also to get involved in the leadership process.

Our director allows those that are officers in their groups to attend these conventions so when you see the list of officers each year and there are ag. teachers from Davis running for office, you know that they have the backing of their director, to do their job.

I am the treasurer this year and I want to also remind you that if you haven't paid for your membership, you should get that taken care of. Have a great year. For the other officers, I hope you will be able to attend the National NVATA Convention in December. The forms are in your May issue of the Vocational Magazine.



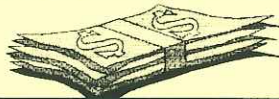
Agriculture Goes Beyond Your Classroom

Debra Spielmaker
UVATA Secretary
Utah Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Utah State University

How much time will it take you to plan your Food For America Program? Hardly any time at all if you assign it to some one else to conduct the program. That's right, "pass the buck." The most successful Food for American Programs are planned and conducted by your students. Pick an officer or another responsible student to serve as the program chairperson, and with limited guidance from you, your chapter can have a very successful Food for America Program and Agriculture in the Classroom experience. Now is a good time to start planning your program!

Again the Utah Foundation for Ag in the Classroom will be sponsoring awards for the most outstanding programs. The best three program will receive a cash award and a plaque. The first place chapter will receive \$100.00, second place will receive \$75.00 and third place will receive \$50.00. ALL participating chapters will receive a certificate of recognition.

The Ag in the Classroom Program at Utah State University is eager to help you and your students. If you did not receive a copy of the Utah Ag in the Classroom Resource Guide at June Conference please get one at UEA or call and we'll mail you one. Also, for those of you that surf the net, Ag in the Classroom has a new home page. Visit us at <http://ext.usu.edu/aitc>, we have our complete resource guide located on the internet. You'll also find our newsletter, ag-links, our workshop schedule, and you or your Food For America Chairperson can send me email to order videos or other materials you may want for your classroom instruction. Oh! Don't forget, that the National FFA Organization has a NEW, hot-off-the-press, Food For American Planning Guide. You can order your from the Supply Service for a cost of \$25.00. The activities and ideas can be adapted to the various grades you may want to visit, however, I recommend that the video that comes with the kit only be used for kindergarten through third grade. Many "better" videos are available from the Ag in the Classroom Resource Center.



New Faculty In The Agricultural Systems Technology and Education Department

Dr. Gary S. Straquadine
Department Head, Agricultural Systems Technology and Education
Utah State University



The Agricultural Systems Technology and Education (ASTE) Department at Utah State University has added a number of new faculty members. With Dr. Gary S. Straquadine's promotion to Department Head last January, a significant void was created in the teacher education component of the department. Dr. Richard (Dick) Joerger has earned this assignment and will direct the teacher preparation part of the ASTE Department. Your calls and comments regarding the teacher preparation program are to be directed to Dr. Joerger.

Dr. Gilbert Long's retirement produced another vacancy in teacher training. Dr. Guy Denton has been hired to teach both teacher preparation and extension education courses. Many of you may remember Dr. Denton from his days as a high school agricultural education teacher in Vernal, Utah and his times in coordinating the concurrent credit education program for the College of Agriculture. Dr. Denton has just returned from a seven year assignment with agricultural extension education in Uganda.

The Agricultural Systems Technology component of the department has added Dr. Richard Beard. Dr. Beard comes to the ASTE Department by way of the University of Georgia-Athens where he was an assistant professor of agricultural mechanics. Dr. Beard will teach part time and balance his responsibilities with a one-half time appointment as the Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Machinery Specialists.

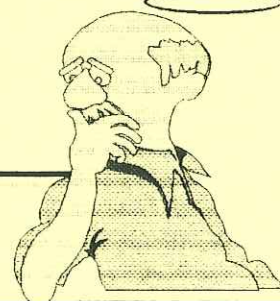
Mr. Daryl Reece will be joining the department in December to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Darwin Jolley's retirement. Mr. Reece has both a bachelors and masters degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Idaho. He also has a life time of work experiences in Caterpillar Tractors. Mr. Reece will be teaching full time in the agricultural machinery technology program with Mr. Evan Parker.

Open Mindedness and Programmatic Changes in Utah Agricultural Education

As Utah Agricultural Education moves toward a programmatic approach to instruction, it is important that we all take off the blinders, looking tall over the embanked ruts in the road we may have fallen. I am reminded of the inspirational words of this nineteenth century philosopher.

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance - that principle is contempt prior to investigation."

-- Herbert Spenser



Hellow From The Fremont FFA Chapter

Jerry Allred and Jo Egelund

Our FFA Chapter members and advisors spent many, many hours this summer building hog panels for the Weber County Fair Grounds. I'll bet you can't guess what our BOAC will be this year!

Our FFA Chapter went to Southern Idaho, this past summer for our summer tour. We visited the College of Southern Idaho Fish Hatchery, Charmac Trailers, Fish Breeders of Idaho, a cheese factory, and Southfields Dairy.

We hosted our area meeting by partaking of the summer's collection of road kill goods, that were collected during student visits. Other area members contributed some of their tasty tidbits that were saved for the occasion.

The school year is off and running, probably excellorating faster than any of us are able to go. Our agriculture program has approximately 800 students crowding into our classrooms, all excited to learn. The students are really in full swing, ready to hop on opportunity as it knocks. We were lucky enough to get a program leadership class this year, therefore many activities will be available to our students. The students have been involved in making flowers for the faculty for homecoming week and are starting the PALS program. We have already had our first activity (miniature golf and guess what?? The PGA wants Heather to be their caddy and are paying her not to play in their tournaments).

The program is growing by leaps and bounds. As some of you may already know we have added yet another member to our Agriculture Education Department, making a total of four now. Our latest addition is Jo Egelund, coming to us from the ASTE Department. Jo is teaching our BAST, Farm and Ranch Management, Animal Science, and Plant and Soil Science classes. Heather Hopkins teaches Green House, Horticulture, Small Engines and Applied Technology, Program Leadership, and Farm and Ranch Management. Clyde Ellertson teaches our Welding I, Welding II, and Agriculture Mechanics classes. Jerry Allred, well we are not sure except he is gone fishing a lot, says he is on a field trip!

WOW!!! What a team! Two males and two females, fighting over all their wonderful collection of road kill! Sorry there won't be any left for the rest of you, but we do wish all of you a happy and productive year. Stop in and see us at Fremont High any time.

**Best Regards,
Fremont's Biodegradable Animal Control Unit**

