

Tuesday - Feb 9 - Kent Stahel
Davis Area ATC
Julie Kenob Hunt



The Yellow Dog

Utah Vocational Agriculture
Teachers Association
Newsletter

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Editor: Heather Hopkins

THE AG SURVIVAL TEST

Will you be able to survive in agriculture? Here is a test designed to help you evaluate your chances. Your answers will determine whether you are financially and psychologically fit to continue. Please circle either A) or B).

1. My present financial portfolio includes:
 - A) over one million in land and livestock free and clear
 - B) a ten year old Ford $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, 6 horses worth 32 cents a pound and a wife with a job.
2. Most of my ready cash is in:
 - A) interest bearing checking accounts
 - B) a Copenhagen lid on the bedroom dresser.
3. My banker calls me:
 - A) "Mister"
 - B) every two hours
4. My idea of a sound financial investment is:
 - A) undeveloped pasture in downtown Dallas
 - B) a racing greyhound
5. My chances of getting a loan are:
 - A) sure as the sun rises
 - B) as good as Slim Whitman becoming Pope (Pope Slim I)
6. The best cattle deal I ever made was:
 - A) sold 3,000 head of 28 cent Corrientes for 56 cents three months later
 - B) stole a truckload of feeder calves and lost \$30 a head
7. I started ranching because:
 - A) I love the land and inherited \$5 million
 - B) my daddy chained me to a tractor when I was 6 years old
8. My long term economic plans include:
 - A) expansion and increased productivity
 - B) winning the jackpot team roping next Friday
9. I intend to ranch and farm as long as I can:
 - A) make money
 - B) borrow money
10. The reason I ranch and farm today is:
 - A) I find it a fascinating and lucrative profession
 - B) I'm in too deep to quit

RESULTS: If you circled all A's, you are an optimistic management type with oil on your property. It is highly likely you will survive and invest in satellite technology.

If you circled all B's, you are presently engaged in modern marginal agricultural practices. You will be here tomorrow and the next day, and the next, and the next. Because somebody will always have to be there to do the work.

Words Of Wisdom From The President

Bill Schell

UVATA President

News from New Orleans:

My travels as your President recently took me to the great city of New Orleans for the Golden Anniversary Convention of the National Association of Agricultural Educators. I have to say that it was the best of the six such conventions that I have been able to attend.

Among the business at the AVA and NAAE Conventions was the election of a new President-elect and new Region I Vice President. Mike Cox, the Agriculture Instructor at Allsonia, Virginia was elected by the delegate body as the new President-elect. I believe Mike will do a good job as the organization turns the corner at the century mark. Our new Region I Vice President is Sue Poland from Cambridge, Idaho. I have know Sue for many years, and I know that our leadership is in good hands for her three year term.

Tom Kremer, of Anna, Ohio, now takes over the reins as President for the coming year, after serving this past year as President-elect. Tom also seems to be a very intelligent and resourceful person.

I was disappointed to be the only Utah Ag. Teacher at the NAAE meetings! It is my own opinion that the leadership potential in our state is every bit as capable as that in any other. It would be great to see Utah ag. teachers in national leadership positions.

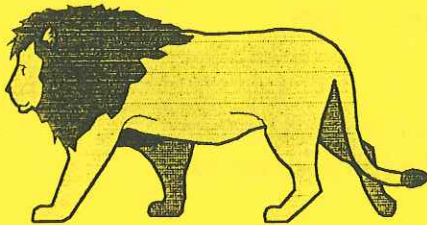
The Region I conference will be held April 22-24 in Gardnerville, Neveada. Among the activities planned include some training with hydroponics, tissue culture, turf management, composting and proficiency awards, as well as a dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe. The registration cost of \$100.00 includes all lab feeds, the cruise and most of the meals. We will be headquartered at the Carson Valley Motor Lodge for around \$50.00 a night. I have registration information for anyone interested. These are due no later than April 1.

Please keep the NAAE awards program in mind this spring. Let's get a bunch of applications for Outstanding Young Member, Ag Ed Teacher and Program. I will need them the first part of May.

I wish you success at area contests and sate convention. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way. I check my e-mail daily, and my address is:
shell@m.daggett.k12.ut.us.

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

By: Buddy Diemler



My five year old son and I were on the prowl, two wild and crazy guys out on the town looking for some fun and action. After spending a hard morning in Home Depot, we stopped in at McDonald's for some lunch. Half way through lunch I noticed a puzzle on the side of the Happy Meal Box. It consisted of four pictures; a tiger, a lion, a house cat, and a zebra. The question across the bottom asked it's young clientele, "which of these animals does not belong with the others?" Being a teacher I recognized the opportunity for a test and posed the question to my son. His quick response was, the kitty cat. I was stunned. It was obvious to me and it was obvious to the test writer at McDonald's that the one that did not belong was the zebra, all of the others were cats. Frustrated I asked him to explain himself. He gave me that "sometimes you really surprise me look" and replied, "The kitty cat is not a zoo animal, and all of the others are".

Evaluation of student progress is a critical part of quality teaching. It is also one of the most miss-used parts. Many times we don't get the answers we want because we don't ask the questions right. Often the results mean little because we don't have a clear understanding of what we are trying to assess and measure. Many of the assessments we create are complicated and sophisticated to the point that we forget what we are assessing and usually don't understand the results when we are done. Many times we leap to the conclusion that our students are not learning or are simply lazy and never consider the possibility that our assessment may be poorly designed.

Back in the classroom my five year old son failed the test because I was measuring his ability to place animals in their proper taxonomy. This was not his understanding and was certainly not what I asked him to do. A brighter teacher would have recognized his creativity in problem solving and with a little coaching could have helped him classify these four animals into many different groups; size, tail type, color, stripes, and finally taxonomy, the desired response. I know, because with a little coaching from him I was able to see all of the possibilities raised from one simple question and he was able to see my narrow view.

So where does the Skill Certification testing process fit into this model? We are making an effort to provide more performance based assessment of the students skills. This is not an easy process. It is hard to develop and it is hard to track. But we have started and I hope that we can continue in this effort because I believe that it is the best way to assess the skill level of your students. I hesitate to say, let me know what you think, but we both know that your input is important to the process. Keep up the good work. We are making progress.

Utah FFA Association

Brett Evens

Event Dates:

Feb. 1999 Area Contests, Feb. 21-27 National FFA Week,
Mar 18-20, 1999 Utah FFA Association State Convention, April 13-14, 1999 BYU Field Day
June 22-23, 1999 State FFA Contest (Entry Deadline June 7, 1999)

Deadline Dates:

- Feb. 1** State FFA Officer Candidate Applications postmarked to Executive Secretary
State Officer Nominating Comm Commitment and Appl Form postmarked to
Exec Sec
- Feb. 15** All Area Contest Results Due to Executive Secretary (Creed, Prepared Public
Speaking, Extemp Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, State FFA Degree Apps,
Star State Apps, Star Greenhand Apps, Proficiency Awards, American FFA
Degree Apps)
National FFA Scholarship Applications Due to Natl FFA
- Feb. 22** IFA Scholarship Applications Due to Executive Secretary
PCA/Federal Land Bank Scholarship Applications Due to Exec Secretary
Honorary State FFA Degree Nominations Due to Executive Secretary
Distinguished Service Award Nominations Due to Executive Secretary
Superior Chapter Applications Due to Executive Secretary
Motions for Consideration at State Convention postmarked to Executive Sec
State Convention Talent Applications Due to Executive Secretary
Agriscience Student Award Applications Due to Executive Secretary
Outstanding Food For America Program Applications Due to Executive Sec
Agriscience Teacher of the Year Apps due to Executive Secretary
- March 5** State FFA Convention Registration due to Executive Secretary
- April 1999** BYU Registration Due to BYU
- May 10** Last Day to Submit 1997-98 FFA Roster Additions to Executive Secretary
- June 7** Registration for 1997-98 State FFA Contest Due to Executive Secretary

Please sent any information that you would like to include in the
Yellow Dog to Heather Hopkins. Fax #435-563-9534 or e-mail:

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Your stories and wisdom would be appreciated by all who read!!!