



THE YELLOW DOG

Newsletter for the
UVATA

March 30, 2006

President's Message

Presidents Message

WOW! It seems like every year about this time I get excited for spring...getting the boat out of moth balls and going for some nice trout just at ice-off; planting the garden; getting livestock animals going well; enjoying longer evenings and barbeques; Easter picnics & parties; you know all the stuff that's fun....then I remember the mountain of things that needs to be done just to go to state convention; all the practices that still need to happen for judging contests; the preparations that need to be made for summer activities; and on and on. What a challenging profession we are involved in! One great thing about it is there are no two days alike-there is always something new.

As we have worked to serve as your officers this year, we felt frustrated about the lack of direction we had with regard to a constitution and a set of by laws. In our time of political challenges we are facing with actions by President Bush to do away with Perkins funding, and the challenges we have on the state level with the State School Board committing to the legislature to increase graduation requirements, as an officer team we have felt like we need more direction as an association to guide the work and efforts of the officers. To that end, we have researched several sources and found a promising document, which we have modified to fit Utah, and which we would propose adopting as an amendment to our bylaws. We have provided each officer with a copy of the proposal, and have extra copies available for interested teachers to review. We hope you will look it over and give us your recommendations. At summer conference, we plan to bring the changes to a vote.

We have a few other critical things going on. Our Region I NAAE meetings are in Boise, April 19-22. Charles has made arrangements for a van and we could get another if we have enough people to who want to go to the conference. At the ACTE conference in Kansas City last December, the states in our region agreed to have each state pay for the winner of the Ideas Unlimited Contest attend the Region I meeting. I have, therefore, paid the registration and reserved a room for that person. This puts an additional burden on our financial resources as an organization so we have agreed to put together a Teachers' Association Travel Fund to be financed through a raffle of extremely nice prizes. We haven't decided if a raffle or an auction would be the best way to help separate each of you from as much of your money as possible. Anyway, we will decide that at the meeting. Prizes include a Prostar oxy-acetylene cutting outfit, a pair of tickets for the Bar-J Wranglers western show in Jackson including a steak dinner, a ton of steel, and various other highly desirable prizes. If you have something nice you or a local vendor you do business with would be willing to donate please contact me. We hope this will improve our financial situation and not require a dues increase. We have agreed to have a financial audit of our books each fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. This practice has not occurred for a number of years and needs to be re-implemented.

Our summer conference is nearly planned and we have some good sessions organized-both for fun and some good professional development; and don't forget to come hungry, we will have the 2nd annual breakfast at summer conference as well. As officers, we hope to finish out this year and finalize some things which will make a positive difference in our organization for years to come. One other great accomplishment was the institution of the web-based Utah Ag teacher directory. Thanks to Lisa Hadfield for putting that together, and to Buddy Deimler and Nathan Bushman who have helped with that undertaking.

If there are any issues we need to be aware of as officers, and for me as your president, please get in touch with us and let us know how we can continue to serve you. And remember, make advocacy a VITAL PART of your efforts. Thanks for the positive way you represent our association.

With Best Regards,

Grant Peterson

Utah Agriculture Teacher Recognized

Jack Seltzer, Agriculture and Science Teacher at Monument Valley High School in southern Utah, has been selected by the National Education Association (NEA) to receive the 2006 Leo Reano Memorial Award. The Leo Reano Award is given each year in memory of Leo Reano (1922-1971) who was a teacher, artist and interpreter. A member of the Santo Domingo Indian Pueblo, Reano dedicated his life to securing educational opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native children. The NEA award is given each year to recognize and honor exemplary accomplishments and contributions to the human and civil rights goals and aspirations of Americans across the nation.

Jack is being recognized for his work with the Native American students and community members who live around Monument Valley High School. Monument Valley High School is located at the end of the road, UT Highway 163, just a few miles north of the Arizona border. Jack's many projects include a sheep breeding program designed to re-introduce and strengthen the genetics of the native Navajo-Churro Sheep. (It was from Churro wool—a fleece admired by collectors for its luster, variety of natural colors and durability—that the early Rio Grande, Pueblo, and Navajo textiles were woven.) Jack's work encouraged the rebirth of weaving saddle blankets and cinch straps by the local weavers in the area. These products have long been known for their beauty and durability. Another project includes a huge garden that demonstrates the old ways of planting corn and squash alongside new ways that include the integration of drip irrigation. The garden includes a fruit orchard which produces peaches, apricots, and pears each year, turning the desert into an oasis. Down the trail from the orchard Jack and his students have planted a propagation and dye garden, including native plants long used by the native community to produce weaving fibers and produce dyes to color the fibers they weave. The native plants were collected and planted on the site and watered with a drip irrigation system. The students have built plaques that permanently identify the plants by native names and uses. This garden oasis draws many community members in to pick produce, look at the native plants and share with their children and grandchildren stories and ways from a time almost forgotten. There are plans to plant a vineyard in the spring and a plot of native medicinal plants in the future. All of these intensive projects are tied to the agricultural science courses and were designed to teach and reinforce the science standards and objectives that are so readily found in the business of raising livestock and cultivating plants. The students have written an ethnobotany publication to be used in the native plant garden. Many of Jack's students struggle with biology terms and science concepts that seem very foreign when presented in abstract form in the classroom. This valuable laboratory, a labor of love, helps to bring science to life.

Jack will be honored with the presentation of the award at the Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner to be held on the evening of Saturday, July 1, 2006 in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

We congratulate Jack on this honor and express our appreciation to him for the great work he has done and continues to do at Monument Valley High School.

State CDE Registration due postmarked by April 5, 2006

State CDE Committee Assignments - All FFA Advisors with teams competing, other than the Event Chairs, are required to serve on two CDE committees. If you would like to serve on a specific committee or not serve on a specific committee please let me know your preference and I will do my best to accommodate your desires.

Brett Evans
Utah FFA







**DESERET PEAK INVITATIONAL JUDGING CONTEST
SPONSORED BY THE GRANTSVILLE AND TOOELE FFA CHAPTERS
APRIL 12, 2006
9:30 AM
WILL BE HELD AT THE
DESERET PEAK COMPLEX (TOOELE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS)**

ENTRY FORM

CHAPTER: _____

NUMBER OF TEAMS

LIVESTOCK _____

POULTRY _____

HORSES _____

DAIRY _____

AG. MECH. _____

FLORICULTURE _____

AG. SALES _____

MEATS _____

Nursery and Landscape _____

Dairy Products _____

**PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 3, 2006
SEND ENTRIES TO BOB GOWANS
TOOELE HIGH SCHOOL
301 WEST VINE
TOOELE UTAH 84074
FAX: (435)833-1983
PHONE: (435)833-1978 EXT. 2179
EMAIL- rgowans@m.tooele.k12.ut.us**

ENTRY FEES

**\$10.00 PER TEAM WITH THE EXPECTATION OF
AG. MECH @ \$15.00 PER TEAM AND**

