



## Yellow Dog A newsletter for the U.A.A.E.

### Message from the President....Balancing it all: taking a look at ourselves.



It's been a great pleasure to serve as UAAE President this past year. I appreciate the opportunity to work with so many great teachers and our officer team. I have learned so

much and enjoyed serving. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Being UAAE President is a lot of fun and challenging. I can't think of a better group of people to be working with. Utah Ag Teachers are great people. I enjoy visiting with you laughing and sharing ideas. I appreciate all your support and help with our UAAE conferences and activities. I really appreciate all those who brought lessons, labs and activities to share at this conference and those who are presenting their lessons. The year has been extremely busy and I am looking forward to not having UAAE responsibilities on my plate, as it's already plenty full as probably all Ag teachers plates are.

Hopefully, this year we have been able to at least maintain UAAE's tradition of having worthwhile conferences and meetings. I also hope UAAE has also represented Utah Ag Teachers in a positive manner and contributed to the future of Ag education. I believe our organization has great purpose and that all Ag Teachers benefit from it, as long as they are actively involved. You can't sit back and complain, if you did not do your part or get involved. If you have concerns or

ideas, please share them and also don't be shy to get involved and do what you can to improve our organization and profession. I have a quote in my room that says "people who complain about the way a ball bounces are usually the ones who dropped it" I think this is true more often than not.

Belonging to a professional organization that promotes our profession by providing continued professional development is a real opportunity that we should all embrace. UAAE also provides us an avenue to give our profession "squawk power" in representing what Ag Education is about and the positive things we do for students. I think we all realize the need for positive P.R. for our programs and profession and hopefully UAAE can do even better in the future to help provide us that P.R.

I often wonder why Ag Education and FFA are so demanding professions. I believe it's to make sure we are always improving and giving our best, but sometimes I wonder if our profession demands too much. What makes a great program, or a great teacher? Who is the judge of this? Does winning five FFA CDES, getting five state proficiency winners make you a great FFA Advisor, or great FFA Chapter? Should we be pressuring ourselves to win a bunch of awards and contests or are there other areas in our programs that deserve more attention and do more for more students? Whatever we decide to focus on, where do we find the time?

For me, time management is a constant challenge. I feel overwhelmed by all there is to do at work. We are presented

with so many opportunities that there is no real way we could do them all. I feel guilty at times that I do not participate in every FFA event, attend every activity, and complete every application, but in reality for me there is no way I could do it all. As a single teacher program and being 150 miles or more from the majority of what happens in Utah makes it even more difficult.

As busy Ag teachers, I encourage us to evaluate our priorities within our programs. What is it we are trying to accomplish and who is it really for? I think it's good to set high goals and think about what we are not doing, but is it healthy to continually push ourselves so hard? We do have other aspects of our lives that deserve our focused attention not just our FFA chapters and students. Yes, they are important, but what about our families and time for ourselves? I do love teaching Ag and being a FFA Advisor, but at times I think our profession demands too much. Yes, we should use volunteers as much as possible and utilize our Advisory Committees, but sometimes managing adults can be a lot more work. Ag Ed teacher prep programs need to make sure that how to recruit and maintaining community volunteers is taught to prospective teachers as well as time management.

You cannot be all things to all people. I hope our young Ag teachers realize this so they don't burn out trying to please everyone. We must not be complacent and always strive to do your best and improve but don't feel obligated to do everything and don't feel that you must

## Message from the President cont.

win every FFA event or award. There is much more than wins and awards in the best Ag. programs. Ag teachers need to learn to say no and look out for ourselves and our families more. We need to find contentment in what we are doing and stay true to our goals.

Time management is a constant challenge in our profession and probably will always be. There are ways to better manage time and plenty of time management techniques and tools to help. It just takes more time to learn these and implement them and perhaps I need to invest some of my time to do just this. Hopefully this is an issue we can address in an upcoming conference. I think we would all appreciate more ways to better manage all we have to do. We will be presented with a FFA Management System at this conference that may provide some answers to help us with our work

load. If you're like me, anything that can reduce your work load would be great. I know nothing about the system being presented at this conference, but I think it will be worth exploring.

Someone once said, "Happiness is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it." I think we all enjoy the challenge of our jobs or we wouldn't be here, but let's be careful to maintain a healthy balance of work and home.

Again thank you for allowing me to serve. Get involved and let's continue to improve Ag Education together.

David Wilson



## Years of Membership Recognition

### 5 Years

Monica Gffing  
Mark Openshaw  
Hal Raymond  
Brett Robertson  
Laurel Selman  
Justin Selman

### 10 Years

Kevin Allen (2009)  
Westley Burrell  
Howard Houston  
Darin Jenkins  
Jack Seltzer  
Codie Miller

### 15 Years

Jesse Burrell

### 20 Years

Nyle Russell

### 30 years

Buddy Deimler

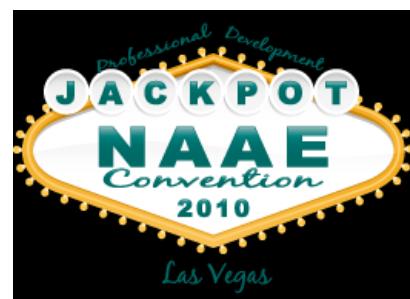
THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE'S DEAN OF ADMISSIONS WAS INTERVIEWING A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT,  
"WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN THIS CAREER?" HE ASKED.

"I DREAM OF MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS IN FARMING, LIKE MY FATHER," THE STUDENT REPLIED.

"YOUR FATHER MADE A MILLION DOLLARS IN FARMING?" ECHOED THE DEAN MUCH IMPRESSED.

"NO," REPLIED THE APPLICANT. "BUT HE ALWAYS DREAMED OF IT."

## 2010 NAAE Convention November 30-December 4 Las Vegas Nevada



On-line registration now available

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

Registration before 7/9/10

\$285 for NAAE + ACTE Members



## Awards & Scholarship

In our profession, there are many opportunities for teachers to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in agricultural and career technical education. To recognize teachers who are providing outstanding work in agricultural and career technical education, each association has awards for all types of teachers. This year, we had four agricultural educators submit an application for an award, and win in their respective areas at State and Region.

Dave Wilson, the Uintah FFA advisor, applied for the UACTE “Teacher of the Year Award.” This award is for veteran teachers who provide outstanding career and technical education programs for youth and/or adults in their respective fields and communities.

Brett Robertson, the Lehi FFA Advisor, applied for the UACTE “New Teacher of the Year Award.” This award is for young teachers who have taught for a minimum of three, but no more than five years. This award is meant to encourage new teachers to remain in the profession. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique, and novel programs and have shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

Jessica Grundy, the Wayne FFA Advisor, applied for the NAAE “Outstanding Young Member Award.” This award is for young teachers who have taught for a minimum of three, but no more than five years. This award is to encourage new teachers to remain in the profession. John Deere as a special project of the National FFA Foundation sponsors this award.

Megan Haslam, the Morgan FFA Advisor, applied for two awards, the NAAE “Teacher Turn

the Key Award” and the NAAE “Ideas Unlimited Award.” For Teacher Turn the Key Award,” teachers who are in their second, third, and/or fourth year of teaching can apply for this award. This award recognizes young outstanding teachers who have remained in the profession and demonstrated professionalism in their field. For the “Ideas Unlimited Award,” if you are an active NAAE member and currently teaching agricultural education, then you are eligible to apply for this award. The Ideas Unlimited contest is designed to give members an opportunity to exchange classroom and other teaching ideas. The idea may be original or borrowed. Each application should specify how the applicant used the idea, and how the idea could help others in their teaching. DELMAR: CENGAGE LEARNING and RAM Truck Brand sponsored these awards.

All four agricultural educators will be representing the Utah FFA and UACTE at Nationals this year, which will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, this December of 2010. You can find more information out about NAAE awards at, <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications> and UACTE awards at, <http://www.acteonline.org/awards.aspx>. We would like to congratulate all those who submitted an application and encourage everyone to apply for an award.

Brett Robertson  
UAAE Treasurer

If you would like to share an article or publish something in the next addition of the Yellow Dog—contact the UAAE Reporter! This is a great professional development opportunity!



# Ag. Teachers getting healthy.....

## UAAE Biggest Loser Contest

UAAE announces its first "biggest loser" contest!! "The Biggest Loser" is a television show airing on NBC that pits contestants against each other to see who can lose the most weight. The players are placed on teams with trainers who use different motivational styles, and they live and train together. Each week, one team member is sent home. At the end of the show, after an at-home period, the contestant who has lost the greatest percentage of weight wins the grand prize.

While our contest is not going to be as intense as that, we would like to stress for our members to stay healthy and are using this as motivational tool for you. You might earn a little bit of money in the meantime!

### Rules of the contest:

1. The first weigh-in will happen at Summer Conference. Chad Warnick and Kasee Smith will be recording the weigh in weights. Your weights will be kept completely confidential and we are using this as a fun way of competing against others in order to remain healthy! No weights will be published or made public.
2. The cost is \$25 per person. All money will be put in a pot and will be divided between the first and second place winners.
3. The winners will be determined by those who lose the most percentage of weight, not by how many pounds they lose.
4. There will be a possible weigh-in at Mid-Winter Conference in order for you to track your progress.
5. Final weigh-ins will occur at State FFA Convention!!

**Please realize that we are using this competition as a fun way to increase our overall health for a longer and easier life!**



