



THE YELLOW DOG



A newsletter for the U.A.A.E.

A message from our President:

The other day, while reading to my grandchildren, I came across an old child's story...the tale of the Tortoise and the Hare. As I read it to them, I started realizing that the story was much more than just about the Tortoise beating the Hare in a road race. The story is really about how one needs to keep focused on goals. The Hare missed his opportunity to excel even though he was gifted with an ability to run fast. He allowed himself to become distracted and forgot what his ultimate goal was. He allowed other things to take precedence in his life and interfere with his ultimate goal, whereas the Tortoise stayed focused and worked incrementally towards achieving his goal. He had great vision and could see "the light at the end of the tunnel".


Sometimes we find ourselves like the Hare... totally unfocused and distracted by the easier tasks in our daily routines. I have a close unfocused friend who would rather spend time in his shop, than spend time filling out reports, or attending required faculty meetings, or doing the things that are required by the school administration. He is now finding himself in a bind because he doesn't know what is required of him. He is constantly asking what he's supposed to do. I help him out when I can, but also remind him that I will not always be there for him and that he needs to start doing those things and attend those meetings that are required of all faculty.

He needs to become involved in his profession, more than just be an outsider looking in.

We all need to become professionals in our own profession. We need to attend our professional meetings, not just for the dollars the districts will pay for us to attend, or require us to attend, but because of the bigger picture - the ultimate goal - to be better at what we do, to help our association grow, to provide input, to become leaders and to show the way to our students. You may never realize that the example you set could influence those you least expect: students, peers, parents, even your family. The positive things that I have done throughout my career have come back to find me over twenty-five years later. My reward is today, not when I took those positive actions. I am amazed at what my community remembers about me and it is a joy to be the recipient of so much positive comments and gratitude.

Remember, the rewards are not always apparent, but stay the course and do your best. Be involved in your profession. Be willing to give of yourself and share your successes with others. Also remember, you can't be everything to everyone, but you can be best at what you like and enjoy. Work hard and try your best...it pays off in the end! Become a true Professional Agricultural Educator. Win the race!

-Charles Bigo



An Agriculture Teacher's Diary

6:30 a.m. - Got up, took shower. Can't find right shoe. Dog's got it somewhere. Did feeding and tore hole in good pants. Late to breakfast, wife mad, breakfast cold. Battery dead in car. Jumped car, headed to school.

8:00 a.m. - Arrived at school, forgot keys. Janitor let me in - said he would send me a bill. I laughed, he didn't.

8:15 a.m. - Prepared for class; got references, got handouts, got transparencies. Can't find grade book! Found grade book in welding booth with new slag finish on cover. Also found chipping hammer welded to table and welder left on.

8:40 a.m. - (First Period) Bell rings, first period. Called roll, one missing. Same student who owes fruit money. Made announcements. Phone rings; tool salesman wanting me to buy more tools. Said I didn't have time to talk. Hung up. Got class settled down and ready to teach. Phone rings; tool salesman again. God mad. Told him where he could go to sell his tools. Got class settled down again. Principal knocks on classroom door. Asked why I wasn't on bus duty this morning. Told him I didn't know but was glad that he brought it to my attention. Taught unit on soil testing. End of class, two kids in a fight. Sent them to office. Bell rings, first period over.

9:45 a.m. - (Second Period) Bell rings, called roll, made announcements. Things going like clockwork. Shopwork today, all students get safety glasses and head to shop. Phone rings, speaker for tonight's Young Farmer meeting can't make it. Thanked him for advanced notice and hung up. One sawing pipe with coping saw, one drilling hole in work bench, one being tied up with welding electrode cables, don't see three others. Called students back to classroom and chewed class out good. Told them someone would be killed with that kind of horseplay. One asked why that would bother me, had second thoughts. Back in shop. Small engine demonstration. Worked all period but couldn't get engine running. Clean up time. Half inch end wrench missing.

Back in classroom. Chewed class out again. Janitor stops by to borrow pipe wrench. Bell rings, class ends.

10:40 a.m. (Third Period) Called roll, made announcements, and took up homework papers. Phone rings. Extension agent wants to meet to plan livestock show. All dates full. Suggested Sunday afternoon. I laughed, he didn't. Class in uproar. Threatened to give quiz, class laughed harder. Told them if they settled down I'd show a film. Phone rings. Young Farmer wants to bring boards in to plane. Told him to come at 2:00 (planning period). Back to class. Class in uproar. Gave class quiz and set up movie projector. Film breaks, projector bulb shot. Sent student for bulb, spliced film. Student returns with bulb and note saying that I had better not let another student out of class without a pass, signed principal. Started film. Fire alarm goes off. Fine time for fire drill. Closed windows, turned off lights, marched kids outside for roll. Left roll book inside. Return to class, bell rings, class ends.

11:35 a.m. (Lunch) Finally, peace and quiet. Phone rings, didn't answer. Decided to get engine to run. Set down on stool, found half inch wrench missing second period. Checked points, checked plug, can't figure out what's wrong. Janitor returns saying the P.E. boys broke pipe wrench. Said that he was sure sorry. Told me that engine would run better if it has some gas in the tank. He laughed, I didn't. Decided to eat lunch.

12:10 p.m. (Fourth Period) Bell rings, fourth period begins. Called roll, made announcements. Young Farmer comes with boards to plane, said he got around early today. Told him he would have to plane them himself. Phone rings, didn't answer it. Settled class down. One student throws up. Said school lunch program needs improvement. Sent student for janitor to clean up mess. Janitor and student arrive. Student hands me a note asking whether I received a note earlier about not giving students passes, signed principal. Young Farmer interrupts class to tell me he found a nail in one of the boards. Told him where the wracking bar was. Said thanks to the planer he didn't need it now. Asked what he owed me. Gritted my teeth and said nothing. Taught lesson on breeds and livestock. Close class, bell rings.

1:05 p.m. (Fifth Period) Called roll, made announcements. Class in shop for woodworking proj-

ects. Phone rings, decided to answer it. Wife on phone, been trying to call me all morning; really hot about me not answering the phone. Said I had a steer at home really sick. Said agriculture teachers shouldn't have sick steers. Reminded her I couldn't walk on water yet. Told her to call vet. Back to shop. Students working well. Phone rings, answered it, may be wife again. Fair association wanting FFA members to pick up trash on fairgrounds after school today. Said it was too short of notice but would try to help. Got three kids to go. Kids in shop still working hard. Something looks wrong. Two kids making billyclubs. Sent them to office. One kid bugs me, asked why I teach. Told him I did it for the money.

2:10 p.m. (Sixth Period) Planning period. Time to get things done. Phone rings. Alumni member wants to pay dues that were turned in two months ago. Told him to send me his money. Made test up for class. Emptied trash barrels. Found paint brush left in paint can. Welder left on and window left open. Cleaned up paint brush, turned welder off, shut window. Phone rings. Area supervisor asks why two reports are not in yet. Told him mail is awfully slow nowadays. Worked on reports rest of period. Bell rings, school over.

3:00 p.m. Phone rings. Young Farmer calls and says he's got a real sick cow and wants me to run over to look at her. Grabbed coat and went to see sick cow. Cow looks real bad. Suggested that he start digging a hole. Returned to school. Principal doing bus duty. Boy, oh boy! Told him I forgot again and asked what he would like for his birthday. He said a new agriculture teacher. I laughed, he didn't. Decided to head home.

5:00 p.m. Got home, wife mad. Got green paint on good pants. Vet left bill for \$30.00. Said calf was sick and would probably die. Wife said vet got stuck in yard and left big ruts. She wants them fixed. Also said that fuse blew and drain plugged. Filled in ruts, replaced fuse, unplugged drain, did feeding. Wife happy. Sat down in good chair with dirty clothes on. Wife mad again. Phone rings. Fair manager says

students never showed up. Really mad about it. Told him if he needed anymore of the same kind of help let me know and hung up. Gulped down supper.

7:00 p.m. Back to school for Young Farmer meeting. Late. Got to get shop opened up. Unlocked door, turned on lights, swept floor and cleaned chalk board. Sheriff shows up, janitor shows up, principal shows up. Said burglar alarm was set off and all were called to report to school. Told them I forgot to report the night meeting and invited them to stay for meeting. All declined the offer. Had Young Farmer meeting and showed film that I didn't show to kids. Film over. Woke up Young Farmers. Guess they're not too interested in films on tree identification. Meeting over. Locked up department and started to go home. Flat tire on car. Fixed flat tire, battery dead again. Called janitor back to school to jump me - he did. Said my bill was growing. I laughed, he didn't.

11:30 p.m. Got home late. Forgot house keys. Rang doorbell. Woke up wife. Wife mad, asks who I was. Told her I was devoted husband. Wife asks for identification. I laughed, she didn't. Got to bed. Phone rings. Student tells me that his sow had nine pigs. Congratulated him and hung up. Bed at last. Wife tells me that steer died. Told her that Young Farmer program probably did too. Closed my eyes and felt thankful that today went real well.

by Martin K. Auville, Fort Defiance High School
Taken from Agricultural Education News, Volume No.7, March 1982



Educating Utah youth about
the importance of Agriculture



Report on the Conference



By: Nathan Bushman

Attending the NAAE conference was one of the most refreshing experiences I have ever had and was beneficial to me as a new teacher. This year's convention was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Contrary to what some people say, this was not a "sit back and sleep" convention. We had many opportunities to get involved with this great organization this past year. It was nice to sit in on the region meetings and, not only listen to other people express their concerns and ideas, but to be involved with the decisions of our organization.

One of the most beneficial events of NAAE was the professional development that was offered. Never before have I seen such a large selection of workshops at one convention: from Biotechnologies; Ethics in Genetic Research; Small Engines; Using Google Earth in the Classroom; and more. All of the workshops handed out free ideas and free

classroom supplies.

I enjoyed the keynote speakers at the ACTE convention, as well as the product fair that was held in conjunction with the ACTE convention.

My favorite part of the conference was the opportunity to visit and meet with other agriculture teachers from across the nation and see that the problems we have in our classrooms and with our students is not limited to our situations. They all have the same problems and had some great solutions and ideas.

Attending the NAAE convention is an opportunity that all who have the chance to should experience. Who knows? You might get the chance of a lifetime to watch your state specialist sing "Georgia" Ray-Charles-style in front of the entire ACTE convention, making the whole trip worthwhile.



The Yellow Dog Laughs

A young, well-educated man on a business trip gets on a plane to find himself seated next to an older, weathered man in a western snap shirt, faded jeans, a cowboy hat and pointed toed boots.

Thinking himself above the old cowboy, the young man decides to make sport of him.

"You know," he says, "I've heard these flights go much more quickly if you strike up a conversation with a fellow passenger. So, let's talk."

The cowboy looks at him wryly and says, "Well I s'pose that'd be all right. What'd ya like to discuss?"

"Oh, I don't know," says the young man with a hint of sarcasm, "How about nuclear proliferation?"

"Hmm," says the cowboy, sensing the young man's attempt to belittle him, "That could be an interesting topic. But, let me ask you a question first -- horses, cows, and deer all eat the same stuff---grass. Yet, a deer passes little pellets, a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse makes muffins of dried poop. Why do you suppose that is?"

Dumbfounded, the young man replies, "I haven't the slightest idea."

"So tell me then," says the cowboy with a smile, "How is it that you feel qualified to discuss nukes when you don't know shit?"

Surviving in the Profession: Take time for Renewal

Brian Warnick, Assistant Professor at Utah State University

Note: This article is the first in a series designed to assist beginning teachers and those who mentor beginning teachers, although information may be helpful for all professionals at all stages in their career.

I have asked that an old article that has been passed around for many years be reprinted in this issue of the *Yellow Dog* (Auville, 1982). It is the “diary” of a day in the life of an agriculture teacher. If you haven’t read it, take a look at it before you continue. How close to home does this article hit for you? How can we help our young teachers – and those who have been around awhile – survive and thrive in this high demand profession?

I know I don’t have the perfect prescription, and many of you would argue that I don’t have leg to stand on when talking about this subject now that I am in the “Ivory Tower” of the university (yes, I remember saying that too not very long ago). I do have a few ideas based on my own experience as a secondary agriculture teacher, from working with beginning teachers over the past several years, and from research (yes, I know – more “Ivory Tower” comments). I believe one of the keys to surviving and thriving, avoiding burnout, and being happy in our work is to take time for renewal.

What is renewal? Webster (2007) defined renewal as “an expenditure that better existing fixed assets” or “the act or an instance of bringing something back to life.” Isn’t each of us an asset to our schools, to our programs, to the profession, and to our loved ones? Shouldn’t we be willing to invest a little to “better” those assets, and to “bring back to life” the passion each of us has for our career choice?

So how can we “renew” this passion for our profession? I humbly suggest the following.

1. Seek the help of others. We are much more effective when we work together. Having someone (a mentor, a friend, a spouse, etc.) with whom we can bounce ideas around, share experiences, and vent our frustrations will help us to maintain perspective. We are lucky to have a plethora of talented and successful teachers here in Utah. It makes no sense for each of us to invent our full teaching and management repertoire from scratch. If there is something you want to learn or an area in which you are struggling, ask for help. If you are a mentor, look for opportunities to assist and to share your wisdom – and your “box of tools.” A little investment in assisting a beginning teacher might just help

you rekindle your passion for agricultural education.

2. Take time to meditate. Whether you are a spiritual person or not, taking time to reflect on the day can help you to maintain perspective. It is important that we consider the day’s events within the priorities each of us have in our lives. Oprah Winfrey (1997) suggested keeping a “grateful journal.” She has said, “Keep a grateful journal. Every night list five things that happened this day, in days to come that you are grateful for. What it will begin to do is to change your perspective of your day and your life. I believe that if you can learn to focus on what you have, you will always see that the universe is abundant and you will have more. If you concentrate and focus in your life on what you don’t have, you will never have enough. Be grateful. Keep a journal.” Whether through journaling or through some other form of quiet reflection, a few minutes invested can pay huge dividends.

3. Exercise. As a beginning teacher, this was a priority. Then other things moved their way up the list. OK – really it was because I got fat and lazy. Over the past several months, I have rediscovered the power exercise can have in renewal. The actual exercise time can be used to focus energy on reducing frustrations, and the benefits of a healthier body and a clearer mind transfer into the workplace. The key to success is to be consistent. A few minutes of moderate exercise daily is more beneficial than the inconsistent attempts at running a marathon or breaking your bench press record. Trust a recently reformed couch potato on this one – 20 minutes of daily exercise, even just a walk, makes a huge difference.

4. Get adequate sleep. “Adequate” sleep differs for each of us. Some can get by on four hours each night, while others need eight or more. Regardless of what we can “get by” with, our bodies need sleep to renew us physically and mentally. Being tired simply adds to the stress of the day and clouds the way in which we look at the challenges placed before us each day. My view of “a good night’s sleep” has changed over the past few years with little ones in the house. I now consider a good night’s rest to be a series of short naps – but even with this, adequate sleep is essential.

5. Do your best – and be happy with it. This career will literally take as much time as you will let it. You might not be able to develop the perfect lesson plan the first time, or spend as much time as you want preparing your top team for the career development event, but you can find happiness in what you are able to accomplish. Celebrate the successes! Adjust the things that need adjusting, but don't let the goal of perfection prevent you from doing good things for students. Doing the best you can with the time you have allotted, and celebrating your successes along the way, will ease your mind and add to your renewal.

As I visit with beginning teachers and student teachers, I often ask them how they are doing in these areas. The typical answer is "That all sounds nice, but when would I find time for that?" Although it is easier said than done, we need to make these areas a priority. I believe if we do this we can be much more effective with the rest of our time – whether that is time for work or time with our families.

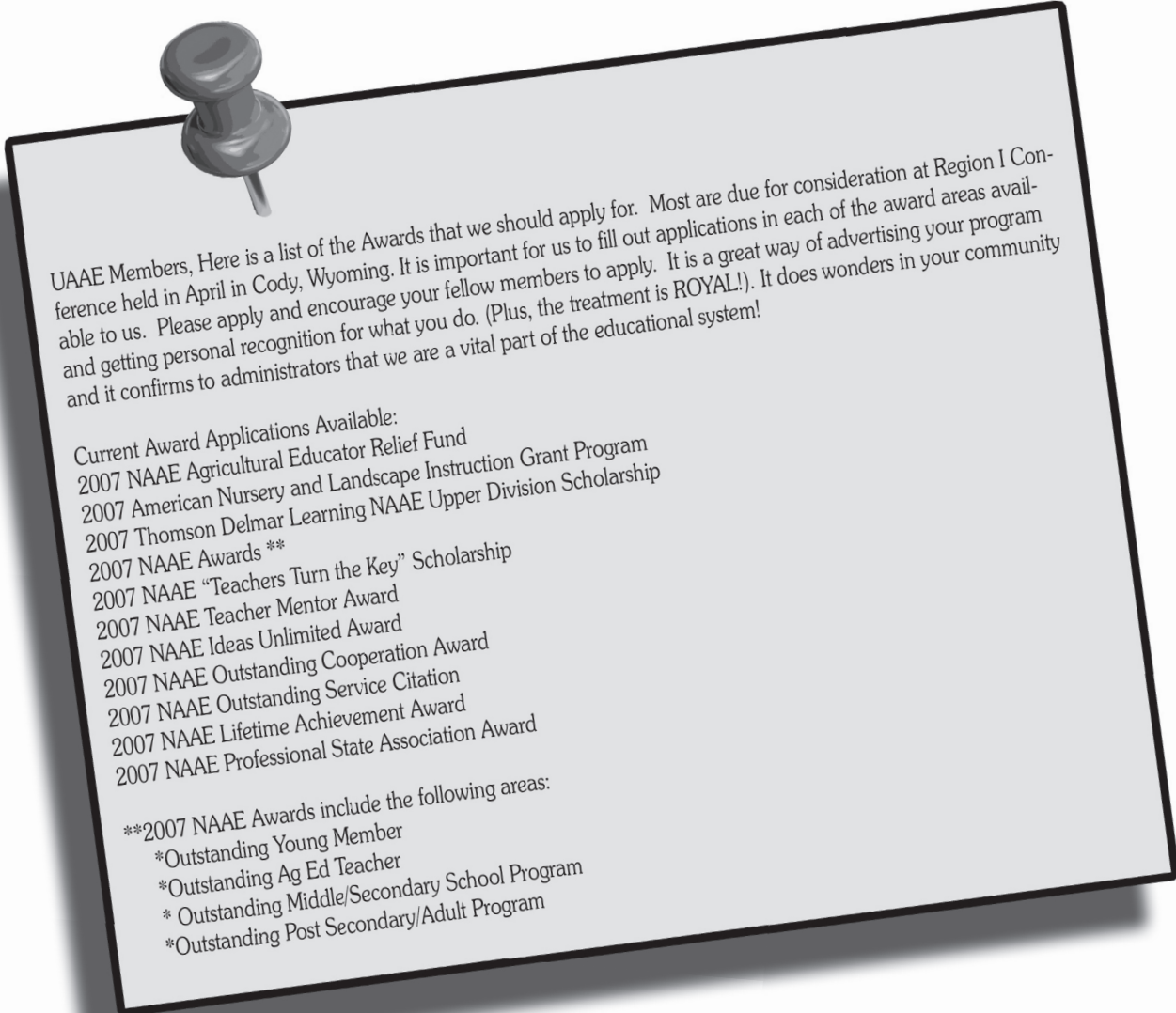
Taking time for renewal, investing a little time each

day in our personal asset, will pay big dividends for us, for our students, for our programs, for our profession, and for our families. We will be at our best. We will be able to see more clearly the passion we have for agriculture and for providing experiences for young people so they will develop a passion for the agricultural industry. Oh, how I wish I had taken more time for renewal as a young professional! At least I can start today!

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Miriam-Webster. (2007). *Miriam-Webster's Online Dictionary*. Retrieved February 21, 2007 from <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/Renewal>

Winfrey, O. (1997). Wesley College Commencement Address, May 30, 1997. Retrieved February 21, 2007 from <http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/PA-homepage/winfrey.html>



UAAE Members, Here is a list of the Awards that we should apply for. Most are due for consideration at Region I Conference held in April in Cody, Wyoming. It is important for us to fill out applications in each of the award areas available to us. Please apply and encourage your fellow members to apply. It is a great way of advertising your program and getting personal recognition for what you do. (Plus, the treatment is ROYAL!). It does wonders in your community and it confirms to administrators that we are a vital part of the educational system!

Current Award Applications Available:
2007 NAAE Agricultural Educator Relief Fund
2007 American Nursery and Landscape Instruction Grant Program
2007 Thomson Delmar Learning NAAE Upper Division Scholarship
2007 NAAE Awards **
2007 NAAE "Teachers Turn the Key" Scholarship
2007 NAAE Teacher Mentor Award
2007 NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award
2007 NAAE Outstanding Cooperation Award
2007 NAAE Outstanding Service Citation
2007 NAAE Lifetime Achievement Award
2007 NAAE Professional State Association Award

**2007 NAAE Awards include the following areas:

- *Outstanding Young Member
- *Outstanding Ag Ed Teacher
- * Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Program
- *Outstanding Post Secondary/Adult Program