



Serving students in  
Agricultural  
Education

# OLD YELLER

## Between Conventions 2010



OREGON VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

### Fall/Winter Dates

- NAAE/ACTE Convention Dec 1-4
- State Ag Sales Dec 11 at Ontario
- State Degree Applications due

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## Between Conventions

November finds us between conventions. It just depends on which conventions you are going to.

National FFA Convention 2010 is wrapped up and in the books, meaning we can stop being FFA advisor by day and travel agent by prep/night. Chaperoning/herding adolescents through airports is merely a pleasant memory. Well, memory anyway.

The next convention depends on your plans: either you are heading to Las Vegas for the National Association of Agricultural

Educators, or you have entered that period of short days and long nights of winter that span from Thanksgiving to Spring Break—and State Convention.

So this issue comes Between Conventions. Find teaching tools, resources, strategies, and news from Oregon State University and an update from the Oregon FFA Foundation. And don't miss Marty Campbell's newest column as he tells the story of the Cattle Whisperers.

Enjoy the stories and the breaks!

## Teaching Strategies—Ready to Go!

*Shared by OSU Student Teachers and Dr. Jonathan Velez*

OSU Student Teachers are working hard to prepare for a career in the classroom. Check out some of the teaching strategies they've compiled as part of their curriculum.

Horse gaits

Have students pair up. One student will put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Together, they must mimic the horses legs in a walk, trot, lope, and gallop. It's a lot harder than it seems!

Photosynthesis

This website has a lot of great video models to show as an introduction to photosynthesis.

<http://www.neok12.com/Photosynthesis.htm> video representations

<http://www.neok12.com/quiz/PHOSYN04> review material



## Fall Conference 2010: Redmond

Fall Conference was smack dab in the middle of the state this year—give or take—as ag teachers from the four corners made their way to Redmond High School to catch up and get down and dirty with some hands on teaching ideas, program management tools, and the like.

Oregon State University agricultural education student teachers presented seven workshops in various curriculum areas, often incorporating science, math, and reading. Topics included interesting lesson titles such as [Splat Math \(click to see\)](#) - a lesson in viscosity— or more complex lesson units—such as those put together by **Emily Holden**. Emily presented a workshop highlighting the [lesson plans](#) she put together using the Oregon Agriculture Progress. Another lesson highlighted fermentation and [silage production](#)—a hands-on way to measure several scientific factors using in-



Charlie Vandehey loads up on some chopped cattle feed, ready to ferment.



Kristina Haug (l) and Roy Whitman exchange water—and maybe a disease—during a CASE activity

quiry over time.

Several seasoned teachers presented as well. **JD Cant** shared his [method for tracking](#) and validating extra-duty contracts. **Charlie Vandehey** discussed credit by proficiency, something many schools are discussing. And **Kristina Haug, Johnie Van Riper, Paul Anderes, and Allison Meadows** shared their CASE experiences with activities.

If you didn't make it to Fall Conference, don't make it a habit—we plan on seeing you at the next state meeting! Thanks to **Lance Hill**, Redmond High School, and the Central Oregon District for having us!

*Click on the links to see what they shared!*

“The discovery of agriculture was the first big step toward a civilized life.”

*Arthur Keith*

### Time To Tell Your Story

*Editor's Note*

You've got stories. And maybe you can even repeat some of them before the next Summer Conference. Now's the time for that.

For the next newsletter, send us a paragraph of what's new with you, or tell us about something funny, amazing, too crazy to be true, or too crazy to have been fiction that has hap-

pened to you lately.

It's time to tell your story!

Send an email to [wes.crawford@sutherlin.k12.or.us](mailto:wes.crawford@sutherlin.k12.or.us) with your paragraph(s) and see them in the next Old Yeller!

Continued from page 1—Teaching Strategies

**Poultry Egg Shell Strength** Students observe varying strengths of egg shells by conducting an experiment using different books as sources of force. This could be useful in a poultry unit. <http://www.isd743.k12.mn.us/Activitybook/Animalscience/EggShellStrength.pdf>

**Vet Science: Parasitology** [www.marvistavet.com](http://www.marvistavet.com)

Great website to begin discussion about fleas. Click on the Pet library to answer questions.

- How many flea species are there in the world?
- List the kinds of damage that fleas can cause?
- Under what particular circumstance can fleas kill a pet?
- Can fleas grow and develop inside a house with hardwood floors?
- At what temperature do flea eggs incubate best?
- At what temperature are flea larvae killed? How do they protect themselves?
- What do flea larvae eat, and where does it come from?
- What are the larval stages of fleas called?
- How long can a flea pupa remain dormant in its cocoon?
- How long is the average life span of an adult flea?
- What is the difference between a “fed” flea and an “unfed” flea?



**Try these out today!**

## Latest Oregon FFA Foundation News



*John Dimick | Oregon FFA Foundation President*

At our Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting we moved into a new and exciting phase with the appointment of a Business and Industry Management Committee which will undertake the activities and responsibilities of a yet-to-be hired Executive Director. Comprising this committee will be Brian Field of Harvest Capital, Neil Lucht of Northwest Transplants and Bob Barton of Barton Laser Leveling. Their focus will be on fundraising and relationship building across the state. Expect to see them at the Northwest Ag. Show and at a variety of yet to be scheduled district events. The Oregon FFA Foundation will also open an office in donated space provided by Harvest Capital in Canby, Oregon. The board is also pleased to announce the hiring of past State FFA President Kara Palacio on a part time basis to work with our donor data bases, promotional materials and to create and publish a newsletter.

The board also appointed several new members with a long and distinguished record of service to the FFA. Past State President Mike McNab of First Independent Bank, past State President Mike McNulty of West Coast Bank, past State President and attorney Heath Curtis of Stoel Rives LLP and past National Secretary Kevin White of Western Title Co. have all agreed to join the board.

In these uncertain times we are moving ahead to insure that Oregon FFA is provided the resources needed to fulfill its important mission.

POWERED BY  
ORANGE

"[It was] a wonderful opportunity to teach and observe two dynamic agricultural education programs within our state. The experience was a inspiring reminder as to why I am in the Agricultural Education Masters program."  
- *Chelcee Noland, OSU Pre-service Teacher*

## OSU Student Teachers Gain Real Classroom Experience in the Micro-teaching Class

*Dr. Greg Thompson | Oregon State University*

Many Agricultural Education graduates may remember teaching to their peers in the basement of Strand Hall in the AED 554 – Micro-teaching class. Thanks to a great partnership with Woodburn and Dallas High Schools, the micro-teaching experience becomes much more real when our student teachers have the opportunity to teach in front of real students instead of their peers.

The two-day adventure began when half of the class traveled to Woodburn and the other half to Dallas for day one of teaching in the agriculture classrooms. On day two, the student teachers traded schools. Each student teacher developed and taught two lessons – one for Dallas High School and the other for Woodburn High School. Student teachers taught lessons in small engines, careers, woods, pesticides, osmosis and diffusion, cell functions, dairy cattle lactation, horticulture, the FFA Creed, and were evaluated by their peers.

Woodburn High School is truly a school within a school concept, as our student teachers taught lessons that integrated science into agriculture in the Woodburn Academy of Art, Science and Technology. The Woodburn experience provided student teachers with a positive view of teaching in a multicultural setting. **Andrew Hartenstein** commented that "teaching at

Woodburn High School provided me with not only a multicultural experience, but also the opportunity to see how science is integrated into agriculture in more of a non-traditional class." **Seth Stoddard**



Andrew Hartenstein working with students at the Woodburn Academy of Art, Science and Technology

was not going to let us leave Woodburn without the opportunity to enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine at world famous Luise's Taqueria.

At Dallas High School, student teachers had the opportunity to teach in both **Tim Ray** and **Lauren Farnen's** classes. Dallas High School provided a wide array of teaching experiences, from careers to woodshop. **Karie Hoffman** commented that "peer evaluating my classmates provided a different perspective and allowed me to not only watch them teach, but to also really see the class and students from a different perspective."

The Woodburn and Dallas experience provided real-world teaching experiences in settings that helped prepare student teachers for careers in teaching. Peer evaluations, OSU faculty, and host teachers provided valuable feedback in a realistic setting that will help student teachers hone in on technical, pedagogical as well as classroom management skills.

AST instructor Tim Ray (far right) provides feedback to the student teacher cohort after a day of teaching at Dallas High School.



## Professional Development

Keep the saw sharp—several ways you can be keeping up and keeping charged to do what we do:

**NAAE/ACTE Convention**—the 2010 NAAE convention is close to home this year, being held in Las Vegas Dec 1-4. Over 100 workshops are on the docket, guaranteeing you the situation where you will have to coordinate with someone else to go to all the workshops you don't



get a chance to see.

**Western Region**—This April will bring together ag teachers across the West. With a shorter trip, this could be an option for many of us. Contact Dan Jansen for more details.

**OVATA Summer Conference**—Head up the gorge to Hood River Valley this June. Leave with strategies for the classroom and catch up with what's going on. The place to be this summer!

## NATAA—Opportunities and Inquiry

*Wes Crawford*

Every summer for the past eight years a cohort of ag teachers make a trip to Chesapeake Farms in Maryland, ready to learn how scientific inquiry can be an integral part of their curriculum.

And you don't find professional development much more intensive, or as good, as this very often.

The National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy (NATAA) is a week of preparing, learning, and experiencing how to change the methods in which we facilitate student learning. Facilitated

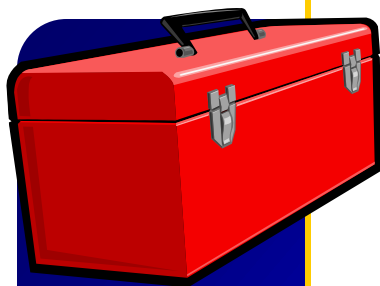
by a dynamic science teacher (she swears she couldn't do this for her fellow science teachers, but can't get enough of ag teachers) and sponsored by DuPont, the atmosphere, camaraderie, and experience are one of a kind.

Following the week long training, participants take what they've learned and apply it in their classrooms. Then, they take the newfound expertise and share it with their peers: Ambassadors present workshops at the National FFA Convention, multiple workshops at the NAAE Convention in December, and then at the local and state level.

The benefits of NATAA are many: the curriculum development, the chance to present to peers, and the value in networking with our colleagues from across the country. This is the type of opportunity you don't want to miss!

**Learn more and see the application at the NAAE site by [clicking here!](#)**





## Teacher R &D: Rip-off and Duplicate!

Why reinvent the wheel? If ag teachers are so famous for helping each other out, don't be afraid to share the good ideas you have for your classroom instruction. Check out such

ideas below, and feel free to share some! Don't forget about [Communities of Practice](#) or [ovata.org](#) for more ideas and content!

### Did You Know???

You can now find the 2005 and 2006 National FFA CDE Materials online at FFA Learn? Past tests (remember—Ag Sales uses the last four!), scenarios, practicum information, and more are valuable not only for CDE prep but can be great classroom resources. Throw away the dusty old binders! [Check it out here!](#)



## NAAE/Oregon Resource Share Top 5's

*Another Five Ideas Posted Right Now at NAAE's Communities of Practice (click to see):*

- 1—[Activities Book](#)—90 pages of classroom activity ideas for all parts of learning
- 2—[2011 SPECA \(USDA Challenge\) Grants](#)—significant changes and opportunities
- 3—[Large and Small Animal Breed ID and Videos](#)—directions to a site **full** of PowerPoints and videos (great dog breeds)
- 4—[SAE Visit Rubric](#)—easy guide to complete to evaluate SAE's onsite
- 5—[Livestock Judging Scoring Program](#) - small enough to run on your smartphone! Or just use online.

*Another Five Ideas Posted Right Now on OVATA Resource Share at [ovata.org](#):*

- 1—[The Farming Game Record Sheets](#)—use the game to teach inventory, record keeping, etc!
- 2—[Biotechnology Videos](#)—5-7 minute videos showcasing biotech (good anticipatory ideas)
- 3—[Welding I Week-by-Week](#)—outline of lessons, words of the day, etc for a semester Welding I class
- 4—[Ag and Natural Resources Skill Sets](#) - use for planning lessons/aligning to standards
- 5—[BMCC Computers in Agriculture Assignments](#)—presentations and assignments from AG 111 at BMCC (articulated course)

## E-Moment Moment

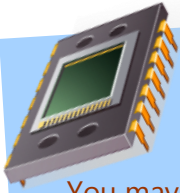
*A Regular Feature in Old Yeller*

Need to review for a test? Or how about getting students thinking about the next subject? Do it with a bit of energy.

The **\$10,000 Pyramid** is a ridiculously fun way to review (or even preview) content. Based on the old gameshow, the idea is that one person sits and guesses the different terms, based on clues given by their partner (facing them). The goal is to get as many right answers as possible in the time allowed

(like two minutes or so). An easy way to review: have the students come up with 20 or so terms in their group, do a couple rounds with their own cards, and then make them switch cards with another group to increase the challenge! Great way to review terms!

*A variation:* Before the unit, have students brainstorm terms they know about (insert topic here). A great way to establish what they know/think.



## Tech Tip\*

Yep, that cheesy title is the best we could do for this feature

You may have heard of a website called "Google" - but you may not be familiar Google Apps or Docs. Google Apps and Google Docs is a free online system for creating written documents, spreadsheets, or PowerPoint-like presentations and then saving them online. The best part is that 1) free for anyone with a Google account and 2) you, your officers, or students can save just about any documents you are working on at school, take them home, share them with one another, etc. No more losing flash drives with banquet award templates, Green-hand applications, or State Degree presentations!

You may check in with your technology person to see if your school is looking to use Google Apps—Oregon is now partnering with Google in working with schools.

Editor's Note: This column was originally titled "Why Macs Should Replace Your PCs" but was replaced due to a lack of content. Hope you enjoy its replacement.



## Who's that Puppy in the Window?

*Meet a new member of the OVATA community*



If **Jared Collins** wasn't doing as a career what he is now—teaching agriculture—he's pretty sure he'd be doing the same thing, but without the paycheck.

Fair enough.

For Jared, teaching agriculture is a way to tie his passions for leadership, education, and agriculture into a career. And that is just what he is doing at Sherman County High School as the new ag teacher. And he sees great opportunities ahead.

"I had forgotten what an important role agricultural instructors play in the lives of students," Collins says after his student teaching. "I hope that my student look up to me as mentor as much as the students at Dallas High School looked up to their Ag teachers."

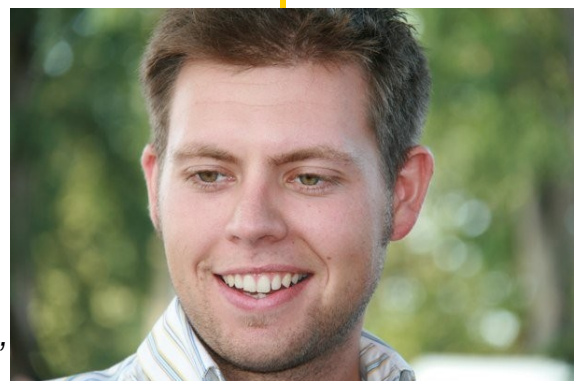
Looking ahead to the goals in his new role, Jared says "I really want to develop a sense of pride in the chapter. I want students to be proud to wear a

Sherman County FFA Jacket or to hold a chapter office."

Sounds good to us. Welcome to the profession Jared!

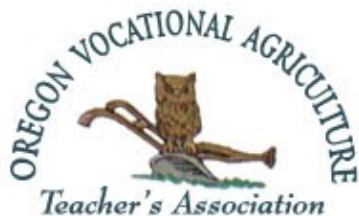
*"If I can make a student enjoy their time in my classroom which in turn makes them feel comfortable and inspired to learn about agriculture and life, I feel like I have done my job."*

- Jared Collins



**Jared Collins**, new Agricultural Science & Technology instructor at Sherman County High School

*"You have to perform at a consistently higher level than others. That's the mark of a true professional."  
- Joe Paterno*



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<http://www.ovata.org>

## Mitigate Cows and Buckskin Mice:

### “Cow Whispers”

By Marty Campbell

All my life, I've embraced the experience of working with all extremes of cow men and women. I've hopped on a pony and chased calves from rock pile to alkali flat. I've straddled a four wheeler and moved critters around irrigated pastures. I've even swallowed my pride once or twice and done it afoot. Folks work the bovine species in about every imaginable way.

I've gone to brandings where we dragged calves to the fire by their heels. I've been to the ones where team roping was invented. I've even laid a calf table over and shaved the hair off of a big old baby calf just so the brand would make her all the way to the buckskin.

I've been around people who were calm and cool while working cattle, and I've worked for people who yelled so loud and so much, you could barely hear the balling of the mama cows over 'em. I even worked for a guy one time who yelled at me for *not running* his cattle! Of course he was also the guy whose philosophy revolved around the statement—If we ain't had a wreck, we ain't working hard enough!

However, the most interesting duo of cowmen I have ever seen was the father son team I had the fortune of rubbing elbows with while the guy I worked for calved a few of his heifers out in their feedlot. I like to call them—the cow whisperers.

Both of these gentlemen were scared to death of anything equine. To get either one of them on a horse was like getting Dick Cheney to climb on Voodoo Child. They had a healthy, almost phantasmagoric respect for the bovine species that prevented them from raising their voices, making any sudden movements, and/or moving toward cattle in any conceivable way.

We were sorting off a few pairs one afternoon to put out in a corn circle. I saw the ones that we needed to cut off, I had a sorting stick, and I had the trailer backed to the alley. All we needed was to gently peel the three mamas off of the back of the herd, move them the ten yards to the right place, shut the gate, and all would be done. I started to move into place. The old man raised his hand as he leaned on his ski pole. "Whoa," he whispered. "Don't spook 'em." His son looked like a clone standing on the other side of him.

I whispered back. I whispered back? "Okay, what's your plan?"

He answered earnestly, "Let's just watch 'em and see what they do." I had to give it a try. As Kenny Frazier says, I might as well try to prove 'em wrong.

We watched for what seemed like an eternity. The three heifers I was after stayed where they were—standing off by themselves, calves on their sides, eating some hay, chewing a little cud. A black baldy pooped. A small bird landed on the back of a cow. One old girl moved her off hind foot backwards a step. I thought all hell had broken loose when that Hereford swished her tail! Almost sent me reeling backwards from the fright!

After about twenty minutes of trying to cut these girls off telepathically, I went ahead and told the boys, "I've got to get going. This ain't getting us anywhere."

"No, wait!" whispered the dad. "She's moving." He pointed to the outside heifer. Sure enough, she was moving. By the time she had laid all the way down to bask in the sun warmed mud, I had almost lost my mind.

Their book should be coming out next summer, and their clinics are free. *Stress Free Husbandry: Working Cows through Telepathy.*

Oughta be a hit.



Funmunch.com

### CAPTION CONTEST!

Send in your best caption for this photo and we'll include it in the next *Old Yeller!* Come on, you know you're funny.

### Last Month's Winner: Nobody

No submissions were re-printable...last time we use a donkey in a picture....

