



Serving students in
Agricultural
Education

OLD YELLER

Change 2011 Edition



OREGON VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Fall/Winter Dates

- NAA E Convention—
Nov 16-19
- State Ag Sales—Dec
10

Inside this issue:

President's 3
Message

Fall Confer- 4
ence

FFA Up- 5
dates

Resources 6

Tech Tip 7

Puppy in 7
the Window

Day in the 8
Life

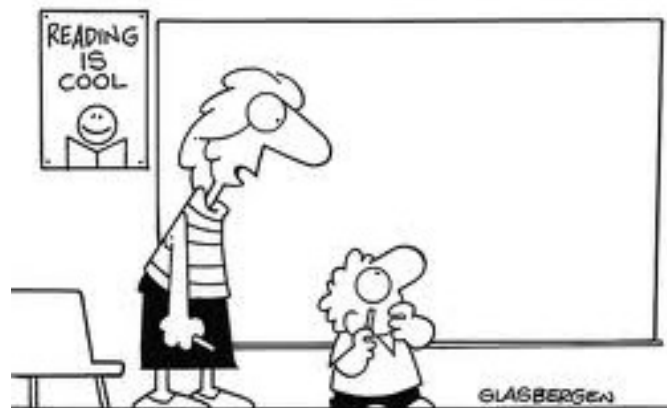
CHANGE

by Dale Crawford, Culver High School

Considering I find myself in the group that can realistically say "remember when" I have seen a bit of change in the education field, or have I? I'm not sure. Just because I changed from a Hereford operation to an Angus operation, is that really change? Same daily chores I think.

I believe some similar observations can be drawn in the field of education. I have witnessed and been involved in some minor changes, unfortunately (in my humble opinion) nothing of significance to improve overall education. Calculators, Madelyn Hunter, block scheduling, trimester, computer technology, competency based, CIM/CAM, sage on the stage/guide on the side, film strip to power-point, CCG's, course/classes versus program, ever changing standards, and of course the current "strategy of the moment" by one of the latest PHD authors. Concepts that are repackaged and renamed as the best possible solution to our education issues. That is a small sampling of my history and there may be a bit of cynicism here. Some less experienced readers might not recognize some of those terms.

I do believe that change or perception of change is important to keep us on the edge, to keep us thinking, to keep us fresh, to keep us at task. I once had a social studies teacher/peer that refused to adopt new textbooks because he would have to redo his worksheets and tests. Fortunately he was changed out in less than two years, and the students, parents, and community were glad to see that change. Don't find yourself in a similar scenario.



"There aren't any icons to click. It's a chalk board."

I have found it takes considerable time, and effort to stay abreast of the changes that face us in Ag- Education. It seems they are coming more often, and in greater learning curves. One thing is for sure, if you want to survive, be successful, and progressive, you better be flexible, adaptable, and willing to embrace current happenings, even if you are



Continued on page 2

“Change”—continued from page 1

skeptical. It is a part of the task we face. We are all busy, so how can incorporating and adapting to change be managed? My strategies have been and they seemed to work for me: (There are publications on this topic)

1. **Be an integral part and leader of progressive change** in your school, step up, step out. This keeps you in good graces with your administration, school board and other stakeholders.
2. **Take every realistic opportunity to continue your education** and learn about the latest developments in our field. That would include attending OVATA summer conference, Fall in-service, national conferences, local trainings, curriculum related workshops, etc. There are plenty of opportunities, take advantage of them. Cave dwellers tend to have a short career life span.
3. **Keep an open mind**, use your imagination, be creative, incorporate the changes you ex-

perienced in the above. If you haven't changed anything since last year at this time you are in trouble.

“One thing is for sure, if you want to survive, be successful, and progressive, you better be flexible, adaptable, and willing to embrace current happenings, even if you are skeptical.”

4. **Be willing to take some risk**, accept failures for what they simply are. Approach each day with some change in mind, be alive.

The significant changes I have witnessed in agriculture education (some good, some not so good, some just different): curriculum and objectives, parent/student expectations, technology, gender involvement, teacher commitment, teacher professionalism, opportunities for students, teacherless education, testing, mandates, finances, and You sort them out.

Dale Crawford is the agricultural science & technology teacher at Culver High School, and has taught agriculture for 36 years.



“Nothing endures but change.”

- Heraclitus

How Do You Handle Change?

Editor's Note

For some of us, about the time we get it all figured out—procedures, expectations, forms, how to record SNL—you realize the world has moved on to the next 'best' thing.

This is only too true in education. Couple that with an industry (agriculture) that is racing forward in a desperate effort to meet the needs of a popula-

tion with high expectations, and it becomes something of a laugh to try to keep up with it all.

But that is what we do. Our students need us to and our schools/communities expect us to. So take heart in that while we all face the same challenges, we are all in this together, and change is something we can do.

The Only Thing That Doesn't Change

Nick Nelson | OVATA President

This will be my tenth year as an instructor in the state of Oregon and one thing I have noticed in that short period of time is that, be it ODE, ESD or your immediate institution there comes that latest, greatest idea that someone has thought up. Most of the time it just makes my job harder or it creates more paperwork. Usually it is not an original idea anyway—what's the deal! I suppose that education is circular and as long as we are spiraling upwards it makes sense.

The longer I teach the more comfortable I get in my position and the less I like CHANGE. I suppose that happens to all of us at a point in time. I am reminded however by my favorite college instructor: Doc Patten—who had taught 30+ years and was a self-proclaimed "Life Long Learner"—that the only thing that doesn't change is change itself.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past five years Oregon has had a huge turnover of Ag Teachers, which has brought us a ton of new and energetic teachers who are swimming in all the requirements that it takes to simply teach their students. These young teachers can usually adjust well to the changing tides of education, but it leaves them up in arms with traditional program needs.

My message is simply this: Communication and Cooperation are the keys to surviving CHANGE. Younger teachers need to make some phone calls to the more experienced teachers to make their new program a success. The experience teachers need to have an open door policy and check in on the younger teachers and see where they can be of assistance. The neatest thing about our teacher organization is that we have great cooperation compared to any teaching group in the state—and every other teacher group knows it!

The Umpqua District used to have what they called an "Attitude Adjustment Meeting". This meeting usually occurred when one or more teachers were about to strangle their administrator. This special meeting was held at an Ag Teachers house and special beverages were provided (as a kid I was involved as the Gopher). These meetings helped this group of teachers realize that they were not alone and that there was support for one another.

The business of agriculture education is not a job, but a lifestyle. I truly believe that if you want to be successful and you want your students to be successful it's going to take time and the support of your community and your Ag teaching partners; and then CHANGE is not a real big deal.

OVATA Dues

If you have not paid your professional organization dues, it is not too late!
Contact Secretary/
Treasurer Jimmy Zamora
to do so!

NATAA Apps due Jan 27!

NAAE is accepting applications for the DuPont National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy (NATAA) for 2012. The program has been expanded to two different sessions, with 48 teachers being selected. Take advantage of a great opportunity: [click here for more info!](#)



**SUMMER
CONFERENCE
June, 2012
Bend**

**Summer
Registration
will be online**
at [http://
www.ovata.org](http://www.ovata.org)
—an invoice will
automatically be
sent to you and
your business
office (optional).

**Registration
Information
will be emailed
in early spring**

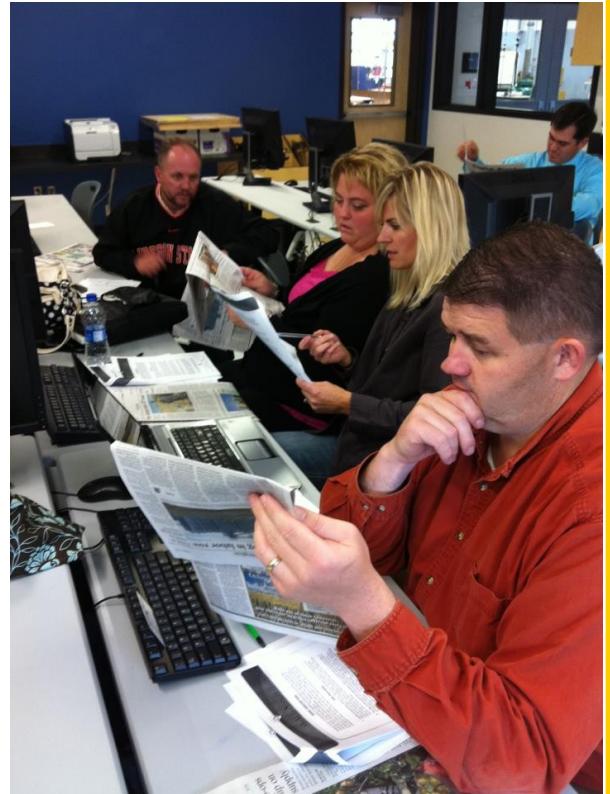
Silverton: Fall Conference 2011

One of the many benefits of attending Fall and Summer Conferences is being able to see how the other teacher lives.

And sometimes, that leaves you feeling jealous.

Silverton High School's fantastic new facilities set the backdrop for this year's Fall Conference. Agriculture teachers Scott Towery, Daniel James, and Johnie Ferro rolled out the red carpet, with help from both the Silverton FFA Alumni and the Oregon FFA Alumni for some great professional development in an amazing facility.

With workshops on many different areas of Best Practices, CDEs, and curriculum areas, including presentations by representatives from Miller and Fessler's Nurseries, everyone had the opportunity to leave with some pieces ready to go for their classroom.



Chad Waldron, Tracy Dulany, Brook Rich, and Reynold Gardner use Capital Press issues to brainstorm lessons during a workshop put on by Hannah Brause of Capital Press. Jimmy Zamora wears a significantly blue shirt in the background.

See the workshop materials on Horticulture at www.ovata.org by [clicking here!](#)

Thank you Silverton High School, Johnie, Scott, Dan, Silverton FFA Alumni, and Oregon FFA Alumni for hosting a great conference!

Interested in hosting Fall Conference next year? Be nominated at Summer Conference!



Welding certification and Tig welding were both workshop topics during this year's conference.



POSITION CHANGES

**As reported to Oregon FFA
(updated 10/11)**

MOVED

- Traci Dulany - Bend
- Will Coltrin - Rogue River
- Allison Meadows - Sherwood
- Charlie Vandehey - Glide
- David Neese - Lost River/Henley

NEW

- Ashley Richards - Perrydale
- Jamie Jo Steele - Mitchell
- Tammy Gidcumb - Roseburg
- Daniel James - Silverton
- Matt Liscom - Weston-McEwen
- Joe Shepard - North Marion
- Duane Swartzie - Prospect
- Carol Harrison - Condon
- Brian Arp - Days Creek
- Chelcee Noland - Echo
- Emily Holden - Stanfield
- Karie Hoffman - Gervais
- Philip Russell - Tillamook

RETURNING TO PROFESSION

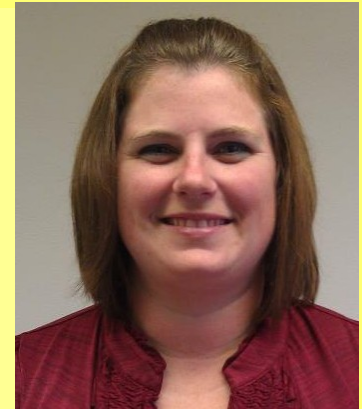
- Patty Abell - Pendleton

Oregon FFA Update

By Lee Letsch

Oregon FFA Association Executive Secretary

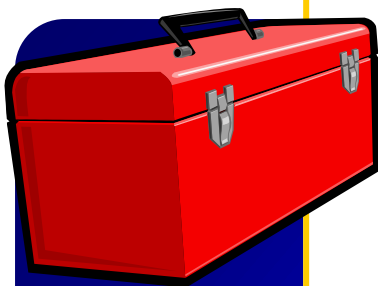
It is going to be an exciting year of changes and moving forward as the Oregon FFA Association begins a new era in our organization's history.



After much discussion amongst the Oregon FFA Board of Directors as well with Oregon Team AgED, Oregon FFA Alumni, and Oregon FFA Foundation Oregon FFA decided that as of July 1, 2011 to follow the existing Oregon FBLA model of independently funding and governing our organization.

In light of the current state budget situation and the recommendations from the report given by Stan Halle of Heifetz, Halle Consulting Group, LLC, we must do what is best for our organization and its members. Staff FTE provided for by Oregon Career and Technical Organizations has continued to decrease due to reduced budgets. Our membership is continuing to grow and we are excited about the possibilities that are in the future for the Oregon FFA Association as we have innovatively positioned ourselves to fulfill the mission and advance agriculture education and FFA.

Oregon State University (OSU) College of Agricultural Sciences warmly welcomed the Oregon FFA Association. Oregon FFA, now located in Strand Hall on the OSU campus, has found the community's and college's hospitality nothing short of wonderful. The Oregon FFA Association is currently being funded internally through past savings for the 2011-12 year. Lee Letsch has been hired by the FFA board of directors as the Interim Oregon FFA Executive Secretary during this transitional period (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). This move also allowed Oregon FFA the opportunity to hire two part-time interns that are currently attending OSU: Gerald Hosler, Public Relations Intern, and Briana Tanaka, Program Coordinator Intern.



Change it up!

Change is good—especially when it comes to the classroom. Unfortunately, most of our change there is mandated. However, you can always keep

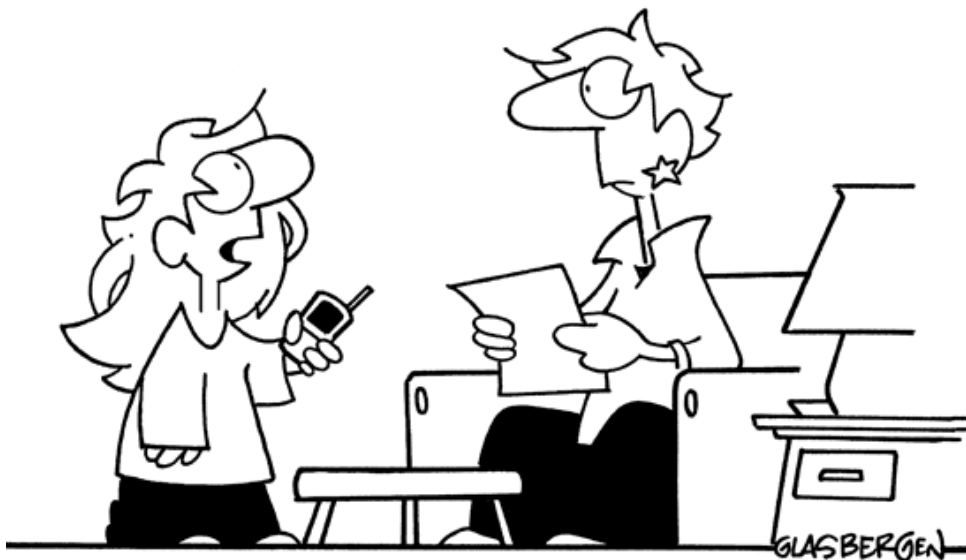
the saw sharp and move your classroom forward. Keep up with [Communities of Practice](#) or [ovata.org](#) for more ideas and content!

Five More Great Ideas!

Five Curriculum Resources Posted Right Now at [NAAE's Communities of Practice](#) (click to see):

- 1—[Etiquette Lessons](#) - lesson on proper habits in formal settings
- 2—[New Food Product Lab - Ice Cream](#)— great Food Science Activity
- 3—[Large Animal Vet Science: Nutrition Unit](#)—ridiculously thorough lesson plans for teaching nutrition, complete with notes, ppts, and labs.
- 4—[Biotechnology Online Resources](#)—slew of links for biotech teaching
- 5—[FFA Handbook Test](#)-don't reinvent the wheel-use someone else's work from a popular subject

Copyright 2007 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



**“My teacher isn’t qualified to teach spelling!
She spells U ‘y-o-u’. She spells BRB ‘r-e-t-u-r-n’.
She spells BFN ‘g-o-o-d-b-y-e’...”**

Did You Know???

CEV is becoming iCEV—an online, subscription based delivery of curriculum on demand. Just announced at NAAE’s national convention, iCEV will be launching in 2012—giving access to thousands of hours of videos, pages of PowerPoints, and more. Look for more info in early 2012.



Tech Tip



“For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.”
 - Alice Kahn

In what is a huge personal concession, this issues tip includes five great iPad apps. Yes, Apple products. But if you get beyond that, there are some truly neat things you can do with iPads/tablets in the classroom.

- **Leafsnap:** combine Smithsonian knowledge with facial recognition software and you get a free app for tree identification. While it's only northeast native trees at the moment, the plan is to expand to the whole US. *FREE*
- **Science360:** dozens of short videos about science topics. Recommended clips: science of a hamburger. *FREE*
- **3D Cell Stain:** spin and rotate through the many structures of cells. *FREE*
- **Flashcardlet:** create free flashcards online, then download and study! Can we say CDE prep, anyone? *FREE*
- **7 Billion:** with the population crossing yet another threshold, the topic is most relevant in agriculture. National Geographic's fantastic app includes interactive displays, images, and video about the topic. *FREE*



Who's that Puppy in the Window?

Meet a new member of the OVATA community

Everybody who teaches got to where we are in a different way. For **Brian Arp**, FFA and agricultural education have been part of his life since 1975, and now he finds himself teaching it.

“[Teaching] was always something I wanted to do, but my love for cattle and that life style took me down that path in life,” says Brian. “I have volunteered helping kids in FFA and 4-H with beef projects and livestock judging for as long as I can remember, and I have enjoyed it very much. That led me to begin considering going back and getting my degree to be able to teach Vo-Ag and work with kids full time. “

Since graduating from the Roseburg High School ag program, Brian judged livestock at Linn-Benton Community College, entered the beef industry, and has been ranch manager or foreman for the past thirty years.

Now that he is teaching at Days Creek High School, Brian

looks forward to “broadening and enhancing our curriculum through CASE and other avenues, increasing our community service as an FFA chapter,” as well as being involved in activities such as Community 101.

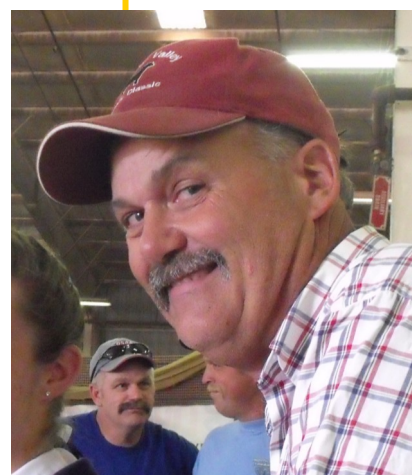
Clearly, Brian’s experience in the animal science industry will be invaluable in the classroom. Welcome to the profession Brian!

“He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery.”

- Harold Wilson

“[On this favorite thing about teaching]: working with kids to allow the leader in them to come out, especially the ones who think that cannot lead.”

- Brian Arp



Brian Arp, new Agricultural Science & Technology instructor at Days Creek High School





2011-2012 OVATA Leadership

President

Nick Nelson

Blue Mountain CC
PO Box 100
Pendleton, OR 9733
541.278.5846
nick.nelson@bluecc.edu

President-Elect

Sam Herringshaw

Hermiston High School
600 S First Street
Hermiston, OR 97838
541.667.6100
sam.herringshaw@hermiston.k12.or.us

Secretary/Treasurer

Jimmy Zamora

Burns High School
1100 Oregon Ave
Burns, OR 97720
541.573.2044
jjzamora@harneyesd.k12.or.us

Past President

Dan Jansen

CASE
17946 SW Inkster Drive
Sherwood, OR 97140
503.312.0814
dan.jansen@case4learning.org

Newsletter Editor

Wes Crawford

Sutherlin High School
500 E Fourth Ave
Sutherlin, OR 97479
541.459.9551
wes.crawford@sutherlin.k12.or.us

<http://www.ovata.org>

A Day in the Life of an Ag Teacher:

**“Things Found on Tests
(Unfortunately where the Answers
Should Have been)”**

By Wes Crawford

Yet another school year has begun and we've already burned through the first quarter; while the seniors have already begun acting like seniors and the freshmen are as wide-eyed as ever, some things never change. In the case of what sometimes comes out of their mouths, or on to their papers, the entertainment value never stops. Some highlights from the past year of test taking:

Question: Why do we study plant science in agricultural science?

Response: "So that way when the government finally goes down we'll all be able to survive individually and grow our own food."

Question: Why do we crack, grind, or steam grains?

Response: "I'm not sure but I'll get back to you."

Question: Name five methods used in managing livestock discussed in class.

Response: "#5 - Love them"

And then there are the wonderful spontaneous comments and questions:

"Why do I always get stuck with the speaking? I think it's a sign I never shut up." No comment.

"Why are we arguing where Europe is? This isn't geometry class." Think about it...

"Isn't charolais a type of wine grape?" If it is, I wouldn't drink it.

"It has two cameras so you can do video chat."

"With your face?"

"Yes, with your face." Enough said.

And yes, sometimes we even make our own quotable quotes. Such as this personal gem from last year's animal science class:

"This will tell you and me if you are getting the terminology down, because if you aren't, this is all going to sound like Greek to you, which is bad because it's actually Latin."



CAPTION CONTEST!

Send in your best caption for this photo and we'll include it in the next *Old Yeller!*

Last Month's Winner: Jared Collins

"Alright, how many of you evaluated and placed these hogs as soon as you saw this picture."



Awesome. Here's to another great year.