



Serving students in
Agricultural
Education

OLD YELLER

Winter 2011 Edition



OREGON VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Winter Dates

- Teacher Turn the Key Awards due at State Convention
- Oregon FFA State Convention March 18th-21st
- NAAE Region I—April 20-22nd

Inside this issue:

NAAE Re-view	2
Day in the Life	4
President's Message	5
Resources Shared	6
Tech Tip	7
Puppy in the Window	7
Illiterate Cows	8

NAAE 2010: Jackpot!

Oregon was represented by **18 members** of the OVATA community at the 2010 NAAE/ACTE Convention—a great number to see at a national conference. A week of professional development included workshops, keynote speakers, and business meetings. We asked participants to share their thoughts on the value of committing the time and expense to attending this conference. *See full responses online at www.ovata.org/!*



Peter Lindstrom, Roseburg HS

"The most informative and beneficial workshop I attended...was the [Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation](#) workshop that covered planning and

implementing a program that meets the USDOL requirements to certify youth under the age of 16...Agriculture educators can access the instructional materials and also have the opportunity to become a registered instructor (I took advantage of this opportunity and am now a registered instructor with NSTMOP)."

Brook Rice, Madras HS

"I had the opportunity to attend the 2010 ACTE/NAAE Conference in Las Vegas. It, as always, was a great experience. This year, however, I had the opportunity to take one of my administrators along. She is new to our school this year and has become a full-fledged supporter of not only my program but all CTE programs in the high school. I think what most impressed both of us was the career/vendor show. We had tremendous opportunity to discuss curriculum and equipment with a variety of vendors. In fact, we have ordered or will be ordering a variety of items that we looked at the conference. I highly recommend attending ACTE/NAAE in the future. Watching [Reba McEntire sing](#) the National Anthem at the opening night of the NFR wasn't half bad, either."

Ben Kercher, Glide HS

"Attending the NAAE/ACTE conference is expensive, takes time away from school, gives other teachers a reason to gossip and.... worth every bit of every sacrifice. 'Late night

Continued on page 2



NAAE—continued from page 1

networking' is a favorite past time and important but my favorite part of conference is connecting with resources and tools that I've been searching for. I was able to connect with vendors and obtain resources that will be used in class and make teaching easier and more effective. That's both a win-win and saw sharpening event for you Stephen Covey followers!"

Dan McNary, Crook County HS

"I had the opportunity to travel to the NAAE Conference with one of my Assistant Principals, a Counselor, and one of our Math Teachers. There were several workshops that demonstrated how Ag programs had successfully incorporated math into their curriculum, and in turn, been allowed to offer Math credit. This was a very appealing aspect of the conference for us. After sitting through the workshops, we came home with many tools needed to be able to offer Math Credit through the AST

Program at Crook County, and will hopefully be offering that opportunity to students come next fall."

Seth Stoddard, Woodburn HS

"Since I teach in a science & technology academy, I attended workshops that would enhance my teaching in those areas. While at NAAE, I learned about Mapwing (www.mapwing.com), which uses the same technology as virtual home tours for real estate. I can use this to create "virtual field trips" for my students so that they can see an agriscience industry/phenomenon without loading into a bus, missing school, etc. There are also existing Mapwings of agricultural (and non-ag) areas. Another application of Mapwing would be as an SAE or other project for students. They can use this to show somewhere that they have visited OR to document their SAE, thus creating a 'home visit' for you and your class to enjoy."



Oregon delegation along with 2010-2011 NAAE President Greg Curlin (center—person not from OR)

Johnie Ferro, Silverton HS

"The longer I teach the more I realize the importance of professional development. As agriculture teachers and FFA advisors we pile on so much that some days all we can do is try and stay afloat. Professional development is a chance to reflect on what works and what doesn't in our programs, to gather new techniques to make our classrooms more

(Continued on page 3)

"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways."

- John F Kennedy

Winter

Editor's Note

Dark. Dreary. Wet. Freeze-dried. If you live in Oregon, you relate with at least three of those four characteristics of Winter. The drudgery found in the short days between the Breaks can seem too long.

Fortunately for us ag teachers, we have 7,453 items to accomplish before FFA State Convention, not to mention that

busy ag teacher month fondly referred to as "Marchaprilmayjune", according to Mr. Jeremy Kennedy.

Get some great ideas from your colleagues who attended the NAAE Convention this December. And get a chuckle out of Marty Campbell's latest lesson in applied academics.

See you at State Convention.

NAAE—continued from page 2

effective and meaningful, and a chance to interact with the best teachers our profession has to offer. Sometimes it is so reassuring to here that we are not alone in our struggles and to know that our professional organization is there to support us. The NAAE conference was truly an eye-opening experience where I met amazing teachers from around the country and came back to my school excited, energized, and ready to conquer whatever obstacle was thrown my way. The camaraderie and teamwork that was shared with the Oregon delegation made me extremely proud and thankful to be an Oregon AG teacher.

Some key highlights:

1. Use the [NAAE Communities of Practice](#) website! There are so many resources available and people who are willing to share their “trade secrets”.
2. The [“Activities” Handbook](#)- Looking for a way to spice up your everyday lesson? If so check out these techniques to make learning FUN!
3. Be active in the legislative process! We have to advocate for our programs and students. For tools to help, visit the [NAAE Legislative Action Center](#) on the NAAE website under advocacy.
4. The [CASE](#) and [DuPont programs](#) are tremendous resources to integrate science and technology into your curriculum.
5. Actively participate and get involved with [OVATA conferences/meetings!](#) We are stronger together and a lot of fun :)



Hannah Brause, Astoria HS, Oregon's 2010 Teacher Turn the Key winner, receives her plaque from outgoing NAAE president Ray Nash in Las Vegas.

National Teach Ag Day—March 24

Julie Fritsch—NAAE

Every ag teacher talks to students about career possibilities. Welder, engineer, agribiologist, rancher – the list goes on and on. That’s why it can be a surprise to realize there’s one agricultural profession that’s especially close to our hearts, but often goes unmentioned. That’s the profession of agricultural education.

For Oregonians, National Teach Ag Day is during spring break. But you can still talk to your students about how and why you became an ag teacher. Make sure they know all the opportunities that come with a degree in agricultural education. NAAE is working on a variety of resources to help you celebrate the day, including lesson plans, worksheets, games, a video and more. Visit the official National Teach Ag Campaign website to find all these great tools and ideas. www.naae.org/teachag/ag-teachers.php.

Make plans to celebrate National Teach Ag Day in your classroom (even if it isn’t March 24th). For more information, visit www.naae.org/teachag/teachagday. If you have questions or would like to get involved in helping us spread the word about agricultural education, contact Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator at ethompson.naae@uky.edu.





The Teach Ag Campaign is an effort by NAAE to promote the ag-ed profession to potential future teachers.

This post comes from the "[A Day in the Life of an Ag Teacher](#)" series, a blog meant to communicate to others the daily lives of ag teachers.

Find out more at www.naae.org/teachag

The Light at the End of the Tunnel (No, Not That Tunnel)

Wes Crawford

Returning to high school as a teacher after 4-7 years of college (depending on how many degrees/victories laps you took in order to get it all done) is kind of like re-enrolling as a freshmen all over again. Depending on the teachers in your school/FFA advisors in your area, they may regard you that way as well. Overwhelmed is the word of the day, seven is the number of preps you have and zero is how many lesson plans you've ever put together for that particular unit you're teaching tomorrow.

Some of you just laughed out loud out of recognition - you've been there - or are weeping from realization - you are there. But that's okay - because I can see the light. And I am here to share; this one's for you, probationary teacher.

I recently realized this winter that I am reaching the light at the end of this particular tunnel. No, not the retirement tunnel. Ha! I'll retire in 35-57 years from today, depending on PERS. It came to me as I sat at home a Tuesday evening with a laptop on my lap and a clear plan for tomorrow's classes. I've reached my second high school "senior year" - and for you new teachers it is awaiting you, too. Brainstorming five lessons until 10pm the night before Monday is not the Sunday ritual it may have been a couple years ago. After three years I'm closing in on having fairly well put together assignments, activities, and assessments. Prep is not spent Googling 'asexual reproduction' in the hopes that my next class will have something to do. I actually have some tests already written. ALREADY! Before the day

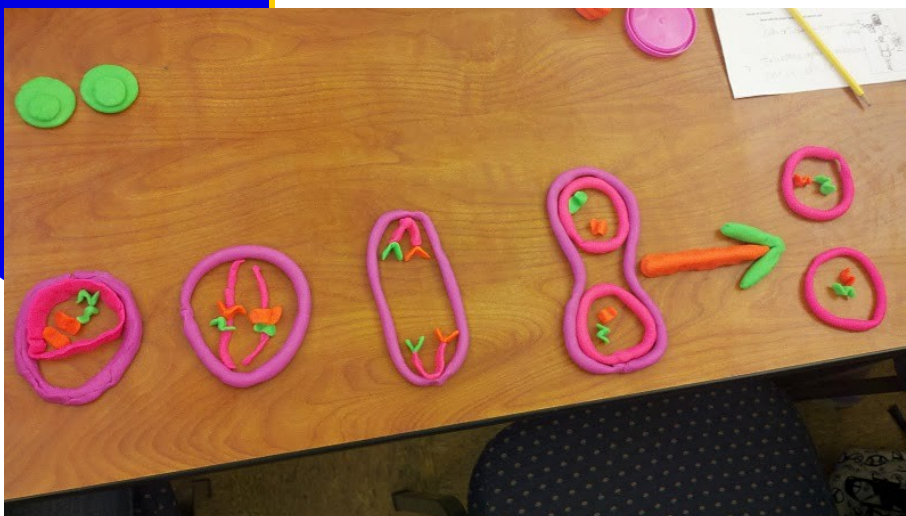
before the test!

Maybe you're much more capable than I. You could be the person who makes copies of every assignment for the semester during the week of in-service in August. Bully for all that. I'm lucky if I can get the syllabus put out the Friday before school. So you can understand my joy in realizing that as my senior year continues my newfound preparedness that had cautiously emerged last year has fully bloomed into a much smaller demand on my time.

Of course, this does not mean that lesson planning is a thing of the past. I am a firm believer in never-ending improvement as well as a routine re-inventor of the wheel, and try to keep bumping up the quality of past years' work. Sometimes that means deleting the PowerPoint found in that Google search (I did save that, right?) and putting together some real curriculum. This year has involved expanding a semester class from two years ago in to a year of coursework and curriculum, so don't be fooled - I still have planning and prepping to be done. I'm a long ways from being done figuring this gig out, that is for sure. I just seem to be able to get it done before dark some days now.

So for those of you in your second high school freshmen, sophomore, or junior years, know that every day gets easier and every year greater. Look forward to having some tools in the toolbox that are already laid out and ready to go - kid tested and self-approved. Yes, your days are still going to be long but time will be available for many new ideas and efforts. In short, no matter what it feels like now it will get better - and you will be happy with this choice of profession. It's worth it.

Wes Crawford



Students demonstrate mitosis using a little hands-on review

OVATA Awards—Your Application is Wanted!

You're much more likely to hear it when people aren't happy with what you are doing than to hear you're doing a good job. It is our obligation to tell others what we have accomplished—and you can do this by applying for OVATA/NAAE awards.

Several awards will be decided upon this spring and summer. Check out the links below and click to follow to the applications, available at www.naae.org. Some past examples can be found at www.ovata.org as well. Awards you can apply for this winter/spring:

Teacher Turn the Key—this opportunity is available for teachers in their 2nd-4th year of teaching. The recipient will attend the NAAE Convention. Selected at FFA State Convention in March.

Awards submitted and selected at Summer Conference:

Teacher of the Year

Program of the Year

Young Teacher of the Year

Mentor Teacher of the Year

Wanted: Hard Working Teachers Helping Students Learn Agriculture... Apply NOW

Dan Jansen | OVATA President

Each year NAAE awards new Toyota pickups for personal use to outstanding teachers in our profession. As I travel around the country, I learn about other state associations and their teachers. I am constantly reminded about how strong Oregon teachers are in comparison. We honestly have top to bottom a higher percentage of highly qualified teachers and impressive programs in our state association.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OVATA, like other state associations struggle to have applicants for every award category offered by NAAE. Sadly, we have the quality teachers, programs, and mentors to provide outstanding applications for each category. It is important as a professional to seek these kinds of endorsements, not as validation for yourself but to reflect the investment made by your local school district toward you and your program and to reinforce the standard of excellence found in OVATA membership.

Last year the Western Region of NAAE was almost swept by Washington teachers and programs. I know we currently have last June's award winners

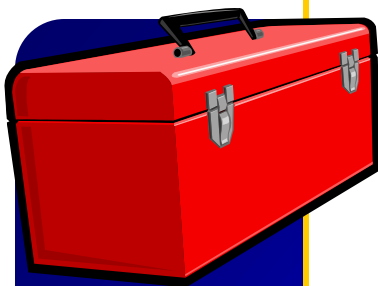
completing their applications for May deadlines, but I wanted to prime the pump for applications for awards at this year's OVATA Summer Conference in Hood River.

Every FFA district should come prepared with one applicant for each award category. The more applications received improves the level of quality over time, and puts OVATA members in a prime position to be driving new Toyota pickups to future conferences.



POLL:

Should OVATA offer an Outstanding Administrator award to recognize the leadership of local administrators and their influence local agricultural education efforts? Submit your response on www.ovata.org.



Win-Win: Share and Receive

One way to support teachers new and experienced is to help with the day to day preparation of classroom curriculum. This issue includes some of the resources shared during NAAE.

When you share the good things you do everybody wins. Keep on checking [Communities of Practice](#) or [ovata.org](#) for more ideas and content!

Did You Know???

Registration is now open for CASE Summer Institutes. Two will be hosted in Oregon—PAS-Animal at BMCC and Intro to AFNR (site TBD), not to mention nine other Institutes nationwide. Register now at [case4learning.org](#).

Not sure about what CASE can do for you? Talk to a teacher who is teaching it!



NAAE/Oregon Resource Share Top 5's

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

- 1—[WI's Teacher Mentor Materials](#) — materials presented at NAAE for mentoring, from Wisconsin ag teachers
- 2—[Windpower](#)—NAAE 2010 workshop powerpoint w/hands-on activity
- 3—[Use Coaching Behaviors with CDE Teams](#) —John Wooden's methods applied to CDE teams, from NAAE 2010
- 4—[Embryology Unit](#)—PowerPoints and lessons
- 5—[Robotics - the New CDE](#) - Kyle Kimble's presentation at NAAE 2010 to incorporate robotics in class

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

- 1—[Safety Tests](#) —safety tests in both English and Spanish
- 2—[Parliamentary Procedure Jenga review](#) — use Jenga to review the basics of Roberts Rules
- 3—[Intro to Futures Market](#)—three lessons and interactive activities
- 4—[Ag Cooperatives Materials](#) - shared for Co-op Quiz, through USDA
- 5—[Pipe Cleaner Meiosis](#) —shared at Fall Conference by OSU Student Teachers

E-Moment Moment

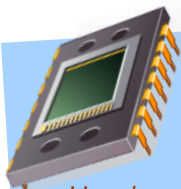
A Regular Feature in Old Yeller

It's great to get students up in front of class and presenting their work. But why not just tap their speaking ability—let's get the creativity kicked up a notch.

Synthesize and present a diagram in class with **Bob the Weather Guy** moment. Students create a 'weather map' that could be a live-stock anatomy picture, a mind-map, or process diagram and then pre-

sent them to the class as if they were a weatherperson on the news. Students can do more than just regurgitate facts—they can use higher level thinking to use weather analogies to describe whatever your topic of the day is.

Try it out next time your students present—they may just surprise you.



Tech Tip

"To err is human; to really screw up takes a computer."

Here's a familiar story: student misses class. Student two weeks later asks for work.

How about this one: administrator wants copies of your lesson plans. Weekly. In detail.

Kill two birds with one stone—possible with a simple program developed by a Eugene-area science teacher. Called Planbook, this software lets you electronically organize your lesson plans. But the really cool part is that you can easily set this program up to export your lessons to a website (available for free from the developer if you don't have one) that anyone can access. Attach assignments for students to download anywhere—just tell them to go to the website and see what they missed.

Available for \$30 for Mac and Windows,, this program is an easy way for you to print reports for administrators, and even has ways to import standards and attach them to lessons if that is required for you. Check it out at <http://www.hellmansoft.com>. A free trial is available.



Who's that Puppy in the Window?

Meet a new member of the OVATA community



Whoever was going to take the reins at Elkton High School was going to need to be ready for a small community in the heart of coastal forests.

Enter Braden Groth.

Braden is in his second year of teaching as he steps into the position open when Denny Quinby retired, coming from a year spent at Condon High School. And he hasn't hesitated to jump in with both feet.

"I have been around timber and Christmas trees my whole life. I still help my parents manage their farm in Glide." Groth attributes his high school experience in FFA and as an FFA state officer as the motivation for his current career. "Raymon Smith was very influential in my decision to teach ag...he was a great teacher."

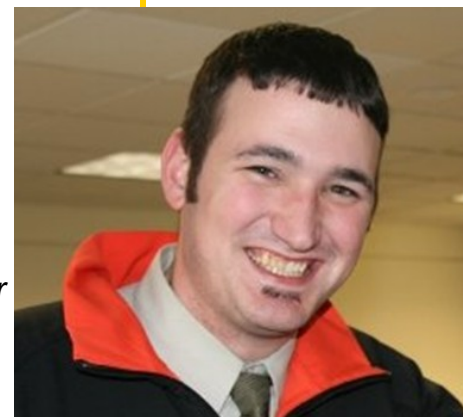
Braden enjoys the work he is in. "My favorite thing about teaching is witnessing students having fun and enjoying what they are learning. I also enjoy incorporating the community into the program. I enjoy teaching ag because I continue to learn new things too (just like the students)." We couldn't agree more. Welcome to the profession!

"I became an ag teacher because I enjoy interacting with youth and community members, and I have a passion for agriculture and its related fields."

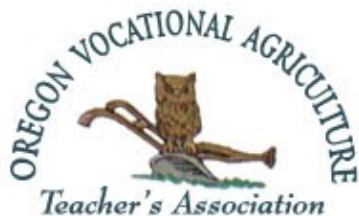
- Braden Groth

"It is thus with farming: if you do one thing late, you will be late in all your work."

- Cato



Braden Groth, new Agricultural Science & Technology instructor at Elkton High School



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Illiterate Cows and Buckskin Mice:

"Team Roper Arithmetic"

By Marty Campbell

It's an interesting similarity between team ropers and gamblers. One could determine that there is really no difference between the two. Both lay it all on the line, risking house, wife, children, and next week's meal on that sure bet. Team ropers have a little more control over the outcome than slot machine junkies, but not a whole lot. Perhaps, however, the greatest similarity between these two gladiator types is their mathematical ineptness. It is this blatant disregard for, or simply the remingling of the numbers that leads me to believe that team ropers and gamblers took the same math class in college.

We bronc riders had it pretty simple. You either landed on your head in the dirt and horse poop, or you made the tooter. They either paid you, or they didn't. Our expenses were divided between the thirteen guys we could fit in the van and maybe extended to the twinkies we ate for dinner, lunch, and breakfast. Our overhead was low, so any checks we happened to win lived quite a ways into the black.

Team ropers, however, are required to take The Mathematics of Steer Bending 101. You can tell a graduate, just by asking how things went last weekend. I always ask my pal.

"How'd the roping in Heppner go this weekend?"

"Alright," he says. "I broke out and my heeler legged up to win it."

Wow! They broke out AND legged up and still won it?

"No, we would have won it had we not broke out and legged up."

(Yeah, and I would have been a world champion if I had ridden better and not fallen off so much and won more money.)

"Oh, so did you win anything?"

"Not in that roping," says my pal. "But I made about three hundred in the 7."

I am impressed. "You cleared \$300?"

"Yeah. I only entered it once, and the fees were \$20."

With a little more prying, I find that he had gotten in the 5 four times, the 9 three times, and the 11 five times. That brings his net down to \$60.

"What did it cost you in gas?" I ask.

"Well, diesel's not too cheap, but it only took me a tank--\$80. But that don't count, because I would have used that fuel anyways."

Down to the red. Team roping's kind of like ranching.

Then he breaks in. "The worst part about it was that three of the guys I roped with didn't bring any cash, and they weren't taking checks, so I had to float 'em their fees."

I doubt he'll ever see that money, knowing the guys to whom he had to loan the money. So, he's in the hole about \$80 according to normal accounting.

Ranchers and farmers could take the same math class to make it look like they're making money. Horse traders could convince people of the great deals they're getting. "You can buy this horse today for \$500, put thirty days on him, and sell him for \$1,000."

Never mind the hay, the boards he chews through and the \$400 you've got to pay the kid down the road because you're too busy trying to make a living. Yet again, another breakeven at best. But with team roper math, you've cleared \$500.

That's all right, though. I remember one time when I was five flat at a roping. Only problem was that heeler catching one leg, making us a ten on the clock. But a little team roping math does wonders.



CAPTION CONTEST!

Send in your best caption for this photo and we'll include it in the next *Old Yeller!* This one's too good to pass up!

Last Month's Winner: Marty Campbell

"Too big to be a jockey? How ya like me now, Mom?"