

THE AG EDUCATOR

E-NEWS WINTER/SPRING 2026

REMINDERS

****Update Contact****

Please update your contacts & let your school know of the change!

WAAE

1724 Bobby Jones Drive
De Pere, WI 54115
715-821-2432

executivedirector@waae.com

NEW WAAE W-9

Please share with your School's Business Manager to update records



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Beth Babcock, Mauston
2025-26 President



Spring can be the busiest time of year, but it is also the most rewarding! Remember to take things day by day and embrace the beautiful "craziness" that this season brings. I encourage you to step outside and enjoy the lengthening days and warmer weather. Spring is my favorite season because every day offers signs of new growth from buds breaking on trees and tiny green sprouts to a newborn calf learning to stand. No matter how hectic school becomes over the next few months, remember to pause and appreciate these small moments.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a workshop proposal for our Professional Development Conference (PDC). These workshops are the heart of our conference, and I am thrilled to announce that we received over 70 proposals from teachers, sponsors, and supporters. Our conference will offer diverse learning opportunities ranging from animal systems & natural resources to equity in the classroom & more.

Mark your calendars for **June 28th – July 2nd** and join us for our Summer Professional Development Conference. Keep an eye out for registration, which will open soon. I encourage all members to attend the PDC this year to connect with fellow agriculture teachers and gain new skills for your classrooms. If you are unable to attend, please ensure you log in to pay your membership dues for the upcoming year so you can continue to participate in committees and access our professional development and support services.

Next fall, the NAAE convention will be held in New Orleans. Please watch for an email this spring with details on how to register and access the housing block. These rooms are expected to fill quickly, so we recommend starting your planning now.

As we navigate this busy season, remember that your WAAE community is here to support you. We encourage you to prioritize your well-being and find moments to recharge amidst the chaos. We look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Babcock".

Beth Babcock

WAAE PDC: BUILT FOR AG TEACHERS, BY AG TEACHERS



This year's WAAE Professional Development Conference is all about supporting you—the people who make agricultural education happen every day. From hands-on workshops to real conversations around

teacher wellness and burnout, this conference is designed to help you recharge, connect, and walk away with ideas you can actually use in your classroom.

Whether you're a newer teacher or a veteran, there is something here for everyone—and it's all focused on making sure you feel supported, inspired, and ready for the year ahead.

Contact Mary if you have questions! 715-821-2432

“WHY ATTEND?”

- ✓ Practical workshops you can use immediately
- ✓ Real strategies for managing stress and preventing burnout
- ✓ Time to connect with other ag teachers who get it
- ✓ Fresh ideas to bring back to your students and programs
- ✓ A chance to step away, reset, and focus on you

Don't miss out—register today & be part of a conference built just for you!

PDC HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Lodging is on your own and can be reserved directly with the hotel using the WAAE Room Block. Contact the Ingleside Hotel at (262) 547-0201, or use the link above.

The cut-off date for the discounted rate is May 28, 2026.



OUR MISSION:

WAAE is dedicated to leading agricultural education professionals in the development of knowledge throughout our ever-evolving global community.

REMINDERS

PDC Schedule

New look, same great resources!

Our WAAE shared resources have a new Google Shared Drive home — Make sure to look for the WAAE Curriculum (NEW) Shared Drive. If you need access, please request access anytime.

PDC Sponsors

NEEDED

Sponsors play a vital role in making the WAAE Professional Development Conference possible. Their support helps provide meaningful professional development, innovative workshops, and resources that empower agricultural educators across Wisconsin. If you know of potential sponsors interested in supporting PDC, please direct them to Mary.

PDC Exhibitors

We invite exhibitors to showcase best practices, innovative tools, and resources that support agricultural educators. They play an important role in helping teachers bring new ideas and effective strategies back to their classrooms. If you know of any potential exhibitors to invite, please let us know.

REMINDERS

Upcoming Dates

- **May 1st** - PDC Registration Closes
- **May 1st** - PDC Scholarship Due for 3-6 Year Teachers
- **May 15th** - Teacher of Teacher Recognition App Due
- **May 15th** - Exhibitor Registration Due
- **May 15th** - Beginning Ag Teacher PDC Scholarship Due
- **May 18th** - 30 Minute Club Applications Due
- **June 12th** - Ideas Unlimited Applications Due
- **June 29th - July 2nd** - PDC
- **June 30th** - Jeff Hicken Memorial Grant for NAAE Due
- **July 28th** - NAAE Convention WI Group Sign-up end

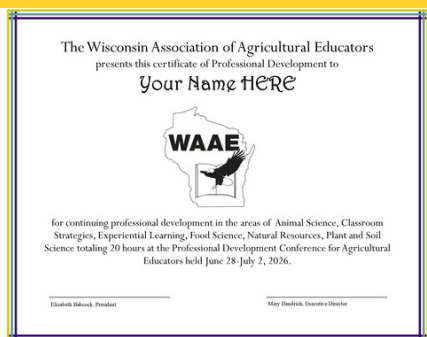
Are you a 3-6 year teacher?

If you are unable to attend WAAE PDC because of budgetary constraints, consider filling out the form below for a \$500 scholarship provided by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni.

Apply [HERE](#)

Need a PD Certificate?

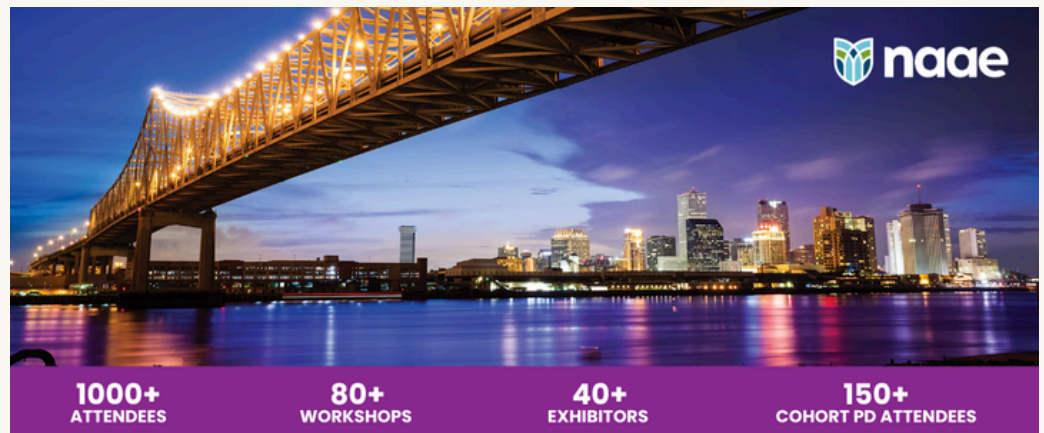
Contact Mary with the details! executivedirector@waae.com



CULTIVATING CLASSROOMS PODCAST

Looking for fresh ideas or expert insight on a new topic? Do you have an idea to share? Tune in to the Cultivating Classrooms podcast and keep growing your teaching toolkit.

Contact Emma Huber or Sammy Jurczykowski if you have questions or suggestions!



2026 NAAE CONVENTION SIGN-UP

December 1-5, 2026 | New Orleans, Louisiana

Sign up using the link above if you will be attending. Join us in New Orleans, Louisiana, this year to experience the premier ag ed professional development event: the 2026 NAAE Convention. Find the piece of your professional development puzzle in over 80 ag ed-specific professional development workshops, or network with your peers from across the nation. There is no better way to invest in yourself as a professional! You won't want to miss it!

The NAAE Convention is held in conjunction with [ACTE's CareerTech VISION](#). NAAE members have access to both conventions at a discounted NAAE member-only rate. The NAAE Convention schedule aligns with the VISION schedule, so that our members have the opportunity to experience both conventions for one price. Check out what is going on at VISION and so much more!

WAAE MEMBERS IN ACTION

Not only are our members managing their day-to-day classrooms, but they're also stepping up as leaders and presenters across the state. From the WI FFA Alumni Convention to the WI Custom Operators Symposium, our educators are sharing their expertise and making an impact. You'll find WAAE members out and about across Wisconsin, & even the nation, representing agricultural education at its best!



WAAE MEMBERSHIP

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**



In an effort to confirm WAAE years of membership, we ask all members to review the membership spreadsheet linked above to ensure the number of

years listed is correct. If you notice any errors, please reach out to Mary at executivedirector@waae.com

WAAE TENURE AWARDS

In 2026, are you due to be recognized for a 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, or 45-year WAAE membership tenure award? Check out the link above to see the current list.

We've been reviewing membership records to ensure everyone is recognized accurately for their years of WAAE membership. If your name is not listed—or if it is listed incorrectly—please reach out to Mary to make a correction at executivedirector@waae.com



TEAM AG ED



Mark your calendars for the
**2027 Wisconsin
FFA Alumni & Supporters
Convention**

February 19-20, 2027
Oshkosh Convention Convention



Mark your calendars for the
**2026 Wisconsin FFA
Foundation Golf Outings**

Northern: July 13, 2026
Southern: July 20, 2026
