



## Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators, Inc.

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### President's Message

**Jerry Wendt**

What is in a title? It all depends on what, of course! How about a location - Titledown USA? - Green Bay, Wisconsin for football of course. One final question: are you proud of your title? I hope so, because what you have and will do can change the world. When you look at the food consumption, technology, environmental value, and many other measures our students go through to effect many of the 6.1 billion people on this planet.

This year, many times, I have been in a position to introduce myself and my "title" of "President of WAAE". The great discussions, contacts, stimulating information, meeting new friends and having "life changing" times has been fantastic! Some of those things on my travels/contacts that have changed my outlook on life are as follows:

1. Meeting people from all over the world that have taught me a lot about myself and the future of what we need to do.
2. Hearing from world famous and accomplished individuals on their value of education and hands-on learning that we teach.

3. A global/futuristic look at this planet. Here are a few important facts:
  - a. We have a world class system of educating students.
  - b. Your leadership is needed to be at the highest level possible from local to national level.
  - c. WAAE needs your leadership in serving on committees, events, and as an officer.
  - d. Approaching it with a positive attitude of involvement in your professional organization will yield a lot for you and your program.
  - e. Budget your time to relax, enjoy your family, and I hope you cherish your title on the secondary and post secondary positions.

Very honestly, to me the "title" of President of WAAE is better than any others - including that of a MVP of a professional sports team world champion. Thank you for your support. At times this volunteer job has been challenging but the positives have outnumbered the negatives by millions of points.

Thank you for "sending" me on this trip!

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address (home):

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

New Address (school):

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Richard Aide, Exec. Dir.  
WAAE  
N10496 Buckhorn Rd.  
Fox Lake, WI 53933

## ARE YOU ALL SET FOR THE WAAE 2007 CONFERENCE?

Following is general information about the 2007 Professional Development Conference. This information is also available on the WAAE website. Please read it carefully and contact Dick Aide or Bridgett Neu if you have any questions. Remember, register by May 15th to receive the \$25 Early Bird Discount. (Discount is available on registration fee only, not dues or meals). No materials will be mailed out to you. All registration materials are online.

The 90th annual conference for instructors in agricultural science education will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday with conference registration at the Marriott-Madison West in Middleton. The hotel is located on the west side of Madison just off of Highways 12 & 14 at the Greenway Blvd. exit on John Q. Hammons Drive.

The conference program will start with the first of six rounds of workshops at 9:30 a.m. on Monday. Jerry Wendt, President of the WAAE will welcome the group during lunch. Norman Fjelstad, motivational speaker, will be the keynote at the opening session. The evening will culminate with a social and picnic sponsored by the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday's program will include two rounds of workshops as well as Committee Meetings and the WAAE Business Meeting, which will include the approval of the budget.

### Tuesday Evening Socials

Tuesday evening's activities will offer bowling and a golf outing as options for an additional fee. This year marks the 25th year of golfing in Milton. This will be the last year at this location. Golf in 2007 will be bigger and better than ever. The golf outing fee includes: golf, cart, steak fry, hole prizes, T-shirt, and more for \$40. This fee must be paid by noon on Monday. The fee will be \$60 after that time.

The bowling option is \$40 and includes: Meal, T-Shirt, bus and other prizes which must be paid at the

time of registration or before 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on Monday. Payment will be \$60 after that time.

Most workshops will be held at the hotel. You will be informed of rooms and locations when you register on Monday morning. In addition to the workshops there will be an opportunity to participate in all day sessions on Wednesday, tours and half day workshops on Thursday. Wednesday evening will feature the annual awards banquet followed by a “casino night” and band with the conference adjourning on Thursday afternoon.

#### Housing Registration

A block of rooms has been set aside for the conference and will be held until May 25th. Reservations can be made online through the link on the WAAE Web site or by phone. Questions regarding reservations can be answered by contacting the hotel at (608)831-2000 and stating that you are with the WAAE conference.

#### Conference Registration

Registration will be conducted online. For best workshop selection, register as soon as possible. Check-in for the conference will be from 8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m. on Monday in the Exhibit area. Hotel room check in will be handled at the registration desk of the hotel.

Workshops that are offered for graduate credit must be paid for prior to attending the conference. Read the directions for registering and fee payment carefully in the workshop descriptions.

#### Fee Payment

Payment should be submitted at the time of registration. Your conference registration form should be acceptable as a receipt for your business office. If you need something else please contact the WAAE office as soon as possible. Any payments that have not been received prior to the conference will require the attendee to pay the balance in full upon check-in at the conference. WAAE does not accept credit cards.

#### Carl Perkins Funds

In most cases you should be able to use these funds to pay for your attendance at the conference. Discuss this with the person in charge of this fund at your school.

#### Conference Fee Inclusions

The conference fee includes: All workshops, meetings, and materials are included in the conference registration fee with the exception of additional fees stated in the workshop descriptions

#### Meals

Meals are provided beginning with the luncheon on Monday through brunch on Thursday. The Monday evening social will be at Fireman’s Park in Middleton. Tuesday evening the meal is on your own with the exception for those attending the golf or bowling activities. One banquet ticket is included in the cost of the meals. Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$25 each.

#### Notice

Workshop descriptions are located on the WAAE website at [www.waae.com](http://www.waae.com). Registration must be completed on the internet. In addition you will have the option to print out a copy of your registration prior to submitting the form. Please call 262-224-7553 if you have any questions in regards to the electronic registration process.

#### Payment Address

Please make sure that you provide your business office with the correct address for payment of conference fees. Payment should be mailed to: Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators, N10496 Buckhorn Road, Fox Lake, WI 53933. We have had problems in the past with some ag educators fees being mailed to the art educators office in Madison.

## **APPLICANTS BEING SOUGHT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WAAE**

After serving as executive director of WAAE since 1991, Dick Aide is going to retire from this position as of 1-1-08. Following is information regarding the search for a new executive director of WAAE.

**Position Title:** Executive Director- Wisconsin Association Of Agriculture Educators (WAAE)

**Position Type:** Part-Time

### **Position Description**

The primary responsibility of this position is to lead, organize and manage the affairs of WAAE. The position will work closely with the Wisconsin FFA and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

### **Educational Requirement**

- 4 year degree Bachelor of Science
- Agriculture Education preferred

### **Additional Requirements**

- Five years membership and experience with a non-profit Organization – WAAE (Preferred)
- Bondable.
- Must pass a background check

### **Salary**

Starting Salary: \$17,000 commensurate on experience and qualifications.

**Starting Date:** January 1, 2008

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Working computer skills in data base management, desktop publishing, web design, and financial management.
- Strong financial management skills.
- Sound motivational techniques.
- Team leadership & board experience.
- Self-starter organizational & visionary skills.
- Strong written & verbal skills.
- Team leadership & board experience

**Required Travel:** State, Regional, and National Conventions

### **How To Apply:**

Send resume and three reference letters to:

Ron Von Glahn  
DeSoto High School  
DeSoto, WI. 54624

**Closing Date:** June 1, 2007

**Contact Email:** rvon@desoto.k12.wi.us

### **Executive Director Job Description:**

1. Maintain office at no charge.
2. Establish and maintain a bank checking account in the name of the WAAE.
3. Establish and maintain an investment account, approved by the WAAE Executive Board, for surplus funds.
4. Maintain a financial accounting system at a WAAE board approved location.
5. Collect and record dues, registration fees, advertising income, income from the sale of supplies and other revenue.
6. Disperse funds and pay WAAE expenses as directed by the WAAE Executive Board.
7. Correspond with and forward dues to ACTE, WACTE and NAAE.
8. Obtain & manage sponsorship for special projects and awards.
9. Compile and post newsletters three times per year.
10. Attend Executive Board and other meetings as directed by the WAAE Executive Board.
11. Prepare agendas and minutes of WAAE meetings.
12. Plan, conduct, and coordinate the activities for the annual Professional Development Conference for agriculture educators.
13. Maintain an investment account and a financial accounting program for the FFA Career Development Event (CDE).
14. Act as Chief Financial Officer of the FFA Center Board, develop agendas, minutes, and provide input on an as-needed basis to assist in the overall operations.
15. Serve as liaison to other agriculture organizations at state and national levels based on board directives.

16. Serve as a representative at Region III Conferences & NAAE Conventions.
17. Coordinate on a regular basis with the Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Technical College System.
18. Coordinate advocacy on behalf of WAAE.
19. Manage the WAAE Web page.
20. Coordinate Mentor/Mentee program.
21. Have no limitations on working with Instructors and students in the Agriculture Education Industry

## **ARE YOU A “FILER” OR A” PILER”?**

**Jeff Zobeck, Section 8 WAAE Vice-President**

Often times I joke that I don't file things, I pile things. This makes me a piler, not a filer! I'm sure I'm not the only one out there? Come on, tell the truth now!

My point is this, we are all swamped with various bits of incoming information. Both from electronic to paper mail sources. From mailings from agribusinesses and other support groups of agriculture to emails I receive from sources such as the listserv are all fair game. Or, how about all of those resources you pick up at State and National FFA Convention Career Shows or the WAAE Professional Development Conference? I don't have the answers on how to process this all or even approach being able to utilize it all in a timely manner as I receive it. One thing I have come up with that helps me personally is to have a student, maybe an FFA officer or a student worker of some sort, file these items for me. You are all probably aware of that one student that is extremely organized. Use their strength as an organizer to create a resource file system for your program.

I have a file cabinet that is just for this purpose. I have placed hanging file folders in the cabinet with titles on them. If I receive resource information that I know can and will be useful down the line somewhere it gets filed in the appropriate place. If the student can't find an appropriate title to place the information under there is room to add titles as they see fit. Some files have become very specific over the 13 years I have been teaching and others have

stayed pretty general. Just depends on the amount of information that is coming in on that topic. From time to time I personally will go through and throw out stuff or split files that are getting full and create more specific titles. For example, I may find the Animal Science file is packed full. I will make separate files for Small Animals -vs- Large Animals or I might make a separate file for Biotechnology in there. Eventually I may have to make separate files for Cloning, Artificial Insemination, Embryo Transfers, etc..

This resource file becomes very useful when a student is researching a topic for a class project or FFA speech for example. I can simply have them check the files and see what they can find in there. I also use it from time to time to find information for class preparations that I may have on a topic. If a student or parent comes in with a question on a topic, what better place to send them then the files to look for an answer.

I guess the alternative to using some system like I have outlined above is to keep piling the information somewhere in the room or my office or throw the stuff out. But then what do you do when you really could use that information. This has worked well for me and it may not be a brainstorm of an idea for some of you that have done some kind of filing system in the past, but if I can reach but one “piler”, like myself and help them make their lives a little bit easier my goal has been reached.

## **“TWO TOPICS AND A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE”**

**Becky Wirkus, Section VII Vice-President**

When charged with the duty to write an article for our next WAAE Newsletter, I must admit I was a bit perplexed. My two theme choices were “Resources” or “Home Stretch”. Hmmm.....

Well, as this is only my eighth year of teaching, I don't always feel qualified to preach to colleagues who have been teaching longer than I have been alive about what they should be doing in their classrooms. However, we all should take a moment to appreciate

the leaders in our field who are ever willing to share new resources with us, our partners who are willing to support us both financially and as volunteers, and those who are putting extreme effort and vision into keeping agricultural education at the forefront of our legislators' minds.

As a resourceful instructor, become a self-reflective teacher who can pick and choose what theories, strategies, and styles work for you; just make sure that you are performing to the best of your abilities. I realize that many teachers have seen the bandwagon of educational philosophies circle past many times, just make sure that you truly scrutinize their relevance to your classroom before completely dismissing them just because. You may be robbing yourself and your students of some exceptional opportunities.

Now, what about the "Home Stretch" option? Many thoughts ran through my mind on this topic; an eclectic smattering of words of wisdom from experienced teachers, recent wellness initiatives, highlights of motivational speeches, all the research about living a balanced life, and knowing that our particular field of education has a high burn out level. But as I continued to think about the home stretch, I looked around for a different angle. Ah ha!! Maybe a student perspective would serve me better. So, I proceeded to interview one of my seniors, who are commonly afflicted with senioritis. Well, Jake is no ordinary senior. A very self-motivated and driven individual, (which he will tell you comes from growing up on a dairy farm) Jake too is in the "home stretch". Jake isn't as afflicted with senioritis as the other seniors sitting around the table where we conducted the interview. I asked him questions like, "What courses and what other high school experiences do you feel have best prepared you for the "real world"?" "Which teachers or teaching strategies have you benefited the most from?" "Where do you see yourself five years from now?" "What qualities do you think you possess that will

help you in the future?" "How do you feel going into your last semester in high school?"

Jake's answers were of a caliber that I have come to expect from Jake: mature, centered, hard working, responsible, and driven. Of course, as the other seniors around us chimed in their thoughts on the subjects, I came to realize something. What I was observing at that table is what I observe in our profession; varying degrees of senioritis, or in our professional case, teacheritis. There are those who are still full of gusto and enthusiasm, those who are self-aware and do what they do best, those that can't wait to sprint out the door, and those who have for all intents and purposes mentally left, because they have stopped challenging themselves and performing to the best of their abilities.

I hope that you take advantage of the plethora of resources that are available to make the most of your teaching. Be sure to take advantage of opportunities to go the extra mile for your students. Do not try to be super human all the time and rip yourself in two; just be willing to retain the levels of excellence that have come to be associated with those outstanding agricultural teachers among our professional association.

Avoid negative teacheritis, as it is also known to be contagious, sometimes infecting administrative and community views towards agricultural education. Instead, become infected with positive teacheritis, the strain that inspires your students, supports our communities, appreciates our alumni groups and sponsors, and demonstrates to our administration how vital agricultural education is to our communities. Then spread it around and be sure to infect other teachers around you. This is the part where one of my students would write and if you are really reading this, I owe you a soda. Make the most of today and remember that even when you are in the home stretch, make every moment count.

## RESOURCES FOR THE BUSY AG TEACHER

### Larry Plapp, Section X Vice President

Ag teachers need a vast amount of resources to simply keep their heads above water each day. Here are a few resources I've found to keep me from sinking too far under water!

### QUIA

Quia is an online test maker and grader. Are you tired of always taking home papers to grade? Quia will do the mundane task of grading multiple choice, true false questions, and all other forms of objective testing. In addition, you can still give the short answer questions etc. You grade them online and can make comments just like you would a hard copy test. As a benefit, the students can get almost instant feedback from their test. You can access Quia from any computer and there is no limit as to how many people use your Quia information. In fact, many teachers share their tests and quizzes on the Quia site. Other items you can do with Quia are making up vocabulary games and online surveys. I used the survey tool for some of my classes to determine what they like about a class and what can be improved. Quia surveys also take out the bias of knowing the students handwriting and really allows for truthful information. I don't sell for Quia, but go to [www.quia.com](http://www.quia.com) and get a 30 day free trial or find \$50 for the yearly subscription!

### Mini-Mac

We purchased an Apple Mini-Mac for the FFA a few years ago. It is unique because of the tiny amount of space it takes up, 7" x 7". We use the Mini-Mac as a one-stop location to dump all of our digital pictures. This means that all of our editing of pictures and video can be done in 1 location. Like any program, you can make specific files of pictures to put into various FFA award applications as necessary. A simple device called a KVM switch allows us to alternate back and forth between the Apple Mini-Mac and the Gateway PC found in the classroom, so little additional classroom space is necessary.

## YOUR CHOICE

### David Kruse, Section X Alternate VP

Many of you have seen the quote, "Your attitude determines your altitude." As agriculture instructors in secondary and post secondary institutions we encourage our students to choose a positive attitude because it will be reflected in their lives.

Education in Wisconsin is facing some challenging times. The challenges and frustrations are different in every school district, but regardless of the school, it is difficult to ignore the impact those frustrations are having on the attitude/morale of teachers. You however, also have a choice to determine your response and attitude about the situation we are in.

Make a conscious effort to exhibit an attitude that reflects your enthusiasm for the neat things of our profession. Share your excitement for those items with students, community members, teachers, administrators, and other agriculture instructors. Let your enthusiasm energize yourself and others around you.

In that spirit, I share with you some of the joys of my job this past semester:

1. Seeing the pride in a student for speaking in front of class even though his notes were difficult to read because his hands were shaking too much.
2. Students that come in for help after school because they want to do better or learn more.
3. The desire of an 8th grade quiz bowl member to not let their teammates down.
4. Student quote: "Mr. Kruse, last year I wouldn't have been caught dead doing something in agriculture. I was wrong, this class and FFA are awesome!"
5. Working with professionals that work tirelessly to provide tremendous opportunities for students of agricultural education.

Regardless of the challenges I face in my job, I believe in agricultural education and I take great pride in the work that I do. Make your own list of joys and let them fuel you around the obstacles of your job. You may just find even more joys to add to your list. Remember that the attitude you share is your choice. Choose a good one.

## **NEWS FROM THE POST-SECONDARY LEVEL**

### **Peter Hoffman, Alternate Post Secondary VP**

Writing this article finds me planning for the busy start of the second semester but many plans have been made well in advance of this. Working behind the scenes to prepare for the up coming spring Conference is the PAS state officer team that was elected this past October and lead by the State Director, Paul Cutting. The conference theme "Building Tomorrow Today" really says a lot. This group of individuals has taken the knowledge gained in leadership through their participation in FFA events and are now continuing that development by participating in the Fall Leadership conference.

Leading our state organization this year serving as President is Brant Gill, a second year student enrolled in the Ag Business & Science Technology program at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. Brant is a graduate of Belmont High school. Serving as his officer team is Holly Sykora, an Ag Business student from Fox Valley Technical College. Holly is from Green Bay. 1st V-P position is held by Ron Aldrich, a first year Dairy Herd management student at SWTC. Ron is from Angola, Indiana. Erin Severson, a graduate from Holman High School serves as V-P representing Western Technical College in LaCrosse as a 2nd year Ag Business student. V-P Brian Schreiber, a graduate from Kiel High School and now a student enrolled in the Ag Business program at Fox Valley Technical College. V-P Sheilla Docken, a graduate of Trempealeau High school and now a student enrolled as a first year student in the Ag Business program at Western Technical College.

Building Tomorrow Today planning started in November as this group met along with their local advisors to set the stage for the rest of the state PAS members for their participation in the spring conference which was held February 7th, 8th and 9th in Madison. There, students participated in events to showcase how they are building today for tomorrows jobs in such events as Career Planning, Career Progress, Prepared Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Dairy Management Skills, Crop Management Skills, Ag Technician Skills and a Quiz Bowl Event that

covers all areas of Agriculture and the PAS organization. This is always a time filled event that helps to set the stage for many of the participant's future in agriculture.

Following a successful state conference there is no time to rest as the National PAS conference took place March 14-17 in Idaho Falls Idaho. Their leadership skills and knowledge learned through their respective programs are once again tested against all the state winners from across the country.

It has been a pleasure for me as an advisor at the local level working with the students to develop their leadership and professional skills it is easy to see that agriculture here in the state of Wisconsin and across the country will continue to have a bright future.

## **FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN A LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: A COMMUNITY-BASED SCHOOL FOREST CURRICULUM**

### **Jeremy Solin, WI School Forest Ed. Specialist**

The workshop will provide information, model activities, and development tools to help educators develop interdisciplinary, standards-based forestry field programs. The course will utilize the LEAF Lesson Guides and exemplify project-based learning practices. It will integrate existing LEAF field lessons from K-8 and introduce a suite of new high school field forestry lessons developed to complement the 9-12 LEAF lesson guide.

Thanks to funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), a \$200 graduate credit stipend, equipment, and resources will be available to each participant.

When: July 23-27, 2007  
Where: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Campus  
Who: K-12 Educators who want to utilize their school forest and community as their classroom



Maximum enrollment: 30  
Graduate credit: 1 or 2 credits are available w/ \$200 stipend per participant  
Cost: FREE, a \$50 refundable deposit is required to reserve a spot in the workshop

Space is limited and will be reserved on first come, first serve basis. To request registration materials, visit [www.wfrea.org/wkspreg.html](http://www.wfrea.org/wkspreg.html)

For more details on the workshop, visit [www.wfrea.org/wksp.html](http://www.wfrea.org/wksp.html)

Let me or Nick Hylla (WFREA Director, [nick@wfrea.org](mailto:nick@wfrea.org)) know if you have any questions.

Midwest Environmental Education Conference(MEEC)

Mark your calendars! Oct 18-20, 2007 Stevens Point, WI

More information at:  
[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/Events/fall07.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/Events/fall07.htm)

## **NAAE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

**Glenda Crook, Section VI Vice President**

Attendance at the past NAAE National Convention helped me to learn about the NAAE Committee Structure and I would like to share with you what I found out concerning NAAE committees.

The NAAE has six standing committees including: Finance, Member Services, Marketing, Policy/By-Laws, Professional Growth, Public Policy and Strategic Planning. Each committee has a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and the committee members include a chair and vice-chair from each of the six regions. The committees address issues brought to them from member discussions at regional meetings.

The finance committee approved the budget for 2006 and the proposed budget for 2007. The committee also discussed their suggestion to the NAAE board to

# **WAAE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**Marriott-Madison West**

**June 25-28, 2007**

**WAAE Business Meetings  
WAAE Committee Meetings  
Workshops  
Social Events  
Recreational Activities  
Awards Banquet  
20-Year Banquet  
and More!!**

**Mark Your Calendar  
Make Plans to Attend Now**

**Conference materials are  
available for your registration  
and will need to be submitted  
by May 15, 2006**

donate \$10,000 to the Agricultural Education Opportunities Fund. The NAAE Board approved the donation. This year the committee recommended to the board to donate another \$5,000 to the Ag Ed Opportunities Fund. The Ag Ed Opportunities Fund was established to create a source of seed money for Team Ag Ed to have available to use as matching funds for projects such as the CASE program and the 10,000 Ag teachers by 2015 initiative. All of the funds donated have come from the Team Ag Ed partners. No funds have come from business or industry. Funds will be available once the account reaches \$1.3 million. The overall goal is to acquire \$5 million.

The Finance Committee has also recommended to the NAAE Board that the tours be eliminated from the NAAE convention and in its place offer/provide suggested tours for NAAE convention attendees. Offering the tours during NAAE convention costs the NAAE money and it is usually more expensive for the participants than acquiring tour tickets and transportation on their own. The committee reports and activities are shared at the regional meeting as well as the final business session for approval by the members.

Attending the committee meetings provides a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of the NAAE's organization, operations, purposes and future plans. Wisconsin WAAE members have this same opportunity available to them at the state level. As a member your participation in the WAAE standing committees or sectional committees gives you an inside look at the organization's purposes and future plans. I strongly encourage you as a WAAE member to be an active participant in the WAAE State or Sectional committees and to attend the NAAE convention in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2007.

### **“THIS ‘N THAT”**

#### **LeRoy Miller, Section VII Alternate VP**

It is time for another newsletter article from the Section VII Alternate VP which is me, Lee Miller. Agriculture instructors are always using something that we see someplace so why reinvent the wheel? This is some information that I got from my tire dealer. It can be used in so many ways and I hope it puts a smile on your face.

#### **COWBOY WISDOM**

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. There are two theories about arguing with a woman/man: neither work.
3. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
4. Always drink upstream from the herd.
5. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
6. Good judgement comes from experience, but a lot of that comes from bad judgement.
7. If you are riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

8. Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.
9. The best way to double your money is to fold it up and put it back in your pocket.
10. After eating a big bull, a mountain lion felt so good that he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

This is just a heads up for some of you travelers: I read a news article that is probably already lost on my desk, that if you are going to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, all US Citizens will need to have a passport. As a reinforcement I also saw this on the nightly news. This will have to be looked into if some of you advisors are taking the Canadian fishing trips with your students. One of our school custodians and alumni member is taking his family to the Caribbean for their anniversary. He said that it is costing about \$85.00 for each passport. He also applied for them in November and hopefully they will have them for June. So some of you need to start planning now!

I finally made the paper with an interview by Sara Bredesen of The Country Today. This article was about using their newspaper in my classroom. This is called the Adopt-A-Classroom program. This is very up-to-date information and agriculture is a dynamic industry with new things happening daily. Most of my textbooks are not changing that quickly. My newest books have a copyright of 1997; has anything changed in our industry since then?? The newspaper works good for substitute teachers if you just make up a worksheet. This could be made up of 15 to 20 questions from any area of the paper. You can make one sheet for all of your classes if you do not have any repeat students. You will need to find a sponsor for the papers that you need. My sponsors are Bunczak Real Estate and Auctions and Community First Bank of Rosholt. To participate in The Country Today's Adopt-A-Classroom program, contact Jackie Giles at (800)236-4004, Ext. 3250 or email her at [jackie.giles@ecpc.com](mailto:jackie.giles@ecpc.com).

A real unbelievable trip on the way to National FFA

Convention was the tour of Fair Oaks Dairy Farms. They have about 80 calves born per day, milk 27,000 cows with about 9,000 at each of three set-ups. They ship out about 47 semi tanker loads of milk per day and milk 500 cows per hour. When I asked how long the barns were I was told “a tenth of a mile long”. This amazed me and everyone that I talked to. If you go on this tour, I think you will also be amazed.

If you have not taken in any of the teacher workshops at the National Convention you are missing out on a chance to get cutting edge information. Give it a try and hopefully you will enjoy. Have a great rest of the year!!

## **OVERLOAD**

### **Jeff Meske, Section VIII Alternate VP**

No, I wasn't referring to my vintage 1950's Craftsman tablesaw as I run some 2 1/2 inch oak through it in my garage. I am not even referring to having that extra pay stipend when some teach an extra class as compared to co-workers. What I am briefly exploring is the overload of resources that we encounter as agriculture educators. How does your sifting process work for you? I can speak about my learning curve, but ultimately it boils down to maximizing my time. When I began in New London, about nine years ago, the file cabinets (all three) were pretty full of the traditional Ag I-IV lessons and the department had no textbooks. I made it my goal to borrow as many user friendly activities from my neighboring chapters that I could. Within those first years, the curriculum was modified to a semester format. My suggestion to those beginning the learning curve is to take those steps to compare with the experts around you.

A hot topic for our high school has been exploring the use of online classes in the future. As staff we keep debating what is best for kids, and the possible reality behind the focus - questions of job security and money. We have been told that the prediction is that within ten years, 50% of secondary education may be online. How does this affect our use of resources? On limited budgets and time constraints, which class should be developed?

Again, I don't have the answers, but a few things have worked for me. Whether it has been a thorn or a blessing, I have taught science and social studies classes in our charter school for at-risk students. It has “forced” me to rely on other teachers from other disciplines to gain some extra resources along with views. I am a “skimmer” when it comes to evaluating curriculum or topics. If I look at things right away, there is a much higher chance that I may use it now, versus gathering some dust bunnies in the corner. From my very first observations in college, a wise man told me that he never used the same test again. Do you teach to a test? Are you willing to keep modifying and getting better with your sifting of resources. I try and thank all the help I received from many of you. So keep up the communicating as we share topics in agriculture that work and good luck as you maximize your resources.

## **WHAT DO TEACHERS MAKE?**

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, “What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?” He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: “Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach” To corroborate his point he said to another guest, “You're a teacher, Susan. What do you make?”

Susan, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness, replied, “You want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math and perfect their final drafts in English.”

Susan paused and then continued, “You want to know what I make? I make a difference. What do you make?” Blessings to all of you who make a difference in the world. Those who try to judge you by what you make just didn't learn much about what's important in life.