



**DON'T MISS
THESE
ARTICLES:**

- Page 2: **GET SOME RECOGNITION!** 2008 Award listings, and due dates.
- **NAAE Communities of Practice Topic Listings** - get signed on and start sharing!
- Page 5: **Teacher Shortage in Oregon.** Finding our current students who can strengthen our profession!
- **2007 OVATA/NAAE Award Winners**

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Teach Ag Ed Workshop



The focus of this year's National Ag Ed In-service in Indianapolis was Agriculture Teacher Recruitment, Development, and Retention. I think that we can all agree that this is a topic close to us in Oregon. In the past several years it has been a struggle for Oregon schools to fill their open Agriculture Positions.

During the national in-service we had time to work as a state and develop a plan for our state to recruit, develop, and retain teachers. One part of our plan is to conduct a workshop during State Convention for 10th and

11th grade FFA members.

This workshop will be an active, hands on workshop,



conducted by J.D. Cant, Marlene Mensch, and Wes Crawford. **The workshop will be held Monday at 1:00 pm during state convention.** We are asking you to select some good students that, in your judgment, can be successful at the University level. This is only an introduction to teaching agriculture, not a

career selection process. We only want to open FFA Members eyes to the possibility of teaching agriculture.

We are currently retaining about 60% of our teachers after 5 years. This, in combination with our beginning teacher shortage, could send us into a serious downward spiral. I believe it is our obligation to do our part to make sure our chosen profession continues and grows.

Please encourage some of your best students to take part in the workshop.

**Don Schmidt,
OVATA President**

NAAE Communities of Practice Website!



Recently this winter the NAAE has created a web-based community for Agriculture Educators across our profession to weigh in on questions, tips, resources, ideas, and support. At NAAE convention in December, attendees were encouraged to create profiles online and begin the sharing, exchanging, and mingling of our profession. It is quite easy to do, and currently on the web there are discussion boards, resources, and information on the numerous topics. To see a listing of topics, go to page 3 of this newsletter, or click on <http://naae.ca.uky.edu:8080/clearspacex/index.jspa> and **JOIN THE COMMUNITY!!!**

Due Dates:

- **Teacher Turn the Key— At State Convention to OVATA Officers**
- **Grant and Scholarships— May 15, 2008 - to NAAE**
- **All others—to OVATA at Summer Conference**



Know of someone who is doing great things in their programs? Then nominate them secretly and surprise them as a winner. It will build support between both programs, and grow our profession by strengthening our ties.

NAAE 2008 Awards! APPLY FOR THEM!

Last summer at the 2007 Summer Ag Teacher's Conference for OVATA, Oregon only awarded two areas for our profession to represent OVATA in the 2008 Awards Programs. *To see who won those awards, see page 4 of this newsletter.*

However to encourage our OVATA membership to apply for NAAE awards, there is a listing of current awards that will be given at the 2008 OVATA Summer Conference in June 2008. Remember two of these awards at the Regional Level receive two year leases on a four-door Toyota Tundra for their programs. The OUSTANDING AG ED TEACHER AND OUSTANDING POSTSECONDARY/ADULT AG ED PORGRAMS are awarded these trucks!

The other award areas are:

- **American Nursery and Landscape Instruction Grant Program**
- **Delmar Cengage Learning NAAE Upper Division Scholarship**
- **NAAE Main Awards Application (*includes Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Young Member, Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program, Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program*)**
- **NAAE "Teachers Turn the Key" Scholarship**
- **NAAE Teacher Mentor Award**
- **NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award**
- **NAAE Outstanding Cooperation Award**
- **NAAE Outstanding Service Citation**
- **NAAE Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **NAAE Professional State Association Award**

We know that we do great things for our students, communities, programs, and other instructors, take the time to receive a pat on the back for a job well done, and there may be some extra perks along with the recognition. Click on <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/index.html> for the applications, forms, and further instructions. Questions please contact an OVATA officer for assistance. Let's make it a goal to have an applicant in every area!



NAAE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Advanced Life Sciences
- Advocacy
- Ag. Economics
- Ag. Communications/Leadership
- Ag Literacy
- Ag. Mechanics
- Agriscience
- Animal Sciences
- Classroom Dynamics
- Floral Design
- Horticulture/Greenhouse Management
- Marketing Your Ag. Program
- Middle School Programs
- National Board Certification
- Natural Resources
- New Teachers
- SAE
- Student Teaching
- Teacher Induction & Mentoring
- Technology in the Classroom

Or you can create your own discussion topics as you find a question or issue that you think your peers could assist you with. The community is what you make of it, if you need help finding solutions to your teaching, instruction, advising, or coaching, ask your community, and you may be surprised what you learn! Go to www.naae.org to begin.

Photo Caption Contest **WINNER!!!!**

"When Two Worlds Meet."
submitted by
Jeremiah Koop,
McMinnville HS



The Agricultural Education Mission: Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.

2007 OVATA Awards



2007-2008

The 2007 OVATA Summer Conference hosted at Eagle Point High School came away with two NAAE Award Recipients. The Outstanding Program for 2007 was Ontario High School where instructors Les Linegar and Roger Watkins have experienced tremendous success in the classroom, FFA events and activities, and Supervised agriculture experience programs (SAE).



Roger Watkins and Les Linegar of Ontario HS with the 2007 OVATA Outstanding program of the year.



Sam Herringshaw receives the Teacher Turn the Key award at NAAE Convention in December (sponsored by Dodge).

Sam Herringshaw of the Hermiston HS Agriculture Education Program was also named the 2007 NAAE Teacher Turn the Key recipient. Sam attended specialized workshops and activities for NAAE members with under four years of teaching experience at the 2007 NAAE Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

The Outstanding Young Member award was given to J.D. Cant of Imbler High School. Both award applications will be submitted to the NAAE in May of 2008 for consideration in the Region I NAAE Award Programs. If the Ontario program is awarded the coveted NAAE Region I Outstanding Program Award, they will be fighting over who gets to drive the 2009 TOYOTA Tundra for the next two years! Congratulations to our OVATA Award Recipients!



J.D. Cant conducting a summer officer training as a part of his Ag Ed Program at Imbler HS.



A HUGE AG TEACHER SHORTAGE...How do we meet 10 x 15 Goals?

“10x15” is the ambitious, long-range strategic goal for agricultural education.

The focus of this unprecedented effort is to create new programs in communities not yet served by agricultural education and FFA and to strengthen the quality of current programs providing personal, academic and career education in agriculture. In order to meet these lofty goals, Oregon Agriculture Education and OVATA need to supply high quality and motivated agriculture education students to pursue a rewarding career in agriculture education. *To help address this professional need, OVATA will be conducting an interactive and informative recruitment workshop at the 2008 Oregon FFA State Convention in Pendleton, Oregon on Monday March 24, 2008.* Please be thinking and sending high achieving, college bound Sophomores and Juniors who can make a positive impact on our profession to the workshop. The future of our profession on the local, state, and national level depends on who we find to replace and work along side of ourselves. For more information on the 10 x 15 strategic plan please visit <http://www.ffa.org/teamaged/10x15/index.html>.



NAAE Region I Conference - Park City, UT

The 2008 NAAE Region I Conference will be held in Park City, UT on **April 16-19, 2008**. OVATA Officers are attending, and if you need more information, contact Marlene Mensch or the Utah Association of Agriculture Educators President, **Katie Silcox**, at ktsicox@nsummit.k12.ut.us.



Photo Caption Contest

Create a original caption for this picture. The winner will be chosen and revealed in the Spring 2008 Newsletter. Email your caption to J.D. Cant at jdcant@imbler.k12.or.us.



2007-08 OVATA Officers
President—Don Schmidt, Hood River HS
President Elect—Tom Hall, Bonanza HS
Secretary/Treasurer—Marlene Mensch, Dallas HS
Newsletter Editor—J.D. Cant, Imbler HS

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Oregon FFA State Convention

Pendleton, Oregon

March 21-24, 2008

Pendleton HS, Pendleton Convention Center, Blue Mountain Community College.



2007-2008 OVATA Officer Team



Pictured at Left are the 2007-08 OVTAT Officer Team
(L to R) J.D. Cant (*Imbler HS*), Newsletter Editor, Tom Hall (*Bonanza HS*), President-Elect, Marlene Mensch (*Dallas HS*) Secretary/Treasurer, Don Schmidt (*Hood River HS*) President.