

# OLD YELLER

## Velez Joins Staff at OSU

By Greg Thompson



On August 1, 2008, Dr. Jonathan Velez joined the staff in the Department of Agricultural Education and General Agriculture at Oregon State University as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Velez holds a Bachelor of Science

degree in Animal Sciences and a Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from Oregon State University. Upon completion of his teaching degree, Jonathan taught high school Agricultural Education at both Oakland and Sandy. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Velez is excited to have an opportunity to return to Oregon State University and his home state. He feels that "Oregon has an excellent group of agriculture teachers who work diligently to put students first. Their daily commitment to excellence in education is what makes Oregon agriculture teachers truly exceptional." He is looking forward to working in partnership with the Oregon Agricultural Instructors and the teacher preparation program to continue the tradition of excellence in Oregon's Agricultural Education programs.

Increasing student involvement is one of Dr. Velez's primary goals in his position at the



university. He is also interested in furthering the leadership development component within the College of Agricultural Sciences while continuing to support the positive growth and development of the Department.

Jonathan met his wife of seven years, Tracy, at Oregon State University and they are now proud parents of a busy 17 month old son, Josiah. The family spends most of their free time enjoying the beautiful outdoors of the Pacific Northwest.

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### Editors Note

The year has been off and running. FFA meetings, faculty meetings, and did I forget to mention teaching, but our profession is one of the greatest around. I mean where else do you get paid for brightening the minds of young people. This time of year can be stressful, busy, and tiring, so I have inclosed a special Conference Quotes found on page 3. These Quotes were taken from numerous members of our fine organization.

Enjoy.

## OLD DOG



I have pondered the perspective of some professional and life concepts many times over the past 20 years or so. Probably took that long to mature into it. (and I believe, right or wrong, some would still question that). We as FFA advisors, teachers, peers, parents and friends touch some lives for some small snippets of time. We profess to encourage self improvement, ethical conduct, and service to others. That begs a question for me. Do we model those behaviors we deem important in our students and acquaintances. What have we as FFA advisors and teachers done to improve ourselves in fulfilling those roles? Have we participated in workshops, sought some new curriculum ideas to implement, asked a fellow Aggie for ideas, approached change with a positive attitude, initiated a friendly greeting or responded with a pleasant smile. Do we always conduct ourselves ethically in the myriad of competitions we place our students in that we deem are so important for them

to win. And, finally what have we done to provide some service for our fellow teachers, community members, parents, and students? Successfully mixing all of that with a personal life can be a daunting task, but it can be done.

To keep things in perspective, we should embrace each day we have, cherish the good times, hug those we love, improve ourselves, do what's right, assist each other, be nice, smell a rose and enjoy the beauty of life and make the most of each moment. Those things are not a matter of perspective. Let's work on them.

The attached Ag teacher conference quotes do perhaps send a message of some sort, but they need to be kept in perspective as does life. Perhaps a better one from Aldous Huxley "There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that is your own self".

Dale Crawford

## FALL CONFERENCE



## Questionnaire:

Please answer the following questions and send them via Email to [the99nyy@yahoo.com](mailto:the99nyy@yahoo.com) your opinions are important to us.

1. What did you like about Fall Conference?
2. What did you think needed to be changed?
3. What did you find most useful?



## TECHIE TIP OF THE MONTH: TIP 1

PowerPoint presentations are a part of modern teaching. You can find all sorts of good information that can be tailored to almost any class.

Presenting via a remote is a good deal, but you have to by an extra remote unless you use a mac. The Apple remote that came with your Macbook or Macbook Pro will work seamlessly with Keynote (Apple's version of PowerPoint). Keynote will open just about any PowerPoint file. Enjoy and look for new updates on the website.

**Make Sure to sign up for an account at the website:**

[www.ovata.org](http://www.ovata.org)

### Conference Quotes: Top 5

5. "So you just made a three week unit go twelve weeks and learned the same amount of \$h\*t." "Yeah but you have a work sample to prove your doing your job"
4. A four for Christ sakes? There is no way in hell that was a four."
3. "You can have mine if you give me something later" "Bring me a cookie when you're done."
2. " This is the \$h\*t administrators want to see."

and the number one quote around the table at an Ag Teacher Conference is

1. "I hope he's done talking because I'm done listening."

### Quotes for Student Teachers:

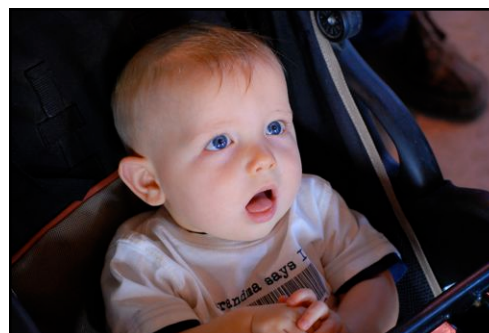
1. "Strive for excellence and persevere"
2. "Keep doors open"

OVATA Treasurers Report	
Balance as of 10/10/08	\$11,170
Expenses for NAAE	\$5000*
Expenses for Region I	\$3000*
Projected Balance after Region I	\$3,170
*Estimation	

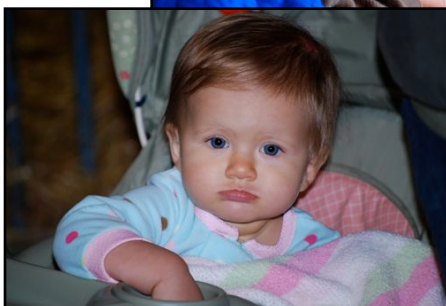
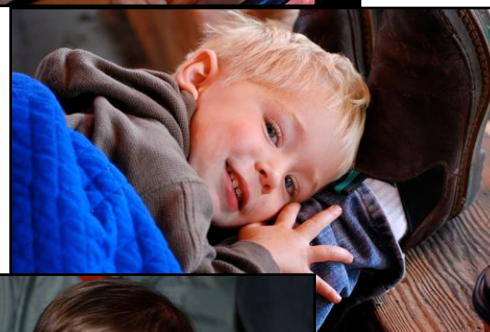
### BEAT THE HIGH PRICE OF GAS

Ideas to help save some money.

Carpooling has been around for a long time and it is the norm in large cities. Well it is not just for executives and factory workers anymore. The next time you are off to a conference or a contest, consider inviting another advisor or chapter along with you for the ride. Both programs can split the cost of fuel and it gives your students an opportunity to meet and connect with other students from neighboring schools. Not to mention you can network with other teachers on the trip and bounce idea's off of each other.



Children of Ag Teachers





**Check out These Ag teachers in Action**

