



# Canine Courier

## From Our President by Kari Hanson

The past year has been a great year for Agricultural Education in the state of Montana. From the passage of House Bill 464 to the election of Chase Rose as a National Officer, 2009 certainly left some lasting memories. Hopefully, all of you are proud of the accomplishments of the past year and are looking forward to making 2010 equally successful.

The next step in our ongoing advocacy efforts is our first MAAE Commodity Group Breakfast which is approaching rapidly. It will be held in conjunction with our winter meeting in Lewistown on January 30 at 8:00 a.m. The breakfast and meeting will be held at Harry's on the Hill at the Pine Meadows Golf Course in Lewistown on the same day as Fergus Mechanics. For those of you with students competing, you should have plenty of time to get kids registered and started on the contest before going to breakfast.

Several MAAE members attended the NAAE/ACTE conference in Nashville, TN in November. These conferences are always a great way to rejuvenate and learn new ideas and teaching techniques. Relevant workshops, outstanding speakers, a large trade show and the opportunity to network with teachers from around the country are the tip of the iceberg when talking about why you should attend. If you have never been to a NAAE/ACTE convention, I would highly recommend making plans to attend next year's convention in Las Vegas

as it is an outstanding professional growth opportunity that is often overlooked.

Now that the first half of the year is finished, it is time to start thinking about filling out Award applications for Teachers Turn the Key, Outstanding Young Member, Outstanding Ag Teacher, Teacher Mentor, Outstanding Program, Rookie of the Year, Outstanding Cooperation, Lifetime Achievement and any others I may have missed. Applications for these awards can be found on the NAAE website, [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org). The applications are not due until State Convention (Update for Rookie apps) but if you want to apply getting started now will make the process much easier. While it takes a time to fill out the applications for these awards, they are great recognition for you and your program and can help to increase local community support.

Thank you for the job you do of advocating agricultural education in Montana. Your efforts are truly making a difference in the lives of students and providing our state and communities with skilled leaders for the future.

God Bless, Kari Hanson

*Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change your life forever.*  
-Keri Russell

### Inside this issue:

Montana FFA Advisor	2
MSU News	3
Inside Story	4
Teachers Calendar and Checklist	5
Inside Story	6
Region I Information	7
NAAE Information	8-9

### Special points of interest:

Throughout this edition you will find

- Biographies from some teachers
- District News
- A chance to win prize
- Information of the Region I conference
- Comics And More

## State Advisor Report by Bill Jimmerson

I remember vividly how busy all of you are this time of year. Things are also busy with the Montana FFA Association. I hope the state officers excited your members during their recent chapter visits.

I recently sent you a guide to help you remember all of the FFA due dates leading up to convention time. If you didn't get a chance to download that, let me know. Also, take a good look in the Montana FFA folder on Metnet for the latest materials and applications available.

We still have 5 state CDE's to complete before the state convention. February 27<sup>th</sup> is the state horse CDE in Billings and March 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Job Interview,

Ag Issues, Ag Communications, and Marketing Plan CDE's (JAAM) held in Cascade. A special thank you to Rocky Mountain College and Eric Tilleman for hosting these.

You will receive state convention registration materials around March 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the changes for state is that you now can bring the top two Creed speakers from each District. As the convention is in Bozeman, look for the motel listing posted which will help you decide where to stay. Some of the motels have agreed to provide financial support to the Foundation if you stay with them. We are also putting together a restaurant listing to help you plan where you will take your members out to dinner.

If you would like a state officer attend your District convention, please contact me. I will charge \$0.24/mile to get them there and back.

The state officers and I wish you the very best as you prepare your teams, complete your applications, and teach your classes. Thank you for all that you do for our 2,500 FFA members and over 4,000 students.

Bill Jimmerson, advisor



## Southern District— Chad Massar

Southern District gearing up for round 2 of districts - Agronomy, Ag Sales, and Star Greenhand all planned in Red Lodge for Feb 3.

Tim's looking for a one year replacement so he can go play in the sandbox again, Thanks for your service. Larry Hay is looking for a replace-

ment as he's looking at a different sandbox, you know maybe one with an ocean view and cold drinks, happy early retirement. Thanks for all your service. Kari is looking for her sanity. Region I planning, and running the MAAE as well as keeping the rest of us in line! Ole saved Chad's fish when Joliet's tank heater went kapoot over Christmas break. Ole had a

spare heater. Jennifer and Rob will be herdbooked for letting Ricky Grewell drive them to Denver for the Stockshow. Scott & Ward keep teaching to support their farming habits, and last I saw, Daniel is selling equipment on the roadside to pay for the kids. Sell the kids, it's a better return. All seems to be normal in the Southern District.

## Glacier District—Eric Tilleman

Things are speeding up in the district with the addition of the Electric City FFA which is in Great Falls which brings the number of chapter in our district to nine. We are gearing up to host many contests in the next few weeks such as Districts for mechanics, Parli, agronomy, extemt, prepared, greenhand, creed, and FBM in Fairfield, to state JAAM

held in Cascade and with Conrad getting ready for Crops and Mechanics. We are also ready to help with the Region I conference being held in our back yard in April.

We would like to thank all of you that were able to make it to all of our KMON contest and supporting such events.

Hope to see you all in March at our other events.

*Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.*

*-Vincent Van Gogh*

**HIGHLIGHTS OF MSU AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

**Chantelle Mahan – New Administrative Assistant for Agricultural Education-** The MSU-Bozeman Agricultural Education program is pleased to have a new Administrative Assistant on staff. Chantelle Mahan joined the Division in October. Chantelle is a native Montanan and was born and raised in the Gallatin Valley. She is also a Bobcat alumnus!! Please welcome Chantelle to the Montana Agricultural Education family the next time you call or drop into our office in Linfield Hall.

**Graduate Students --** MSU's Agricultural Education program is fortunate to have an excellent group of graduate students on campus to support our teaching, research and outreach functions.

**Michelle Passmore, Jolynn Miller, Eric Larson and Katie Udem** are all actively engaged in the MSU Agricultural Education graduate program. Udem received her undergraduate degree in Communications from the University of Montana. Passmore and Larson are recent graduates of the MSU Agricultural Education program. Miller has a degree in Agricultural Education from Cal Poly - SLO. Passmore, Miller and Larsen plan to finish their degrees in 2010. Udem plans to complete in 2011.

**Shannon Arnold & David Arnold** are expecting their first child, a boy. The newest member of the Arnold family should arrive in mid March. Shannon plans to be back before the end of the semester.

**Student Teaching Credit is Now Graded –** The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has recently decided that an undergraduate student's student teaching credits will be awarded a grade and will count toward cumulative GPA. All Montana Agricultural Education Supervising Teachers who work with MSU Student Teachers will be involved in determining the grade that student teachers receive in the future.

**Student Teachers -** Three Ag Ed Broadfield students are student teaching this spring. Lauretta Hill is completing her student teaching experience in Hysham. Sarah Guenzler is student teaching in Missoula and Ty Neal is student teaching in Custer.

**Deadline for Graduate School -** April 1 is the deadline for application to the Ag Ed graduate program for summer 2010 enrollment. The deadline for fall enrollment in the Ag Ed graduate program is, 15, 2010. Please contact any of the MSU Ag Ed faculty members for information about the online Agricultural Education Master's degree. The deadline to apply for fall 2010 Agricultural Education graduate assistantships is May 2010. An assistantship provides a monthly stipend and credit fee

waivers for a considerable portion of graduate tuition.

**Youth Safety Education Curriculum for Native American students—** Marty Frick is Project Director of a two year Youth Safety Education Curriculum project. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and targeted for Native American 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school agricultural education students. The primary objective of the project is to develop and deliver a context relevant curricula that will educate Native American youth in Montana how to be more proactive in common activities on a reservation that involve safety risks. The grant will provide funds for curriculum writers and a graduate student's hourly salaries to assist Dr. Frick at MSU.

**You are our best recruiter. We appreciate all of the fine students you have sent our way. Thank you for all that you do in recruiting Montana's most important resource, our youth, to MSU's College of Agriculture and the Division of Agricultural Education program.**

*Carl, Shannon, and Marty*

*Copy from one,  
it's plagiarism;  
copy from two, it's research.*

*Wilson Mizner*

## OPI Report by Brad King

Hope everyone had a great Holiday and your start of the new semester is going well! As always, plenty happening at OPI, never a dull moment. Here are a few items you should know:

Enrollment reports for State CTE monies will be changed. For the first time ever, you won't be filling out a paper form with this information. The enrollment form will be online from now on. Before some of you start to feel uneasy about online – the information you submit online is the EXACT same as you put on the paper form. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

As many of you know, we have a record high number of ag programs this year.

I've already been contacted by a few schools that are considering starting an ag program. If you know of a school that is considering starting/restarting an ag program, let me know.

I've been out on Perkins visits around the state (more yet to do this school year). We've already started preparing the E-grants Perkins Application for next year. There will be a few changes – mostly appearance. The biggest change you will see is related to student performance/accountability. For the first time ever, the application will have your school's performance numbers from the previous year.

Thanks your all you do!

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL



## Big Muddy District News by Pete Rising

From the Big Muddy District:

We are all tired of winter, cold weather, snow piles and the recession. We are all up to our eyeballs in NCLB, AYP, 5 year plans, and curriculum alignment. Most are driving their FFA members towards CDE participation and personal growth. The rest, well we battle all sorts of issues in the quest of getting stu-

dents to be actively engaged.

I believe we are all healthy, comfortable and darn happy to be teaching Agriculture Education in the great northeast portion of Montana. Casey and Gary work hard to keep us all headed in the right direction. The ladies of the district are great keeping all motivated. I as district chair attempt to maintain order and enjoy each day

and what it has to offer.

Spring is around the corner and hopefully a quick semester. Maybe when we all thaw out some, we'll have more news to share. Wait, that is why we keep Schaff on the road.

Aim High,

Rising @ the Point

### THE ARGYLE SWEATER

BY SCOTT HILBURN



# Teacher Calendar & Checklist by Gary Mattheis

## JANUARY

### Record Books

-Finalize student record books and submit completed Form 2 to the State Advisor

**-Form 2 is required to be a chapter in good standing**

### Degree and Award Applications

-Complete State FFA Degrees and award applications

-State Degree checklist and cover page can be found on METNET in the Montana FFA folder with the AG-ED conference

-Check your Montana FFA Association Calendar for important due dates. State degrees, applications, Form 2's, CDE dates etc.

### CDE's

-Make your travel plans and motel reservations for State Convention (March)

### Student Scholarships

-College Scholarships are generally due by Feb 1 (MSU, MSU-Northern, Montana Tech, Northwest College, Sheridan College, MCC, Dawson, etc.)

-Scholarships through the National FFA are due by mid February

-Encourage your seniors to apply for these – Lots of money available and not difficult to complete.

## FEBRUARY

### Due Dates and CDE's

-February 10th – Form 2 due to the State Advisor

- February 12th – State FFA Degrees due to the State Advisor

-February 19th – Proficiency applications due to the state advisor

-February 19th – State Officer Applications and State Office NonCom applications due to the State Advisor

-February 26th – National Chapter Applications due to the State Advisor

**-Please check your Montana FFA Association Calendar (handed out during DLS) for the most current due dates**

### Districts and State FFA Convention

-Prepare for District CDE's – Some of these may have been held earlier in the school year

**-In order to compete at a State CDE, you must have had a team compete at the district level in that given CDE area. Note: To qualify for the State Ag Sales CDE, teams must be from the top 50% of the teams in your district.**

**-Watch METNET for State CDE registration material**

-Read and understand all rules associated with attending and competing at State Convention. These are included with your registration information on METNET

**-Continued CDE preparation – Bring your best, Look your best and Do your best**

### Student Enrollment Reports

-These are sent to your school from OPI in Helena

-Check with your Administrator to see if they arrived

-You can also access them from METNET

-Check with your Superintendent whether they would like the report turned into them or if you should send them to OPI yourself. (Our Superintendent collects them from all the vocational areas in our school and then submits them all at once).

-Very important if you want to receive your state CTE money

-Refer questions to Dr. Brad King, OPI AG Specialist @ 406-444-4451

### National FFA Week

-Watch for a mailing from the National FFA – contains materials to be used to promote National FFA Week

-Resource material also available on ffa.org

-Work with your chapter officers to implement a plan of action for your chapter and school

## MARCH

### Due Dates and CDE's

-March 5th – JAAM

-State Contests for AG Issues, AG Communications, Marketing Plan and Job Interview

-Held in Cascade – Contact Eric Tilleman via METNET

-March 6th - Conrad Seminar

-Mechanics and Agronomy CDE's

-Workshops in the morning, Contest in the afternoon

-Contact Joylynn Petrosky via METNET

-March 10th – State Talent Applications due

-Available on METNET

*-Getting the importance of being on METNET yet???*

-March 10th - State Scholarships due

-March 15th – State Convention registration due – May change from year to year depending on dates

### State FFA Convention

-Continued preparation of teams and individuals

-Insure registration is complete and submitted

-Rooms should have been booked by now !!!!

-Bring your chapter banner to convention

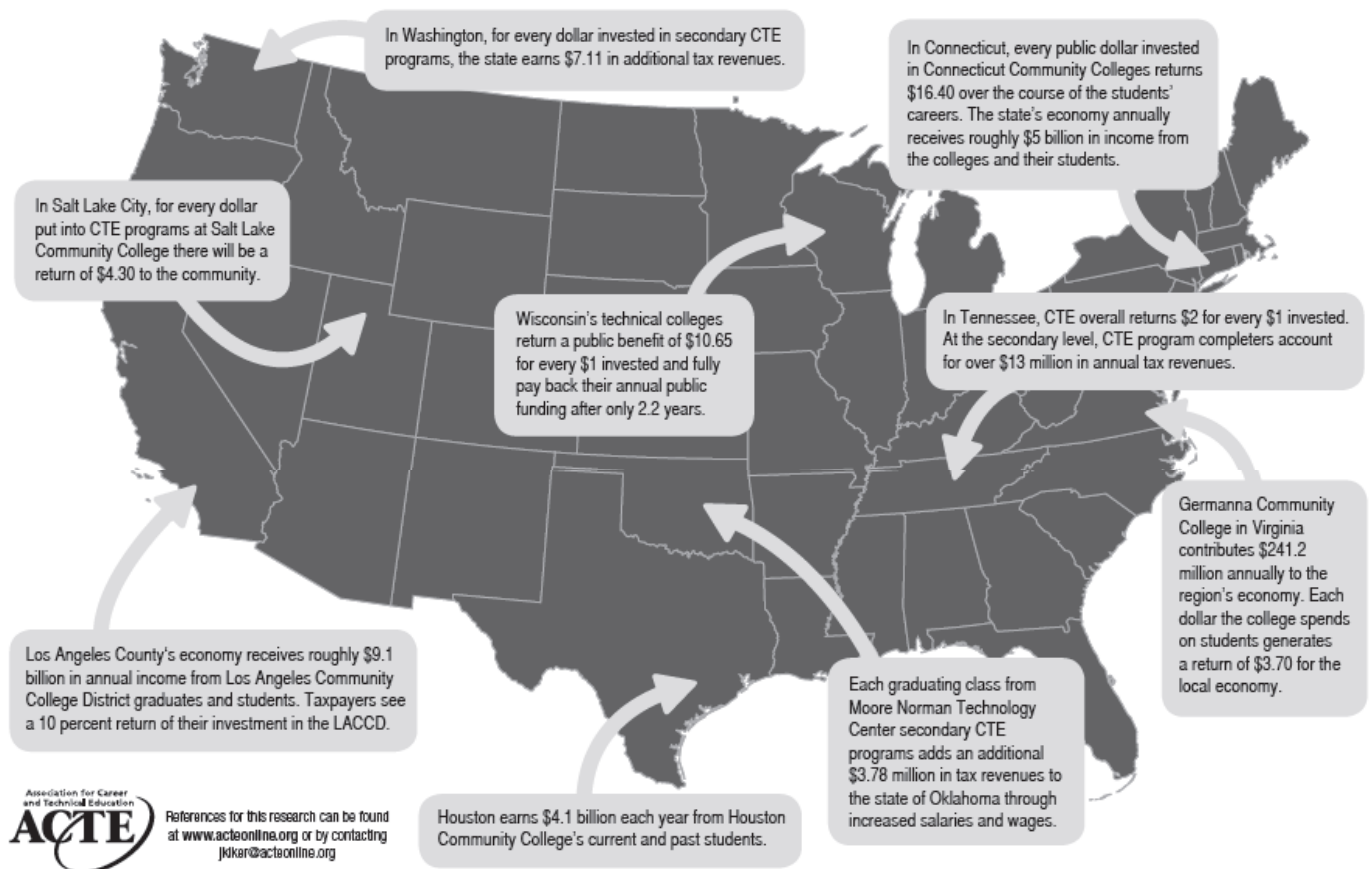
-Bring needed meal purchase orders (if you use them)

**-Remember – Bring your best, Look your best and Do your best**

*Sometimes creativity just means the daily work of helping others to see a problem in a different way.*

*-Joseph Badaracco*

# Investing in Career & Technical Education Yields Big Returns



## Power of 10%-How Small changes Can make a Big Difference Written by Eric Harvey & Michelle Sedas

### What would happen if....

- you improved your golf score by 10%?
- you exercised 10% more?
- you invested 10% of your income?
- you spent 10% more time with your family?
- you spent 10% more time on your personal development
- you gave 10% more often to those in need
- You did 10% more to go after your goals

### Then....

- you could go from being an "ok" golfer to a great golfer
- your health and quality of life could improve
- you would have a significant nest egg for retirement
- you and your whole family would benefit
- you could enhance your job performance and your career
- you would bless other through collective efforts of many
- you would find that, over time, you could achieve the unimaginable



# 2010 WESTERN REGION AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

*Great Falls, MT  
April 21-24 2010*

## Conference Hotel

Holiday Inn Great Falls  
400 10th Ave. S  
Great Falls, MT 59405

Phone Numbers:  
1-800-257-1998  
1-406-564-1651

Room Cost— \$99

Rooming Block—NAAE Region I  
Rooming block ends March 21, 2010

## Registration

Available by the end of January on  
the MAAE page at  
[www.montanaffa.org](http://www.montanaffa.org)  
Site is not up yet

A tentative schedule will be  
available in December.

## Call for Presenters

If you are interested in presenting a  
workshop at the conference or have a  
suggestion for possible workshops  
please contact Kari Hanson by Jan 15

### Contact Information

Kari Hanson  
[khanson@cablmt.net](mailto:khanson@cablmt.net)  
School—(406) 633-2350 X 2037  
Cell—(406) 690-1463

## TAG Your Replacement

National Teach Ag Day  
**Thursday, February 25,  
2010**

You are passionate about your profession. You know full well the extremely important role agricultural education plays in preparing students to lead their generation. Doesn't it make sense then to set aside a day to celebrate the profession of agricultural education and to show your students what a great career it could be for them as well?

Have a "dress like your ag teacher" contest. Let your students be the teacher for a day. Host a current college ag ed major as a guest speaker. However you do it, please be sure to celebrate the first ever National Teach Ag Day on February 25, 2010!

NAAE has developed a variety of resources to help you

celebrate the day, including lesson plans, worksheets, games, a video and more. We also have a contest for collegiate ag ed organizations that can help them win money for their club ([Details](#)). Visit the official National Teach Ag Campaign website to find all these great tools and ideas. [www.naae.org/teachag/ag-teachers.php](http://www.naae.org/teachag/ag-teachers.php)

National Teach Ag Day is also being used to raise the general public's awareness of agricultural education and the need for agricultural educators. Congressman Travis Childers of Mississippi has filed a resolution with the U.S. House of Representatives to officially designate February 25, 2010 as National Teach Ag Day, and ag teachers all over the country are being tapped to help spread the word about agricultural education.

National Teach Ag Day is an initiative of The National

Council for Agricultural Education's 10x15 project, and is being led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Several companies have contributed funds to help raise awareness of the need for agricultural educators, including Campbell Soup Company, Landmark Nurseries (as a special project of the National FFA Foundation), Delmar Cengage Learning, and James Allen Insurance Company.

Make plans to celebrate National Teach Ag Day. For more information, visit [www.naae.org/teachag/teachagday](http://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](mailto:ethompson.naae@uky.edu).

*Do Something wonderful,  
people may imitate it.  
-Albert Schweitzer*



*Unless commitment is made,  
there are only promises and  
hopes: but no plans.  
-Peter F. Drucker*



## WHAT IS NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

Teach Ag Day is a national campaign to encourage agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share why they went into ag ed with their students and encourage them to consider a career as an agricultural educator.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to share the story of agricultural education and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators. Anyone who wants to participate can find a variety of resources to help them talk about ag education on that day, including a video and activity ideas at [www.naae.org/teachag](http://www.naae.org/teachag).



## WHAT HAPPENS ON NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

Current agricultural educators will talk with their students about a career in agricultural education.

We will also have a contest for postsecondary agricultural education organizations, such as Ag Ed Societies and Alpha Tau Alpha chapters to see who can celebrate National Teach Ag Day in the most unique way.

Continue checking [www.naae.org/teachag](http://www.naae.org/teachag) for updates on all Teach Ag Day activities.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



- Write the Teach Ag Day date on your calendar and plan to include a lesson on Feb. 25th about the opportunities in agricultural education.
- Tell everyone you know that February 25th is National Teach Ag Day
- If you are a postsecondary student ag education organization, plan to participate in the "How Did You Celebrate National Teach Ag Day" contest.
- For more information, visit [www.naae.org/teachag](http://www.naae.org/teachag)

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACH AG DAY?

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). It is sponsored by Campbell Soup Company and Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.





**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS**

- Officers  
 Kari Hansen—President  
 Park City  
 George Simmons—Vice President  
 Forsyth  
 Carla D. Leligdowicz—Secretary  
 Custer  
 Stacy Dietz—Treasurer  
 Sheppard  
 Eric Tilleman—News Letter Editor  
 Cascade  
 Chad Massar—Past President  
 Joliet

*Aim High, and Stick to Your Post!*

Links for MAAE are on  
 Montana FFA website



**"... 'Fire the coach' ... 'Fire the coach' ... 'Fire the coach' ... 'softer towels' ... What? Kimmell! This is intolerable — fix the towel issue!!"**

**Why Join MAAE/NAAE?**

Each year the officer of both the NAAE and MAAE encourage our teacher to join and reap the benefits of membership. However, there are several that choose not to join the organizations.

Becoming a member of these organizations can provide you with so many opportunities. At the state level, meetings are held to inform and educate members, change policies, share and exchange ideas, peer networking, provide instructional materials, in-services camaraderie and fellowship and much more. The meetings are held 4 times a year at State convention, Summer Update, Fall Conference, and Winter Update.

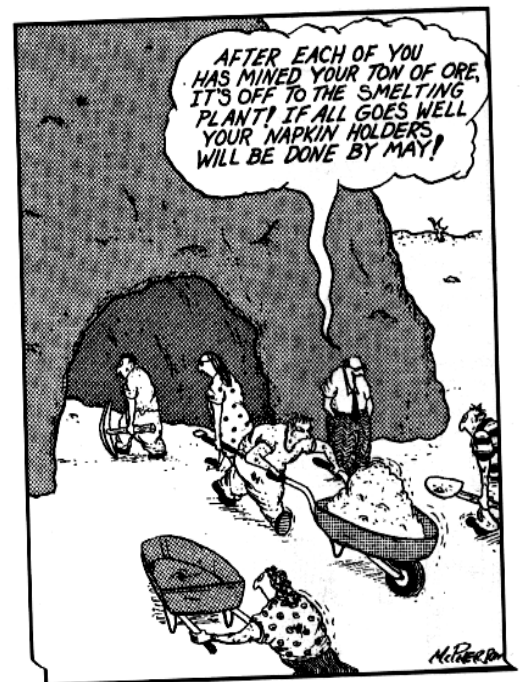
At the national level some benefits beyond the previously mentioned benefits include: liability insurance, health care benefits, hotel discounts, and much more.

State membership also dictates the number of votes we are able to cast at the national conventions with regard to policy changes, ect. Membership in both organizations provides a network to gather ne ideas and information to utilize in the classroom.

The NAAE and MAAE seeks to advance agriculture education and promote the professional interest and growth of agri-science teachers as well as recruit and prepare students who have a desire to teach agriculture. Membership benefits assist members in growing professionally and in becoming more effective agriculture educators.

For More information on NAAE visit

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



**Metal-shop teacher Hank Borgner prided himself on his back-to-basics curriculum.**