

# Washington Agriculture Education Update



Greetings. We are rapidly approaching our annual State FFA Convention, held on the WSU campus from May 15-17. Staff, students, and community members are encouraged to attend this worthy leadership experience. Our state's ag teachers are working diligently with students to help develop leadership and career development skills through the many CDE events. The dedication to our students reminds me of the quote by Orison Swett Marden, "The more one sows, the greater the harvest." The work you are putting into your students will serve them with a lifetime of applicable skills and fond memories. Continue the good work, and if I can be of any help— please let me know.—Becky Wallace

## STUDENTS SHOW STRONG INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Center of Excellence and the Washington State FFA Association partnered in an interest survey project to determine current high school students interests in post-secondary and career options in agriculture and natural resources in our state. During the fall Blue and Gold Tour, the Washington State FFA Officer team highlighted careers and options after high school to the many students who took part in their careers centered workshop. The Agriculture Center of Excellence compiled the data from the interest cards, and found that of the 800 students represented, 75% of them are interested in Agricultural Higher Education and Careers, 15% haven't decided on a program of interest, and less than 9% are not interested in pursuing any agricultural field or post-secondary educational option. If you are interested in more information about this project, please contact Bill Griffith, Director of the Center of Excellence at [bill.griffith@wwcc.edu](mailto:bill.griffith@wwcc.edu).

## 2014 FFA ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Are you proud of the successful students produced by agricultural education programs and FFA? Are you the best advocate you can be? The 2014 FFA Alumni Development Conference (ADC) will challenge those attending to "engage" their local community, school officials, business leaders and everyone they meet. ADC workshops will lead participants through the growth and leadership continuum and help find, develop and use their voice in advocating for agricultural education and FFA. The workshops will include hands on training, Alumni and FFA updates, educational tracks and top notch motivational speakers. There are also educational tours and activities that feature regional agriculture at its best and visits to local FFA chapters to see what is happening in agricultural education and the support received by local alumni. You won't want to miss this educational, informational, entertaining and fun event. Identifying promising practices and developing ideas on how to support your local or state programs for alumni is huge and there is not a better place to make that happen than Alumni Development Conference. The 2014 FFA Alumni Development Conference will be held July 9-12 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Registration is open April 1- June 15. For additional information call 317-802-4332

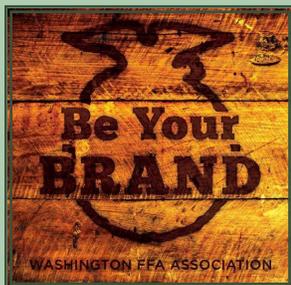


### Special points of interest:

- Alumni Development Conference
- Spotlight on Program: Wenatchee
- Spotlight on Professional Development: WAAE
- New addition to the Foundation Board

Washington FFA Website:

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



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**FFA**  
Day at the  
*Ballpark*

**7:10 PM  
JUNE 14  
SAFECO FIELD**

DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR FFA ON SALE NOW: [FFA.ORG/MLB](http://FFA.ORG/MLB)

## SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM: WENATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL

### Donkey Basketball Raises Over \$2,100 for March of Dimes

WENATCHEE- The eleventh annual March of Dimes Donkey Basketball Tournament held on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the WHS Gymnasium proved to be a huge success. According to tournament organizers, over \$2,100 was raised for the March of Dimes Foundation, which funds research to treat and prevent birth defects in newborn babies. The event, hosted by the Wenatchee High School FFA and FBLA programs, brings in various teams from throughout the Wenatchee community each year to play basketball while riding donkeys. According to Wenatchee FFA Advisor Matt Asplund, "The profit from this years event puts the total money raised in ten years to over \$22,000!"

This year, six teams competed in three separate ten minute games, followed by a championship game consisting of the two highest scoring teams. In the end, the Missionview Elementary Staff won the trophy, beating the Wenatchee Fire and Rescue team in the final game. Other participating teams included the Chelan County Fire Volunteers, Pioneer Middle School Staff, Wenatchee FBLA, and the Wenatchee FFA Chapter.

The donkeys used in the game were one of two teams owned by Donkey Sports, Inc. from Entiat, Wash. Each year, they travel all along the Western United States, providing quality entertainment for various fundraisers and events for service groups, schools, and other organizations.

The evening's entertainment got off to an excellent start with quality performances by the Golden Apple Band and Wenatchee Irish Dance. The National Anthem was performed by Wenatchee High School student Olivia Passmore. After the second game, the audience was allowed to come down to the floor to personally meet and pet the donkeys from the games. The event proved to be a success simply by the amount of cheering that came from the stands for the teams on the floor during the games.

The Wenatchee FFA and FBLA wish to thank all of the tournament sponsors, teams, and spectators for their wonderful support of the event. The March of Dimes Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises money to fund research to treat and prevent birth defects in newborn babies and small children. The FFA and FBLA are student leadership organizations from the agriculture and business fields respectively of high school Career and Technical Education.



We're definitely making a difference in helping the fight against birth defects." Wenatchee FBLA Advisor Susan Sears added that "Attendance this year was outstanding. The crowd was really into it."

PUYALLUP  
**SPRING FAIR**  
APRIL 10 - 13

#### New in 2014!

1. New horticulture division lots have been added
2. Agriscience exhibitors must submit abstracts by April 1st in order to compete for Nationals
3. A new Education Class has been added titled "Class Project/ Lesson Plan"

Questions? Contact Al Schwider [al@thepinesfarm.com](mailto:al@thepinesfarm.com)





## JAKE BREDSTRAND JOINS FOUNDATION BOARD

Former FFA State President Jake Bredstrand was nominated and confirmed to join the FFA Foundation Board at the last Board meeting. With his background in agricultural education, FFA, and financial giving, Jake will be a welcome addition to the board to support the goals and vision of the FFA Foundation.

*"It is a true honor and I am ecstatic to have joined the Washington FFA Foundation Board. I have found my passion and career path in philanthropy and I currently serve as the Assistant Director of Development with WSU Vancouver. The chance to serve in a volunteer role to raise support for Washington FFA is an opportunity I am very eager for. FFA was the launching pad for my personal and professional development. Along with fellow board members, I'm confident we will create more opportunities for the thousands of Washington FFA members."*

## SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WAAE

The Washington Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE) Summer In-service Conference is the premier opportunity for agricultural education professionals to come together to handle association business and deepen their understanding of issues facing agricultural education. The conference will be held at the Wenatchee Coast Hotel and Convention Center June 29 through July 2. The registration fee for the 2013 conference is \$440 before June 1st, and a new teacher symposium is offered for no charge to those that may be interested. The registration fee also includes one ticket to the barbeque, and one ticket to the banquet at no additional fee. The conference is sure to offer something for everyone, including updates, short course, workshops, and industry tours. A full agenda is available by request. If you are interested in attending, registration forms are available online— and any questions can be directed to the WAAE Executive Secretary—Gary Parkert, available via telephone at 253-318-3778 or via email at [gparkert@comcast.net](mailto:gparkert@comcast.net).

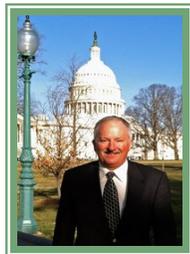
### Industry Tours and Activities At A Glance

Some tours have limited availability and fill up on a first come, first serve basis.

1. Lathe and Mill Operation— Participants will make a scribe and pair of aluminum dice
2. Apple Blossom Floral Tour and Floriculture Curriculum Sharing
3. Efficient Energy—Demonstration of Envirostep Controllers in Greenhouse
4. Van Doren Sales Manufacturing Facility and McDougal and Son Warehouse—Ordondo Cider Works—UV Pasteurization Process and Cider Operation
5. Workshop: Steps to build skis/snowboards from blank wood core to end product
6. Ancient Lakes AVA Wine Grape Tour— Production and Marketing focus
7. Forest Restoration, Commercial Harvest, and Fire Safe Community Work
8. Turf Grass/Agronomy Tour
9. Gebbers Farms: Export operation and packing, marketing, and distribution focus.
10. Chief Joseph Dam, Corporation of Engineers Wildlife Study Tour, and Fish Hatchery Tour

**Interested in more information or to sign up? Contact Jed Odenrider at [jodenrider@cashmere.wednet.edu](mailto:jodenrider@cashmere.wednet.edu)**

## WAAE LEADERSHIP



**Gary Parkert**  
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**Becky Strite**  
Past President  
Colville



**Matt Asplund**  
President  
Wenatchee



**Mike Sheppard**  
Vice President  
South Kitsap



**Liz Graaff**  
Secretary  
Quincy



**Dan White**  
Treasurer  
Kennewick

**Thank you for your service to our association!**

# Current FFA Membership:

7,169

## CASE is seeking an Agricultural Mechanics Curriculum Writer

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) is pleased to announce the development of the fourth CASE Program of Study pathway. The first course in this pathway is Agriculture Power and Technology (APT). CASE is currently seeking a talented applicant to fill a full time CASE Curriculum Writer position. APT is a CASE foundational level course intended to provide instruction in agricultural mechanics with emphasis on STEM enhancement. The application packet is available on the [4learning.org](http://4learning.org).

**All applications are due APRIL 1, 2014.** The review process and hiring timeline is extremely compact with the intent on hiring by mid-May. All inquiries about the position should be made to Dan Jansen, CASE Project Director, at [dan.jansen@case4learning.org](mailto:dan.jansen@case4learning.org).

## Course Approvals

Have a course you want to teach next year that is not currently approved? These courses are due no later than

## GOTHIC ARCH ANNOUNCES GRANT

Gothic Arch is now accepting applications from NAAE members who would like to construct a new greenhouse or enhance an existing greenhouse for their middle school or high school agricultural education program.

This opportunity is open to all active and active life NAAE members who are currently teaching agriculture in a middle school or high school. Four \$2,500 grants will be awarded in 2014. NAAE is excited to partner once again with Gothic Arch Greenhouses, a long time supporter of agricultural education in public schools.

## NAAE AWARD APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

NAAE awards are open for application. Most applications are due to the NAAE office by May 15. Please consider filling out an application, or nominating another individual or program that you feel is worthy. Full descriptions of award areas, and copies of the applications are available online at <http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/index.html>.

National Agriscience Teacher of The Year  
Delmar Cengage Learning NAAE Upper Division Scholarship  
NAAE Outstanding Teacher Award  
NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award  
NAAE Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program Award  
NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award  
NAAE "Teachers Turn The Key" Professional Development  
NAAE Teacher Mentor Award  
NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award  
NAAE Outstanding Cooperation Award  
NAAE Outstanding Service Citation

## NSTA DISCOUNT FOR NAAE MEMBERS



The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and NAAE have partnered to provide NSTA membership at a discounted rate of \$10 less than regular membership. NAAE members can join NSTA or renew their membership at the rate of \$65. Take advantage of this opportunity for professional development with access to award winning science education journals, online learning, discounts for professional development books and conferences, and rich networking opportunities. Interested members can follow <http://www.nsta.org/membership/naae.aspx> or use the promo code "NAAE14" for renewal.

## USDA CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM OPEN

The USDA has released the application and information for the Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECAs). The application deadline is April 3, 2014, and applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The SPECAs program goals are to: 1. Increase the number and diversity of students who will pursue and complete a 2- or 4- year postsecondary degree in the food, agricultural, and human sciences and 2. To enhance the quality of secondary and two-year postsecondary instruction in order to help meet current and future national food, agriculture, and human sciences workplace needs. Full descriptions of the requirements for the application and the application is available under funding opportunities on the USDA website, or via webpage at [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/sec\\_challenge.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/sec_challenge.html).

### Upcoming Dates of Interest:

April 1: Applications Due: National Chapter, 100% Membership, American Degree, FFA Delegate Issues  
April 5: National Chapter Scoring in Ellensburg, WA  
April 14-15: Ag Ed NGSS Training in Olympia, WA  
April 15: Applications Due: Citizenship Award, FARM,  
April 16-18: NAAE Region I Conference, Waikiki Beach, HI  
May 15-17: State FFA Convention, Washington State University—Pullman, WA