



# Washington Agriculture Education Update

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Much of this Ag Ed Update is dedicated to reports from our state officers about their trip to South Africa. It is safe to say it was a life-changing event. Take the time to read about their experience, and feel free to contact them with any questions you may have. Many of you have been working on Framework updates, and I am available to help if needed. If I can be of any assistance on any agricultural education or FFA matters, please let me know. Best of luck beginning your second semester courses!



**Reminder: The FFA Board of Directors passed effective immediately, 2 members from the same chapter can be elected to serve as state FFA officers.**



## Special points of interest:

- State Officers South Africa Experience
- Foundation and Association Boards welcome new membership!
- Next Generation Standards and Frameworks Training

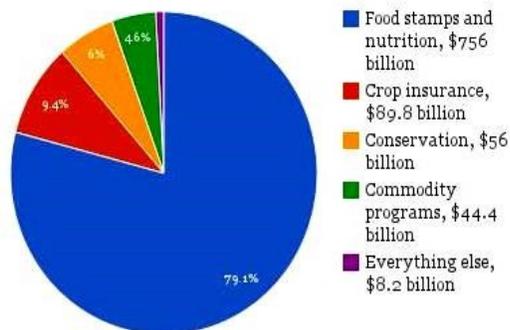
## 2014 NATIONAL POLICY SEMINAR REGISTRATION DUE TODAY!

The 2014 ACTE National Policy Seminar (NPS) will be held March 3-5 in Washington DC. The NAAE is strongly represented, as there is an Ag Ed Strand, and special breakouts for NAAE members. This event helps improve advocacy, as attendees will have the opportunity to meet with members of Congress as well as hear from national leaders in career and technical education.

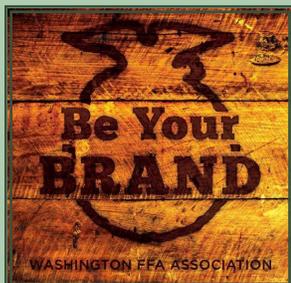
The NPS experience is an opportunity to learn all about communicating with federal decision makers, and how to advocate for agricultural education and career and technical education. Participants should register through the NAAE website, not the ACTE website. For more information visit: <http://www.acteonline.org/nps/>

**Speaking of advocacy—check out the pie chart to the right that gives a breakdown of the Farm Bill.**

What's in the farm bill? (Costs from FY2014-2023)



Washington FFA Website:  
[www.washingtonffa.org](http://www.washingtonffa.org)



**State Officers Show Their Pride!**  
From Left: Haylee Huber, Michael Heistuman, Bailey Peters, Johnathan Kelley, Laine Utter, and Andy Zahl

## DUPONT/PIONEER CASE SCHOLARSHIPS DUE FEBRUARY 15th

DuPont/Pioneer has generously allocated \$300,000 towards CASE institute travel and registration, purchase of equipment, and/or the acquisition of software to implement a CASE course. To be eligible to apply, you must have current NAAE membership, and fill out the application by February 15th. Teachers may request up to \$5,000 to attend any of the thirty CASE institutes offered this summer or purchase CASE materials. To apply, please visit the CASE website at [case4learning.org](http://case4learning.org), and follow the Scholarships/Grants link from the Professional Development tab. Not a current NAAE member? Visit [naae.org](http://naae.org) to learn about membership costs and benefits.



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## MY SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCE



State Reporter, Laine Utter

After a total of 22 hours of flying, I finally made it Johannesburg. Our group of 81 State FFA Officers and chaperones spent eight days total in South Africa. Meeting with so many people from across the nation just added to the excitement. Rather than explaining everything we did each day, I will just share a few of my favorite experiences.

On Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we visited a HUGE feedlot. The lot averages 18,000 cattle. Now maybe this won't surprise you as much as it did me, but they truck in 850 head of cattle a day and in return have to slaughter 850 head a day. They operate 363 days of the year (with the exception of Christmas and Easter). Meaning that every year that single feedlot slaughters 308,550 head of cattle a year.

Another thing I really enjoyed on the trip was the 3 game reserves we walked through and Kruger National Park. Although we did not see all of the Big Five of Africa we saw so many different types of animals. From lions to baboons, antelope to elephants, even hippos and ostrich. Some animals that we became very familiar with were impalas, zebras and giraffe! Impala are even referred to as the "McDonald's of the bushveld," because they are at the bottom of the food chain. They even have the golden arches on their tail and legs.

I very much enjoyed each visit we had during our time abroad but Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> we started our day with Sabina Khoza. She grew up listening to her father preach about the word of God in such a dark time. She carries that ease and love into her life. She dedicates her whole life to educate black students about agriculture. All expenses paid for, all you have to do is get to school on time and in 42 days her students get a crash course in crop management and how to properly raise chickens. Her main goal is that they become farmers once they leave the "Fair Deal Education and Production Training Centre". Sabina has plenty of experience, she is known to South Africans as the "Chicken Queen" and she has 200,000 chickens in her personal farm. My favorite part of this entire centre was that every other year Sabina has a special set of students. Each one either an orphan due to HIV/AIDS or they carry the virus themselves. She does everything she can to help her students be successful, even if it is on borrowed time. Her passion and her voice were very inspiring. She gave light to people who have only known darkness.

This trip was such an eye opener. All I really knew about South Africa before the trip was that Nelson Mandela was their icon, apartheid left major damage and that I would be in a dangerous country. What I found was a home. Welcoming smiles, rich history, and people looking at all of the blessings they have versus everything they don't. A quote I heard more than once was to "Thank God for this day because so many did not live to see it." If you have questions about the ILCSO experience, **Laine can be reached at [laine@washingtongffa.org](mailto:laine@washingtongffa.org)**



## MY SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCE

They say that traveling is the only expense that truly makes you richer. After spending just under 2 weeks in South Africa learning about their agriculture, culture and seeing the beautiful land, I couldn't agree more. 81 state FFA officers from 23 different states across the country including myself were forever changed by the experiences we had and what we saw. I wish I could sit down with each and every one of you and share these memories with you one on one. There is so much to share and so much that we can all learn from South Africa. I hope that this letter provides some insight to the experiences we had and shares with you some of my favorite reminiscences of the trip.

Here in America, it is very important to most of us to understand where our food comes from. The push for local markets and community farmers markets is more apparent now than ever. In South Africa, there are 19 different markets across the country that are linked through a computer system. We visited the *Tshwane Market*, the second largest in the country. Just like our markets here, you can visit and hand select your produce. While on this trip, I was able to see the process of the produce all the way from the field to the markets and the packaging houses. We were able to spend time in the fields picking carrots, as well as see the process they go through to be cleaned and packaged. One of our agriculture tours took us to the *Sakata Vegetable Seed Company* where we were able to learn about seed production and how they develop seeds for each country depending on their needs. Another agriculture tour was to *Senwes Grainlink*. This 104 year old company has several operations that include everything from a high-performance cattle ranch, to a parts and maintenance store. They even took us to a silo camp, where we climbed to the very top of a 9 story silo and were able to get a sky view of the beautiful farm land and rolling hills. This was just a small glimpse of how striking the terrestrial was.

By far one of my favorite trips was to the *Bourke Luck Potholes* where we were able to venture out, putting our rock climbing skills to the test. Surrounded by canyons, waterfalls and lush green country side, I couldn't help but to sit and take in the magnificent view. While the waterfalls and potholes were beautiful, the rest of the land in South Africa shares its beauty with the exotic animals. One of our meals was on a Safari farm where zebras, giraffes, and springbok roamed free. Imagine animals roaming free on over 5 million acres of land. The *Kruger National Park* covers 5.3 million acres and is filled with everything from baboons, to lions and elephants, and water buffalo.

The last adventure I would like to share is by far the visit that had the greatest effect on me and made a huge impact on all of the trip participants. We spent a day in Soweto, one of the poorer cities in South Africa. After a downtown tour, we enjoy a home cooked meal at one of the local restaurants. While the food was amazing, I appreciated their genuine hospitality as they welcomed us all as part of the family. Outside the restaurant on the street side, you could find many children. I had an opportunity to teach them some fun songs and games. It was amazing to watch them experience such joy as we sang and played together. After lunch, we went to what they call a "Shanty Town". Entering this community, it was apparent that the people were living in poverty. Children were running around barefoot, while their homes consisted of plywood, bed frames and sheet metal. Upon arrival, we were all immediately greeted by young children and teens. My hand was grabbed by an 8 year old girl who called herself "Tiki". We toured through the homes and recreational areas and she never left my side. My heart was warmed by stories of her happy life playing soccer, playing house with her friends and learning how to read books in the community library. Tiki lives in a privileged Shanty town called *Klip Town*, where volunteers help provide its youth with tools necessary to be successful including a library and technology center for educational purposes. The children here had nothing that gave them material happiness. It was enlightening to see that happiness can truly come from things like education, singing and dancing. More than ever, I understand that money can't buy happiness. If you find yourself ever questioning that then please think to those children in other countries that are just like Tiki.

Thank you to those who helped financially support me on this trip. I am so blessed to have had this opportunity. It is my hope that I can continue to share stories of the joy and happiness of the citizens of South Africa, to educate others about the country's amazing agriculture and agri-business markets as well as the country's pride in who and what they have become. Again, thank you to all of those that helped to provide this experience. **Bailey can be reached at [bailey@washingtongffa.org](mailto:bailey@washingtongffa.org)**



State President, Bailey Peters



## MY SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCE



State Sentinel, Haylee Huber

Going to South Africa is an experience that I had believed would never be in the cards for me. This trip was a once in a life time event, but the memories, knowledge, and skills we have learned are something that will change not only our lives but also our association forever. After arriving home from South Africa my main goal has been to spread the news about African Agriculture, society, traditions, and culture. So here is a little about what I have learned and loved about South Africa:

January 10<sup>th</sup>, imagine waking up in the mountains of South Africa with a beautiful sunrise and wild animals running about. Well for us, that was exactly how our Friday started! Although, that didn't last long, as being with an FFA group you never stop going, going, going! You learn to love it though. As we drove we enjoyed the scenic route through the mountainous regions of South Africa. Once arriving at the citrus farm, Gert explained that South Africa is the tenth largest citrus producing country and the second largest exporter of citrus, second to Spain. Although South Africa is almost exactly across the world they struggle with some of the same pests as we do in the Wenatchee Valley with our tree fruit. These insects include thrips, mealie bugs, and even the spider mite. Gert's lemon trees were only two years old, they were already producing fruit! That is not something that you would find with our fruit trees. Along with being able to see Gert's farm we also explored his on sight packing plant where they were in the process of packing lemons. It was amazing to me the similarities of apples packing and citrus packing.

Then we were off again to Eastern South Africa to Kruger National Park! As we drove through the gate, we were greeted with hippos taking a dip in the river that streamed through the 5.3 million-acre park. On the way to catch lunch in the park, we saw impalas, kudu, and a giraffe with a small bird cleaning bugs off the nose of the giraffe. As we continued our travels through this 5.3 million-acre nature park the wildlife that we encountered was astonishing. We saw baboons, monkeys, Impala, gnu, birds, kudu, giraffes, zebras, warthogs, and a crocodile! Although those were all amazing animals to see, we were most eager to search for the "Big 5". The big 5 includes elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, and water buffalo; after several hours of driving we saw the "Big 4", we missed out on seeing a leopard. We were so amazed though, I don't think anyone was too disappointed.

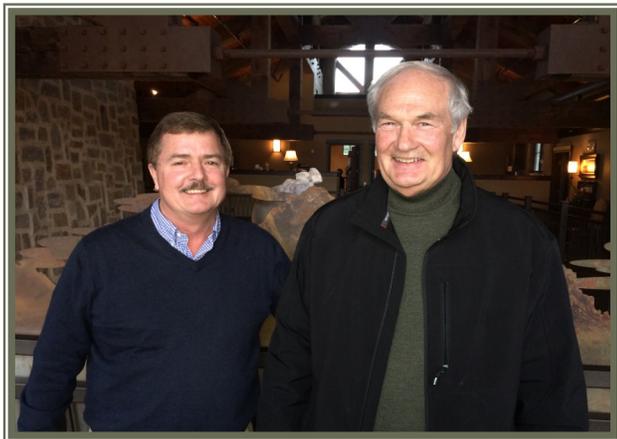
January 12<sup>th</sup> was one of my favorite days. It was our final stop of the day, we were told that we had an unscheduled surprise, but it was a surprise that we would love. Little did we know, our lives were about to be put into perspective. Stepping off the bus, we were unsure of what to expect. With fear and hesitation, we began our journey into Kliptown, witnessing firsthand the poverty that some people in our world experience every day. A few heart rendering moments in Kliptown include seeing the Kliptown Youth Program, which is a group of volunteers whose goal is to better the lives of the children by creating a positive environment for youth. The KYP provides Kliptown youth with the tools necessary to be successful, such as meals throughout six days each week, uniforms for school, and access to computers. The most impactful part of the entire experience was seeing the smiles on the people's faces. Regardless of the living situations that they face, they focus less on the things they don't have and are grateful for what they do have. One couldn't help but get teary-eyed as we walked through Kliptown and were greeted with smiles and waves from the people. The most rewarding experience at Kliptown was having the opportunity to interact with the children. It was one the most humbling and joyful experiences to spend part of our day playing jump rope, soccer, dancing, and letting the children ride on our shoulders. One cannot simply fathom the impact that the children had on this group of state officers.



The toughest part was saying goodbye to our new friends. That night at our refection, a State Officer from North Dakota, stated that she would have a hard time eating that night. We all sat there a moment and thought about the words that she had just said. Soon after I raised my hand and asked her why she felt that way, when we never go a night with our dinner in America and that same poverty is just down the street. You see, during our time in South Africa we not only learned about South Africa, but also our lives in America. Our eyes were opened by the everyday problems that were happening all over the world. Whether it was going a day with our food, or trips of our crops that we are producing, it doesn't matter if we are in America or South Africa there are similar struggles all around the world. We are all connected. This might only be two days of our ten day trip, but the rest of our days were not any less eventful. During those ten days I was blessed with the gift of knowledge. I hope you enjoyed learning about my experience during those days, and if you would like to know any more about my trip to South Africa please feel free to contact me at anytime. **Haylee can be contacted at [Haylee@washingtonffa.org](mailto:Haylee@washingtonffa.org)**



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Executive Director of the Foundation, Stewart Padelford welcomes newly appointed Foundation Board Trust Fund Manager, Ronald Crawford.



Executive Director of the FFA Association Jodi Monroe welcomes Washington State Grange Master Duane Hamp, newly elected Board of Directors member.

# Future Frameworks



# Next Generation Science Standards Training

Will be held April 14-15 in the Olympia area. Registration, travel (airfare or mileage), meals, and sub cost will be covered for 20 teachers to attend. If you are interested, contact Becky Wallace.

# Course Approvals

Have a course you want to teach next year that is not currently approved? These courses are due no later than April 15.

## SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM: STANWOOD

Article from The Daily Herald, published Jan 25, 2014—Written by Chris Winters

### Class Welds Generations

In this Stanwood High program the students are in charge of teaching

STANWOOD—The air was filled with the shriek of a chop saw cutting through steel, the crackle of sparks and the rumble of an exhaust fan. The room smelled of ozone, smoke, and pizza. Students at Stanwood High School are helping teach a welding class to members of the community. It's a Wednesday evening in the Agricultural Mechanics shop at Stanwood High School, where longtime instructor Darryl Main reigns.

With him were approximately 20 students, most of whom take his "Mechanical Technology in Agriculture" classes during school hours. They come for the chance to do a bit of teaching themselves.

The occasion is an adult-education welding class, now in its fourth year. Adult students (and a couple of junior high school boys) enrolled in the six-week class and are paired up with one of Main's regular students for hands-on guidance. The kids don't get extra credit or anything else but the pizza and the opportunity to pass along what they'd learned in their regular shop classes.

"The thing for me, as an instructor, is that you learn more by teaching something than you do from a book," Main said. It's a sentiment the kids embrace. "It's kind of cool to know that other people want us to teach them," said Athalia Geiger, 17, a junior at Stanwood.



two years ago that he signed up for the class again. "I taught for 32 years and it's nice to have that role reversal," he said.

The gender makeup of Main's student-teachers is more balanced than would be expected in a trade like welding. The adult-education class was started four years ago by one of his students, Kaity Hampton, as a senior project. Hampton herself now works professionally as a welder in Seattle, Main said. Last year he had a cheerleader in the welding class, and about one-third of the students on the shop floor Wednesday were girls. The students, boys and girls, all are enthusiastic, and Main fosters that enthusiasm both among kids who will likely enter the trades after graduation and those who will go to a four-year college.

"Without him it wouldn't be this interesting," said Sarah Flake, 17, a senior who has taken Main's Ag-Mech classes for two years. Flake, wearing a Future Farmers of America sweatshirt under her overalls, has a 4.0 grade-point average and has already been accepted to Utah State University to study fisheries and aquatic science.

"I was a shy kid," said Emmett Morrison, 18, a junior who plans to become either a welder or a diesel mechanic after graduation. "After a while, Main kind of got through to me and now it's like a second home to me," he said. The shop is busy on Wednesday. Main supervises, watching and answering questions, but otherwise letting his students focus on the adult learners and their projects: electric stick welders along one wall of the shop, another one repairing her truck's tail pipe with a MIG (wire-feed) torch while one of Main's students watches. In addition to welding, Main said he tries to imbue his students with a good work ethic as well, and he takes pride in his students who have gone on to work in the trades. "There are a ton of job opportunities," Main said, pointing out that six of his students last year were hired just out of high school at the Dakota Creek shipyard in Anacortes. To have his students pass along their knowledge is even better.

"It's the best thing I've done in my 26 years of teaching," he said.

Geiger has welding in her family; her father is a welder and the two have often worked on projects together at home. She wants to enter an apprenticeship program after high school. "It makes me feel good to know that I can also use my abilities," she said. On Wednesday, Geiger was supervising Paul Platis as he practiced welding a piece of pipe to a steel plate with an electric torch.

"You have to get a consistent weld all the way around, which is not easy to do," Platis explained.

Platis, 68, is taking the class for the second time. He's a retired visual arts teacher who has a pottery studio and co-owns the Sea Grass Gallery on Camano Island with his wife.

Platis said welding is a skill he's always wished he'd had. He so enjoyed working with Stanwood students

#### Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- Feb 1-2: 212/360 Leadership Training: Wenatchee, WA
- Feb. 5: CTSO Legislative Day: Olympia, WA
- Feb. 6: Spokane Ag Expo: Spokane, WA
- Mar 1: State Applications Due
- Feb 19: 10th Annual Agriculture Safety Day: Yakima, WA
- March 7: Spring Exec FFA Meeting in Wenatchee, WA
- March 8: State Degree and Proficiency Review in Wenatchee, WA
- April 14-15: Ag Ed NGSS Training in Olympia, WA
- April 16-18: NAAE Region I Conference, Waikiki Beach, HI