

# *Idaho Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association*

## NEWSLETTER



March 2017

### MIDWINTER WRAP-UP

Snow and ice kept many of us at home longer than expected after the Christmas Break, and it also kept the IVATA and the Idaho FFA Board members home. The IVATA meeting was rescheduled for February. The IVATA board



unanimously approved a donation of \$500 to the Sarah Brausch-Schmitt scholarship fund.

**Mark Pratt** gave the Idaho FFA Alumni report. One concern he discussed was that of that of the ag ed shortage. Alternative certification is one method of addressing the concern, but there seems to be increasing frustration with the addition coursework that is required for all CTE teachers that doesn't address the true need to those in the ag ed classroom. He also asked that one contact person be identified by local alumni affiliates.



**Jim Connors** discussed **State CDEs**. Registration fees will be increasing to \$25.00 per person, but that includes entrance into the dance. The Advisor dinner will be continued thank to the **Mundt Family Endowment**.

The Ag Ed Dinner/IVATA Meeting during State Leadership Conference will NOT be at the Herrot Center, and we are seeking a new location.

The **CTE Division** will be holding **focus groups** during state leadership conference. These will be directed towards changes and improvements to the IQPS grant. They hope to have a high percentage of teachers take the time to answer their questions - even those who have never applied. The results of these focus groups and others planned during the year will guide the new rules change regarding the selection process. That is the time and place to voice your ideas for improving the process!

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There was a lively discussion with Steve Rayborn regarding extended contracts. Several questions were raised about limits, interpretations, and the current law. Amy Lorenzo indicated that she would crosswalk current department policy and state statute, and get back to us. See your district director for more information if needed.

### **FFA Board Synopsis:**

The board approved three minor changes to the CDEs. First, that a four member team for Meats will be allowed for the 2017 state contest, until we catch up to the national rules. The Ag Communications team will change to a four member team to align with Nationals, and all CDE and LDE titles will be changed to align with the national titles.

American Degrees - there will be a new due date of May 15th. This will allow for review at the state level before moving them on for national review.

Proficiency Awards: A selection protocol was approved, and an appointed group of ag teachers will do the preliminary review of all applications prior to interviews at SLC.

FFA Foundation: A new person, Kendra Waitley Dustin, will join the Foundation and will work for 20 hours a week helping write grants and fundraising

Alumni: Sid Freeman was elected Region One Vice President of the FFA Alumni at the National meeting! Congratulations and thank you for all you do for FFA!

### **IVATA/NAAE AWARDS DUE AT STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

We expect our students to promote their abilities through degrees, awards, and scholarships. We expect our chapter to receive recognition through the newspaper and award applications. Should we not put the same time and effort into promoting our program through the awards available in our state and national award program! **Now is the time!** Consider applying for the following awards. We have some outstanding programs in Idaho, and we need to showcase them to the rest of the ag ed world. Look for the descriptions and the shortened state application available at <http://www.theivata.com/ivata-awards/>. Awards include:

Outstanding Middle/ Secondary Program	Outstanding Teacher
Outstanding Young Member	Agriscience Teacher of the Year
Teacher Mentor Award	Teacher Turn the Key

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Three outstanding representatives for NAAE Awards were voted on at the meeting, and will move on the Region 1 NAAE conference for competition at the regional meeting. Congratulations to:

- **Dr. Jim Connors - Distinguished Service Award**
- **Culver's at Twin Falls - Outstanding Cooperation**
- **Jim Summers - Lifetime Achievement**

**Good Luck in Sheridan!**

**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 19 - 23, 2017**

## **SUMMER INSERVICE FRUITLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Preliminary planning for the Summer Inservice is in full swing. Troy Wright and Mike Tesnohldek are busy firming up the details of the evening activities. All options sounded great, so you will be entertained and of course, fed well during the conference.

Registration was set at 125.00 with reduced registrations for pre-service teachers, spouses and children. Registration is now open at <http://www.theivata.com/summer-inservice/>.

Workshop proposals are currently being sought, and should be sent to Jaysa Fillmore at [filjaysa@cassiaschools.org](mailto:filjaysa@cassiaschools.org). Please include a brief description of the workshop, and any special equipment you will need to successfully implement your workshop. Proposed workshops to date include:

- **State and American Degrees - Making AET work for you**
- **Proficiency Award Cleanup/Training**
- **National FFA On-Line Resources Training**
- **Nat Chap Polish/Revisions**
- **How to prepare certified welders from your program**
- **AG ED 258 workshop - A proposed Dual Credit option for your students in Ag Education**
- **Ag Ed 130 - Intro to Ag Mechanics curriculum update**
- **Ag Ed 530 - Animal Science curriculum update**
- **Food Science Dual Credit**
- **CDE Training**

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- Deep Dive Welding Workshop
  - Seniors in Ag Ed Tracking Placement Project

## COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any committee items you think need to be discussed at Summer Inservice? We need you to send you items to Nicole Lebsack or Sue Poland ([spoland@homedaleschools.org](mailto:spoland@homedaleschools.org)) so we can get them posted on the website, and on the agendas. So far, we have the following items:

Curriculum: The committee needs to update the list for curriculum content specialists

Awards: Development of application for Outstanding Administrator

## CTE TESTING UPDATE

The month of February was National CTE month and it was the target month for all of our programs to administer the Workplace Readiness Assessment (WRA) for their program seniors. All senior CTE students who have taken at least two CTE courses are expected to take the WRA. So, if you didn't test your students, go to the CTE website and follow the instructions to get registered. Nationwide, I believe that agriculture education students do as well as or better than most CTE programs, so let our students show their ability!

The Technical Skills Assessment (TSA) window will open later in the school year. Students who have completed the declared Ag Business, Animal Science or Ornamental Horticulture pathway will be expected to complete their TSA. They should have completed at least three semesters of the pathway and be enrolled in the capstone class.

Pilot testing this spring will occur in Small Engines and Plant Production. If you want your students to participate in the pilot testing of these programs, it is free. It can provide you a baseline, even if you don't have a declared pathway yet. Contact the CTE Division for more information.

## IQPS TRAINING AND PEER REVIEW

The FY 2018 IQPS Grant application window is not open and the due date will be June 30, 2017.

**Proposed Changes:** The IVATA and the State Department are trying to change the language that will allow the IQPS to be a non-competitive application. **What does that mean?** It means that every program that reaches the qualified level will receive funding. One scenario is that funding

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pool will equally divided among teachers who meet the threshold, adjusted for their approved course FTE. Another scenario is that qualified programs who don't receive the funding this year move to the top of the list next year, providing they still qualify. **What can you do to ensure future funding? We need more teachers to apply for the FY 18 (this year) grant cycle!**

## **REGION ONE CONFERENCE - SHERIDAN, WYOMING**

The National Association of Agriculture Educator's Region One Conference will be held in **Sheridan, Wyoming on April 25-29th**. The headquarter hotel will be the Holiday Inn, Sheridan Convention Center (307-672-8931). Registration is \$160, and includes most meals. Potential tours include King Saddlery, various cattle ranches in the region, Sheridan College, and a woolen mill. Committee meetings and other state and regional businesses and concerns will also be discussed. There will be pre-service teachers there, so if your department is looking for a new teacher, come and meet the current student teaching crop! If you are flying to Billings, some members of the IVATA board are willing to carpool to save money. Flight times are posted in the IVATA webpage. For more information, go to <http://www.wvata.us/region-i-information.html>.

## **UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO UPDATE**

### **Matt Doumit Named College of Ag Associate Dean for Academics**

Doumit will succeed Larry Makus, who retired Dec. 31 from the post. Jodi Johnson-Maynard will serve as interim associate dean until Doumit transitions to the job July 31, 2017.

Doumit grew up in Cathlamet, Washington. He spent his early years on the family's cattle ranch before the family moved to town. The youngest of 11 children, he learned early that education was highly valued. All of his siblings earned college degrees, and he was among the nine who graduated from Washington State University. He is no stranger to Agriculture Education or FFA. One of his brothers was an Ag Teacher in Washington, and his children participated in the Troy FFA chapter. He received the Honorary State FFA Degree from Idaho in 2015.

Doumit served the UI Animal and Veterinary Science Department as acting head for five months until early 2014, then as co-interim department head with dairy scientist Amin Ahmadzadeh since October 2015.

Doumit views his research as an opportunity to effectively train the next generation of scientists, while generating information to address practical problems for the benefit of

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industry and society. He has employed and mentored 47 undergraduate and 14 graduate students in his research laboratory.

“Working with students has been the most rewarding part of my career. We have a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the personal and professional development of students,” Doumit said. “We can make lasting contributions to them, our stakeholders and society. I look forward to working with the dedicated faculty and staff across our college to make a difference through academic programs.”

### **UPCOMING IVATA/NAAE DATES**

**April 7 - IVATA Meeting at State Leadership Conference, Twin Falls, ID**

**April 25-28 - Region I Conference NAAE, Sheridan WY**

**June 6-9 - State CDEs, Moscow ID**

**June 19-22 - Summer Inservice, Fruitland, ID**

**August 1-3 State CTE Summer Conference, Boise ID**

**December 5-9 NAAE National Convention, Nashville, TN**