NEW AGED CLUB:
The goal of the AGED club is to meet the professional needs of all AGED students, including Teaching and Relations, through hands-on experiences and education.

Officers for 2015 are:
Gwynn Simeniuk - President
Cali Christensen- Vice President
Ag Student Council Representatives- Lindsey Wilson, Tieler Soumas
Treasurer- Allie Nelson
Secretary- Taylor Brown
Recruitment and Public Relations- Austin Standley

Student Focus: Kyle Gavin
Kyle Gavin comes to MSU from Chualar, CA. Chualar is a small vegetable farming community located in the central coast area of California. He grew up around vegetable farming and lived on small cattle ranch. He is currently working on his Masters Degree in Agricultural Education. His focus is on education methods in agricultural settings (in the field), as well as the secondary classroom. His thesis is focused on the evaluation of a vegetable production food safety program. He plans on teaching agriculture in Montana after graduating in the spring of 2016. He will also continue to work in vegetable production California during his time off school. Outside of school Kyle enjoys woodworking, hiking, fishing, hunting, and playing volleyball.
On January 23, Tracy Dougher and Sandy Gagnon presented to and met with the Stillwater Range group, Dave Kelsey pictured member. The discussion centered on the potential for new and renovated facilities to house ag education labs, rodeo and equine events, and livestock classrooms.

Professors Dustin Perry and Shannon Arnold held a workshop entitled “Making Presentations More Interactive”

This interactive workshop guided participants through teaching and learning techniques applicable to formal and informal adult environments. Specific topics of exploration included how to assess knowledge, build interest, deliver content, and evaluate presentations. 11 plant disease and insect diagnosticians from 8 states across the great plains were in attendance.

“Like” our Agricultural Education, Montana State University Page on Facebook!

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
Division Head Notes:

Since we missed the January newsletter, I’ll take this time to thank Drs. Dustin Perry, Shannon Arnold, and Carl Igo for a great first year. They stepped up to face several challenges teaching me the ins-and-outs of Ag Education, patiently piloting a new university network system, and considering more changes for the future.

January 7-9, 2015 I attended the multistate working group NCAC024 in Washington DC. This group of Ag Education department heads from across the US focus their attention on Agricultural Education Research. Ag Education departments across the US are seeing reduced research dollars and fewer calls for research focused on agricultural education despite the fact that there is an ever increasing to need to educate more people about agricultural issues.

Therefore, this year’s NCAC024 session was devoted to learning about how to interact with legislatures and granting agencies. We met with Legislative Assistants to Ag Committee Chairs for both the US House and Senate. They discussed the most effective route to getting information into the hands of legislators. We also heard a discussion on promoting Career, Technical, and Adult Education and reinventing school-based Ag Education with Dr. Steve Brown, Program Specialist in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (and National FFA Advisor) in the US Department of Education. Ted Wells of the Ag Industry’s STEM Connector Group led discussions on incorporating Ag Education into STEM Education at both schools with established vocational-agricultural programs and without, particularly looking to introduce Ag to urban schools.

Within the NCAC024 group, promotion and tenure expectations topped the in-depth discussion list. Issues included, defining our audience for Ag Education publications, redesigning national meetings to enhance collaboration, lobbying granting agencies for ag education-focused research proposals, and aiding new faculty in navigating the tenure system. NCAC024 considered avenues to aid faculty in interdisciplinary and large-scale grant writing. A workshop on collaborative research will be organized by NCAC024 and held at the American Association of Agricultural Educators annual conference.

Brought to my attention at the NCAC024 meeting: 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Smith-Hughes Act. The Smith-Hughes Act promotes vocational agriculture and supports Ag Education classes and training. Please share suggestions, what should MSU do to celebrate the occasion?