Division of Agricultural Education
November 2015 Newsletter

New Course coming to AGED in Fall 2016!!

Dr. Dustin Perry will begin teaching a new course, Laboratory Management and teaching in Agricultural Education, for the Division of Agricultural Education, in the Fall 2016.

~ AGED 485 ~

Laboratory Management and Teaching in Agricultural Education

Identified as impostership, a gap exists between the idealized image of what a teacher is supposed to be and the actuality of students’ own lives. A needs assessment of Montana pre-service agricultural educators revealed similar feelings of impostership in the areas of laboratory equipment maintenance and operation, student engagement, and agricultural systems facilities financial management. Acknowledging current gaps in our postsecondary curriculum, we have created a new course to subdue these feelings of impostership. AGED485 (Laboratory Management and Teaching in Agricultural Education) will provide students an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes required for organizing and delivering laboratory instruction in agricultural technology and mechanical systems. Emphasis will be placed on planning, implementing, and evaluating effective laboratory management and teaching strategies.
The “Using Horses as Teaching Tools” Clinic was held at MSU Miller Pavilion on October 23rd. Dr. Shannon Arnold, Dr. Shannon Moreaux and Amy Prechter facilitated the clinic. Topics included Experiential Teaching and Learning Strategies, Using Horses to Teach Life Skills, Reading and Writing with Horses, Equine Therapy Programs and Models, Careers with Horses, and Application of Horses to Personal Situations. Speakers from different fields presented how they use equine-assisted learning in their own fields.

Equine enthusiasts believe horses can help improve everyday communication and leadership skills. They say the way horses relate to people makes them very different from other animals.

"Horses are a unique learning tool because they are animals that respond, especially to human's emotions and actions, immediately, so they help us learn a little bit more about ourselves and our self-perceptions," said MSU associate professor Shannon Arnold.

Participants were able to work with horses in a variety of activities. Arnold hopes that those who attended the event will find ways to incorporate equine-assisted learning into their lives.

For additional information go to the link below:


Go to our MSU Agricultural Education Facebook page and “Like” us!
Montana State University Agricultural Education students participated in the National FFA Convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky in October 2015.

Over seven-hundred Montana FFA members recently participated in the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. This annual convention was attended by over 65,000 FFA members from across the nation. This attendance milestone set a new record in the organization’s 88th year of existence.

Montana FFA members competed in 20 different career development events. The Ag Sales team from Missoula led the way for Montana chapters with a fourth place finish. Belgrade’s Farm Business Management Team placed 7th which was the only other team from Montana in the nation’s top ten. Other teams and individuals did very well in representing their chapters, schools and state.

The Montana FFA Association was recognized as the first place state in the nation in regards to percentage of membership gained in one year. The association received an award banner and recognition during one of the convention sessions for this honor. The state association also received a gold award for being a 100% membership state. This means that every student in Montana’s Agriculture Education classes are also FFA members.

Montana FFA’s State Officers will be visiting schools across Montana during December and January. These leadership based visits will mark the beginning of the 2016 FFA events which will culminate at the Bozeman based State FFA Convention, March 30th – April 2nd.
New teaching/learning displays in Linfield Hallway

Dr. Carl Igo’s AGED 397 students, Dana Dale, Austin Jones, Veronnaka Klamert, Kalee McRae, Katie Mitchell, John Park, Tieler Soumas, and Lindsey Wilson created beautiful new teaching/learning displays in Linfield Hall. Stop by and see them when you get a chance!
As you can tell from this newsletter, this fall has been busy for the Ag Ed faculty, staff, and students. The faculty don’t talk about themselves enough, so I’ll do a little bit for them in this newsletter. We contributed to the MSU Department of Education’s accreditation, as the Ag Ed - Broadfield Teaching option falls under their jurisdiction. A team of both national (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) and state (Office of Public Instruction) members reviewed our materials and assessment data and met with our faculty in early November. The team’s findings were incredibly positive about all of MSU’s education programs. We passed with flying colors!

Grants are an important part of the faculty’s work and AgEd does an exceptional job of relating their research to Montana Ag Education needs. Dr. Arnold is completing work on an MSU Teaching Innovation grant (see the story above!). Dr. Igo and Dr. Perry worked under a quick turnaround deadline and forwarded two grant proposals at the end of October. The proposed projects will benefit the Ag Teachers of Montana through professional development workshops and training.

The faculty also travelled extensively this fall to present workshops at District Leadership Conferences across the state in September, lead training for MSU Extension in October, direct CDEs at National FFA Convention in November, attend board meetings at Montana Association of Career and Technical Association, and inspire students at the John Deere Ag Expo this week. Somewhere in there, they are making student-teacher classroom visits too. I’m sure I’m forgetting a few.

We have steadily been preparing for the inaugural meeting of the Montana STAR program team in December. “The National Teach Ag Campaign launched the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program in the spring of 2014 to increase recruitment and retention efforts at the state level. The STAR program is designed to assist states in creating sustainable and effective recruitment and retention plans.” (http://www.naae.org/teachag/starstates.cfm). The inaugural meeting will be an assessment of our current situation and the beginning of a plan for a growing future.

Looking forward to a growing future---Tracy
October Fun Shots!!

Halloween Fun at College of Ag!
Division of Ag Ed helped hand out candy to our students for Halloween trick-or-treating at COA.

The Division of Agricultural Education would like to wish you all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

Annie  Carl  Tracy
Shannon  Dusty