

2007 State Report -Montana State University

Graduate Students -- MSU's Agricultural Education program is fortunate to have excellent graduate student on campus to support our teaching, research and outreach functions. **Ben Meyer and Mary Anne Anderson** are all actively engaged in the MSU Agricultural Education graduate program. Assa Kante from Mali, Africa will graduate this spring. We are currently recruiting a new group of graduate students to begin their studies in fall '07.

Agricultural Operations Technology Program Discontinued - The MSU Agricultural Operations Technology Program has been discontinued. This is because of the departure of Blair Stringam, AOT faculty member. A SWOT analysis was completed to determine the direction of the next faculty hire. It was decided to reorient the position to Extension Education. An Extension Education tenure track faculty position is pending approval of MSU Administration.

Transition to Excellence Project – The Transition to Excellence Project will be completed this year. Marty Frick is Project Director of a collaborative initiative between Montana State University (MSU) College of Agriculture, Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC), and Little Big Horn College (LBHC). The project is funded by the USDA's Challenge Grant Program. The primary objective of the project is to develop and deliver model curricula that will create improved opportunities for American Indian students from 1994 land grant colleges to transition and achieve success in the baccalaureate agricultural curricula offered by 1862 land grant universities.

Value Added Agriculture Curriculum – Dr. Frick has secured funding for the development of a Value Added Agriculture curriculum for high school agricultural education instructors.

Summer Update and MSU College of Agriculture – For the first time in many years, MSU's College of Agriculture faculty will provide a number of in-service workshops for Montana Agricultural Education Instructors at the 2006 Agricultural Education Update in Bozeman, Montana during June 2007. Workshop topics provided by MSU COA faculty include agronomy, horse evaluation, electricity, and agricultural economics.

Montana Team Ag Ed – Montana Team Ag Ed has met several times in the past year. The meetings have led to the development of a document that outlines what various member organizations will be doing to sustain and promote agricultural education throughout Montana.

Student Teachers – Five students completed their student teaching experience this spring. Four of those plan to teach high school agriculture. Meg Ellis conducted her student teaching last fall in Bandon, Western Australia at the Catholic Agricultural College.

Secondary Agricultural Education Challenge Grant Success – The Shield's Valley High School was successful in obtaining a Secondary Agricultural Education Challenge Grant to update the first two years of Montana's high school agricultural education curriculum. Ben Meyer, MSU Agricultural Education graduate student was instrumental in making this proposal a success.