

Conference Proceedings

Maryland Agricultural Educators Technical Update & Professional Development Conference
Hosted by University of Maryland Eastern Shore July 7-10, 2019

Sunday, July 7, 2019

Reception: UMES Agriculture Meet and greet

Presenters: Mr. Karl Binns, Jr. and Mr. Stephon Fitzpatrick

The official hosts for the conference, Karl and Stephon opened the campus to our group. Dr. Jurgen Schwarz, Department Chair and Dean Moses Kairo for UMES College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences welcomed the group and allowed the Maryland Agricultural Educators to conduct our conference.

Monday, July 8, 2019

Workshop: National Safe Tractor & Machinery Operations

Presenter: Ms. Christine Johnston, University of Maryland Extension Agent Queen Anne's County

Recorder: Dr. Stacy Eckels, Southern High School

The main objective of this workshop was to update participants on the newly developed National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations educational curriculum and certification for 2019. The presenter discussed in detail the updates and changes to the program. She handed out the curriculum currently used through Penn State University that covered safety and health regulations, worker protection standards, environmental regulations, farmstead chemicals, and agricultural pesticides. The instructor demonstrated various safety scenarios using teachable models. Participants took turns in operating models to demonstrate safety and procedure of tractors and other farming equipment.

This workshop will benefit agricultural programs that include ag mechanics and anyone using small tractors and lawncare equipment.

Workshop: Perdue Innovations Center Tour

Presenter: Mr. Parker Hall, Tour Guide

Recorder: Ms. Kelcey Trewin, University of Maryland Agriculture Education Major

This is the headquarters for all the research and development for the Perdue Poultry Corporation in Salisbury, MD. The center opened in 2004 and currently have 39 fulltime associates. The major components essential to their operation stresses: teamwork, stewardship, quality and integrity within their workforce and their products.

The presenter allowed the participants to tour the facility and gain an understanding in USDA inspections, sensory testing, food service kitchen and training standards, product development, and packaging processes.

This workshop will be a huge benefit to all agriculture teachers that cover curriculum in the Food Science Curriculum. It was a great opportunity to visit an actual testing and research facility for one of the largest and most health conscience food processing facilities in the United States. Touring this plant, was a prime example in covering diverse areas of agriculture for our students.

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Workshop: Parkside High School Greenhouse Operation

Presenter: Mr. Jerry Kelley, Parkside High Horticulture Teacher

Recorder: Ms. Amanda Farmer, University of Maryland Agriculture Education Major

The impressive horticulture program at Parkside High operates on a project-based learning concept and is able to generate a substantial income for the school. Every student within the program will gain experience in all aspects of growing, managing, marketing and selling products from their greenhouses and outdoor garden beds. Along with those experiences, students conduct research on topics of their particular interests in horticulture and related fields of study. Many of their students compete in the FFA Agriscience Fair competitions and the World Food Prize. Mr. Kelley emphasized the importance of community involvement to partner with area farmers, businesses, and agricultural organizations that allow his students to gain practical shadowing and internships throughout the year.

Visiting this school enlightened teachers to observe how to operate a successful horticulture business year round by using strategic marketing techniques for student success.

Workshop: National and State FFA Updates

Presenters: Ms. Karen Hutchison, National FFA Local Program Success Specialist

Ms. Terrie Shank, Maryland FFA Executive Director

Recorder: Ms. Naomi Knight, Maryland FFA Program Coordinator

The National FFA has several new opportunities for teachers to obtain grants for student supervised agricultural experience programs and for chapter driven service learning. Karen shared how to use the ffa.org website to improve their chapter participation in CDE's and LDE's, proficiencies, awards and degrees.

Maryland FFA has added "Blue Panda", a new online registration system, making it easier and more efficient to submit state convention chapter registration. The Floriculture and Veterinary Science CDE's have been moved to State Spring Judging. Terrie went onto to discuss other pertinent state event dates for the next school year.

Having updates from a national and state leader is beneficial for the upcoming school year and to better prepare students for FFA success.

The following workshops were held concurrently, so each participant selected three of their preferred topics that best fit their agricultural education needs: GIS Ag Technology Mapping, GMO's, Ag Teacher Support, Personality Strengths, Google Forms.

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Workshop #1: GIS Agricultural Technology Mapping

Presenter: Ms. Tracie Bishop, UMES GIS Program Manager

Recorder: Ms. Terrie Shank, MAEF Asst. Director for Secondary Ag. Education

The workshop was filled with references and helpful materials available for the classroom in GIS/GPS. Handouts were given out to cover ESRI Ag Sites, atlas of the world. Helpful hints were shared in how to use the GIS equipment, stacked photos of images together to view a field, and even gave out lessons on ESRI online lessons, and the IMAP- Maryland Precision Ag Site for Maryland.

The presenter went over the three types of geospatial technologies available and how to incorporate them into the classroom for student engagement.

Workshop #2: “Let’s Talk GMO’s

Presenter: Dr. Melissa Welsh, UMCP Professor in Agricultural Education

Recorder: Mr. Aaron Geiman, Westminster High School

The main focus of the workshop was to give teachers the ability to teach students and learn more about Genetically Engineered Organisms and their use and acceptance in society. Dr. Welsh allowed participants to view several specimens of seed and went over lessons and topics of interest for GMO discussions. She discussed the evolution of seeds and the importance of selective breeding for healthier and more productive farming. She even showed the group of Ag literacy activities for FFA outreach.

This information will be valuable in an introductory ag education class on modern agricultural practices, an agronomy class or even in discussing agricultural issues unit.

Workshop #3: Ag Teachers- Where do you get support?

Presenter: Mr. Jerry Kelley, Parkside High School

Recorder: Ms. Bridget Nicholson, Manchester Valley High School

Finding support within the community can be one of the most challenging aspects of being an ag educator. Jerry Kelley has mastered the art of community involvement within his program. He stresses the importance of having varying levels of involvement so not as to overwhelm each group of volunteers. The workshop was held as an open forum so teachers could ask specific questions within their own program. One of the most important aspects of gaining support is being sure to continue to improve your program and keep changing things up so the students and community supporters don’t get stagnate.

Gaining community support can only improve ag programs for the betterment of student’s success.

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Workshop #4: Personality Strength Finder

Presenter: Ms. Shannon Dill, UMD Extension Agent, Talbot County

Recorder: Ms. Casandra Foster, Boonsboro High School

The main focus was to assess human personality and how we can best serve those that we educate and promote minorities in agriculture. Participants took various personality tests online to define their particular work personalities. Discussion among the groups were performed in order to become more aware of other's thoughts and feelings.

This workshop was very beneficial in better understanding student personalities to help with creating classroom groups and pushing boundaries for effective learning.

Workshop #5: Utilizing Google Forms in the Classroom

Presenter: Ms. Jodi Callahan, Caroline County Career & Tech Center

Recorder: Ms. Leasa Gudderra, Gwynn Park High School

The group was introduced in how google forms can be used effectively in the classroom and for FFA Chapters. The group learned the basics in various forms and how to trouble shoot usage. Participants were able to submit their own particular forms and critiqued each other's work to gain a better understanding of examples.

Using google forms can be a very effective way to manage classroom work, collect data and make it accessible for others to gain access.

Workshop: Administer National Safe Tractor Exam

Presenter: Ms. Christine Johnson, University of Maryland Extension Agent Queen Anne's County

Recorder: Dr. Stacy Eckels, Southern High School

Each participant was to take the newly created National Safe Tractor Exam so that they would become certified to teach the curriculum to their students. Unfortunately, the new curriculum was not available to administer onsite. However, Christine was able to supply the curriculum on a CD for each participant to begin learning the updates and changes to the curriculum. During this time, she allowed each participant to take the existing test to gain a better understanding of the "Gearing Up For Safety" program and reviewed the major changes to the testing program.

Having all the teachers take the exam was a valuable asset to their teacher portfolio and an introduction to safe tractor and machinery education within an ag ed program.

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Tuesday, July 9, 2019

The following workshops were pre-selected for their interest level (One per participant)

Workshop: Agricultural Mechanics Certification

Presenter: Mr. Thomas Hawthorne, Linganore High School

Recorder: Mr. Doug Hering, Frederick Career and Technology Center

This workshop was set up as a small engines service practicum skill stations. This exercise is used in his shop to allow students to gain hands on experience using a service manual and special tools to perform many skills necessary to service a small gasoline engine. There were 25 lab stations set up and teachers took turns in conducting the various activities using all available resources. Tom Explained how he taught the small gas engine unit, including theory, lab practice and disassembly/reassembly of an engine.

Teachers learned the value of having students practice skills to master before servicing a real engine. He noted that preparing stations requires early planning and set-up time. Once the stations are set, they can be packed away for future classes without much preparation.

This was an invaluable workshop for teachers in Agricultural Mechanics and able to adapt a small gas engines unit to their instruction.

Workshop: Plant & Soil Sciences

Presenter: Dr. Fnu Naveenkumar, UMES Assistant Professor of Horticulture & Extension Specialist

Recorder: Ms. Erika Edwards, North Harford High School

Dr. Kumar presented an extensive workshop on the care and planting of apple trees for orchard production, with a brief introduction to his research on strawberries on campus. He presented a power point and handouts to attendees on the history and progression of their campus orchard. They have been very successful in producing healthy and disease resistant varieties. After the instruction, the group were able to tour the orchard to gain a better understanding of the subject matter. Dr. Kumar addressed management practices that have evolved within the orchard industry to keep up with demand of pesticide free fruit.

This workshop information will be very beneficial to teachers in the horticulture and plant science courses.

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Workshop: Veterinary Science

Presenter: Dr. Enrique Nelson Escobar, UMES Asst. Professor and Small Ruminant Ext. Specialist

Recorder: Ms. Jodi Callahan, Caroline County Career & Technology Center

This workshop was a study into the world of parasitology and the importance of maintaining healthy herds of livestock. Internal parasites are the major expense of livestock health. Dr. Escobar presented an overview of parasitology and how the university properly manages their herds of livestock. The group was then led through conducting a necropsy on a goat to better understand the damage of parasites on internal organs. After the lab, the group took a tour of their swine and goat operations on campus. Teachers were given valuable information on ordering specific lab kits for parasite identification. They also learned the importance of not over deworming animals and the value of scheduling rotational grazing.

This was a great exposure to live college animal research and managing herds and their health. The information learned from this workshop will be valuable to all animal science programs.

Workshop: Regional Agricultural Commodities Tour to Smith Island

Presenter: Ms. Julie Widdowson, Director for the Somerset County Tourism

Recorder: Mr. Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High School

This tour was set up to give conference participants the experience of one of Maryland's treasurer's, Smith Island. The group was taken by boat to the island where they were given a scavenger hunt activity to assist them in finding all the amazing natural habitats, aquaculture and ecosystems that have evolved among the island. This trip was a step back in time to learn all the history of Marylanders so as to appreciate their dedication to preserve our natural resources for the future. There were several citing's of wildlife, native plants and other lifeforms that contribute to their delicate balance of nature.

Everyone on the trip gained a better appreciation of our native Maryland and how these residents preserve their island for future generations. This knowledge gained from this trip can be used in all phases of agricultural education and prove the importance of continuing agriculture conservation.

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Wednesday, July 10, 2019

The following workshops were pre-selected for their interest level (One per participant)

Workshop: Pesticide Recertification

Presenter: Ms. Ginny Rosenkranz, UMD Extension Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator

Mr. Russell Noratel, Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Certification Coordinator

Recorder: Ms. Jamie Snider, Hancock Middle/Senior High School

Ginny presented an overview on Pollinators and their vital importance to our yards, gardens and fields. She went over the different types of pollinators, and the beneficial plants for pollinators. She demonstrated how to build a bee box to allow them shelter and protection. She ended her talk on how to implement an integrated pest management system.

Russell covered all the changes necessary to maintain proper and safe handling/application of pesticides. He went over practical application of personal protective equipment and re-entry of worker protection standards set for applicators. He also covered restricted use pesticide use, especially on higher concentrated forms.

This workshop allows teachers to maintain their certification with the MDA to safely apply and store chemicals in the workplace.

Workshop: AET Online Recordkeeping

Presenter: Mr. Keith Shane, Smyrna High School

Recorder: Mr. Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High School

The AET online training workshop allowed teachers to gain insight into creating and maintaining online recordkeeping. All agricultural education students are given the opportunity to gain valuable skills in managing their supervised agriculture education experience program. Keith being a veteran, well versed teacher in AET training gave of his time to share various methods in developing useful learning strategies in mastering recordkeeping. He showed teachers how to set up their AET online program, a chapter website, calendar, message students, using the report function and how to handle grading within the system.

Utilizing the AET system can greatly enhance and incorporate the three-circle model of agricultural education. The AET can utilize the FFA, Classroom and experiential learning principles.

Awards Recognition Luncheon

Presenters: Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association Officers

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Galbreath, BASF Agricultural Sales & Marketing Professional Development Program on the “Importance of Best Management Practices in Agriculture”

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Major Awards and Recognition:

College Scholarships to attend the conference- Amanda Farmer, Bethany Meyers, Kelcey Trewin

Years of Service Recognition: 5 years to Jamie Snider, Hancock Middle; Quinn Martin, Boonsboro High
20 years of service to Leasa Gudderra, Gwynn Park High

National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Awards:

Teacher Turn the Key- Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High

Outstanding Early Career Teacher- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High

Outstanding Teacher- Diane Herndon, Frederick Career and Technology Center

Outstanding Program- Middletown High

Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program- University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Outstanding Cooperator- Karl Binns, UMES

Outstanding Service Citation- Susan Lowery

Lifetime Achievement- Dr. Ronald Seibel for 65 years in agricultural education

Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association (MATA) Awards:

Agricultural Mechanics- Doug Hering, Frederick CTC

Animal Science- Pat Beachy, Linganore High; Jodi Callahan, Caroline CTC

CASE- Aaron Geiman, Westminster High

FFA Leadership- Stacy Eckels, Southern High

Floriculture- Quinn Martin, Boonsboro High

Horticulture- Jerry Kelley, Parkside High

Middle School Agriscience- Jamie Snider, Hancock Middle/Senior High

SAE- Sara Seiser, Middletown High

Spreading the Word- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High

Teacher of Teachers- Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High

The 2019-2020 MATA Executive Board elected:

Past President- Lori Mayhew, Damascus High

President- Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High

President Elect- Diane Herndon, Frederick CTC

Secretary- Quinn Martin, Boonsboro High

Treasurer- Roy S. Walls, Jr.

Reporter- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High

Membership Chair- Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High

Conference Planning Committee:

Chairperson- Jessica Flores, Worcester Tech High; MAEF Liaison- Naomi Knight, MD FFA Program Coordinator

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Members- Stephon Fitzpatrick and Karl Binns of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore



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First	Last	School	Prof. Develop Workshops (Choose 3)						AGME	Plant Sc.	Vet. Sc.	Smith Is.	Pest/	AET	Total	
			Trac.	Per/ Oper.	Parc.	GIS	GMO	Supp. Person.								
Kelly	Bryant	Maurice J. McDonough	2.5	2	0.75	0	0	0.75	0.75	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Jodi	Callahan	Caroline County CTC	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	2.25	0	0	2.5	3.5	0	3	15.75
Rachael	Coffey	Cecil Cnty Sch of Tech	2.5	2	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	0	0	2.5	3.5	0	3	15.75
Stacy	Eckels	Southern High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Erika	Edwards	North Harford High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Amanda	Farmer	West Virginia Univ.	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	3	0	15.75
Jessica	Flores	Worcester Tech	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	0	2.5	3.5	0	3	15.75
Cassandra	Foster	Wash. Cnty Tech High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0.75	0	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Aaron	Geiman	Westminster High	2.5	2	0.75	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3.5	3	0	15.75
Leasa	Gudderra	Gwynn Park High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0	0.75	0.75	0	0	2.5	3.5	0	3	15.75
Thomas	Hawthorne	Linganore High	2.5	2	0.75	0	0	0.75	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	3	0	15.75
Doug	Hering	Frederick CTC	2.5	2	0	0.75	0	0.75	0	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Diane	Herndon	Frederick CTC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	3.5	3	0	15.75
Jerry	Kelley	Parkside High CTE	0	2	0	0	0	0	2.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	15.75
Quinn	Martin	Boonsboro High	2.5	2	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	3	0	15.75
Lori	Mayhew	Damascus High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0	0.75	0.75	0	2.5	0	0	3.5	3	15.00
Thomas	Mazzone	Clear Spring High	2.5	2	0.75	0.75	0.75	0	0	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Bethany	Meyers	West Virginia Univ.	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	0	12.75
Bridget	Nicholson	Man. Valley High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	3	15.00
Lee	Ruark	Smithsburg High	2.5	2	0.75	0	0	0.75	0.75	2.5	0	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Sara	Seiser	Middletown High	2.5	2	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Sarah	Shriner	Middletown High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3.00
Jamie	Snider	Hancock Mid/High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	2.5	0	3.5	3	0	15.75
Richard	Stonebraker	Frederick High	2.5	2	0	0.75	0.75	0	0.75	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75
Kelcey	Trewin	UMCP	2.5	2	0.75	0.75	0	0	0	0	2.5	0	3.5	0	3	15.75