



E-Newsletter
January 2012

2012 Agriscience Curriculum Development Underway

Statewide Industry-Driven Curriculum

This year, the Banner Center for Agriscience in collaboration with our industry and education partners, selected the areas of agriculture mechanics and aquaculture as the focus for the 2011-2012 curriculum development initiative. Working with the Florida Department of Education (DOE), industry and education representatives reviewed the current curriculum frameworks and made recommendations for changes in both content and structure. These recommendations will better align the curriculum with today's industry standards. Check the DOE website at http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/ag_cluster_frame12.asp for the draft frameworks for the 2012-2013 school year. For additional information concerning the frameworks, contact Amy McAllister at 850 245-9017 or Amy.McCallister@fldoe.org. The curriculum in these areas, currently under development by the Banner Center, will be released in May 2012.

Agriculture Industry Certifications

Agriculture Education Services and Technology Inc.

As a continuation of the effort to develop industry-recognized certifications for agriculture employees, Florida Farm Bureau has created an entity known as Agriculture Education Services and Technology Inc. This entity will work cooperatively with the Banner Center to develop industry certifications that are valuable to Florida's agriculture industry as well as provide a recognized credential for agriculture employees. Currently, tests are being conducted for the Certified Agriculture Technician certification. For information on the available industry certifications and the exam schedule, check the website at <http://fbaest.com/>.

Certified Agriculture Biotechnician Credential

The Certified Agriculture Biotechnician credential will be released in May 2012. The certification content covers a broad spectrum of knowledge in the area of agriculture biotechnology. The exam includes but is not limited to biotechnology in agriculture, scientific investigation, laboratory safety, scientific and technological concepts; and the fundamentals of biotechnology. It was developed to mirror the curriculum of the Agriculture Biotechnology program developed by the Banner Center in collaboration with industry and education representatives. You do not need to complete this or any other curriculum to sit for the exam, however, it is a rigorous exam and it is not expected that certification could be obtained without any training or hands-on experience in the industry. Once the certification testing dates have been set, registration will be available at <http://fbaest.com/>. Randy Strode, owner of AgriStarts a "biological technology" company specializing in tissue culture said, "This is exciting news for my company!"

University of Florida

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) is pleased to announce a Marine Sciences major will be available and added to the growing number of career opportunities currently offered at the University of Florida CALs. For additional information on this upcoming major, contact Charlotte Emerson at cemer@ufl.edu or visit www.cals.ufl.edu.

University of Florida

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences — Continued

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) hosted the Monsanto America's Farmer Mobile Experience on campus early this month. Over 1,100 students, faculty, staff and community members visited the trailer over the two days. During the 24-minute tour, participants heard the challenges America's farmers face, watched a video spotlighting an American farm family, and heard about the tools and technology farmers use every day to meet increasing global demands. For more information on this event, contact Charlotte Emerson at cemer@ufl.edu or visit www.cals.ufl.edu.

National Teach Ag Day



National Teach Ag Day (TAG) is a day to celebrate school-based agricultural education. For teachers, it is a day to encourage students to consider the career opportunities in agricultural education and its value to the agriculture industry. It is a day for you to **TAG your replacement**. For advocates of agriculture education, it is a day to share the importance of these programs to the future of the agriculture industry. The National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) has a variety of resources for your use in celebrating this event. They can be found at www.naae.org/teachae. For additional information contact Farrah Johnson, President Elect, NAAE at fjohnso@volusia.k12.fl.us.

Possible Changes in Child Labor Laws

Notice of proposed rulemaking announced

On September 2, 2011, the Department of Labor (DOL) released a notice of proposed rulemaking that would effect the employment of youth in agriculture. This could have very real impacts for agricultural education programs with hands on training. The Fair Labor Standards Act permits youth under the age of 16 to work in agriculture, but also authorizes the secretary of labor to prohibit youth from being employed in jobs deemed as "particularly dangerous."

The DOL proposal would greatly restrict the ability of youths under 16 from working with livestock, operating power equipment and even working from ladders. Farm Bureau and more than 70 other agricultural organizations, including the National FFA Organization, filed extensive comments with DOL objecting to the proposals. These agricultural organizations represent the breadth of nearly every commodity and region in the nation. For more information, contact Adam Basford at Adam.Basford@ffbf.org.

Employ Florida Banner Center for Agriscience

The Employ Florida Banner Center for Agriscience is a partnership with WorkForce Florida, Inc. and is a statewide, industry-driven initiative focused on education and training. A keystone of the center is the partnership among workforce, education, industry and economic development. Through direct input from Florida businesses, the Banner Center focuses on developing and coordinating educational and training resources to boost the competitiveness of the agriculture industry that is vital to Florida's economy. For more information, contact Frankie Hall at Frankie.Hall@ffbf.org.