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Oregon Team AgEd Year-at-a-Glance – 2002-2003

Oregon Team AgEd has matured and developed into a significant leadership team that has exceeded its desired outcomes. Oregon's economic woes provide agricultural education with many new challenges on the local, state, and university levels. Team AgEd represents 105 Agricultural Science and Technology Programs in Oregon. We may loose up to four high school agriculture programs this year.

New graduation requirements and the Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM) require students to maintain an educational plan/portfolio, achieve academic success, and meet career-related learning standards and experiences. These requirements provide Agricultural Education the opportunity to help students develop instructional strategies for success. Changes to the administrative rules pertaining to alternative credit also open the door for providing credit related to Supervised Agricultural Experiences, recipients of degrees and proficiencies, and other career related experiences provided through agricultural education and FFA.

The Beginning Teacher Mentoring program assists beginning teachers in making the transition from preservice to a successful career. In November, Team AgEd hosted the Beginning Teacher Conference in conjunction with the FFA Made for Excellence Conference, with 28 beginning teachers in attendance. Over 45% of Oregon's teachers are from 1-5 years of teaching experience.

OVATA membership is 104 members strong. Last Year's summer conference was held in Hermiston with the Fall Inservice being held at Silverton. This year's summer conference will be hosted in Klamath Falls, June 15-18, 2003.

A bill sponsored by the Oregon Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association has been introduced to the Oregon legislature. The bill provides state leadership, creates Oregon FFA as a governmental entity integral to the agricultural education curriculum, and establishes a state advisory committee for agriculture and natural resources education.

The Agricultural Education Department at Oregon State University has seen increases in student numbers over the past years. This spring, twelve graduate students will be looking for teaching jobs. Next year, 17 students have committed to the 2003-04 student teaching cohort.

The State FFA Alumni Association has been a key player in agricultural education in Oregon. Since this year's National FFA Convention, 13 new affiliates have been formed. Oregon averages one alumni member for every four FFA members. Cindy Ettestad recently completed her year as president of the National FFA Alumni Association.

Blue Mountain Community College was named Region 1 NAAE Outstanding Post Secondary/Adult Program for 2002. Dale Crawford, agriculture teacher in Culver, received the first Region 1 NAAE Teacher Mentor award for 2002.

Lee Cole announced his retirement after 26 years at Oregon State University. Lee has over 38 years of service to agricultural education, nine as a high school teacher, 29 years in higher education, with 21 of those years as chair of the department. Don Sligar announced his retirement from the Oregon Department of Education as the Agricultural and Natural Resources Specialist and State FFA Advisor. The retirement system has encouraged six other high school teachers from across the state to announce retirements this year.