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Virginia  
Association of

Agricultural Extension Agents



VAAEA Newsletter

Fall 2005

## VAAEA Annual Winter Meeting & Awards Luncheon

Friday, December 16, 2005

Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox

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Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the VAAEA Annual Winter Meeting & Awards Luncheon on Friday, December 16th, 2005, at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. Registration and fellowship time will begin at 9:30 AM, and the meeting will begin at 10:00. Lunch will consist of a menu of roast beef, two vegetables, tossed salad and dessert. Those with special dietary needs or preferences should plan accordingly.

The program for this year's meeting will be similar to past years, with a few exceptions. The most significant change to the program this year will be a one hour session titled "A Forum with Extension Administration". This session will be an opportunity for a moderated open discussion with members of our administration about key issues of concern to our members. Members should think ahead and be prepared to ask constructive questions during this discussion.

The afternoon program of the meeting will include our awards program, where our Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award and Wall of Fame winners (see related story, page 2) for the coming year will be revealed. Communications award winners from the past year will also be recognized. This is a special time for us to show our appreciation for the excellent work of our co-workers.

Following our annual business meeting, which will include our officer elections, the program will conclude with District meetings and reports and a time for VAAEA committee meetings. Committee chairs should notify their committee members if they need to meet during this time. Refer to the complete VAAEA committee listing on the association's website at [www.vaaea.org.vt.edu](http://www.vaaea.org.vt.edu).

The VAAEA Annual Meeting is open to all current VAAEA active and life members. If you are not currently a member, but would like to join, you will have the chance to do so before the meeting. All VCE Ag and Natural Resources employees in their first year of employment receive a free year of membership in VAAEA and our national association, NACAA. "Veteran" members should make sure that they reach out to recently employed agents and specialists and encourage them to attend this event.

I look forward to seeing you all on December 16th in Appomattox!

## VAAEA Members Contribute over \$1,500 to Katrina Relief

Andy Overbay, our VAAEA treasurer, reports that between the private donations of members and funds approved by our board of directors from the association funds, \$1,515 was donated to the NASULGC Extension Employee Hurricane Relief Fund. I am sure that many more members donated funds to other private organizations in addition to this total.

Thank you to all for your generosity and willingness to help members of the extended extension "family" in their time of need!

## Wall of Fame Selection Committee Named

The Wall of Fame is the highest honor that our association bestows upon its members. Those members who are recognized have their photographs permanently installed onto the VAAEA Wall of Fame, which resides on the first floor of Hutcheson Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech. This honor is reserved for those selected individuals whom have distinguished themselves as among the "elite" of agricultural extension agents throughout their career, through service to the agricultural industry of Virginia and to the Virginia Association of Agricultural Extension Agents. No more than one active member and one retired / past member of VAAEA can be placed on the wall in any given year. Honorees will be announced at the winter meeting.

This year's selection committee is:

Brad Jarvis, Madison County (Chair)  
Cynthia Gregg, Brunswick County  
Sam Johnson, Westmoreland County  
Watson Lawrence, Chesapeake  
Phil Blevins, Washington County

## Virginia Agents Recognized at National Meeting



Virginia was well represented at the 2005 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. (Now that's a mouthful!) Not only did Virginia send over 50 representatives to the meeting, but some were recognized for programs. Adam Downing and Dan Goerlich were each recognized for their programming excellence as national finalists in the communications awards programs. Both Dan and Adam also each gave presentations during the professional improvement sessions. Eric Bendfeldt was also honored, by having an entry accepted into the poster session. Be sure to congratulate these coworkers the next time you see them.

## Upcoming National Meetings

If you have never attended one of the NACAA Annual Meetings.... You should! There is something for everyone at the national meeting. It is an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that you can use in your local extension program, and is usually a very enjoyable experience. (shhh... don't tell Blacksburg... they might not let us go!) Financial limitations should not be an excuse. There are plenty of opportunities for funding to go to the national meeting, and we were pleased to see that our Administration has approved increases to these opportunities. Plan now to attend one or many of the upcoming national meetings!

Future NACAA AM-PIC Dates / Locations:

2006: Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky, July 23-27  
2007: Grand Rapids, MI, July 15-19  
2008: Greensboro, NC, July 13-17  
2009: Portland, OR