



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by **Mathew Elliott**

Mobile Manners

Just last month I pulled out my cell phone at the dinner table to text my friend, “Happy Birthday.” Someone at the table quickly asked me what I was doing and why I had my cell phone out at the table. Up until that point, I had not thought much about texting at the dinner table in front of my family or friends. After it was brought to my attention that I was being inconsiderate, I looked around the restaurant. At almost every single table in the restaurant there was at least one person texting. Not only was someone texting, but someone was also talking to the person texting in most instances.

Choose an appropriate time

Text messaging is a primary form of communication for many young people in today’s time. What’s easier than sending a quick message over to a buddy to find out what homework assignment you missed while at Denver? Although texting is very useful, many young people have a hard time text messaging at the most appropriate and safest times.

Twenty-five years ago most family and friends sat down at dinner every evening to discuss the day’s events. Many exciting



Jennifer Ann Smith

stories were shared, and the next day’s plans were usually discussed. No one would have ever thought of having an outside conversation with someone not at dinner. Texting while enjoying a nice meal at the dinner table is exactly that: having an outside conversation. Wouldn’t it be more appropriate to answer text messages after dinner? The homework assignment or “Happy Birthday” message can wait.

Next time you are riding down the road in a vehicle, look and see how many people are texting and driving. A recent survey showed that 60% of teenagers, typically the most dangerous of drivers, have texted while driving. In addition, 26% of mobile phone users have said that they have texted while driving. Finally, according to the National Safety Council, 28% of car accidents are caused by talking or texting while driving. This is becoming a more serious issue each day as more lives are taken because of someone sending a simple message. Couldn’t the message wait until you reached your destination safely?

I encourage you to practice appropriate and safe texting habits. Remember, texting can wait while you are considerate to those around you and while you are protecting yourself and others on the road. Mind your mobile manners!

— **Jennifer Ann Smith, Texas**

Missouri State Fair ‘Youth in Agriculture’ Scholarship application available

Applications for a Missouri State Fair Youth in Agriculture Scholarship are now available online at www.mostatefair.com for Missouri high school seniors graduating in 2011. Applications submitted to the Missouri State Fair must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2011.

“We are happy to award scholarships to youth who have participated at the Fair,” said Wayne Yokley, Youth in Agriculture Committee chairman. “With the support of companies and individuals whose contributions make these scholarships possible, the Youth in Agriculture committee is offering thirty \$1,000 scholarships and one \$2,500 supreme scholarship sponsored by Sydenstricker John Deere of Missouri/Sydenstricker Angus Genetics.”

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be a high school senior and an active 4-H or FFA member, have participated in the Missouri State Fair as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor, enroll in an accredited Missouri college or university with a major in agriculture and have not sold livestock in any past Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions.

The Missouri State Fair scholarships are funded through the generosity of Youth in Agriculture sponsors and buyers of the livestock sold during the annual Sale of Champions with a percent of each animal’s sale price earmarked for scholarships.

For more information please call the Missouri State Fair at 1-800-422-FAIR (3247) or e-mail questions to mostatefair@mda.mo.gov.

National FFA volunteer program surpasses goal

The Million Hour Challenge program, a national civic engagement initiative through the National FFA Organization, surpassed its stated goal of 1 million volunteer hours. As of the month of October, 1,048,455 volunteer hours have been recorded for the program. The achievement was recognized Oct. 21, 2010, at the 83rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

“We’re proud of this achievement by our members,” said National FFA COO Dwight Armstrong. “Our members understand the importance of serving a role in the community. This accomplishment represents the premier leadership which FFA members demonstrate every day in their communities.”

The Million Hour Challenge, in its fourth year of operation, is a special initiative of the National FFA Organization designed to unite youth across the country and strengthen communities through civic engagement and community service. Five FFA chapters were

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Visit the NJAA website at www.njaa.info.

recognized during the announcement for their significant contributions to the program in the areas of Environment, Government, Social & Human Service, Healthy Lifestyles and Education. These chapters were each awarded \$2,500 for having the greatest number of eligible community service project hours in their respective category areas this past year.

Yamaha Outdoors announces 2011 annual ag comm scholarship program

Yamaha Motor Corp., U.S.A., is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program that provides financial assistance to members of the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT). ACT is a national college student association with more than 350 members located on 17 college and university campuses across the country. ACT's mission of fostering professional development is at the core of the Yamaha-ACT Scholarship Program, now in its third year.

The Yamaha-ACT Scholarship Program is broken out into two individual student scholarships and one chapter scholarship. All three awards are aimed at helping students attend the annual Agricultural Media Summit (AMS), which is the largest gathering of ag media professionals in the country and is the ACT students' primary career development networking opportunity each year. The conference is hosted by the American Agricultural Editors' Association (AAEA), the Livestock Publications Council (LPC) and the American Business Media Agri-Council — potential future employers and colleagues of the students.

"This Yamaha scholarship program

supports the professional development of ACT students while encouraging these future professional communicators to carry messages of safe, responsible ATV and Side-by-Side vehicle use into their future careers," said Steve Nessl, Yamaha's ATV/SxS marketing manager. "We encourage all ACT members to get involved and submit individual and chapter applications for the 2011 program."

For the 2009-10 program, the University of Florida received Yamaha's chapter award for the second year in a row, while Kelsey Fletcher of Texas Tech University and Hailey Harroun of Oklahoma State University earned the individual scholarships. The University of Florida's award helped cover costs in bringing six students to the 2010 AMS in Minnesota this year, while the individual scholarships covered all travel and accommodations costs, plus more, for both Fletcher and Harroun. The 2011 AMS will be in New Orleans — a city sure to attract students from around the country next summer.

"This scholarship program is continuing to gain steam nationwide especially as more students see how some of the past winners have benefited from it," said Jefferson Miller, ACT faculty advisor and associate professor of agricultural communications at the University of Arkansas. "The scholarship money is really helpful, but the program also creates great networking and professional development opportunities for the students who intern at Yamaha's Info Expo booth at AMS."

Applicants are judged based on merit, need and quality of submission materials by a review committee consisting of Yamaha representatives and members of the AAEA and the LPC. The 2010-2011 application process will run through the end of February, and winners will be announced in early May 2011. More information and guidelines,

along with the application form, can be found online at www.nactnow.org.

Accelerate your college education

Youth are the foundation and next generation of agriculture. Accelerated Genetics is excited to present these scholarships to its customers' families to ensure agriculture a bright future.

Youth Scholarship: Accelerated Genetics awards four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors planning to major in agriculture at a short course, vocational technical college or a four-year university. Any high school senior who has participated in FFA, 4-H, any of the various breed organizations or any other agricultural organization is eligible to apply.

To obtain a scholarship application, download it and/or fill it out online from the Accelerated Genetics website at www.accelgen.com, call 1-800-451-9275 or e-mail kstanek@accelgen.com.

Collegiate Scholarship: Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to students currently enrolled in a short course, vocational technical college or a four-year university degree program. The collegiate program is available to individuals who are currently in their freshman, sophomore, or junior year and are majoring in any agricultural field. Supported by Accelerated Genetics, this scholarship program is run by the National FFA Foundation.

This scholarship application can only be completed online at www.ffa.org (click on Scholarships 2011).

Applicants or their parents must be currently active customers of Accelerated Genetics to be eligible for either type of scholarship. The application deadline for both types is Feb. 15, 2011.

