

AGRIZETTE

NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2004



ISSUE 57

WELCOME TO THE 2004 — 2005 SCHOOL YEAR

This year we welcomed 120 new grade 9 students and our total enrollment is 440. New staff members this year include Eileen Czyrkis teaching math and Michael McGrath, our new Physical Education/Health teacher.

As a result of budget concerns involving tuition and transportation of some of our out-of-county students, the Administration and Board of Trustees reviewed the school organization and did some restructuring. David Richards has assumed the leadership of a restructured Plant, Environmental and Mechanical Technology Department. Our FY '05 budget has been reduced by \$200,000.00 and



Pictured left to right: Kelly Harrington, Claire and John Harrington, John Harrington, Principal Gail Murphy, NCAHS Board of Trustees Chairman Harold Cohen and Peter Collins, NCAHS Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Norfolk County Commissioners

JOHN HARRINGTON, CLASS OF 2005

At the October Norfolk County Agricultural High School Board of Trustees meeting, John Harrington, class of 2005 was presented with a Letter of Commendation by Principal Gail Murphy on behalf of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. About 34,000 Commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. John is a senior whose major area of concentration is Animal and Marine Science. He plans a career as a veterinarian. In addition to this scholastic honor, John is the President of the Norfolk Chapter FFA and participates in many extra curricular activities including soccer and basketball.

this has affected staff, supplies and even freshmen sports.

On a positive note, we took advantage of a program with our electrical provider, who replaced lights across campus. We expect to save a considerable amount in utility bills, and we have an updated lighting system in the gym.

Using several grant sources, some program updates were completed:

- ✓ New trainers in electronics and diesel technology
- ✓ Additional computers
- ✓ Planning for a new biotechnology program

On our agenda for this year's grants:

- ✓ Replace an instructional tractor (remember those yellow CUB tractors? They are still used by ninth grade students!)
- ✓ Lease a new truck and small school bus
- ✓ Replace kennel cages
- ✓ Replace a lift in the diesel area
- ✓ Create a new marketing video

HELPING HANDS

As we approach the holiday season, you may want to include the Helping Hands account in your donations. Helping Hands was started by former Director Richard C. Morse, '58, as a way to help students and families who are experiencing sudden financial issues. As a result, we have purchased eye glasses, provided holiday gifts for students in need and contributed to families who have lost their homes due to fire or some other catastrophe.

If you would like to help us continue this special program, you can send your donation in care of the Helping Hands Account, NCAHS, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081.

MCAS UPDATE

Most of you know that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has implemented an exam for all students. In order to graduate, students must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

We are pleased to report that 100% of the members of the Class of 2006 have passed the ELA test and 95% have passed the math test. Our school scores were above state average and demonstrate the hard work of our talented and dedicated teachers and students. Congratulations!

FFA NEWS

—By Stacey Baskiewicz, Norfolk Chapter Reporter

The Norfolk Chapter FFA was very busy getting ready for the National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky from October 26 – 30, 2004. 18 students and 2 chaperones attended and competed in different CDE's such as Parliamentary Procedure, Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Sales, Creed Speaking and more. During National Convention, there are many activities going on such as concerts, a bull bash, FFA at Six Flags, two dances, leadership conferences, an exhibit hall and much more.

December 3 – 5, 2004 there will be a Leadership Camp offered by the Massachusetts Officer Team in Craigsville, Massachusetts. There will be leadership workshops providing leadership skills to everyone who attends. There will be other chapters from across the state who will take advantage of this activity.

We have recently had our first general meeting in September. Many members attended and we discussed topics such as the Big E, National Convention, upcoming CDE's and more. We also had a pie eating contest where three members competed against each other. Our next general meeting will be held in November. Dairy Judging, held October 8, 2004 was the first CDE of the year. The FFA once again sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 8, 2004. Thanks are extended to the many people who came and donated. During Open House on Sunday, October 3, 2004, the FFA ran a hayride to give tours to the many prospective students and families.

ANIMAL SCIENCE NEWS

For several years, the NCAHS Animal Science Department has been working hard to improve the quality of the sheep used by students at school. For many years, the school's flock consisted of a "hodge podge" of grade sheep of varying ancestries. The commercial flock of grade ewes was replaced several years ago with registered Dorset ewes, through a donation from the University of Connecticut's livestock program.

Recently, the school has been investigating the possibility of obtaining a Texel ram to breed to our Dorset ewes. Texels are a Scottish breed of sheep that are known for their outstanding muscling and thickness, which gives them a distinct advantage in the lamb market, much sought after by buyers. Through a donation from Ms. Sandra Morris of Franklin, MA, two Texels have been obtained for the sheep program. "Sultan" is the National Reserve Champion ram, and "Aurora" is the Reserve National Champion Ewe from the National Texel Sale in Sedalia,

Missouri. These two additions to the flock were purchased by Ms. Morris for the school through Ms. Debbie Hopkins, the National Secretary for the Dorset Sheep Association. A special thanks for this outstanding donation which will be a wonderful foundation for our new Texel program.



Front row: "NCAHS Aurora" with Animal Science Instructor Mr. David Green at the halter, "NCAHS Sultan" with senior Ms. Brianne Crowley at the halter. Back row: Superintendent-Director, Dr. Angela Avery, Ms. Sandra Morris, Principal Ms. Gail Murphy.

D.A.R.E. – Written by Sarah Johansen, Class of 2007

This past summer I was chosen to be the Massachusetts Representative for the D.A.R.E. Youth Advisory Board. This means I represent the youth in Massachusetts and act as a peer role model. I recently had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for three days where I met other representatives from all over the country, one representative from each state. We stayed in Quantico Virginia. Quantico is a training facility for the Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI. During the weekend the representatives and their parents attended many workshops. The first night everyone got to learn about each other. After a busy night full of laughs, we all headed to bed eagerly waiting for the following morning. After breakfast in the DEA cafeteria, parents and students split up for workshops. Students attended a lecture about the history of drugs. This was a presentation on how drug use became what it is now in America. While the students were at this lesson, their parents participated in tactical training drills. Parents were taught how to break down doors, fire a gun and took part in a mock drug bust. In the next workshop, students watched other students give presentations about programs they started in their home towns for middle school children. This gave the first time participants, like me, ideas for things we can do in our own communities to give kids an alternative to drugs. After a busy morning, the representatives and their parents got back together for lunch at the DEA. The Youth Advisory

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Pictured from left to right: Superintendent-Director, Dr. Angela Avery, Sarah Johansen, Class of 2007 and Principal Gail H. Murphy.

Board students then went to what was supposed to be a lesson on media response and letter writing, but quickly turned into a question and answer period with an undercover agent who had just returned from an assignment. What was meant to be an hour long lecture on media turned into a ten minute talk on how to do a proper interview. My favorite and most eye-opening workshop was about club drugs. This really made my mom and I think about the drug use that is really taking place with teenagers in this country. That night, everyone went to the DEA museum and a short tour of monuments in D.C. My favorite site to see was the new World War II memorial, it was amazing. After dinner, we were all so exhausted, we had no problem getting to sleep. The next morning, the Youth Advisory Board members participated in team building exercises. Constant laughter could be heard from all. This is where I became close with high schoolers from all over the country. I left that weekend full of knowledge, memories and newfound friends from many different states. I cannot wait for next year's convention!



Members of the NCAHS Drill Team

2004 HAUNTED HAYRIDE A SUCCESS!

You know it is fall at Norfolk Aggie when the entire campus turns into a haunted hayride! During the last two weekends in October an incredible number of student, staff and parent volunteers worked many hours to create family oriented fun for Halloween. This annual fundraiser supports student activities including the yearbook and Senior Prom. Underclassmen begin to build their class treasuries as well.

Special thanks to the Class of 2005 advisor Priscilla Steele. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Cannon, who has made the hayride what it is today and the tireless efforts of staff, administrators, parents and students.



AGRIZETTE

ALUMNI NEWS

Holstein Association USA, Inc. announces the addition of Adam Griffin (NCAHS Class of 2000), as Manager of Dairy Identification Programs



*Adam Griffin,
Class of 2000*

BRATTLEBORO, Vt., June 4, 2004—Holstein Association USA, Inc. the world's largest dairy breed organization, announces the addition of Adam Griffin as the manager of dairy and identification programs. In his role, Griffin will be responsible for coordinating and leading the management of the Association's identification services including Dairy Vision, progeny test herd identification, and alternative identification programs. In addition, he will be a

member of the National Farm Animal and Identification Records (FAIR) team.

"Participation in our identification programs continues to increase substantially every year," said Dan Meihak, executive director, herd advancement services, Holstein Association USA, Inc. "Adam's role is very important for our continued success as we grow our business."

Griffin is a 2004 graduate of the University of Vermont with a bachelor's degree in animal science. He served as treasurer for both CREAM (Cooperative Real Education in Agricultural Management) and the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. In addition, he served as president of the Fraternity Managers Association. At the University of Vermont, Griffin was extensively involved in undergraduate research projects.

Holstein Association USA, Inc., www.holsteinusa.com, provides products and services to dairy producers to enhance genetics and improve profitability—ranging from registry processing to identification programs to consulting services. The Association, headquartered in Brattleboro, Vt., maintains the records for Registered Holsteins and represents approximately 30,000 dairy farmers from across the United States. The Association is also leading the initiative for national animal identification through the National FAIR program.

Dina Scanlan, Class of 2000, from Canton, earned her Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources, Management and Policy from Paul Smith's College, which is located in the Adirondack Park of New York. Nearly 200 students were honored at the 57th Commencement Exercises held at Paul Smith's College on May 2, 2004. Currently, Dina is working as a Conference Specialist at Fairview Lake Camps and Conference Center in Newton, New Jersey. When this information was received, Dina was planning to attend the University of Fairbanks, Alaska for a Master's Degree. Congratulations are extended to Dina for her accomplishments!

Brian Ouellette, Class of 1988 contacted Vice Principal Donald Cooper, '60, with an update on what he has been doing. He is currently an entrepreneur who has developed an incredible resort (www.sorrelriver.com) and now working on his second resort that is run off of renewable energy. He is a two time combat vet serving in Desert Storm and Somalia. He is involved in community development, does a lot of community work and enjoys what he is doing.

NORFOLK AGGIE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 2004

Norfolk County Agricultural High School's annual Open House took place on Sunday, October 3, 2004 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The highest number of visitors in recent years was seen! The weather was perfect and the entire campus was bustling with activity.

