

**FACILITATING COORDINATION IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION - 5
NOVEMBER, 2014, SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR DEAN DITTMAR**

I. ON SITE ASSISTANCE – SCHOOLS – 8

COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS - 3

SCHOOLS – Columbia, Eldorado, Kaskaskia College-Centralia(2), O’Fallon, Red Bud, Rend Lake College-Ina, Sandoval

COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS – Jackson, Wayne, White

II. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS PRESENTED – 9

PARTICIPANTS – 120

Teaching Ag, 13-14 Grade Students, Kaskaskia College – 8

AgriculturalEducation.org Resources, AgEd College Students, IAVAT Student Branch Conference, Danville – 14

Ag Careers/Scholarships/Ag Courses Fulfilling Academic Requirements, Guidance Counselors, Clinton, Marion, Washington Counties EFE System, Salem – 6

Agricultural Careers/Agriscience Activities, 8-12 Grade Students, Columbia High School(6) - 92

III. MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS/CONFERENCES ATTENDED – 7

FCAE Staff Meeting, Urbana

Elite Agricultural Education Conference, Bloomington

St. Louis AgriBusiness Club Meeting and Professional Development, St. Louis, MO

Meeting with Norma Anderson, Certification Specialist, St. Clair Regional Office of Education, Belleville

Illinois State Teach Ag Results(STAR) Program Meeting(IL Team AgEd), Bloomington

ISBE Budget Hearing Meeting, Carbondale

Website Maintenance Conference Call Meeting with Programmer

IV. MILES TRAVELED – Auto-2072

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES - 8

Presented Testimony at the Civics Taskforce Public Hearing, Carbondale

Managed and Maintained the Website

Prepared for Presentations and Meetings

Contacted Advocates to Give Testimony and Attend the ISBE Budget Hearing

Wrote and Sent Email Messages/Updated Email Addresses on the Listserv

Completed Monthly Reports

Sent Teacher and Individual Informational Requests

Sent Follow-up Postcards to Kaskaskia College Students Interested in Becoming Ag Teachers

VI. COMMENTARY

It was great to get back into the classroom as the substitute ag teacher at the Columbia High School. Students were well behaved and eager to learn. **I cannot reiterate enough that high school ag teachers must be organized, creative, and passionate about their jobs to be successful.** The new agricultural education facility at the Kaskaskia College is spacious and technologically advanced. It is great to see a new agricultural college facility in southern Illinois. Enrollment and skill development will be increasing. **Civics Taskforce recommending an added social studies requirement seems to be gaining traction.** Not a good idea to increase from 2 to 3 courses.