

## People &amp; Places

## Students get real-world lessons

Trent Van Leuven brings college-level learning to high school classes

By DIANNA TROYER  
For the Capital Press

In their FFA and agriscience classes, students at Mackay High School in central Idaho are enrolling in college classes and experiencing unforgettable lessons through an innovative and flexible curriculum.

Under the supervision of Trent Van Leuven, 34, agriscience instructor and FFA adviser, students enroll in college classes, become certified to do artificial insemination in cattle through the Idaho Department of Agriculture, and help biologists trap deer.

They also run the state's only year-round high school warm- and cold-water aquaculture laboratory, where they raise tilapia, trout and sturgeon. Van Leuven plans to eventually build a new lab with \$35,000 in grants and other funding already committed to the project.

"I've always considered the whole world as my classroom," said Van Leuven, who began teaching in Mackay in 2014. "Some teachers have come to accept a traditional role of what the world thinks teaching has to be. I try to use all my resources and ingenuity to bring basic concepts home to students. If an opportunity arises, I take it — even if it means ranchers asking for help working cattle and calling me up at 6 a.m. that same morning."

Several years ago, a teach-



Courtesy Kathy Neville

Trent Van Leuven, agriscience instructor and FFA advisor at Mackay High School, checks on fish in the school aquaculture lab.

ing opportunity arose when a local rancher donated a two-headed stillborn calf to the ag program. Van Leuven presented a dissection and taught an embryology class with it.

This winter, his students helped Idaho Department of Fish and Game biologists trap mule deer to study population trends.

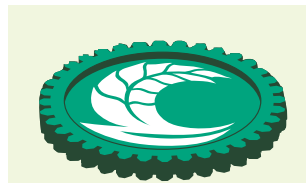
His students also run a hydroponic greenhouse, have an annual plant sale, raise calves, plan an itinerary and raise money to attend the National

FFA convention, and organize a blood drive.

"I really appreciate great administrators who help make these opportunities possible, especially our dual-enrollment college classes," he said.

He has received instructor endorsements, enabling him to provide students dual enrollment college options. Through the College of Southern Idaho, he teaches an animal science class and agriculture management, enabling students to earn inexpensive college credits while studying

in their Mackay classroom. He also teaches a range principles class through the University of Idaho.



## Western Innovator

### Trent Van Leuven

Age: 34

Hometown: Roberts, Idaho

Education: University of Idaho, ag education, 2007

Family: Wife and son

Motivational sign in classroom: "I am who I choose to be."

Not all of Van Leuven's lessons are limited to U.S. agriculture. When appropriate to a class, he shares his international teaching experiences.

Three years ago during the summer, he lived in Benin, a tiny country in West Africa known for cotton production. He developed a curriculum for school gardens through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Farmer-to-Farmer Program administered by Catholic Relief Services. The program promotes sustainable economic growth and food security. Another year, he has also learned tilapia-raising techniques in Brazil.

Van Leuven's students also use an innovative award-winning teaching aid he built, a mobile cow skeleton. In 2012, the National Association of

Agricultural Educators honored him with an Ideas Unlimited Award for using the skeleton.

"My lessons about things like primal carcass cuts, ruminant digestion, artificial insemination, and cattle body structure needed a hands-on aspect that would grab and hold students' interest," he said. "I couldn't bring a cow into the classroom, so I did the next best thing."

In 2016, his teaching philosophy and projects earned him a National Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Van Leuven was one of six winners nationwide and represented District 1, a region that encompasses nine western states.

"My peers who nominated me have taught me so much at various conferences and settings," he said.

A self-described lifelong learner, Van Leuven said he "tries to encourage my students to follow suit. I read once that 60 percent of college graduates never read another book after college. We should never stop learning."

On a recent family vacation in San Diego, he met aquaculturists who helped him tap into a nationwide network of people who raise fish.

"We also went to a botanical garden to admire their succulents and tropical fruit section and explored ecosystems at a beach and zoo. There are always opportunities to learn whatever we do and wherever we go. Lifelong learning can help ag instructors — and they should seek out professional development that really would help them help students."

## Don Bailey, well-known Oregon veterinarian, dies at 92

By CRAIG REED  
For the Capital Press

ROSEBURG, Ore. — Don Bailey, a long-time veterinarian and rancher in Douglas County, died at his ranch home March 20.

He would have been 92 on April 30. He died of age-related natural causes.

It was appropriate that there was a flock of sheep in a nearby pasture on his Bar None Ranch because Bailey spent much of his 65-year career as a veterinarian and rancher working with that animal. After he and his wife, Betty, moved to Roseburg to serve an internship after he graduated in 1950 with a degree in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., most all of his work dealt with sheep and cattle.

The couple opened Bailey Veterinary Clinic in Roseburg in 1951. In addition to helping with the care of livestock throughout Douglas County, Bailey also got involved in numerous agricultural, veterinary and civic organizations and activities at the local, state and national level.

Bailey retired from his clinic in 1991 after a 40-year career and he retired as a rancher a couple of years ago. He had both a cattle and sheep



Courtesy of the Bailey Family

Don Bailey of Roseburg, Ore., was a long-time veterinarian and rancher who specialized in the care of livestock. Bailey, who died March 20, was involved in numerous agricultural, veterinary and civic organizations and activities at the local, state and national level.

operation, and at one time had about 2,000 ewes.

"He was young, ambitious and a really good veterinarian who was very good with sheep," said Bob Hall, who owns and operates a ranch east of Roseburg. "He knew a lot about them and when he came out to the ranch, he would tell you how to do things so you wouldn't have to call him the next time you needed help

with the same problem."

Eugene Holcomb and his sons, Richard and Roger, also learned from Bailey when the veterinarian visited their cattle and sheep operation near Elkton, Ore.

"He was really good at sharing the practical things he had learned over the years," Richard Holcomb said. "He didn't hesitate to try to bring our skill level up so we could

do a lot of things we had previously called him out to do. I had such admiration for him. He was such a mentoring type of man, a man filled with a lot of graciousness."

Rex Heard, a sheep rancher near Lookingglass, Ore., said he was impressed by Bailey's eagerness to continue to learn.

"He was well into his 80s and he was still sitting in the front row at meetings and conferences, with a tablet and pencil, taking notes," Heard said. "I learned from him that when you take notes, you're forced to be attentive and it helps you learn. When I talk to 4-H and FFA groups, I tell them that is something I learned from a local veterinarian. You have to apply yourself."

Bailey shared his knowledge beyond his own practice. Recognizing a need in small ruminant medicine, both in colleges of veterinary medicine and in food animal science, he helped organize the American Association of Sheep and Goat Practitioners (now the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners) in 1968. He served as the organization's second president, secretary-treasurer and executive director.

The Roseburg veterinarian also held positions in other organizations: A member of the board of directors of

the Intermountain Veterinary Medical Association, chairman of the Health Committee of the National Wool Growers Association, a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association House Advisory Committee, president of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and the Oregon Sheep Growers Association, the OSGA's delegate to the National Wool Growers Association and one of the founders of the Douglas County Soil and Water Committee.

In 1974, while Bailey was president of the OVMA, he was an advocate of increasing the opportunities for Oregonians to study veterinary medicine. The School of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University was established later in the 1970s and a veterinary teaching facility was constructed at the school in 1980. Bailey became a member of the Oregon State University President's Committee on Agriculture Education.

Since 1976, he was a frequent keynote speaker at state, national and international meetings.

On his ranch, Bailey and his wife, Betty, hosted hundreds of grade-school students for many years during lambing season so the kids could get that agricultural experience.

## Calendar

To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at [www.capitalpress.com](http://www.capitalpress.com) and click on "Submit an Event." Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or emailed to [newsroom@capitalpress.com](mailto:newsroom@capitalpress.com). Write "Calendar" in the subject line.

### Saturday, March 31

Welding and Basic Metal Work for Small Farms. 1-5 p.m. Dunbar Farms, Hillcrest Road, Medford, Ore. This popular class is small and hands-on. With space limited, register early. David Mostue, farmer and equipment guru, will teach the basics of welding techniques on-site at his farm. Particular focus will be on those skills most useful to farmers, including the types of welders, tools and safety equipment needed. Participants will have a chance to try MIG welding, the most useful

and common form of welding on farms. General metalwork will also be covered. Cost: \$50 each person. Contact: [paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu](mailto:paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu) or 541-776-7371. Website: <http://bit.ly/JacksonSmallFarms>

### Wednesday-Saturday April 4-7

Idaho FFA State leadership Conference. College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho. Website: <https://www.idahoffa.org/conferences-conventions/>

### Thursday, April 5

Part 4: Farm & Ranch Succession Planning Workshop. 6-8:30 p.m. Clackamas Small Business Development Center, 7726 SE Harmony Road, Milwaukie, Ore. This program is offered and taught by the Clackamas Small Business Development Center, along with guest presenters

such as attorneys and CPAs. A complimentary light dinner will be at 6 p.m. To register, call 503-594-0738. Cost: Free. Website: <http://bit.ly/2CX1jvl>

### Friday, April 6

In the Field: Yakima Agriculture Seminar. 12:30-5 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 401 East Yakima Ave., Yakima, Wash. The topics include estate and succession planning for farmers and ranchers in light of the new tax laws; air, water rights, pesticides and CAFO permits; and employment laws and immigration. Sponsored by Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt. Cost: Free Website: <http://bit.ly/2FRZokG>

### Saturday, April 7

28th Dayton FFA Alumni Auction and Dinner. 5:30-9 p.m. Old Dayton High School Gym, 801 Ferry St., Dayton, Ore. The auction is the largest fundraiser the Dayton FFA

Alumni does each year. If you or your business would like to donate an item, time, money or services to this year's auction, or if you are interested in joining Dayton FFA Alumni, please contact Mitch Coleman at (503) 864-2080. The silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. The first table closes at 6:30 and dinner featuring local foods will be served at 7. Cost: \$10 at the door or from the Dayton Ag Shop at 503-864-2080.

Basic Irrigation System Design and Operation. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dunbar Farms, Medford, Ore. This class will look at a variety of irrigation systems suitable for different crops. The class will be particularly useful for those planning to build or alter their irrigation systems. The day of instruction includes a trip around Dunbar Farms to look at a wide variety of pump stations and irrigation methods in operation. These systems include overhead sprinklers for

hay, drip irrigation in wine grapes, rotator sprinklers for row crops, canons for infrequent irrigation and flood irrigation in hay. Directions to the farm will be sent to registrants. Registration options other than online, contact Paula, 541-776-7371. Register online: <http://bit.ly/JacksonSmallFarms>

### Tuesday, April 10

Southern Idaho Livestock Hall of Fame induction. 6:30-9 p.m. Turf Club, 734 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, Idaho. This year's inductees are: cattle rancher Jim Baker of Filer; sheep and cattle ranchers Ed and Emily Baker (posthumously) of Filer; cattle ranchers Scott and Sarah Bedke of Oakley; dairy producers Harry and Flora Bokma of Buhl; long-time Bureau of Land Management supervisor Dean Brown of Jerome; and cattle ranchers Wade and Gwenna Prescott of Carey. Cost: \$25

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