



Pennsylvania State Grange

20 Erford Road, Suite 310
Lemoyne, Pennsylvania 17043
www.pagrange.org
email: pagrange@pagrange.org
717-737-8855
800-552-3865
fax: 717-737-8858

March 17, 2009

Dr. Aldo Jackson, Executive Director
and Board Members
Erie County Technical School
8500 Oliver Road
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Dr. Jackson and Board:

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Grange, representing 14,000 members in Pennsylvania, to urge you to provide vocational and technical training in agriculture in the Erie County Technical School. We fully support the Belle Valley Grange which contacted you last year on this matter. Delegates to the Pennsylvania State Grange annual meeting last October reaffirmed the following policy:

“Vocational Education: The Grange is concerned with the quality of education available for any student interested in an agricultural career and supports every effort to maintain strong vocational agriculture training programs in our public schools. The PA State Grange recommends the following:

1. Establishment of magnet schools of agricultural sciences in urban/suburban areas that would include computer literacy, supervised occupational experiences, and some changes in FFA.
2. Implement agriculture literacy programs and reform agriculture science programs, including adult programs.
3. Broaden the subject matter in the agricultural sciences.”

Modern agriculture offers a myriad of opportunities for rewarding careers in such varied fields as microbiology, turf grass management, food processing, plant pathology, veterinary and animal sciences, ag economics and rural sociology, entomology, ag engineering, to name a few. The introduction of these possibilities in high school could encourage students to pursue higher education and benefit all of us through their future careers.

The Grange believes that agricultural education could be very beneficial to Erie County and our Commonwealth and we encourage you to consider offering it in your school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy E. Huber
President