

THE DISPATCH

Fort Hays State University | Department of Agriculture
Volume 30 | Spring 2015



pg. 11

Agriculture in the Classroom
International Agriculture Conference

Behind the Scenes



Alumni and Friends,

We hope that this issue of The Dispatch finds you in good health and good spirits. As you can probably tell, the newsletter has taken on a new look from years past. This year the newsletter was put into the hands of the students enrolled in my Agricultural Communications and Public Relations course. This is a new course offered at FHSU and is in its second year. This course prepares students to communicate with consumers and producers of agricultural products through various forms of media including print, video, and social media.

With the aid of student editor Kacey Rieger, the students enrolled in the course wrote the articles and designed the layout of the newsletter. We hope you enjoy some new additions that we have made including some alumni spotlights and internship reviews.

It has been my pleasure to work with the students on this project and I commend them for the work that they put in. Preparing students to accurately share agriculture's story is a key component of an agricultural education and I feel that these students are equipped to do just that.

We hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,

Garrett M. Steede
Instructor

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Food for **THOUGHT**

From the Chair



Dr. John Greathouse
Chair of Department of Agriculture

Early this spring students in Garrett Steede's Agricultural Communications and Public Relations class began development of the department's annual newsletter. The finished product, which you have before you, is just one of many examples of implementation of the department's philosophy that encourages teaching beyond the textbook and providing students with access to real-life learning opportunities. We are proud of the students' accomplishment!

You'll find the format of this newsletter differs significantly from prior editions. Our goal was to give students the flexibility of designing and developing content they felt would be of interest to our alumni and friends who like to stay abreast of departmental news and activities. The articles touch on a number of current topics that define the department and our students of today.

Our programs are moving forward to address the educational needs of the students in preparation for their future professional careers. We are fortunate to have the support of Dr. Mirta Martin, FHSU's newest President, as we strive to provide the best undergraduate educational experience to our students.

From the **DEAN'S DESK**



Dr. Jeff Briggs
Dean, College of Health and
Life Sciences

The College of Health and Life Sciences is committed to providing the best educational opportunities for students who choose Fort Hays State University and enroll one of our outstanding academic programs.

Our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry partners are all dedicated to program excellence and it takes everyone pulling together to provide exceptional learning experiences for our students.

The academic programs and experiences in the Department of Agriculture are increasingly attractive to students who seek career opportunities in the agriculture industry and our family-friendly tuition makes us an institution of choice for students from the region and beyond.

The department has been a growth leader, serving nearly 290 majors this year, an 18.5% increase over the past three years and a 45% increase over the past 10 years!

The department provides multiple opportunities for students to excel, with a long history of getting students involved in a host of service learning projects, active laboratory experiences as well as collaborating in the operational and decision making aspects of the university farm. These integrated activities define the learning environment that makes the Fort Hays State University experience exceptional for our students!

New FACULTY

Curtis Satran



Photo by: University Relations

By: Clark Greene

Curtis Satran, the Swine Unit Manager, grew up in WaKeeney, Kan. He spent the majority of his time helping on the family farm where he developed an interest in driving the combine during wheat harvest and overseeing the cattle herd with his father.

He was also very active in FFA, raising show hogs all four years of high school. Satran graduated from Fort Hays State University in May of 2014 with a B.S. in Animal Science.

Satran began working at the University Swine Division the fall of 2012 as a student worker. Over the few years working as a student, Satran became very fond of the University Swine Division. In May of 2014, he began to manage the swine operation full time. Satran also helps assist FHSU faculty in coordinating different learning opportunities at the Swine Division, such as livestock evaluation and providing students with information about all the aspects of swine production. He is looking forward to this year's crop of county fair show hogs.

Satran's plan is to make the Swine Division more efficient. "Decreasing the amount of sows while producing more out of them would help not having to feed so many sows but trying to have more piglets out of the sows," Satran said. This is only one of the many goals Satran has for the division.

Currently, there are four students working at the farm part time and approximately 35 sows in production at the University Farm. One of the biggest issues he is having is selling the pigs. There are not any sale barns very close and the ones that are around here bring less than market value. Outside of work, Satran enjoys riding four-wheelers, helping work cows, and doing some renovations to the interior of the University Farm house. He also hopes to buy some more cows to have on the side.

Don Benjamin



Photo by: John Greathouse

By: Kyle Grant

Don Benjamin grew up in Garnett, Kan. near Kansas City. He spent much of his life helping on the family dairy farm. He holds an A.A from Allen County Community Junior College (1971), a B.S in Agricultural Education, (1973) and a M.S in Adult & Continuing Education, (1989) – both from Kansas State University.

He joined the Agriculture Department at Fort Hays University in August of 2014 as an instructor in Agricultural Business. This semester, Benjamin is teaching Marketing Farm Products, Agriculture Sales, and International Agriculture.

Don is active in the Ellis County Chamber of Commerce, Kansas Association of College and Teachers of Agriculture, American Society for Training and Development, and Kansas Association for Career & Technical Education.

Benjamin started teaching at Central Heights High School as a Vocational Agriculture Instructor (1973-1980). He was an instructor of a four- year agriculture program. He established a new agricultural department and developed new curricula. Since Benjamin became established in this position, enrollment went up by 50% of the senior high school enrollment.

In 2007, he became the Dean of the Hays Campus for NCK Tech. He was responsible for the operational budget of \$2 million, added four new programs, and increased the marketing strategies of the college. Full-time student enrollment went up by 92%. He worked with FHSU and he supervised a full-time staff of 28 people and an average of 5 adjuncts. Then in June of 2014 he retired from NCK Tech as Dean.

He enjoys his 40 acre farm in Ellis County where he has three cows, three calves and two horses.

ALUMNI

From Tiger To Successful Businessman

By: Kacey Rieger

Kiley McKinna, a 2005 Agricultural Business graduate of Fort Hays State University has made an impressive name for himself in the seedstock and marketing industry.

Originally from a farm/ranch in southeast Saskatchewan, Canada, McKinna found his way to Hays after attending his first two years at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, Neb. While in Curtis, he successfully competed on the livestock judging team.

"I was recruited by Dr. John Greathouse to be a part of the livestock judging team and that's essentially why I chose to continue my education at Fort Hays State University," McKinna said.

While at FHSU, McKinna was also involved in the Block & Bridle Club along with the livestock judging team. "Our team had a lot of success and I had quite a bit of individual success, as well."

Following graduation, McKinna worked as a territory manager in the western half of the United States and Canada for the

Limousin World, the official breed publication for the North American Limousin Foundation.

MC Marketing Management was created after McKinna made the decision to start his own cattle marketing business. While working for the *Limousin World*, he had been expanding sales throughout his territory and establishing business relationships with breeders across the country.

"The time was right in my life professionally. After 9 years of learning and understanding both the seedstock and marketing business, it was a natural transition into what I am doing now."

MC Marketing Management is based out of South Dakota and is committed to their clients and provides a sound start to anyone wanting to build their seedstock herd into something much more.

Whether organizing sales or day-to-day marketing needs, McKinna is there to provide them all for his clients.

McKinna credits his time at the



Photo submitted from MC Marketing Management website

Limousin World to helping him start his own business. "Starting your own business isn't always easy. It takes lots of patience and the understanding of the market your business will be serving."

"For students who will be graduating soon I recommend staying true to your strengths and diligently foster relationships that you have the ability to meet through Fort Hays State University and the industry you are going into."

Koch 'Adjusts' in the Performance Horse Industry

By: Kristi DePriest

Quinley (Oliphant) Koch is a native of Valley Center, Kan. and a 2003 graduate of Fort Hays State University. She is currently the proud and successful owner of Elite Equine Veterinary Services out of Valley Center.

Koch attended FHSU from 1998 to 2003 where she received her undergraduate degree in Animal Science. While at FHSU, Koch was a member of the FHSU Rodeo Team for barrel racing and a member of the pre-vet club.

After FHSU she went on to attain her masters in Animal Science at Texas A&M University and completed Veterinary School at Oklahoma State University in May 2010.

After graduating she interned at Interstate Equine, located south of Oklahoma City, for a year. She then moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico to work at a mixed animal practice.

While interning at a mixed animal practice Koch felt like it was just not for her and realized how strong her passion and love for helping and working with horses was. "I started Elite Equine in Valley Center because I wanted to go back to working on just horses. I wanted to work in

an area that needed good equine performance horse vets, and we wanted to get closer to home," Koch said.

She then moved back home to Valley Center and started Elite Equine Veterinary Services. She is certified with the International Veterinary Certification Service, to chiropractically adjust all small and large animals and does performance horse veterinary work. "The part of my job that I

love the most is helping performance horses and their owners perform to the top of their ability."

I absolutely love the chiropractic work that I do. I have seen amazing results and love adjusting animals," Koch said.

Elite Equine serves is a mobile vet clinic that serves the Kansas area. "My company has been truly blessed by God to grow as quickly as it has and I have been blessed with a husband that has been 110% supportive of all my hopes and dreams. I do truly love what I do and have been so blessed that my company has done well and that I continue to love helping performance horses."

Elite Equine is also an official sponsor of Barrel Bashes, barrel-racing events in the Midwest and they will also be adding some new and exciting performance horse services this year.

Koch looks forward to the future of Elite Equine and is optimistic about future growth of the performance horse industry in Kansas.



Photo submitted by: Kristi DePriest

INTERN 101

From Classroom to the Workplace

By: Mollie Ringleman



Photo submitted by the Department of Agriculture

Clayton Schamberger is a senior from Hoxie majoring in General Agriculture. This past summer Clayton had an internship at Simpson Farm Enterprises in Hays.

Schamberger had been working for the company part-time throughout the school year, and was asked if he'd be interested in doing an internship there.

"I talked to Dr. Greathouse about it and got it all arranged, and did my internship through them. It was nice because not only did I learn a lot, but I also got to stay in Hays for the summer,"

Schamberger said.

Some of the responsibilities Schamberger had during his time there was cleaning up the shop, stocking parts, working on machines, working on GPS systems, going on service calls, and calibrating sprayers.

"One thing that I remembered learning in classes that really helped out during my internship was knowing how to convert units for chemicals. It was nice to know that when I was helping customers load their chemical," Schamberger said.

Skills that he learned during his internship were how to communicate with customers, as well as work with the other employees, learning the mechanics of the engines, and learning the mechanics of the GPS systems.

"Learning how to better work with others will help out in the classroom, as well as knowing how to calibrate sprayers, and just being aware of new technologies in agriculture," said Schamberger.

Considering one of the things that Schamberger didn't enjoy so much about his internship was a

slow day in the shop, it's easy to see why his favorite part would be doing service calls. "I really liked doing service calls because it was a way to get out of the shop and see the different parts of the local area," Schamberger said. "It was also nice to get to interact with some of the farmers, and it taught me communication skills."

After graduation, Schamberger plans to return home and work on the family farm. The skills he learned during his internship with Simpson Farm Enterprises are things that will stick with him, and help him out on his farming adventure in the future.



One of the many sprayers Schamberger worked on this summer. Photo submitted by Clayton Schamberger

Internship Turned Dream Job

By: Faith Edwards

Internships are a great way for a person to test their future career and can be very useful when looking for a job that interests them.

Opportunities to be an intern in an agricultural based job are numerous and Tayla Cannella was able to expand her agricultural horizons at one of those internship opportunities.

Cannella grew up very involved in 4-H and her family's cow-calf operation in Calhan, Colo. One of the main reasons she attended FHSU was because of the University Farm and the hands-on experience it would offer her.

As time went on she began to sort out her career goals more specifically. She decided she wanted to pursue a degree in Animal Science with the ultimate goal of working as an Extension Agent.

That is where her internship came into play. Cannella was able to be an intern for K-State Research and Extension in Scott County. Through this internship she was able to attend many

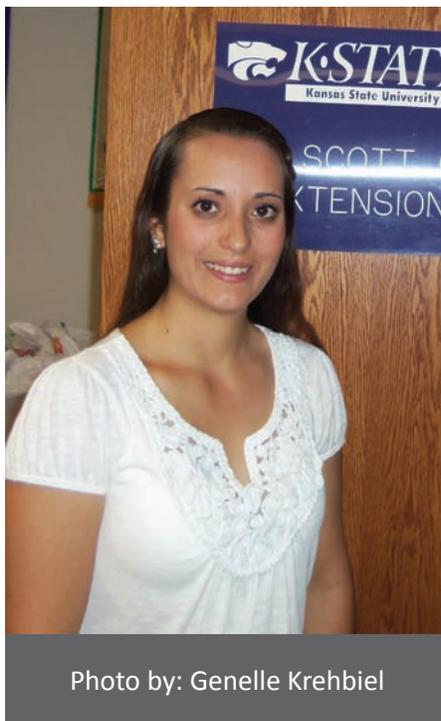


Photo by: Genelle Krehbiel

different 4-H camps in a leadership position. She attended the Rock Springs 4-H camp, 4-H Camp Counselor Trip, the Scott County Free Fair, and many other events.

She was also in charge of planning and organizing a 4-H Day Camp at Scott Lake. She had various responsibilities in and around the office building and

she was able to recognize 4-H graduates at the fair.

One of her favorite parts of the internship was that it was never monotonous! There was always something to do. She also felt like she was truly a part of the team, not just an errand girl.

The main benefit she received from the internship was hands-on experience in an extension office. She now has a deeper understanding of what it means to be an extension agent and what she will be expected to do when she gets her own job.

"An internship is the best way to gain work experience in a field that you are considering as a career. It is a great way to test the waters, so to speak, on a job that you may be unsure if you would like. It can lead to full-time opportunities, and open the door to so many opportunities. For me, it was a great way to get a foot in the door with extension and form a lot of connections that will definitely help me in the future," Cannella said.

AGRI 316 - Agricultural Management Practicum

Joe Aker - Gavilon, Omaha, Neb.

Jason Cowan - American Implement, Goodland, Kan.

Wendy Fields - Crop Production Services, Hoxie, Kan.

Shaun Gilbert - Johnston Seed Sales, Rexford, Kan.

Andrew Bixenman - Goetz Growing Agronomy, Colby, Kan.

Luke Bellar - Gordon Farms, Independence, Kan.

Michael Herbert - Production Advisory Service, Inc., Sublette, Kan.

Rebecca Heroneme - Midwest Community Bank, Plainville, Kan.

Kinsly Kroetsch - Sellers Feedlot, Lyons, Kan.

Jeremy Myers - Monsanto, Colby, Kan.

Sarah Homeier - Citizen State Bank and Trust, Ellsworth, Kan.

Brent Stoss - Winfield Solution, Lyons, Kan.

Lindsey Underwood - Seaman Crop Consulting, Hugoton, Kan.

Joel Stagemeyer - Landmark Implement Inc., Holdrege, Neb.

Nolan Queen - Rangeland Cooperatives Inc., Phillipsburg, Kan.

Christian Wilson - Pioneer Seed Sales / J&K Terrell LLC, Colby, Kan.

Cole Mangers - University of Nebraska / South Central Ag Lab, Harvard, Neb.

What's happening in the FHSU Department of Agriculture?

New Future for Dairy Facility

By: Austen Reneau

At the end of the Spring 2014 semester the dairy at the Fort Hays State University Farm was closed.

In an interview with Dr. John Greathouse, the chair for the Agriculture Department, the truth of why the dairy was eventually closed came to light.

"It would be too expensive to rebuild and would be better if we took students to current-up-to-date facilities in the area. It wouldn't be feasible to try and keep up with them due to cost. There was not much interest in the student population in the dairy industry. There wasn't a demand for graduates to have an extensive knowledge," Greathouse said.

Which makes sense due to the fact that the dairy industry has not been coming to Fort Hays to look for graduates in recent years.

According to Dr. Greathouse, a lot of money was put into updating the dairy in the late 90's. But in an industry that is rapidly advancing in technology,

that can be very costly. It makes sense to repurpose the dairy into something that more students are seeking.

That is why the dairy will be demolished and rebuilt into a confined beef feeding facility. The plans are to have a backgrounding lot and a finishing lot. This will be more academically productive due to the number of agriculture students pursuing a career in the beef cattle industry.

Demolition has begun on the dairy and expected to be completed in the next six months. The construction of the new feedlot will be started when financially possible.

As for the dairy cattle that were at the dairy, they were sold at a dispersal auction to dairy producers that came in from across the region. The fistulated cattle were kept for nutritional education purposes.

Some have wondered if the closing of the dairy had any impact on the other part of the

University Farm. Unfortunately, it does affect cash flow of the farm but not too drastically. The farm is not getting money for the milk anymore but at the same time money does not have to be spent on feed.

The excess crops that were grown for the dairy will be sold. The Beef and Swine Division will still get the same feed as well.

The new facility will house offspring from the beef herd we have now as well as opening up room to purchase some more cattle.

There is great interest from the department to improve all parts of the 3800 acre farm. It will tie up some resources but there is headway. There are also future plans to acquire a new flock of sheep.

The closing of the dairy shouldn't be seen as a negative. It should be seen as the Agriculture Department's steps into the future of agriculture technology and student accomodation.

A Green Thumb for Agriculture

Larned Community Garden By: Zar Ravitskiy



(L-R) Logan Huxoll (Cambridge, Neb.), Lucas Robison (Orleans, Neb.), Joey Augustine (Hays). Photo by: Dr. Jean Gleichsner

On May 8, 2014 the Home Horticulture class from Fort Hays State University, taught by Dr. Jean Gleichsner, participated in the Larned Garden Project.

This was an opportunity for students to participate in a community project and to use their newly acquired knowledge in a real life setting.

The goal of this community project was to help the people of Larned start a garden where the community would be able to grow different vegetables to help feed people.

The students traveled together to Larned, Kan. to participate in the garden project in the hopes of helping the community. The agricultural student body at FHSU is very active and always participates in community activities and the Larned Garden Project was no different for these students. There was 100 percent participation.

This was a city-funded project not only to beautify the city but also to provide food for the community.

"I thought it was good to get some hands-on experience, and apply what we did in the classroom to a real-life situation," said student Mollie Ringleman (Imperial, Neb.).

Using what they learned, they planted trees, seeds for different vegetables, set up the irrigation for the garden, and spread mulch.

This project was a rewarding opportunity for students. "Students loved the project and enjoyed helping the Larned community," said Gleichsner.

"This is something these kids will remember when they are looking back at their college lives. Projects like these make our Agriculture student body stronger and ready for the future."

New Courses

By: Logan Huxoll

New Opportunities

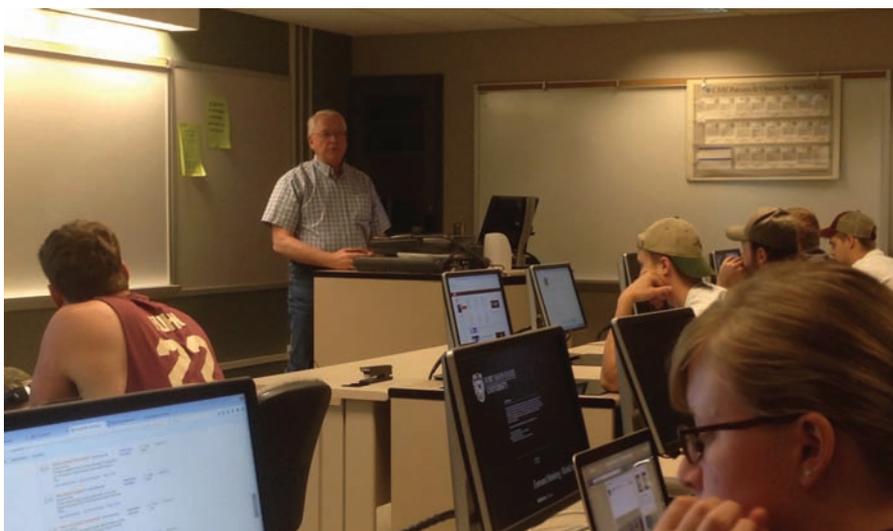
This year there were two new courses added to the agricultural business program.

The new courses were International Agriculture and Agriculture Sales, both elective courses. Don Benjamin teaches both of these 3.0 credit hour classes, both located in Albertson Hall.

The main purpose in adding these courses was to widen the choice for elective classes in the agriculture department and to help further educate students about these topics.

The Agriculture Sales course will help prepare students who are interested in the sales market. Kinsly Kroetsch (Lyons), a student of the Agriculture Sales class, said "I took the course for a future reference of selling equipment and hope to learn an array of tools from the class to do so."

The International Agricultural course studies the production system and the world demand in food. It helps students understand the processes and impacts that imports and exports have on the world population. The class currently can hold up to 24 students but could vary each year.



Mr. Benjamin instructing the Ag Sales class. Photo by Kinsly Kroetsch

There are some potential field trips for these classes as Benjamin hopes to attend an equipment show sometime in the future.

The International Agriculture class hosted a mini-conference with guest speakers. These speakers were professional experts from the Japanese Consulate and Kansas that explained global imports and exports between countries.

This conference was held on April 20 in the Black & Gold Room located in the Memorial Union. The first speaker began at 10:00 a.m.

All students and faculty were welcome to attend this event.



John Niemann of Cargill discussing international agriculture and career opportunities. Photo by Lexi Kiniston

Ag Awareness Week: An International Affair

By: Drew Dejmaj



Consulate General of Japan, Ko Hikasa kicked off the International Agriculture Conference on April 20. Photo by Lexi Kiniston

The inaugural International Agriculture class held a one-day conference featuring consulates from foreign countries speaking at FHSU on April 20 during Ag Awareness week.

The conference started at 8 a.m. with a guided tour for the guests and continued in the early afternoon and was open to all faculty and students of FHSU.

Students in the Topics in Agriculture: International Agriculture class assumed responsibility for making all arrangements including travel and lodging. Mr. Donald Benjamin, the class instructor, supervised as the class called and sent formal invitations along with emails in effort to land the speakers.

Speakers for the conference included a consulate from Japan, two representatives from The Kansas Department of Agriculture and a representative from Cargill. The Japanese consulate informs the United States of foreign technology, techniques, and trade.

Topics for the discussion include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), each country's international trade with the United States, along with many other topics.

When asked what the biggest challenges of the class were, Benjamin responded "finding information that is current and easy to understand, where the textbooks focus more on the economic side

of it." Benjamin went on to say "I look forward to the opportunity for the students to make the contacts to work on the organizational structure and really learn what it takes to put something on like the one day conference and also at the same time learning to deal with people from other cultures to invite them to present to us. I think it will be an excellent conference if we can get all the invited consulates to respond and accept our offer."

Students also participated in Ag in the Classroom at Ellis Elementary on April 21. The Agriculture Communications class was responsible for setting up a time to meet with the kids as well as coming up with lesson plans.

The group chose to display educational posters to the kids explaining how everyday products come from agriculture. They then were able to make their own garden in a glove with the help of FHSU students. Sigma Alpha sorority also participated in this event.

Block & Bridle

A Club That Never Stops

By: Kacey Rieger

The Block and Bridle Club has always been known for doing a variety of activities and fundraisers and the 2014-2015 school year was no different.

Block & Bridle is a club for students who are interested in animal agriculture; they do not necessarily have to be an agriculture major to join.

“Being in Block and Bridle is beneficial to all students, not just agriculture students. You get to meet students from the Agriculture Department and other departments on campus,” President, Morgan Hammel (Clay Center) said.

This year, Block and Bridle was composed of 36 members and met weekly on Wednesday evenings.

“We have all different phases of involvement in agriculture and in different aspects of agriculture in our club. There are members who are heavily involved in showing livestock, who grew up on a farm and still work on it, and members who grew up in town but they have an interest in agriculture. We welcome all students,” Hammel said.

In order to keep the club afloat, members must fund raise. Block & Bridle has two main fundraisers, Oktoberfest and Little International.

“We participate in Oktoberfest by having a booth during the celebration on Friday,” Hammel said. Members sold red Solo cups during Oktoberfest festivities.

“Little International is a showmanship and fitting competition in April. We ask local businesses and members from our community to sponsor prizes for the competition,” Hammel said.

Little International is held at the indoor arena open to students from all majors. The show was held on Saturday, April 11. Students were allowed to show beef heifers, swine, or both.

Champion and reserve champion of each specie in the novice division received jackets and the champion and reserve champion in the advanced division received belt buckles. Our annual awards ceremony and BBQ followed the day’s events.

Ag Awareness week was planned in conjunction with the Agricultural Communications and International Agriculture classes. It featured guest speakers, a community service project and visits to elementary school classrooms throughout Ellis County to educate students about agriculture through the Ag in the Classroom program.

The 95th annual Block & Bridle National Convention was held in Lubbock, TX at Texas Tech University on October 23-25. “Block and Bridle National Convention is a great way to learn more about the agriculture industry, the issues it is currently facing, and meet students and faculty from Universities across the United States,” said Hammel.

The club took 12 members and advisor, Mr. Garrett Steede. While at convention, the group enjoyed tours, speakers, and socializing with different chapters from across the country. “You are able to meet the speakers, who are very influential and knowledgeable people in the agriculture industry,” Hammel said.



Robert Weber (Garden Plain) getting his heifer ready for Little International.
Photo by: Kacey Rieger (Powhattan)

Crops Judging

By: Drew Dejmal

The Fort Hays State Crops judging team has been making preparations to compete in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) contest.

The team is coming off of a preliminary contest judged at Iowa State and have scheduled to compete in a contest in Manhattan.

As a part of the crop judging team they evaluate plant health and also identify plants and seeds species, identify fertilizer and pesticide problems, and also participate in problem solving and a general knowledge contest.

Crops Judging rules allow a participant to compete in only one event throughout their college career.

The team is coached by Dr. Bob Stephenson. The team consists of Joel Stagemeyer (Cambridge, Neb.), Ryan Kinsler (Kingman), Levi Preib (Buhler),

and Austin Schweiser (Sterling).

Crop judges earn a scholarship and knowledge that will be applied to their respective post-curricular careers. As long as they remain in the agricultural field they will be able to use what they have learned in one way or another. They also gain valuable experience in a competitive atmosphere.



Pictured right is the Crops Judging Team practicing for an upcoming contest. Picture by: Dr. Robert Stephenson

A Passion for Plants

By: Zar Ravitskiy

The Fort Hays State Agronomy Club is very passionate about plants. They're very competitive and put in a team effort to get the job done.

The facilitator, or the mentor, of this club is Dr. Stephenson. He has been the club's advisor for the last 15 years. He has seen the rise of popularity of the club as well as its fall.

Dr. Stephenson interacts with the students during club meetings. He was not standing in front of the class preaching to the students, but he was rather sitting in the middle of all the students. This showed that he likes to have a great relationship with his students.

There is a great bond between the club members and their advisor. Sitting and listening I could see

how they interacted with one another and were making jokes with Dr. Stephenson.

You know winning and bringing home medals and ribbons are really great but the most important thing that these students do each year is participate in the Toys for Tot's community project. They help gather and collect toys for the needy children of Ellis County during the Christmas time.

"Allowing the students to give back to the community through this program not only benefits the surrounding families but also helps the students grow as people," Stephenson said.

Collegiate Farm Bureau

By: Kyle Grant

The Collegiate Farm Bureau Club had an exciting 2015 school year and participated in several activities.

From Jan. 23-35, Collegiate Farm Bureau members went to Manhattan, Kan. for Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) conference where they participated in different seminars and workshops discussing new challenging farm topics.

This year they had workshops covering beef production in Kansas, genetically modified organisms, and insurance.

This year the club had 4 students who participated and won the quiz bowl competition; Luke Beller (Howard), Levi Prieb

(Buhler), Austin Schweizer (Sterling) and Ryan Kinsler (Kingman).

The Quiz Bowl consists of a group of four people, 20 questions per round.

These four students brought back a nice trophy, which is in the showcase in the second floor of Albertson Hall.

Two other students participated in the Discussion Meet; they were given four topics over Agriculture before they went to the YF&R Conference so they could study up on them. Megan Finlay (Loveland, Colo.)

received 2nd place and Amy Varner (Towanda) received 4th. Collegiate Farm Bureau of

Fort Hays is chaptered with Ellis County Farm Bureau. Ellis County invites Fort Hays Collegiate Farm Bureau to their meeting, so collegiate members can see what's happening at the state level.

This year Collegiate Farm Bureau has 17 registered members. They hosted Beef Awareness Day with the Beef Production class and Ellis County Farm Bureau. They brought in a guest speaker to talk about beef. For lunch they served hamburgers that were free to the students and faculty.

Farm Bureau lives by their motto "The Voice of Agriculture." These members want to show and tell the real story of agriculture.

Agriculture Business Club

By: Clark Greene

The Agriculture Business Club is part of the Agriculture Department at FHSU. This club accepts all majors at FHSU.

Some of the things that this club entails are at the beginning of the school year; members do a trash pick-up along the road by the Beef Division.

The club also does a social activity in the fall to get to know the new members. This year, the club held a Christmas party which was a fun way to end the semester.

During the spring semester, they host a lawn mower clinic.

Community members can reserve a spot to have their lawn mower serviced before the mowing season begins.

To service them, the members change spark plugs, oil, sharpen the blades, and clean the mower. This also serves as the main fundraiser for the year and has good feedback from the community.

The club also tries to take a trip in the spring. The club members pick where they want to go and then tour different agriculture businesses in that area.

Sometimes the members are

not able to take this trip if not enough members can go. If they are not able to go on the trip, they have started attending the Great Bend Farm Show instead.

"I joined the Agriculture Business Club because I saw it as a great way to meet people in my major and other students in the same thing that I am." said Morgan Hammel (Clay Center).

The advisors for the club are Dr. Craig Smith and Mr. Mick Glaze. Mr. Donald Benjamin has also been participating in club activities this year.

DTA Quiz Bowl Champions Crowned

By: Kristi DePriest

Fort Hays State University's Honor Society Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) celebrated the 22nd year of the Annual DTA Quiz Bowl Wednesday March 25, 2015.

The DTA Quiz Bowl started at FHSU back in 1993 as a way for students to have fun and test their agriculture knowledge.

Members of DTA, advisors, teachers, and students put on a quiz bowl. Students form teams of three students and have to win rounds of 20 questions.

The 20 questions are made up of five questions in each of the following categories: agribusiness, agronomy, animal science and general agriculture knowledge. They did not have to be an agriculture major to participate.

"They have a Quiz Bowl at the National Convention so it kind of mimics that, that's what we kind of have it patterned after" said Dr. Jean Gleichsner, advisor of DTA. There were a total of nine participants that competed against each other for the 2015 Quiz Bowl.

The winners this year were Drew Amerin (Plains), Ryan Kinsler (Kingman) and Austin Schweizer (Sterling) and they will get their names placed on the DTA Quiz Bowl Winners plaque and then are awarded a business folder for winning.

"In the past, students that were going to the DTA National Convention used this as a warm up to see where they're at, but we don't have the students study-

ing advanced questions. It's all about what do you know at this point," Gleichsner said.

The questions are mostly entry-level questions that are covered during a student's first couple of years of the agriculture programs.

"Usually the questions are based on courses that everyone would've taken early on. So even though we have agribusiness questions, they're more the entry level agribusiness questions that everybody would have been given that knowledge if they took Introduction to Agribusiness; same with Crop Science," Gleichsner said.

There are some advanced questions so participants are encouraged to form teams of different areas of interest. For example: combining individuals from agribusiness, animal science and a crops science increases the chance of answering more advanced questions.

This year DTA currently has 13 members with four newly inducted members this 2014-2015 school year. Delta Tau Alpha looks forward to continually offering additional educational opportunities for its current and future members.



(L-R) Austin Schweizer (Sterling), Ryan Kinsler (Kingman), and Drew Amerin (Plains)

Judging Team Steps Into New Arena

By: Austen Reneau

The Fort Hays State University Meat Judging Team wrapped up the season during the fall semester of this year.

It was a year of across the Midwest for the team. There were contests in Texas, Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska.

The team worked out in Oklahoma and Wyoming to prepare for the contests.

In Fort Worth, Laura Brunk (Saint Francis) took 3rd in Pork Judging and 5th in Placings while Austen Reneau was High Individual in Placings.

At the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Contest the FHSU team took first place while having team members place 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th individually.

In Omaha, at the American Royal Contest, team member Hylie Dibbern (Cairo, Neb.) placed in the Lamb Judging while Shelly Chambers (Agate, Colo.) won the Spirit award for the team.

“It surpassed my expectations. Despite having less access to product that other teams had, the team was able to stay competitive and even bring home some hardware.” said Coach Garrett

Steede.

He also added that the NACTA contest was his favorite part due to the team dominating the contest. The Fort Worth contest was also his favorite because team continued to excel.

The team in the fall consisted of team member’s Hylie Dibbern,

Shelly Chambers and Austen Reneau.

Overall the year went better than expected for the Fort Hays Team. It was the consensus of the team that it was a great learning experience and a great way to get to know more people in the agriculture community.



(L-R) Austen Reneau (Brighton, Colo.), Hylie Dibbern (Cairo, Neb.), Shelly Chambers (Agate, Colo.), and Coach Garrett Steede

FHSU Rodeo Excels in Tough Region

By: Mollie Ringleman

The FHSU Rodeo Club is a very active group this year, consisting of 35 members total in the group, with 23 of those members actively competing in rodeos.

A Fort Hays student competes in every event, with two bareback riders, two saddle bronc riders, three bull riders, one bull fighter, one calf roper, 10 breakaway ropers, 12 barrel racers, 14 team ropers, two steer wrestlers, and four participants in goat tying.

The students attend 10 rodeos during the school year, four in the fall and six in the spring. One of the big events that our Rodeo Club prepares for is the Hays Rodeo. This event was held on April 17-19 with 4 performances; April 17 at 7:30 p.m., April 18 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and the final performance

on April 19 at 1:00 p.m.

With a little under 500 competitors from 27 different colleges in Kansas and Oklahoma attending, bringing with them close to 3,000 people, this is a great event.

“This was a huge event for Hays – the hotels, eating places, gas stations, bars-they’ll all see how this event helps their business. It’s a major event for the community as well as the college,” said Bronc Rumford, head coach for the Rodeo Team.

Fort Hays is part of the largest, and arguably toughest, region in college rodeo. The world champion and reserve champion of the world last year were from this region. We typically have one to four kids who are in the short-go (championship) round at

every rodeo.

“This year’s teams are very good. The girl’s team is very talented; same with the guys – only they are very young – almost all freshmen and sophomores. It’s unusual for a freshmen or sophomore man to excel the first few years, especially in this tough region,” Rumford said.

The rodeo team is proving to be competing very well this year. We have three boys in the Top 10: Jake Willems, Junior, Windom, in bareback riding, and Matt Rezac, Freshman, Onaga and Tye Nickell, Junior, Norton, who are both partners in team roping. We also have one lady in the Top 10: Tonnica Ouellette, Senior, Yoder, Colo., in goat tying.

The main focus of the Rodeo Club is still education; most students are using rodeo as a motivator to do well in their classes.

Students need to be enrolled in 12 credit hours, and have at least a 2.0 GPA to be able to compete. Even though some members may have this achieved, a few have still been redshirted, in hopes that a little bit more practice can prepare them for a better year.

Rumford claims that the life lessons learned from rodeo are very beneficial, and worth having.



Bullfighter Jake Welker (Pretty Prairie), steps in to protect the contestant. Photo by Mariah Utter.

Alpha Gamma Rho

From Leaders to BBQ Champions

By: Logan Huxoll

Alpha Gamma Rho, often referred to as “AGR”, is the agriculture fraternity here at Fort Hays State University.

February 13-14, the chapter had the opportunity to participate in a Leadership Seminar in Fort Worth, Texas. Anyone who was a member of AGR could have gone to the event, but only 12 members were able to participate. The leadership programs were to help improve better business and leadership skills and strategies.

Some main purposes of the event that the seminar helped students with was how to work together as a team, make different strategies of improvement, and to better ones-self and the group as

leaders.

During the afternoons the members participated in workshops that assigned each member with numerous different tasks.

Some things that the members were taught and experienced were how to strike up a conversation with a person that they didn’t know, or they gave them a problem scenario and the members had to solve the problem in a legally fashioned manner.

AGR was able to participate in the event by money that was earned by the fraternity that paid for the registration fee, hotel rooms, and fuel.

The chapter also attended the annual barbecue cook-off that

was held in Lebanon, Tenn. from April 18-19. This was the third year that the barbecue event has taken place, which the chapter has participated in every year.

Last year, there were 15 teams total that participated in the cook-off and the AGR members of Fort Hays State University were the undergraduate champions for the best chicken.

By winning this event they won a total of \$650 in scholarship money and a free trip to return again this year.

This year AGR has 21 members participating in the barbecue cook-off in teams of five.

All other members who do not compete in the cook-off compete in games that the barbecue provides.



Members of the AGR Fraternity enjoying their annual trap shoot.

Photo by: Clive Brown

More Than Boots and Buckles

Sigma Alpha Agriculture Sorority

By: Faith Edwards



Bottom row (L-R): Morgan Lease (Bridgeport, Neb.), Morgan Hammel (Clay Center), Jaid Runft (Scandia), Trisha Penning (Atchison), April Mays (Wallace), Stephanie Geven (Syracuse), Faith Edwards (Winona), Bailey Springer (Imperial, Neb.), Caitlin Alstatt (Marquette). Back Row (L-R): Laura Newson (Belpre), Jana Cook (Gove), Mariah Utter (Brewster, Neb.), Jacy Buchholz (Wakeeney), Lacey Bowles (Lindsborg), Kristi DePriest (Clearwater), Courtney Bohl (Phillipsburg), Kacey Rieger (Powhattan), Abby Baker (Parker, Colo.). Photo by: Mollie Ringleman (Imperial, Neb.)

Are you looking for an organization that promotes agriculture and great friendships? Sigma Alpha or Sisters in Agriculture is a professional sorority that does just that.

Sigma Alpha has all of those same values that you learned back on the farm and will also help you learn more about current agricultural issues.

Just last November the sorority brought in a representative with the Nebraska Cattleman's Association and a woman whose ranching skills made her an inspiration to all of us. They meet throughout the year for many different activities.

Whether it is getting together to work on a fun project or traveling to a bee farm to further

their agricultural education, the Sigma Alpha ladies know how to combine fun with real life, practical experience.

Not only is Sigma Alpha a professional sorority with great values, but they also like to have fun, with activities like their Kiss-A-Pig Contest. Back by popular demand, the Kiss-A-Pig contest took place during the FHSU Rodeo. Various faculty members were candidates to kiss the pig.

The Sigma Alpha ladies had a table in Albertson Hall to collect donations. The faculty member with the most donations, Dr. Robert Keener, kissed the pig at the rodeo in front of the audience.

Sigma Alpha was introduced to the FHSU campus six years ago. In fact, the ladies of Sigma Alpha had a reunion on April 25 to bring current members and alumni together. This was the first time that some of the current members and the alumni have had an opportunity to meet.

Sigma Alpha also provides young women with the opportunity to meet with fellow agricultural enthusiasts from around the country. Sigma Alpha as a whole hosts national conferences around the country that different chapters of Sigma Alpha can attend.

The ladies of Sigma Alpha come together every Monday at 7 p.m. just to be around other women who love agriculture. Like other sororities, Sigma Alpha assigns new members to a "big sister" for their first year. Having a mentor with the same interests can be a great help to new students.

The meetings and other planned activities throughout the year further their knowledge of agriculture and strengthen their bonds of friendship.

Any young ladies interested in agriculture are welcome to rock their wranglers and scoot their boots on over to the Sigma Alpha sorority.

Scholarship [2014-2015]

RECIPIENTS

Ark River Bend Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society

Casie Price - Mullinville

Base Camp Leasing

Nick Smith - Sharon Springs

R. Guy Bemis Memorial

Alex Burgess - Sterling

Paul W. Boxberger

Cayton Janousek - Great Bend

Department of Agriculture Endowed

Jared Helfrich - Wright

Brent Stoss - Olmitz

Edward and Carolyn Scanlon Fund

Claire Couey - Hill City

Andrew Flax - Brownell

Tuker Gillespie - Grainfield

Madison Long - St. John

Brent Stoss - Olmitz

Martin and Amelia Gross Family

Jace Nordyke - Holly, Colo.

High Plains Farm Credit

Jared Helfrich - Wright

Kansas Farm Bureau

Ryan Kinsler - Kingman

Austin Schweizer - Sterling

Kansas Farm Credit

Emily Braun - Munjor

Anthony R. Legleiter

Memorial

Anthony Schmidtberger - Victoria

Herbert L. Fought Fund

Garrett Balsick - Calham, Colo.

Luke Bellar - Howard

Jared Brockman - Deweese, Neb.

Trey Brown - Cheyenne Wells, Colo.

Laura Brunk - Saint Francis

Alex Burgess - Sterling

Tayla Cannella - Calhan, Colo.

Jason Cowan - Goodland

Mandy Deines - Frankfort

Drew Dejmal - Munden

Garrett Flax - Utica

Stormy Flemming - Pratt

Thomas Frusher - Ness City

Nicoles Gerdes - Holdrege, Neb.

Corbin Greene - Jewell

Morgan Hammel - Clay Center

Connor Hazuka - McDonald

Jared Helfrich - Wright

Kristin Huser - Victoria

Lexi Kiniston - Ridgway, Colo.

Kaycee Kissel - Protection

Seth Koetter - McCook, Neb.

Broden Kraus - Hutchinson

Lindy McKinney - Greensburg

Caleb Nitsch - Burlington, Colo.

Jace Nordyke - Holly, Colo.

Trisha Penning - Atchison

Levi Preib - Buhler

Diaz Pureco - Wray, Colo.

Jared Reiman - Lawrence, Neb.

Austen Reneau - Westminster, Colo.

Lucas Robinson - Orleans, Neb.

Cody Rosburg - Elbert, Colo.

Anthony Schmidtberger - Victoria

Clayton Skolout - McCook, Neb.

Nick Smith - Sharon Springs

Seth Smith - Winona

Tanner Snell - Spring Hill

Hannah Speer - Dighton

Joel Stagemeyer - Cambridge, Neb.

Kyle Storer - Paxton, Neb.

Katelyn Sughrouo - Bartley, Neb.

Danielle Szuba - Topeka

Janel Tammen - Timken

Aaron Thieman - Simla, Colo.

Amy Varner - Towanda

Chase Wagner - Ebson

Jacob Welker - Pretty Prairie

American Ag Credit

Jason Cowan - Goodland

Lindy McKinna - Greensburg

Doug Palen Family

Thomas Frusher - Ness City

Kristin Neises - Belle Plaine

Garrett Flax - Utica

Bill and Deniece Roth Family

Joseph Aker - Abilene

Andrew Bixenman - Grainfield

Casie Price - Mullinville

Norvan and Dorothy Harris Endowed

Andrew Amerin - Plains

Cheyenne Marrs - Fowler

Hannah Speer - Dighton

Charles and Lura Stuzman Memorial

Laura Brunk - Saint Francis

Roemer Scholarship

Luke Bellar - Howard

Andrew Bixenman - Grainfield

Carl and Caroline Wheeler Book/ Grassland Study

Jared Reiman - Lawrence, Neb.



Saying FAREWELL

Glaze Closes Chapter at FHSU

By: Garrett Steede



Photo by: University Relations

For the past 11 years, students in the Agriculture Department at FHSU have been taught, advised, and mentored by Mr. Mick Glaze. At the conclusion of this spring semester that will come to an end as Glaze has made the decision to retire.

“For the past 11 years I have lived 120 miles away from my wife, kids, and grandkids during the week. While I have been able to commute home every weekend, I know that it’s time to go home and stay there,” said Glaze about his decision to retire.

Glaze came to Fort Hays State University after careers in extension and banking. “One thing I really missed about being in the banking industry was the student interaction.” With a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education, Glaze noticed that his favorite part of his job in banking was teaching customers about how to handle their personal finances. When this position at FHSU came open, he knew it was the right move for him at the time.

Glaze reflects on his decision to come to FHSU as being the right time. “At the time, all of my kids were grown and I didn’t have any grandkids yet so it was a good move for me. My son, Logan even came to FHSU and had me as his instructor for his very first college course.”

Glaze expressed how he could not have done this without his wife, Linda, continuing to take care of the chores back home and supporting him in this professional move. “She will be happy to have me back to help her with all of those,” Glaze said.

Glaze has made a lasting mark on hundreds of students throughout his time at FHSU and will be missed by many. We wish him luck and lots of rest as he embarks on this next chapter in life.