

AGREVIEW



Volume 38
Fall 2019

Missouri
State

WILLIAM H. DARR
COLLEGE of
AGRICULTURE

Meet the Writers

The Ag Review is planned, written and designed by the newswriting in agriculture class under the direction of Katelyn McCoy, instructor of agricultural communications at Missouri State University.



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About The Cover

Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station honey is for sale in multiple locations. Turn to page 14 to read more about the Mountain Grove campus and how to access the products produced there. Photo courtesy of Macey Hurst.

The newsletter is available for viewing at ag.missouristate.edu/publications and issuu.com/mostateag.

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From the Dean



I am so proud to be a part of the Darr College of Agriculture (COAG). The faculty, staff, and students are an amazing group of people who have a clear passion for agriculture. With each passing year we continue to serve the people of Missouri and beyond with excellent teaching, research and outreach efforts.

The generosity of our alumni and friends continues to humble me. I am so impressed with their kindness in establishing endowments and scholarships, and the gifting of land and resources to help support our college and MSU as a whole. Most notably is the recent commitment from Bill and Virginia Darr and the Darr Family Foundation of \$6.5 million. This incredible gift will help fund the construction of two buildings at the Darr Agriculture Center: 1) a classroom building to house a Springfield Publics Schools magnet school dedicated to agricultural education and 2) a companion animal education facility for the Darr College of Agriculture. We are so grateful for all the support we receive and want to thank everyone for thinking of us as you consider philanthropic donations.

In the past few years, study away opportunities within the COAG have grown to include programs in Taiwan, China, Haiti, Nepal, Kenya and Brazil. Through these programs, students are able to gain invaluable hands-on experiences with experts from across the globe, learn about other cultures, and increase their marketability. In addition to sending our

Ag Bears out internationally, we continue to host a number of international students. A certificate in International Agriculture Leadership was created as a way to recognize international students studying at MSU and MSU students participating in study away with a credential.

Over the past year, we have hired new faculty and staff to the college. Natalie Mook has joined us to serve as an instructor and equestrian team coach. Natalie has done an outstanding job and we look forward to continued success. Jean Cobban has joined us as an administrative assistant in the dean's office. We are pleased to have Jean with us; among many talents, she brings an expertise in data acquisition and summation. Fulfilling the role as accounting specialist, Gwenny Nance joined us in early 2019 and has done an incredible job in assisting me in managing the extensive accounting within the college. We are blessed to have these three outstanding individuals as part of our team.

My family and I are so grateful and feel blessed to be part of the MSU COAG. I wish you all good health and God's grace.

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College of Agriculture introduces new certificates and minor

By: Emily Selby

The Darr College of Agriculture recently added several new programs to increase opportunities for students. Students can now earn a minor in ranch management and earn certificates in sustainable food production and companion animal management. With the agricultural industry changing, there is a need for the programs offered through the College of Agriculture to evolve and adapt. By offering new programs, students may be better prepared for high demand careers in the agricultural industry.

Ranch Management Minor

The ranch management minor was created due to the growing need for hands-on experience in the animal science industry.

“There is a student demand to be able to demonstrate that they had experience in not just coursework, but actual hands-on application of the things they learned,” said Gary Webb, professor and department head of animal science.

The program requires a minimum of 20 credit hours of specific courses, paired with an internship on a livestock operation. Required courses include Farm Business Management, Forage Crops for Animals and the Environment and Ranch Management Experience.

The minor was created to provide students with the skills necessary to successfully manage a ranch, such as raising livestock, improving feed and forage crops, and overseeing resources and finances.

“The idea is that to identify or show to a potential employer that you actually have hands-on experience on a livestock operation,” Webb said.

Companion Animal Management Certificate

The companion animal management certificate focuses on companion animal science, but relates to many career fields. The versatility of the curriculum makes the program appealing to students both inside and outside of the College of Agriculture.

“We recognize that there is a large employment opportunity for graduates within the companion animal industry,” said Lacy Sukovaty, DVM, assistant professor of animal science. “The advantage of a certificate is that it is a stand-alone credential that individuals can come to the university and achieve that will give them an emphasis and an increased knowledge base in the companion animal industry.”

This certificate includes 12 hours of classes, in addition to a three-hour internship with an emphasis in companion animals. To be considered for the companion animal management certificate, students must submit a written essay explaining how the certificate would benefit them in their career path.

Sustainable Food Production Certificate

The sustainable food production certificate was created to showcase what students were learning in the field of small farms and food production. This certificate is available to not only full-time students wanting to specialize in this topic, but also those who may not want to obtain an entire 4-year degree. Individuals already in food production seeking additional knowledge would also be good fits for this program.

This certificate is designed to provide hands-on experience to students, which is carried out through the internship portion.

Students receiving this certificate must complete an internship that pertains to any food production aspect, as well as 15 credit hours of specified classes.

Melissa Bledsoe, associate professor of environmental Plant science and natural resources is spearheading the program.

“For students, it’s an opportunity to showcase that they’ve had more experiences in this one area, and the internship aspect ensures that they’ve had hands-on experience, that they can apply what they’ve learned in class.”

International Agriculture Leaders Certificate

The Darr College of Agriculture created the international agriculture leaders certificate to recognize students attending Missouri State University from other countries, who will not be staying long enough to obtain a 4-year degree. Many exchange students only stay for a semester or a year, eliminating the possibility for them to obtain a degree or a minor. The certificate allows students to leave Missouri State with an extra credential to show they have a specialized education. Also, this certificate allows Missouri State students who express an interest in studying agriculture in other parts of the world to obtain a certificate to pair with their major.

Christi Sudbrock, instructor of agribusiness, works closely with international programs and understands the value international experiences bring to future employment.

“Hopefully what will happen is that it will be something that students will be able to direct their employers to,” Sudbrock said. “They can talk about their experiences that they’ve had in these international programs, either when they return to their home country or employers here in the United States.”

College of Agriculture, Communications Department unite, offer more class options

By: Olivia Robinson

All Missouri State students can now enroll in agricultural communications classes offered through the Darr College of Agriculture (COAG). Since its establishment in spring 2019, courses in the degree program have been popular among students outside the COAG. Courses have been particularly popular among students in the College of Arts and Letters' communications program.

Nathan Fent, agricultural communications instructor and adviser notes the increase of communications students enrolled in his classes is due to the positive relationship between the colleges.

"When I first started three years ago, we didn't have any non-ag communication majors in our classes and it's really increased," Fent said. "We send a lot of our students over there and they're starting to do the same."

Communications instructor and adviser Jerri Lynn Kyle advises her public relations (PR) majors to consider taking COAG classes because of the direct relationship between classes in both colleges.

When Kyle and Jim Bellis, assistant to the dean of the College of Agriculture, worked through the degree programs for both degrees, they noticed the positive opportunities available for students through taking agricultural communications classes like Layout and Design for Agricultural Publications, Feature Writing for Agricultural Publications, or News Writing in Agriculture, that weren't directly available in the Communications Department.

"I find that fundamentally these courses are the same," Kyle said. "It's no different than going and working for a company that specializes in one specific thing and then focusing their marketing, PR,



Nathan Fent, agricultural communications instructor, practices photo techniques with students on Missouri State University's campus. Photo courtesy of Courtney Hall.

communications, all of it, on what they specialize in."

Natalie Benne, a junior public relations major and agriculture business minor from Lohman, Mo is enrolled in two agricultural communications classes this semester. Benne is able to count these classes for both her major and minor.

"I didn't necessarily want to major in ag communications, because I wasn't sure if that's strictly what I wanted to do," Benne said. "I thought I could still incorporate agriculture into my college education some type of way; then if I wanted to pursue a career with something to do with ag communications or working for an agricultural company, I would still have a little bit of a background in ag."

Similarly to Benne, Brooke Trammell, a senior PR major

with a general agriculture minor from Ashland, Mo, believes her agricultural communications classes are giving her opportunities for both her major and minor.

"I'm filling certain qualifications for my degree and I'm getting a mixture of my major and my minor in the classes," Trammell said.

As the number of students benefiting from this opportunity increases, Kyle believes this is just a glimpse of what is possible because of Missouri State's attitude toward student success.

"I think Missouri State in general is really good about creating those relationships with each specific college, especially the College of Ag," Kyle said. "I think it's great how students can get outside of a specific college and go take other classes that can relate to their major as well."

College of Agriculture recruits future students with dual enrollment

By: Taylor Allee

The Darr College of Agriculture uses dual enrollment courses as recruitment tools for prospective bears. High school students involved in vocational agriculture programs are ideal participants because of their extra efforts in agricultural courses.

Dual enrollment is when a class qualifies for both high school and college credit. Certain amounts of credit are allotted to the courses with the typical variation of two credits for high school and one credit for college. Dual enrollment allows students to pay less for courses and get ahead on their program of study. All college classes can be offered as dual enrollment. The structure of agriculture dual credit classes is what makes them stand out.

Missouri State University is hands-on with the structure of dual enrollment classes. Jim Bellis,

assistant to the dean in the Darr College of Agriculture, works with instructors across the state to create their courses. Credit is also awarded to students participating in career development events (CDEs). Individuals that place in Group 1 at the state level of FFA contests receive credit. This form of dual enrollment is only offered through the College of Agriculture at Missouri State. Bellis explained this creates a strong presence for our college because we are rewarding students for their hard work.

“We’re the only school in the state that allows students to get credit for the career development events,” Bellis said. “That exposes a student to our university for the first time because they get college credit. Then we develop a presence and maybe they’ll come and visit us later on.”

Katie Walker, sophomore wildlife

conservation major from Stockton, Missouri, took dual enrollment courses through Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri and Ozark Technical College. Walker described Missouri State as the best quality dual enrollment program, which led to her decision to become an ag bear. She also received credit from CDE participation in dairy foods, agronomy, ag sales, forestry, grasslands and floriculture. Learning university computer systems, the expectation of college classes, and being farther along in her degree area were positive experiences she took away from dual enrollment courses.

“I think taking dual credit classes helped me get ahead. The courses prepared me for college level classes before I moved here,” Walker said.

Service learning, College of Agriculture partner through Food Security

By: Olivia Robinson

Food Security, one of the Darr College of Agriculture’s general education courses, was officially registered as an Introductory to Service Learning designated class in the spring 2019 semester, making it the first for the College of Agriculture.

Sarah Lancaster, assistant professor of environmental plant science, began teaching Food Security in 2016 when she joined the faculty at Missouri State. Since 2016, she has worked with the Center for Community Engagement to bring service learning to the College of Agriculture.

According to Alex Johnson, director of community engaged learning, a course has to require four service hours in order for it to be considered an introductory course. Lancaster’s class requires students to choose four hours of volunteering and then conduct a presentation on the experience.

“We partner a lot with Springfield

Community Gardens and with Ozarks Food Harvest, but I try to give students flexibility so that they can do something that is meaningful to them,” Lancaster said.

Kate Forward, sophomore exercise movement science major from Columbia, Missouri, is currently enrolled in Food Security and finds that getting outside the classroom and into these gardens has brought a new light on what it means to learn.

“A lot of the gardens are in poor neighborhoods and it’s cool to see that the community is trying to make a difference and get the people in the neighborhood involved with something that’s positive,” Forward said.

Johnson helps students like Forward take lessons taught through these introductory classes and apply them through Integrated Service Learning courses. Integrated Service Learning courses are for students interested in 40 hours or more of service learning.

Introductory Service Learning courses, like Food Security, allow students to experience Integrated Service Learning.

“[Students] started with a GEP four hour and now are leading other students to different locations in the U.S. to focus on food security. One is doing a trip to New Orleans and they’re focusing on community revitalization and having discussions about food access, homelessness and hunger, and working with some community gardens there,” Johnson said. “It was just neat to see students progress as leaders through those kinds of learning experiences.”

Johnson believes that Food Security can be the start of service learning within the College of Agriculture.

“We would love for all of our ag courses to be considered service learning. Agriculture is an applied discipline,” Johnson said. “The things professors are providing for students could be considered service learning.”

College of Agriculture alumna hosts show featuring students

By: Macey Hurst

A local television show, hosted by a Darr College of Agriculture (COAG) alumna, focuses on telling the story of farming, ranching and rural life by featuring students.

Jamie Johansen of Lebanon, Missouri, serves many roles in both the agriculture industry and Southern Missouri communities. Her most recognizable role is likely as host and producer of “From the Tailgate”, a television segment aired on local channels throughout Southwest

Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. At the show’s inception, Johansen said deciding the type of people she wanted to spotlight was the easy part.

“From the very beginning, I wanted to feature young people, and so naturally you’re going to seek out your Alma mater and use your resources,” Johansen said. “I’ve tried to keep diversity in the age, but then how are collegiates taking that, and looking towards their future careers or their family operations.”

Lane Hankins graduated from the Darr College of Agriculture in 2018 with degrees in agricultural business and agronomy, and is one of those students who took what he learned in the classroom and applied it to the row crop business he operates with family. He was excited for the opportunity to share their story.

“I felt honored that they were promoting agriculture and cared about it and wanted to see how we did things on our operation,” Hankins said. “Being able to share how we do things on our farm is always exciting.”

Hankins, now an equipment salesman for Crown Power & Equipment, says people come into his workplace and recognize him from the show. He was happy to see the show’s broad audience of viewers, both agricultural and non.

Kara Powelson, a graduate student of environmental plant science, was featured as manager of Campus Gardens. She also received enthusiastic feedback from viewers.

“They loved the interview!” Powelson said. “They loved how we were able to share and promote the garden through an informational video.”

She said working with Johansen in the show’s format made the experience relaxed and the message genuine.

“I loved how casual the interview was and that I felt comfortable being interviewed out in the garden,” Powelson said. “She knew what to ask to help get the whole story and picture of what the garden was about.”

Johansen said everyone has a story, and each person she features can serve as a role model

to someone watching. She hopes these students serve as inspiration for future young agriculturists and producers alike. Hankins had the same goal.

“I like to teach people and help answer questions,” Hankins said. “We may not do everything right, but we try to do it to the best of our ability. If they can find something good from that, then I hope that can benefit them.”

Hankins and Powelson are among many Darr College of Agriculture features. Others include students conducting research and operating businesses, campus organizations and COAG events. While she seeks diversity in age, background and agricultural experience, Johansen said she fully intends to continue including motivated, young agriculturists to drive the story.

“When we’re trying to look at a 360-degree view of agriculture and rural life here in our area, you have to talk about young people,” Johansen said. “If you’re not talking about young people, then you’re not talking about the future of agriculture.”

You can find Johansen and guests on “From the Tailgate” Sundays at 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on KOZL-Z27.



Left: Johansen and Powelson prepare for a garden side interview.

Above: Hankins describes and shows off his operation from the tractor seat.

Three students, three majors, three impacts in organizations outside Darr College of Agriculture

By: Andi Montgomery

With over 350 student organizations on campus, Darr College of Agriculture students are involved in leadership roles in organizations including University Ambassadors, Student Government Association, Centennial Leaders and many more.

Sarah McCord, sophomore agricultural education major from California, Missouri, has used her experience with University Ambassadors to grow as a person and find the things she's passionate about. Giving back through guiding campus visits and tours has allowed her to see others feel the same comfort she feels at Missouri State.

"I've gained a lot of leadership skills and pride in our university that I can't wait to share with others," McCord said.

Another student organization, Student Government Association (SGA) is a place where students are given a voice for improvements and additions on campus. Luke Donovan, freshman environmental plant science major serves as a senator for the University Diversity

and Inclusion Committee where he creates groups and events for minorities to come together, such as heritage months and cultural celebrations. Outside of his committee, he found ways to serve the Sustainability Committee by introducing the idea of bees coming to campus. SGA has allowed to get involved on campus, which is something Donovan didn't expect.

"It's definitely changed my perspective on wanting to be involved and doing more things around campus, by promoting things I never thought I'd be doing. I like seeing actual change that we do now. It's just cool to see projects around campus that I had an impact on," Donovan said.

Katy Grant, agricultural communications major has a role in the Centennial Leader program provided through MoState Lead. Her roles include learning her leadership style and how she can use it to make an impact on her colleagues and faculty at Missouri State.

"This program has taught me

that I'm a quiet leader. I'm not a super outgoing, outspoken person, but we need all kinds of leaders to successfully be part of a team and at times lead it," Grant said.

Centennial Leaders has focused on improving her ability to serve in a style that fits her, and continue to be involved. Eye opening experiences through this organization have helped her fill in the missing skills, giving her friendship, purpose and so much more.

Leadership roles stretch beyond Karls Hall for the students involved at Missouri State University. The organizations and students mentioned above are just a glimpse at the possibilities offered at Missouri State University.

If you are interested in becoming part of the leadership across campus reach out to organizations mentioned above or the Office of Student Engagement at <https://organizations.missouristate.edu/guide/student-organization-handbook.htm>.



University Ambassadors take time to show prospective students the highlights on campus. Photos courtesy of University Ambassadors.

Students gain hands-on experience with Springfield businesses

By: Katherine Dupske

Agriculture isn't just for people who are farmers or come from rural areas and farming families. Agriculture can be applied to many different kinds of communities. This can be seen through the College of Agriculture's students working at local businesses.

Springfield is full of companies and spaces where students can learn through experience. Two examples are Millsap Farms and Sunny Bunny Gardens. Students have made a real impact and benefited the community by working with these two facilities to further their skills in agriculture.

Sunny Bunny Gardens began in May 2018 and has made incredible progress since its inception. The garden is an extension of SWI Industrial Solutions, which is a Springfield business that employs people with developmental disabilities.

A Springfield Business Journal article inspired Dave Dunn, general manager of SWI, to make an effort to include students in the development of a garden and work alongside their employees. Makayla Vandiver, a senior agricultural education major from Cabool, Missouri, and Erika Cooperman, a graduate student in general agriculture from Houston, Missouri, accepted the unique experience to help jump start the garden.

Makayla focused on setting up the garden, creating raised beds and preparing the ground for planting. Erika, on the other hand, helped during the growing season and managed the farm stand built for Sunny Bunny by Clever FFA.

Vandiver and Cooperman said working with Sunny Bunny provided a unique work environment they would not have expected in their careers. Working with individuals with special needs allowed them to gain a better understanding and appreciation for that community.

"Getting to know the employees



A glimpse at the production from Sunny Bunny Farms. Photos courtesy of Makayla Vandiver.

that we work with was really cool because I've never worked in a situation like that," Cooperman said.

According to Vandiver, "It's just an opportunity that you don't usually get because you're working with individuals that are amazing people and you're getting paid to garden all day."

Another facility where students can gain experience is Millsap Farms. Every year, Clydette Alsup-Egbers, associate professor in environmental plant science, takes her vegetable production class to Millsap Farms to observe their operation. Alsup-Egbers also invites owners Curtis and Sarah Millsap to present about the production practices used on their 15-acre operation located in Springfield.

The Millsaps emphasize giving back to the community, evidenced by events such as pizza night, monthly twilight tours and their general open gate policy, which they have had since opening.

In addition to community events they also host a Community-Supported Agriculture or CSA

program. CSA programs allow community members to subscribe to receive food from a producer's garden or crops. Millsap Farms' open gate policy supports the CSA program by having customers collect the food they want and paying what they feel is appropriate for the products they choose. Many of their other events offer either a low fee or the same 'pay-what-you-can' policy. Millsap Farms also offers educational events that help people reconnect to where their food comes from.

"They're [consumers] ready to re-establish a connection between their food and where it's coming from and those kinds of things. So we've been in the right place at the right time, really," Curtis said.

Staff weighs in on what it takes to be a student athlete

By: Olivia Robinson

Athletes within the Darr College of Agriculture rely on advisers, coaches and other University faculty and staff to manage the time commitment between school and athletics.

Nichole Busdieker-Jesse, assistant professor and adviser in agricultural business for the College of Agriculture, believes her student athletes require a different approach in advising.

"I'm a big believer that advising should be done outside of the office or from behind the computer," Busdieker-Jesse said. "I like to get to know these students to truly help them when making decisions regarding school or athletics."

Busdieker-Jesse finds that caring for one very involved student influences more students that have similar interests and lifestyles to follow.

"I've had a lot of them in class,

as well as some of their respective advisers and teachers know that I take an interest in students that are fairly busy and truly care for each of them that I get in contact with," Busdieker-Jesse said.

"I'm a big believer that advising should be done outside of the office or from behind the computer," Busdieker-Jesse said. "I like to get to know these students to truly help them when making decisions regarding school or athletics."
Nichole Busdieker-Jesse

For these student-athletes, education plays an important role for their success in the classroom and in their respective sports.

"As many, if not all, of our student athletes won't go on to play professionally, their education is paramount," said Kyle Moats,

Director of Athletics for Missouri State University. "Not only for their career, but they must maintain certain levels of academic achievement by their sophomore, junior and senior years to be eligible to compete athletically."

Busdieker believes excelling in academics is more than a requirement for these students, it becomes a goal.

"I think all Missouri State students are very dedicated students, however, our athletes are a different kind of dedicated," Busdieker-Jesse said. "They are balancing school, work, and all the other stresses of being a college student. I have a huge respect for them."

Moat stresses that no matter what degree or college a student-athlete belongs to, being a dedicated student-athlete will help further that success.

A study of sustainable agriculture in no-till practices

By: Katherine Dupske

The Darr College of Agriculture makes a point to encourage students to practice sustainability in their work after graduation. One of those methods is using no-till farming.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, no-till means producers leave crop residue on the fields after harvest, where it acts as a mulch to protect the soil from erosion and fosters soil productivity.

Austin Livingston is a plant science graduate student from Springfield, Missouri, studying the impact of no-till in gardens. Livingston has been working on a small plot at the Darr Agricultural Center. He was inspired by an internship he had with Growing Deer TV.

"That opened my eyes to a

different way of going about agriculture," Livingston said.

Using what he learned on internship, Livingston began making changes to his own family's garden. "I'm hoping to get people thinking," Livingston said. "I just want to show that there's a benefit from not tilling and focusing on soil health."

From looking at soil health, Livingston hopes to translate the information he finds into increased produce quality and nutrient density.

Michael Burton, professor in environmental plant science, is focused on sustainability and is helping Livingston with his project. He discusses the idea of no-till farming in his introductory agriculture class, Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment.

"You gain the additional benefits of protection from erosion, but you

also gain re-channels and pathways for infiltration, and the benefits of whatever leaks out of the roots," Burton said.

Educating people about why they should use no-till practices could strengthen people's interest in the topic.

"I think it's a pretty powerful testimony for folks to see photographs of things like this, and it can convince people to do less tillage. If nothing else, it's less work," Burton said.

Since the project is still in its first year, Austin is waiting for the cover crops over green beans and okra to establish themselves. As the project progresses Livingston hopes to repeat the no-till process to see if he can produce a trend in relation to soil and produce health.

Darr Bear Line - One bus leading to a connected campus

By: Andi Montgomery

The Darr Bear Line shuttle was added in the fall of 2019, linking students, faculty and staff to the Darr Agricultural Center from the Missouri State campus.

The route runs every thirty minutes, beginning at 8 a.m. by traveling to the Christopher S. Bond Learning Center, connecting students to classes in two different locations. The Darr Bear Line provides convenience and cuts costs for students who previously had to drive.

Annika McGaughy, junior animal science major from St. Louis, rides the Bear Line just about every day to class.

“Before the shuttle started, I was freaking out because I didn’t know if I could make it or who I would get a ride from,” McGaughy said. She continued by saying how much of a blessing the new route has been to her, giving her comfort and stability by the simplicity of a consistent ride.

Monday through Friday, the Darr Bear Line makes stops at both the Bond Center and Pinegar Arena to make sure all faculty and students have the option to ride. In the early stages, the mission is to encourage more students to take advantage of this



Students can use the Darr Bear Line route Mon.-Fri. Photo courtesy of Katelyn McCoy.

opportunity.

“Maybe students really don’t know about it, or it just doesn’t work through their schedule, but it’s interesting to listen about the ones who do and their experiences at the Darr and what they’re learning,” Dallas Conway, Darr Bear Line driver said.

As someone who has worked as a driver for Missouri State the past ten years, Conway has an appreciation and background in the agriculture industry. He mentioned that students who take advantage of the Bear

Line are reaching out to the agricultural community Darr has provided.

“Whether young farmers or just people that want to be in the industry of some sort, it gives them real opportunities to get into their field of interest,” Conway said.

The efforts of the record keeping are to improve the quality of service and times offered. Dallas made it clear that the Bear Line was being used and will continue in the future for those who frequent its seats.

New certificate offered for international leaders

By: Hannah Estes

International students from Ningxia University are a valued part of the College of Agriculture. Now, these students can earn a certificate from the College of Agriculture for their efforts.

While Ningxia University exchange students previously received a certificate from the International Leadership and Training Center, Dean Ron Del Vecchio wanted to award international students a credential

from the College of Agriculture.

During the exchange program, students travel to experience American agriculture. Past excursions have included feedlots, Quapaw Nation and many of the College of Agriculture farms and facilities.

The College of Agriculture also cooperates with UniCesumar in Maringa, Brazil. Del Vecchio hopes to travel to Brazil next summer to pilot a similar program. He hopes to

model the program after the Ningxia program where students would complete three years in their home country and one year at Missouri State University. Participating students would earn degrees from both universities, establishing an international dual credit program.

“This certificate program, cements our commitment to international education opportunities,” Del Vecchio said.

Alumni Association expands support for students

By: Taylor Allee

Over the past seven years, the Agriculture Alumni Association has raised \$243,919 toward student scholarships and support. Beginning in 2017, Bill Darr began matching the amount raised each year up to \$30,000, allowing the Alumni Association to elevate their support even more. This year, the Alumni Association raised the bar again with donations to a food pantry on campus, and sponsoring the Back to School Picnic.

The Darr College of Agriculture at Missouri State University hosted the 7th annual Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends on October 19, 2019. Alumni, donors and friends visited the Bond Learning Center to celebrate the Darr College of Agriculture and its students.

The Bear Pantry is managed by the Center for Community Engagement at Missouri State. The pantry accepts money and/or canned goods. If an Ag Celebration guest brought a canned food item

or donation of a dollar they were entered into a raffle. One hundred eight six pounds of food and \$240 were collected. Monetary and canned food donations given to the pantry help food insecure students across the Missouri State campus.

"We were all students at one time, and I remember bouncing check to check to put gas in my car so I could go home," said April Wilson, Alumni Association Member "I know that students sometimes have needs."

The money raised by the silent auction items at the Ag Celebration are used for scholarships. These scholarships are presented to current students in the College of Agriculture. This fall \$59,000 was raised for scholarships.

"I appreciate being a recipient of this scholarship because it allows me to breathe easier knowing I have some of my expenses taken care of," said Lyndsey Parker, a junior Agriculture Business major from

West Plains and 2019 scholarship recipient.

The Alumni Association is also active in the annual Back to School Picnic hosted by the College of Agriculture. This fall the alumni handed out complimentary plastic cups, representing their association. Students enjoyed pizza purchased by the association.

"I had a great experience at Missouri State, I want to make sure that other students have the opportunities and the experiences that I had when I was there. We expect it to continue to do great things," Wilson said. "We just want to make sure that we're taking care of the students and giving back, at some point in your life, we start giving back because we want to see things continue on in the future and people benefiting the way we did."

For more information or to get involved in the Alumni Association, contact Administrative Assistant Carrie Crews at CarrieCrew@MissouriState.edu.

Transfer students get a glimpse of Missouri State

By: Katherine Dupske

The College of Agriculture hosted its 5th Transfer VIP Day this year. As a campus-wide program, Transfer VIP Day is focused on the needs of transfer students specifically, rather than grouping them with incoming freshmen. By differentiating the two groups, the College of Agriculture has been better able to support incoming transfer students.

The event sees about 15 to 20 families per year and allows students to get a personalized feel for the campus. Admissions Adviser Bart Tibbs feels the event helps reinforce the choices of students coming to Missouri State University.

"We're working on confirming [attendance to Missouri State] for that student," Tibbs said.

According to Tibbs, affirming Missouri State as a good choice for

students is the purpose of the event.

The day for students is beneficial because they speak with faculty and staff in the College. Students start with a breakfast provided by the Office of Admissions before attending an orientation about how to apply to Missouri State. Following orientation is a panel hosted by current students who talk about their experiences with the College's leadership opportunities, internships, and topics connected to career goals. Guests conclude with a panel hosted by faculty members, a tour of Karl's Hall, lunch and a tour of the campus.

A signature part of VIP Day is the ability for students to meet with an academic adviser. This allows potential students to register for classes or ask general questions.

According to Jim Bellis, assistant

to the dean for the College of Agriculture, "The opportunity to meet with faculty and advisers, and to meet with those of us that work in the dean's office are all important things that we want to provide through the day."

Students' ability to meet with advisers let them know about possible connections they can make in the College of Agriculture with people who are willing to help them with a network, obtain internships and potential career possibilities. Advisers also show the dedication to student success prioritized in the College of Agriculture.

"It just solidifies that whole connection the College of Agriculture has with its students," Tibbs said.

MSU-Grown Crops Made Available Across SWMO

By: Macey Hurst

Products from the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station in the Darr College of Agriculture can now be found in grocery stores, campus bookstores and school cafeterias.

“We found ourselves having a surplus of product, and we said, ‘Why don’t we just expand?’” said Ronald Del Vecchio, Dean of the Darr College of Agriculture and Director of the Fruit Experiment Station. “We try to be efficient and make it work so that the majority of our product is used in a productive manner to benefit Missouri State University as a whole and the community.”

For years, the station has been conducting research on many fruit and nut varieties, as well as operating a fully functional winery and distillery. After data is collected, excess products were sold directly from the station and in various liquor and grocery stores in Springfield. However, the addition of the bookstores and campus food service is a new development.

Chartwells, the food service provider on the Missouri State University campus, now serves these products to on-campus consumers. Senior Executive Chef, John Hawkins, said he has purchased a variety of products, such as apples, pears, jelly, apple butter, okra and wine. He said the practices of the station matched the mission of the company.

“Chartwells has a strong commitment to local and sustainable growing practices,” Hawkins said. “The Mountain Grove campus operations were a great fit for these goals as well as partnering with MSU.”

Pam Turner, Administrative Assistant at the Mountain Grove Campus said it was compatible with the Station’s educational goals as well.

“Interns, grad students and international students as well as full- and part-time student workers help with harvest, special projects,



bottling, labeling, mulching, pruning, etc.,” Turner said.

Many of the campus’s expert scientists and instructors have students and assistants conducting research at the location. With every project and product, students are hands-on and learning while making an income for the campus. That money then gets reinvested for the benefit of new and ongoing education and research, as well as maintenance and growth of the station and its facilities.

The station and sales relationships benefit more than just the agriculture students, though. Hawkins says it is a benefit for all the students and staff who use the food service program, too.

“I believe that many of the students living in the dorms were unaware of the campus and the fact that MSU had operations growing fruits, vegetables, grapes and making wine,” Hawkins said. “The students seemed to be very pleased with the product and the fact we are supporting MSU.”

The students are not the only pleased consumers. Turner said customers frequently tell her about all the different ways they use the locally-grown product and their enjoyment of it.

“Lots of customers have been coming here for years and tell us



Wine: Wine and spirit tastings are hosted at the Mountain Grove Fruit Station.

Shelf: Products are featured in bookstores on the Springfield and West Plains campuses. Photos courtesy of Macey Hurst.

what different things they have tried. We even have some customers that have freeze dryers that can preserve their food for 25+ years,” said Turner. “Our customers are very happy that we are here and are always thrilled when we make new products.”

In the future, Del Vecchio said he hopes to see growth, progress and new ideas coming from the Fruit Experiment Station to continue the progress and products generated currently. He is excited to see what will come from the station and those who make it a success.

“The folks down at the Mountain Grove campus are doing exceptional work, whether it’s out in the field, in the orchards, in the winery or in the making of these value-added products,” said Del Vecchio. “It’s a beautiful campus, a lot of good work goes on down there, and it is something we are really proud of.”

Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station products can be found at HyVee, Macadoodles, and Brown Derby in Springfield; Baker Bookstore in Springfield; Drago College Store in West Plains; and Shepard Hall on the Fruit Experiment Station Mountain Grove Campus.

Missouri State Welcomes New Staff to the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Emily Selby



Natalie Mook

Jean Cobban

Gwenny Nance

Photos courtesy of Missouri State University Visual Media

Three new staff members joined the College of Agriculture in 2019. Gwenny Nance, Jean Cobban and Natalie Mook now serve as an accounting specialist, administrative assistant and equestrian coach, respectively.

Gwenny Nance

Gwenny Nance joined the College of Agriculture in January of 2019. Nance was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she lived until graduating from Santa Theresia High School. She then moved to the United States and chose to attend Missouri State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in agricultural business with a minor in horticulture. She is currently working to earn her master's degree in agriculture. Nance and her husband now reside an hour north of Springfield.

As the accounting specialist, Nance's duties include managing the budget, payment requests and helping with the Journagan Ranch Cattle Sale. Previous to her current position, Nance was a student worker in the College of Agriculture. Nance said her favorite part of working in the College are her coworkers.

"Everyone is very supportive and I am glad to be here," Nance said. "It feels like home, because me and my husband have a cow-calf operation an hour north of Springfield,

so agriculture is definitely our livelihood. It's our passion."

Jean Cobban

Jean Cobban began her position as a staff member in the College of Agriculture in March 2019. Cobban enjoys working for Missouri State, especially because she is a College of Agriculture alumna. Cobban previously worked for Missouri State in the Academic Advisement Center, located in University Hall, which she began in April 2015. She now works in the Karls Hall office, holding the title of academic administrative assistant.

Cobban assists with events including FFA contests, Scholarship Banquet, and many other behind-the-scenes activities that help the College function smoothly. Due to her previous position in the Academic Advisement Center, Cobban has the ability to change assist students with academic processes, which contributes to the College of Agriculture's student-centered mission.

"I really like our focus on students, that we want our students to do well," Cobban said. "A lot of us consider you guys [students] like our kids, so we want to help you."

Natalie Mook

Natalie Mook began as a coach of the equestrian team and instructor of equine riding

classes in July 2019. Mook grew up in northern Texas for 13 years, before moving to Colorado, and then back to Texas. She completed her undergraduate degree at West Texas A&M University, with a major in agribusiness: equine industry and business, with minors in animal science and English. Mook then completed her graduate degree at South Dakota State University, receiving her Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Following her graduate degree, Mook was an instructor at South Dakota State University for four years, specializing in first-year students and student success courses. Mook also owned, operated, and taught at a private equestrian coaching program.

Mook teaches both western and english disciplines in equestrian riding. She now coaches a team of about 30 students, which travels and/or competes every other weekend between the two teams.

"I like all of the people and the community that is built here, especially out at the Bond Learning Center and Pinegar Arena," Mook said. "I really like that the students are all hard workers, and they are very dedicated to doing their work, and doing a good job, and helping out beyond just in the classroom."

Mook appreciates the warm welcome that she and her family have received from the community and everyone at Missouri State.

Diversifying education through the use of multiple facilities

By: Taylor Allee

Photos courtesy of Missouri State University

The Darr College of Agriculture is fortunate to have multiple facilities, including eight properties used for research, hands-on teaching and promoting agriculture. To campus-goers it may seem limited to Karls Hall when, in fact, the college has much more to offer our current and incoming students.

Baker's Acres



Baker's Acres (left) includes a conservatory built and maintained by the MSU physics department. The farm is now primarily used for hay production. Soil, plant science and fertilization research is conducted here by faculty and students.

Darr Agricultural Center (right) The Bond Learning Center and Pinegar Arena are housed on this property.

Darr Agricultural Center



Journagan Ranch



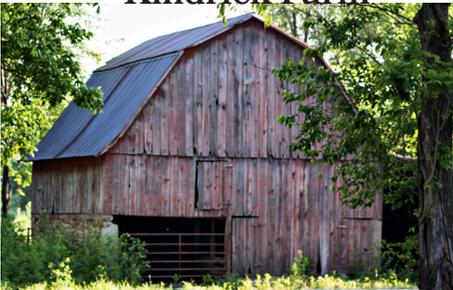
Journagan Ranch (left) This 3,300-acre Hereford operation is the home of the 15th largest Polled hereford herd in the United States. Faculty, staff and students take care of the herd through classes and internships.

Karls Hall (right) Located on the Missouri State campus, this is the first building most agricultural students encounter. Faculty offices, including the dean's office, are housed here.

Karls Hall



Kindrick Farm



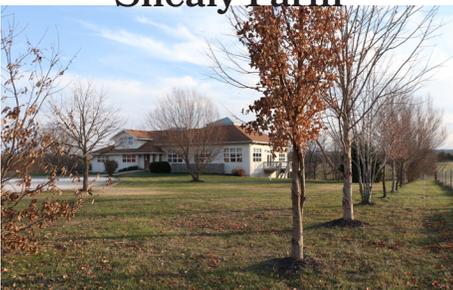
Kindrick Farm (left) This farm is the newest addition to the College of Agriculture. The Kindrick family donated 80 acres to the College in 2017. The property features a barn, cabin, soil pit and sinkhole.

Mountain Grove Campus (right) This campus is home to the Fruit Experiment Station, Missouri State Winery and Distillery, and the Center for Grapevine Biotechnology.

Mountain Grove Campus



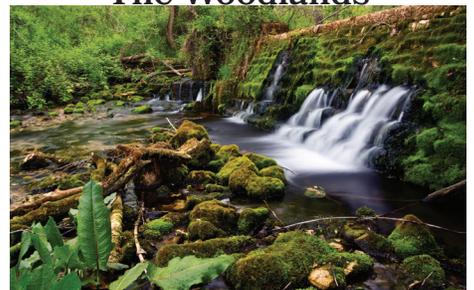
Shealy Farm



Shealy Farm (left) Dr. Norm Shealy gifted this farm to the College where he practiced medicine for many years. Rotational grazing and feedlot research are being conducted on the cattle farm.

Woodlands (right) The Wood family donated this 61-acre property for research. Waterways, woods, and an old mill call the land home. The College of Agriculture has done logging and forestry research on the property.

The Woodlands



College of Agriculture hosts first Missouri FFA Agricultural Communications CDE

By: Mackenzie Courtouise

Since 1999, the National FFA Organization has held the Agricultural Communications CDE for FFA members. Until spring 2019 the contest was not available to FFA members in Missouri, until the agricultural communications faculty in the Darr College of Agriculture at Missouri State University decided that needed to change.

“We were realizing a lot of our ag comm majors were choosing ag comm after they came to college and realized what it was. So, we wanted to expose these high school kids to what ag communications is earlier on,” said Nathan Fent, instructor of agricultural communications at Missouri State.

Agricultural communications faculty collaborated with Missouri FFA and hosted the inaugural state competition where the winning school moved straight to nationals.

The faculty and graduate students in the agricultural communications unit started planning for this new Missouri FFA

event in May 2018 to prepare for the inaugural contest in April 2019. The planning began a year before the first competition to ensure curriculum could be provided for high school agriculture instructors to prepare their students, preparatory workshops could be conducted and guidelines could be written.

“I think it is a good opportunity for students and ag communications is an area that not a lot of people know what it is,” Fent said.

Students participated in the event in teams of four. Prior to the contest, teams created a media plan presented by one member on the team on contest day. In addition, participants competed in individual practicums including journalistic writing, opinion writing and website design.

Each student completed an editing exercise and communications quiz. The editing quiz consisted of a written piece that contained 25 mistakes. For the communications quiz students had

25 questions that covered general knowledge of the agricultural communications industry. Each quiz was allotted 30 minutes for completion.

The “all hands on deck” event was planned and hosted by agricultural communications faculty and students, but it would not have been successful without the industry volunteers. Several months before the competition, faculty reached out to industry professionals to judge the practicums.

“It took a lot of help from our ag comm students, from faculty, and from industry volunteers to put this contest on,” Fent said.

Columbia FFA won the state competition and competed at the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 2019. The team of four was one of the gold emblem teams, with each individual receiving a gold or silver emblem placing. That hard work landed them winning fifth overall at the national competition.

The curriculum provided by Missouri State University to high school agriculture instructors was beneficial for the Columbia FFA participants. Amanda Twenter, Columbia FFA adviser stated, “The curriculum from MSU helped the students prepare. We used the quizzes and curriculum provided often. My students worked hard to try and study the AP style-book as well.”

“My team and I worked all summer to prepare for nationals and getting first place in the presentation category and fifth overall was the best feeling ever,” said Emily Abadir, sophomore at Hickman High School and Missouri Agricultural Communications CDE participant. Hearing Missouri being called for finals showed us all of our hard work paid off.”

The 2020 Missouri FFA State Agricultural Communications CDE will be held April 16, 2020, on the Missouri State University campus.



State Agricultural Communications champions from Columbia FFA pose with their winning banner. Photo courtesy of Missouri State University Visual Media.

Missouri Grazing Schools Partner with the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Mackenzie Courtouise



Left: Students learn how to utilize grazing sticks. Right: Students observe shade options related to grazing. Photos courtesy of Kara Powelson.

Since 2015, the Southwest Missouri Regional Management - Intensive Grazing Schools is something the Darr College of Agriculture is proudly part of. The Intensive Grazing School is conducted and sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Missouri Extension and Area Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Grazing schools can be attended by anyone who is interested in the two-to-three day program. Will McClain, assistant professor of environmental plant science in the Darr College of Agriculture, became a teacher for the grazing schools several years ago.

“Topics that have to be covered in every grazing school are animal nutrition, ag economics, soil fertility, forage growth, fencing, water, and cost share programs,” McClain said. “It is difficult to get really in depth on all of these topics in just two to three days.”

Understanding that farmers don't have a lot of spare time, McClain proposed to make it a two-week course for students at Missouri State who wanted to take the class for three credit hours.

“If I want to make a three credit hour class work in two weeks, you have to have 45 contact hours. I do one through five Monday through Friday and a field trip on Saturday, and that gives us 47 hours.”

Kara Powelson, environmental plant science graduate student from Rosendale, Missouri completed Missouri Grazing school.

“I knew at some point in my life I would want to start my own management intensive grazing system and by taking it through the university I would have the opportunity to receive credit while also qualifying for potential USDA funds to help start a MiGproject on my own farm someday,” Powelson said.

Powelson interned with

the NRCS where she helped coordinate and teach a variety of areas at grazing schools throughout Missouri.

Some Missouri State students participate in grazing schools because they have their own family farm back home. The grazing school is a prerequisite to participate in the Soil and Water Districts' grazing school cost share program.

“Soil and Water Districts offer a grazing system cost share program that is funded through the one tenth of one percent soils and parks tax,” said Drexel Atkinson, an Area Soil Health Specialists through the NRCS. “It is a prerequisite for the assistance program to build a grazing system which would include cross fences, water distribution, and water establishment.”

Missouri Grazing Schools are popular among farmers and college students who want to get a better understanding of grazing systems.

Brazil study away program extends duration of the program

By: Hannah Estes

Missouri State University's College of Agriculture has several study away programs for students to take advantage of. The program at UniCesumar in Maringa, Brazil, continues to expand in size, but also in duration. Now in its 7th year, the experience is either a short-term or long-term study away.

"Students have the option to go for 10 days or two months," said Christi Sudbrock, instructor of agricultural business. "Summer of 2018 was the first time they had the option to go for two months and oddly enough it cost about the same as the 10-day experience."

The 10-day program is similar to the Ag Industry Studies available in the agricultural business department, in that tours of Brazilian agricultural businesses are a large part of the itinerary. Study away students also attend lectures in the mornings.

For the two-month program, there is a practicum built in. The practicum has two components, one focuses on agronomy and the other focuses on animal science. On the agronomy side, students are involved with crop-based production facilities growing bananas, coffee, grapes, sugarcane, corn, soybeans, and rice. and seeing how those are grown and cultivated in the region. The students are doing extended tours of crop and fruit production and helping with a few research projects at UniCesumar's farm. The animal science students have more experiences in the classroom than the hands on activities. Part of their practicum experience was working with a geneticist helping ultrasound cattle, flushing eggs, fertilizing eggs and implanting eggs. They also spent time at UniCesumar's campus in their veterinary facility where the students were able to participate



Students traveled to different facilities, lectures and practicums to get a hands-on experience into Brazilian agriculture. Photos provided by Mike Klem.

in some of the surgeries that were happening there.

MSU Cattlemen's Association hosts Farm Safety Day

By: Nicholas Kientzy

The Missouri State Cattlemen's Association sponsored the Farm Safety Day for Southwest District FFA chapters.

The event consists of multiple stations teaching high school students and community members about the importance of farm safety.

This year, around 150 FFA members attended Farm Safety Day. This year, eight stations were offered, each lasting around 15 minutes. Some of the stations were hosted by community representatives from agricultural companies and faculty from Missouri State. Presentation topics included mental health, electrical safety, fire safety, preventable farming accidents, first aid, cattle sorting, tractor safety and vaccinations. MSU Cattlemen's Association President Alexa Belshe, helped run this year's Farm Safety Day.

"A popular station is the mental health station, it has become popular with a lot of schools," Belshe said.

Last year was the first year that Farm Safety Day had a mental health station, but it has caught on

quick. Belshe says it is becoming more frequent that farmers work alone, and working on a farm is a stressful job. Mental health is progressively becoming a bigger priority in schools, making this station popular.



FFA members learn about fire safety and practice the proper way to handle small fires. There were 150 members that attended this years event, learning about first aid, mental health, and other safety topics. Photo courtesy of Mike Klem.

Tyson Foods establishes sponsorship with Missouri State Agriculture

By: Mackenzie Courtouise

Each fall for the past seven years, the Darr College of Agriculture has hosted FFA members from all across Missouri for the Salute to Ag event. Salute to Ag is an event that provides FFA members with a night full of games, food, two scholarships and a tailgating atmosphere. The 2019 event brought students from 51 different schools, which in total brought roughly 1,764 attendees.

The event is hosted by local businesses such as PFI Western Store, Phoenix Home Care and Hospice, KTTS, Missouri Farm Bureau, and PBR. Missouri State University, William H. Darr College of Agriculture is thankful for the many sponsors for this event. Owner of PFI, Randy Little, stated, “The reality is you got to keep kids involved in ag and we have to get them educated a little bit further than just the high school because we’re running out of good students to continue the agriculture side. We’ve had five, now six, businesses that help out and they’re not all ag related. They’re just knowing that we’ve got to keep agriculture moving forward.” Salute to Ag is excited to have Tyson Foods as the sixth and newest sponsor for the event.

“It was incredible to work with their team. We had top Tyson executives on property cooking burgers for our kids and FFA family, and they did it with joy and were happy to be here,” said Carrie Crews, administrative assistant at the Darr College of Agriculture.

Lyndsey Parker, junior agricultural business major and Missouri State Collegiate Farm Bureau member from Salem, Missouri was one of the myriad students to volunteer at the event. Missouri State students helped serve the meal, welcome students, and coordinate the Ag Olympic games. Parker said, “This really shows that Tyson, being a large agriculture based company, cares about the future of agriculture and



(Top) Pictured are students of the Darr College of Agriculture with Boomer welcoming FFA members from across Missouri to the Salute to Ag event. **(Bottom left)** FFA students gather together outside of Pinegar Arena as they wait to participate in Ag Olympic games, receive a tour, and be served their meal sponsored by Tyson. **(Bottom right)** Tyson employees attended the Salute to Ag and were excited to prepare the meal for participants of the event. Photos courtesy of Brianna Dawkins.

its importance,” Parker said. “Tyson fixed us a great tailgating meal of hot dogs and hamburgers, and I know that Missouri State University agriculture and all the FFA members really appreciate it.”

Ronald Del Vecchio, dean of the College of Agriculture believes the exposure Tyson is receiving in turn

of their generous sponsorship will bring them more graduates from Missouri State over the years. Del Vecchio stated, “The relationship that we have been able to establish with Tyson foods is beneficial to both of us, and has formed a symbiotic relationship.”

Plant sale continues to grow after 17 years

By: Nicholas Kientzy

Every year, Clydette Alsup-Egbers and her Greenhouse Management class host a plant sale out of the greenhouse on top of Karl's Hall. The plant sale was established in 2002, and it has grown ever since.

"It's grown tremendously as I learn the plants better, as I learned what customers want, as I learned the better cultivars or varieties or even species," Alsup said.

Last year the plant sale reached 500 customers. Understanding customers' needs for both demand and time has allowed the plant sale to grow tremendously. The plant sale has established a strong customer base with customers returning year after year.

The sale is hosted the week before study day, which is the last full week of classes. Traditionally, more customers tend to show up then rather than on study day before finals week begins.



Professor Clydette Alsup-Egbers oversees the plant sale every year making it a hit among returning customers. Photo courtesy of Nicholas Kientzy.

"I can grow a lot of the heirlooms, as well as the hybrids you're not going to find elsewhere in town," Alsup said.

If you would like to volunteer for the plant sale, contact ClydetteAlsup@missouristate.edu.

Missouri State University hosts Missouri Agribusiness Academy

By: Andi Montgomery

The Missouri Department of Agriculture hosted the Missouri Agribusiness Academy (MABa) in partnership with Missouri State University for the first time.

From June 3-7, 2019, the top 30 sophomores involved in FFA and 4-H explored local agribusinesses and educational events. The students began their academy at the Missouri Department of Agriculture, then traveled down to Springfield spending the rest of their time touring agricultural facilities in the area.

This unique trip offered students the ability to dig deeper into planning their future.

"MABa gave me the chance to figure out where I wanted to continue my education and gave me insight and friendship along the way," said Christin Gayer, an attendee from Mansfield, Missouri.

At MABA, Gayer created relationships with faculty and staff that helped her decide where she



Christin Gayer engages during a conversation with the Missouri Director of Agriculture. Photo courtesy of Missouri Department of Agriculture.

wants to pursue higher education. She could tell the students and staff at Missouri State really cared about her and sought to help her down the road whether it was in agriculture or not.

MABa allowed students to spend some time on campus asking professors questions about their jobs, the college and how they can make the most of their time.

Christi Sudbrock, instructor of agricultural business was one of the

hosts for MABA.

"We have an intense sense of community here as well as really fantastic academic opportunities, and I think sometimes students don't get that," Sudbrock said.

Her role in MABa was to be a helping hand to students about what college is like, and how staff help students along the way.

MABa is just one of the amazing opportunities created for highschoolers to look beyond high school and into their future. Missouri State University played a large role in getting students interested in furthering their academics.

"Touring MSU really opened my eyes to all of the college options and the big decisions I have coming up," Gayer said. "I realized that I really do love campus and the faculty, enough to set my goal of getting my agricultural education degree from Missouri State University."

Darr Inducted into Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame

By: Macey Hurst

William H. “Bill” Darr, local businessman, philanthropist and namesake of the Darr College of Agriculture, was inducted into the Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame.

“It certainly is quite an honor. They had to drag the bottom of the barrel to find us,” Darr joked. “We’re honored to be a part of it.” Raised on a farm in Ellington, Missouri, Darr understood agriculture at a young age. He attended Southwest Missouri State Teacher’s College, now Missouri State University, from which he graduated in 1957. As a junior, Darr was approached by Dr. Glenn Karls, then head of the department, who informed him there was a dehydrated food company looking to fill a position in their quality department. Darr took the job and worked there until graduation, at which point he was asked to stay on full time. After several years, Darr decided it was time for more.

“After 16 years, I decided it’s time to get out and do my own thing. I started our first company in 1978 and three other companies since,” Darr said. “We were really fortunate to have some really good people working for us and with us. We went on to grow the company to over \$300 million in sales and 550 to 600 employees, all very excellent, helpful people.”

After their tremendous success in the business world, the Darrs started the Darr Family Foundation in 2002. Over \$3 million of the fund was donated to organizations serving at-risk children and many dollars are still being invested into community organizations and students of the aptly named Darr College of Agriculture. Virginia Darr, Bill’s wife and a former teacher, described the importance of giving.

“It’s the way we were brought up. In low times, everybody knew everybody when there was a need. Going to school ourselves, I would’ve enjoyed one of these

scholarships myself,” Virginia said. “It’s just a matter of wanting to help someone else.”

Clif Smart, President of Missouri State University and long-time acquaintance of the Darr Family, said Darr was a very worthy candidate.

“Not only is he a Missouri State University alumnus who has continually given back to his alma mater, but he has also used his success and influence as an agribusiness entrepreneur



Award (top): Darr’s induction places him in a small, exclusive group of highly respected philanthropists.

Presentation: Smart said Darr’s constant support of community and charity made him a perfect candidate. Photos courtesy of Missouri State University Visual Media.

to improve communities he’s a part of. Through the Darr Family Foundation, he supports causes in southwest Missouri that champion children’s programs and education, among others,” Smart said. “Bill Darr is a well-deserved inductee to the Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame.”

After years in the industry, the Darrs recently sold their businesses. After many offers, they chose the one they felt best. The bid was not the highest monetarily, but it came with a promise to take care of their

employees.

To anyone who knows, been affected by their generosity or even crossed paths with the Darrs, there is no question as to their eligibility for such a prestigious recognition.

“We’ve been very fortunate and successful in what we’re doing, and we just like to share with others, especially kids,” Darr said. “It’s just in our nature; we were kind of brought up that way. Mom and dad taught us at a young age, share when you can. Help others.”

2019 Scholarship Banquet

Presidential Scholars

Freshman	Tucker Bittick
Freshman	Theodore Rieckhoff
Sophomore	Matthew Black
Senior	Gretta Buttelman
Junior	Riley Emmons
Senior	Monica Gevers
Senior	Libby Glaser
Junior	Allison Haug



Agriculture Alumni Scholarship
Susan Dawley presents to Will Derkum

Agriculture Alumni Scholarship

Senior	Annika McGaughy
Senior	Randi Sharley
Senior	Diana Summitt
Senior	Alexis Sweeney
Junior	Ashlee Butler
Junior	Mackenzie Courtouise
Junior	Caroline Duboeuf
Junior	Patricia Evins
Junior	Laura Motley
Junior	Kendall Nakato
Junior	Lyndsey Parker
Junior	Lacie Reed
Junior	Ashley Springer
Junior	Sarah Thomas
Junior	Lucy Turk
Sophomore	Amanda Baranowski
Sophomore	Landon Bilyeu
Sophomore	Will Derkum
Sophomore	Andi Montgomery
Sophomore	Bonnie Moore
Sophomore	Logan Stinnett
Freshman	Emily Grussing
Freshman	Nolan McElroy



Agriculture Alumni Scholarship
Susan Dawley presents to Emily Grussing

Robert Lee “Bob” Kindrick Outstanding Student Award for Agricultural Industry Study Scholarship

Senior	Samantha Downs
Alumni	Johanna Richardson

Craig E. Arnett Memorial Agricultural Scholarship

Junior	Brett Schellen
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Craig E. Arnett Memorial Agricultural Scholarship
Gary Webb presents to Brett Schellen

Charles Biglieni Memorial Scholarship

Senior	Dakota Boss
Sophomore	CarrieLee Holliday



Charles Biglieni Memorial Scholarship
Carrie Crews presents to CarrieLee Holliday

Henry and Grace Carr Farm Scholarship

Senior Brandon Chapman
Senior Lane Sowder
Freshman Jordan Pope
Freshman Paige Wait

Marilyn R. Daniel Equine Scholarship

Senior Shianne Walther

Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship

Senior Macey Hurst
Senior Blake Jeffries
Junior Caleb Kindle
Junior Marcus Martin
Junior Dillon Mize
Sophomore Kenadee Barnitz
Sophomore Grace Del Vecchio
Sophomore Kalyn Frostestad
Sophomore Wyatt Wilson
Freshman Makenna Grider

Einhellig Family Scholarship

Masters Erika Cooperman
Masters Lucas Nitche

Dr. R. Bruce Johnson/Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Scholarship

Senior Breanna Hammen

Farmer's Cooperative Livestock Marketing Scholarship

Masters Maddison May
Senior Alexandra Belshe
Senior Morgan Wall

FCS Financial Agriculture Scholarship

Senior Jessica Cobban

Ben and Janis Fuqua Scholarship

Sophomore Hannah Berendzen
Sophomore Katlyn Henson

Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Junior Blake Batson

Greene County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Junior Makayla Vandiver
Sophomore Cole Clark

Dennis M. and Janice K. Grisham Scholarship

Junior Molly Frease



Agriculture Alumni Scholarship
Bailey Feese presents to Paige Wait



Einhellig Family Scholarship
Frank Einhellig presents to Lucas Nitche



Greene County Farm Bureau Scholarship
Charles Buckner presents to Cole Clark



Dennis M. and Janice K. Grisham Scholarship
Dennis Grisham presents to Molly Frease

Christian Robert Hirsch Memorial Scholarship

Sophomore David Carron

Irwin Farms Scholarship

Sophomore Tanner Phipps

Harry & Marion James Agronomy Scholarship

Senior Mary Books
Senior Paityn Yates

Dr. Norman Justus/SWVATA Scholarship

Sophomore Madison Turner

Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Agriculture Scholarship

Senior Kirsten Talburt
Junior Brittany Byram
Junior Mattie Cobban
Sophomore Lani Ogle
Sophomore Anna Reinkemeyer

Benjamin Charles Kruse Memorial Scholarship

Freshman Katy Grant

James P. and Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship

Junior Rikki Beldon
Sophomore Kailey Robinson

MFA, Inc. Scholarship

Senior Katy Brisco
Senior Christa Hultz
Junior Sadie Murphy

H. Lewis Miller Endowed Scholarship

Freshman Chase Hultgren

Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Scholarship

Junior Nathaniel Forck
Sophomore Madison Turner

Missouri Seedmen's Association Ron Cowan Memorial Scholarship

Senior Mary Books
Senior Samuel Piontek
Senior Hannah Rockers

Quail Forever Gateway Chapter Scholarship

Sophomore Katie Walker

Ed Pinegar Scholarship

Senior Kristopher Mayer



Irwin Farms Scholarship
Kelsey Irwin presents to Tanner Phipps



Missouri Seedmen's Association Ron Cowan Memorial Scholarship
Christine Sudbrock presents to Mary Books



Benjamin Charles Kruse Memorial Scholarship
Diane Olson presents to Katy Grant



Ed Pinegar Scholarship
Susie Heavin presents to Kristopher Meyer

Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship

Junior
Junior
Sophomore
Sophomore

Danielle Rogers
Helen Willits
Hannah Berendzen
Katlyn Henson

Vernon Renner Scholarship

Senior
Senior
Senior
Junior
Sophomore

Courtney Allison
Jess Burns
Hailey Johnston
Jacob Gray
Ty Rinne

S & H Farm Supply Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship

Junior

Blake Batson

Salute to Agriculture Scholarship

Freshman
Freshman

Matthew Huchteman
Koleby Washam

John D. Schatz Scholarship

Senior

Mary Books

Dennis and Phyllis Schmitt Animal Science Graduate Scholarship

Masters

Taylor Godwin

Dr. J.N. Smith/FCS Financial Memorial Scholarship

Senior

Adrienn Allen

Stanlie H. and Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship

Sophomore
Sophomore

Olivia Robinson
Makayla Stubinger

David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship

Senior
Junior

Briana Isakson
Michael Brock

Charles and Patricia Stufflebeam Agricultural Scholarship

Sophomore

Sarah Huskey

Robert F. Thomson, Jr Family Memorial Scholarship

Sophomore

Reid Breesawitz

Pamela Borden Trewatha Horticulture Scholarship

Sophomore

Emily Strunk

Cody R. Uber Memorial Scholarship

Freshman

Owen Smith



Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship
Jeff Gettys presents to Katlyn Henson



Vernon Renner Scholarship
Jennifer Morgenthaler presents to Ty Rinne



Stanlie H. and Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship
Jeff Gettys presents to Olivia Robinson



David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship
Benjamin Onyango presents to Michael Brock

Waite Scholarship

Masters

Adam Uhls

Uncle Tom Watkins Memorial Scholarship

Sophomore

Megan Schlichting

J. Barry and Kelly Watts Scholarship

Junior

Caleb Kindle

The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award

Sophomore

Andi Montgomery

Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award in Agriculture

Senior

Taylor Allee

Senior

Hunter Blalock

Senior

Mary Books

Senior

Gretta Buttelmann

Senior

Macey Hurst

Senior

Shianne Walther

Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award

Senior

Shianne Walther

Distinguished Service Award

Mrs. Sue Webb



**Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award
Christine Sudbrock presents to Andi
Montgomery**



**Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Wenping Qiu and Anson Elliott present to
Hunter Blalock**



**Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Melissa Bledsoe and Anson Elliott present to
Gretta Buttelmann**



**Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award
Gary Webb presents to Shianne Walther**

Club Updates

By: Club Representatives

Compiled by Taylor Allee

Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) is a club striving to teach agriculturists how to be effective communicators. Everyone in the college is encouraged to join to learn about educating the general public about agriculture. Members attended the annual NACT Professional Development Conference/National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention to connect with industry professionals. One member was recognized as a scholarship recipient while another served on the social media corps. For more information contact Taylor Allee at taylor315@live.missouristate.edu.

Alpha Gamma Rho is an agriculture fraternity committed to fostering high values and providing each brother with superior lifelong personal development and professional success. Alpha Gamma Rho is a social and professional fraternity that strives to achieve its motto "Making Better Men". One way they intend to reach this goal is through fundraising for diabetes research. Each year the Rhos sell diabetes awareness T-shirts, donating all funds. As a fraternity, the brothers participate in COAG Days, barnwarming, and adopt-a-street. Contact Mark Fisher at Fisher514@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

The Agronomy Club is an organization that welcomes people who are interested in plant science and natural resources. It is a great way to connect with others and grow your knowledge by competing in crop judging or soil judging contests. Cleaning roadways and streams are ways the Agronomy Club demonstrates their love for the environment. If you're interested in joining contact Isabelle VanKirk at Isabelle970@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

MSU Beekeepers Association is currently making Missouri State one of the 53 campuses nationwide pollinator friendly by beautifying campus landscapes with pollinator friendly plants. Honey produced from the bee hives is sold at Baker Bookstore on campus. This gives the MSU Beekeepers Association the opportunity to promote pollinators and their products. For more information contact Stephanie Sanders at Sanders98@live.missouristate.edu.

Missouri State Block and Bridle is a club based around showing cattle at a collegiate level. Members participate in various shows around the country representing the Darr College of Agriculture. The Bear Classic is a cattle show hosted by Block and Bridle at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds for youth exhibitors, rewarding winners. Contact Grace Erickson at Grace678@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

MSU Cattlemen's Association is a collegiate affiliation with the Missouri Cattlemen's Association. As a unit the Cattlemen's Association aims to advance the economic, educational, political and social interests of the Missouri Cattle Industry. Farm Safety Day is an event led by the MSU Cattlemen's Association for FFA chapters in southwest Missouri. If you're interested in joining contact Alexa Belshe at Belshe1998@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

Collegiate 4-H is an organization dedicated to serving 4-H clubs in southwest Missouri. While providing help to local, regional, and state chapters. The club provides opportunities for members to grow through leadership and service by hosting officer trainings and project workshops for members of Missouri 4-H. For more information contact Mackenzie Courtouise at Courtouise563@live.missouristate.edu.

Collegiate Farm Bureau is a voice for agriculture on campus. They work with other levels of Farm Bureau like Greene County, Missouri, and the American Farm Bureau. Collegiate Farm Bureau give students the opportunity to learn about agricultural policy and legislation by going to MFB's annual meeting, State Young Farmers and Ranchers meeting, as well as the National Young Farmers and Ranchers meeting. Farm Bureau's biggest event is hosting Salute to Agriculture. Where they host over 1,500 high school FFA students to eat and play games before attending PBR. If anyone is interested in joining they can contact Dillon Mize mize24@live.missouristate.edu.

The National FFA Organization envisions a future in which all agricultural education students will discover their passion in life and build on that insight to chart the course for their educations, career, and personal future. **Collegiate FFA** allows various opportunities to display and build leadership skills. They work with the Darr College of Agriculture in recruiting students at National and State FFA functions, while making valuable connections in their future career fields. Some of Collegiate FFA's major events include National FFA Convention and Missouri State FFA Convention. Contact Rachel Mareth at mareth021@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) is an agriculture honor society that focuses on scholarship and leadership in members. DTA values the character of their members and strives to prepare them for the professional world. At MSU, they participate in events such as Adopt a Street, National DTA Convention, and host a Friendsgiving for freshman agriculture students. DTA's goal is to prepare students for their future as leaders in the agriculture industry. For more information contact Claire Eggerman at Claire999@live.missouristate.edu.

The Forestry Club strives to have fun events such as bonfires, camp outs, and field trips throughout the year. Their big event is traveling to the Midwest Annual Conclave in the spring. Where a Timbersports team participates in physical events like axe throwing, crosscut sawing and pulp toss. Forestry knowledge is also tested at the conclave with a tree ID. If you are interested in joining the Forestry Club contact Hailey Johnston at Johnston4752@live.missouristate.edu.

Horsemen's Association is a club full of people passionate about horses. They demonstrate their love by supporting or riding on the various equestrian teams. The largest goal of the Horsemen's Association is to further educate all people that have an interest in horses and encourage them to take advantage of all the opportunities here at Missouri State. Contact Vittoria Lane at Vittoria531@live.missouristate.edu for more information.

The Missouri State Horticulture Club offers opportunities to participate in landscaping work, plant sales and field trips, as well as to organize group social and educational activities. The club's most recent fund-raiser was the sale of succulents grown in teacups. At times the club participates in an annual intercollegiate competition in horticultural knowledge at universities in the Midwest. Being involved in the Horticulture Club provides a unique opportunity to meet and interact with others who are interested in plants, and allows you to develop a network of friends. For more information contact Jane Jackovich at Jackovich11@live.missouristate.edu.

The Missouri State Pre-vet Club's mission is to promote interest in the field of veterinary medicine, to prepare students for veterinary school, and to provide opportunities for pre-professional development. They strive to involve their members, to gain important leadership skills as well as provide them information to choose the right career path. Pre-Vet Club participates in community service activities and has fun events throughout the year. Pre-Vet club is filled with resources and great contacts to reach the goal of becoming a veterinarian. If you are interested in joining the Pre-Vet Club contact Audrey Wilson at Audrey225@live.missouristate.edu.

The Ranch Horse Team is an equestrian team that show horses in the American Stock Horse Association. Members show a personal or university-owned horse at multiple shows throughout the school year. The Ranch Horse Team practices twice a week at Pinegar Arena, located at the Darr Agriculture Center. Each semester, the team competes in several shows hosted at Pinegar Arena or the University of Arkansas. In addition, the team travels each spring to Sweetwater, Texas for the ASHA National Show. Contact Emily Selby at Selby812@missouristate.edu.

Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that strives for achievement in scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service. Members focus on professional development, sisterhood activities, and career skills to positively impact the agricultural industry. Sigma Alpha has been named the Missouri State COAG Days "Club of the Year" three years in a row and hosts events such as Barnwarming and Giving Thanks to Ag. If you are interested in joining Sigma Alpha contact Abby Wilson at Wilson1464@live.missouristate.edu.

The purpose of the **Trap and Skeet Team** is to provide opportunities for students, staff, and faculty to participate in recreational intercollegiate shotgun shooting sport competitions. This provides an opportunity for the participant to develop skills, become educated on gun safety and provide leadership opportunities as a member of the team. The Trap and Skeet Team fosters teamwork and cooperation among its members. For more information contact Colton Bamert at bamert27@live.missouristate.edu.

The Wildlife Society of MSU is a professional organization dedicated to the development of students in the fields of Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Members are given the opportunity to gain field experience, network with professionals in their field and the chance to share their passions with others. Members also assist the Missouri Department of Conservation in collecting data, volunteering with the Stream Team and attending the Missouri National Resources Conference. Contact the Wildlife Society at wildlifesocietymisu@gmail.com for more information.

Faculty and Professional Staff

Dr. Ron Del Vecchio, Dean

Agricultural Business, Education & Communications

Dr. Arbindra Rimal, Department Head
Agricultural Economics/Bus.
Ms. Nichole Busdieker-Jesse Agricultural Economics/Bus.
Mr. Nathan Fent Agricultural Communications
Dr. James Hutter Agricultural Education
Ms. Katelyn McCoy Agricultural Communications
Dr. Ben Onyango Agricultural Economics/Bus.
Dr. Christi Sudbrock Agricultural Economics/Bus.

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Mr. Travis Elliott Agricultural Law
Ms. Joyce Cutright Agricultural Communications
Mr. Jayson Shriver Agricultural Mechanics
Mr. Mike Wiles Agricultural Sales
Mr. Craig Grisham Agricultural Education

Animal Science

Dr. Gary Webb, Department Head
Equine Reproduction
Mr. Will Boyer Animal Science
Dr. Phillip Lancaster Animal Science
Dr. Lacy Sukovaty Vet and Small Animal Science
Dr. Elizabeth Walker Sheep and Goat Science
Ms. Natalie Mook Equine Science

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Dr. Jason Salchow Veterinary Science
Mr. Lyle Whittaker Meat Science

Managerial and Support Staff: Karls Hall

Mr. Jim Bellis Assistant to the Dean
Ms. Rhonda Breshears Executive Assistant to the Dean
Mr. Jeff Gettys Business Management Coordinator
Ms. Jean Cobban Administrative Assistant II
Ms. Gwenny Nance Accounting Specialist

State Fruit Experiment Station: Mountain Grove

Ms. Leslie Akers Admin Asst. II
Ms. Pam Turner Administrative Assistant IV
Ms. Jennifer Morganthaler Clinical Instructor
Mr. Jeremy Emery Field Crew Leader
Mr. Randy Stout Field Crew Leader
Ms. Sheila Long Field Crew
Mr. Steven Turner Mechanic
Mr. C.J. Odneal Cellar Technician
Mr. Michael Matthews Physical Plant Foreman
Mr. Bob Mosier Custodian

Plant Science and Natural Resources

Dr. Chin-Feng Hwang, Department Head
Grape Breeding and Genetics
Dr. Clydette Alsup-Egbers Horticulture
Dr. Melissa Bledsoe Plant, Insect & Microbial Science
Dr. Michael Burton Agronomy
Dr. Michael Goerndt Forestry
Dr. Martin Kaps Viticulture
Dr. Sarah Lancaster Environmental Plant Science
Dr. Will McClain Natural Resources
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski Integrated Pest Management
Dr. Wenping Qiu Molecular Plant Virology
Dr. Karl Wilker Enology and Distillation

Professional Staff

Ms. Li-Ling Chen Agriculture Research Specialist
Ms. Susanne Howard Grape Research
Ms. Marilyn Odneal Horticulture Advisor

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Ms. Lori Padgett Landscape Design
Mr. Timothy Stanton Forestry and Fire Management
Mr. Tim Russell Ozarks Wildlife
Ms. Bobbie Wixon Floral Arranging
Ms. Sheila Wehr Floral Design
Mr. Jerry Austin Wildlife Conservation
Mr. Clint Dalbom Wildlife Conservation
Dr. Anson Elliott Food Security

VESTA

Ms. Michelle Norgren Director
Ms. Cassandra Clark Missouri Program Coordinator

Shealy Farm

Mr. Joe Webb Farm Operator

Darr Agricultural Center and Bakers Acres

Mr. Mike Klem Coordinator Business & Support Svc.
Ms. Natalie Mook Coordinator
Mr. Justin Sissel Farm Manager
Ms. Carrie Crews Administrative Assistant II

Journagan Ranch

Mr. Marty Lueck Ranch Manager & Adjunct Faculty
Mr. Chad Emery Ranch Hand
Mr. Russell Driskell Ranch Hand
Mr. Eric Lueck Ranch Hand
Mr. Eddie Massey Ranch Hand
Mr. Jacob Peterson Research Specialist

Emeritus Faculty and Staff

Mr. Gayle Ashley: Horticulture, Dr. Jerry Crownover: Agricultural Education, Dr. Anson Elliott: Agronomy, Dr. Ben Fuqua: Soils, Dr. Robert Glenn: Agricultural Business, Dr. Lyndon Irwin: Animal Science, Dr. Harry James: Soils, Dr. Bruce Johnson: Agricultural Economics, Dr. James F. Moore, Jr.: Plant Pathology, Dr. Vernon Renner: Soils, Dr. Mike Roling: Entomology, Dr. Dennis Schmitt: Veterinary and Dairy Science, Dr. Charles E. Stufflebeam: Agricultural Business, Dr. Pamela Trewatha: Horticulture, Dr. Howard Townsend: Entomology, Dr. Jon Wiggins: Technology Education and Ms. Sally McAlear: Administrative Assistant, Ms. Ramona Taylor: Administrative Assistant, Ms. Pam Mayer: Administrative Assistant

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