

Missouri
State

WILLIAM H. DARR
COLLEGE of
AGRICULTURE

Volume 9 - Spring 2023

THE DARR DIFFERENCE



The Dean's Notes



This academic year was an exciting year of growth and change in the Darr College of Agriculture (DCOAG). As I write this update as the associate dean, I am thrilled to share the news with each of you.

Throughout this past academic year, the university has initiated an academic realignment plan to revitalize and transform academic affairs across the university. As part of this plan, the DCOAG will experience a few key changes that will enhance our statewide prominence as a leader in agriculture. One key change is the merging of the Department of Hospitality Leadership with our college. Connections to the food, beverage, and tourism industries open many avenues to integrate our efforts. Faculty and staff are eager to grow our programs to provide students with the entire farm-to-fork experience. The college will also combine departments into schools, with one school housing agribusiness, agriculture education, agricultural communications, and hospitality leadership, and the other school housing animal science, environmental plant science, and natural resources. School directors will be announced in Summer 2023.

As part of this process, our interim dean since July 2022, Dr. Ken Brown, will move from DCOAG to become the chief academic strategy officer in the Office of the Provost. The entire DCOAG would like to thank Dr. Brown for his guidance and support throughout the past year. His leadership was fundamental to the success of the college and placed us in a position for growth and advancement into the future. We look forward to working with him in his new role at the university.

Jim Bellis retired as the assistant to the dean of the DCOAG in January. Since 2009, Jim has played an integral role in student recruitment, development, and success. Numerous students were impacted by his caring nature and mentorship as he built a strong legacy in our college. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank Jim for his dedication to Missouri State Agriculture, and we extend our best wishes to him and his family in retirement.

The expansion of our facilities is also underway. If you've visited the Darr Agricultural Center this past year, you may have noticed the construction of a new 10,000-square-foot Small Animal Education Center. Supported by the Missouri legislature and donations from the Darr Family Foundation, this \$4.9 million building and facility offers a classroom, a teaching laboratory, graduate student offices, and animal care and housing facilities. Courses in companion animal science and other animal science labs will be conducted in the new building starting this Fall 2023 semester. Adjacent to the Small Animal Education Center, the college is designing a \$5.2 million Agriculture Innovation Hub. The 8,000-square-foot facility will include a large high bay shop space, classrooms, and collaboration spaces. Not only will the Hub offer space for welding and mechanical necessities of agricultural equipment but will also enhance the integration of precision agriculture technologies such as drones, robotics, sensors, and data analytics into all our programs. Fundraising efforts are underway with the support of a \$1 million donation from the Darr Family Foundation and a \$2 million grant from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Most importantly, our students thrived in the 2023-2024 academic year. The DCOAG hosted eleven students from Chongqing, China, while they completed their degrees in environmental plant science. This is the first cohort to graduate from the collaborative program with Southwest University in Chongqing. Since 2019, approximately 100 students have started the program annually and taken courses taught by Missouri State faculty in China and online for the first three years. During their final year, students attend classes at the Springfield campus. We are very proud of the 11 graduates and are excited to welcome 13 more students to campus in Fall 2023. In addition, The MSU Ranch Horse Team, coached by Dr. Gary Webb, won the Division II National Championship in Sweetwater, Texas, hosted by the American Stock Horse Association. Finally, we re-established the Ag Ambassadors who traveled all across the state of Missouri to recruit new bears to the DCOAG. They were each awarded \$1000 scholarships to help them succeed in school and represent us well.

The realignment process has created a fast-paced, cooperative environment on campus, setting the stage for big ideas and bold changes. As I step into the role of Interim Dean beginning June 1, 2023, Missouri State Agriculture will be in the middle of a dynamic and exciting time. We are gaining a department, building new facilities, and developing our programs to be stronger than ever. It all comes down to more opportunities for our students in an environment that will help them thrive. I can't wait to see us grow!

Dr. Melissa Bledsoe, Interim Dean

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Letter from the Editor:

When we first arrived at Missouri State University, we never imagined we would be signing off our last year publishing this magazine together. Through club involvement, educational opportunities, and group projects, we became united as a class and even more so through the development of writing this magazine. It has been a short four months since the start of our spring semester, a time that seems forever ago, but gone by way too soon. It is with my greatest sincerity to write this letter to thank my colleagues.

Our magazine features 12 articles which tell the stories of opportunities pursued by students, the impact the Darr College of Agriculture has made on alumni, and the influence Missouri State has made on agriculture. I want to thank each writer on our team who ensured the Darr Difference tells the authentic stories of those within. Montana Forcum, copy

editor, worked earnestly to review each story, guaranteeing each story was structured to please every reader. She served as a sounding board for ideas and did an extensive job in editing each piece. Kathryn Zuzack, layout editor, spent numerous hours laying out each graphic and story placement to produce a beautifully designed magazine. Alex White, advertising manager, worked diligently with the class and community to ensure advertisements were sold. His eagerness to succeed shined as a light through the class.

Our small class of writers and editors are proud to produce this magazine for you. The writers listed above, as well as Maegen Hicks and Gabby Mueller, hope you enjoy reading our magazine.

I want to lastly extend our gratitude

to our advisor and mentor, Katelyn McCoy. She has walked by our side since beginning our first chapters at Missouri State, facing each hardship and celebrating each victory in all our journeys. In addition, I would like to thank Taylor Allee for her guidance and support in producing this magazine. Her endless drive and dedication to support students at Missouri State does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for taking the time to read a magazine that closes the end of our chapter and opens nine new ones. It has been an honor to tell the stories of the Darr College of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kensie Darst".

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LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY

Jim Bellis retires after years of service to the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Alex White

Growing up most may have heard the phrase “don’t blink” as if life will happen right before our eyes. It can be difficult finding the thing in life that gets you out of bed in the morning. Something that will make you happy for the rest of your life, and something you can be proud of.

Jim Bellis, assistant to the dean at the now Darr College of Agriculture for 12 years and 8 months, helped provide a sense of understanding for the students that walked through his office.

STARTING A CAREER

During his high school years, the Future Farmers of America organization was important to Bellis and he believed in sharing those experiences with others. He figured the best way to go about his passion was to become an educator.

“I wanted to certify in agriculture education, and Mizzou was the only college in the state who offered

it,” Bellis said. “I spent three and a half years at Mizzou, graduated and started teaching in the middle of the year, and spent six years teaching agricultural education.”

He goes on to explain his time teaching at his hometown school in Aurora, Missouri where he was a student. Down the road, he also had an opportunity to work for the Department of Education as a supervisor for agriculture programs.

“I was real young doing that and worked for 24 years in that same position,” Bellis shared.

CHANGING PATHS

Bellis was always involved with helping agriculture students across the state, but he eventually made his way to making the change he was looking for. After many years spent with the Department of Education he eventually crossed paths with Dr. Anson Elliott, the previous director of the then School of Agriculture at Missouri State

University. Dr. Elliott was looking for candidates that could help within the college with enrollment, and spreading awareness about the College of Agriculture.

Shortly after Elliott started his search, he and Bellis would be in a conversation that would make the task easier.

“I always knew him (Bellis) and he was always around. We were growing and I was thinking of a recent graduate and he said ‘what about me?’” Dr. Elliott said.

Dr. Elliott had previously seen how Bellis would interact with FFA students, the agriculture teachers involved, and even the parents of these students.

After conversations and many hours, Dr. Elliott was able to make Bellis an offer to work for the College of Agriculture.

“It took a couple years to get a position approved and it was really supposed to be a part-time deal,” explained Bellis.

After Bellis and Dr. Elliott made the arrangements, it turned out to be more than expected for the better. Bellis ended up working full-time hours and sometimes even more within his first year at the college. Although Bellis seems to believe his success came more from what Dr. Elliott had already previously established.

Bellis had a passion for being involved with students and their parents before they graduated high school. He found that he had a niche in recruiting students, and after some time found success in enrollment numbers.

“THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST FUN THING I’VE EVER GOT TO DO.”
- JIM BELLIS

“We increased enrollment for seven years. Everything was in place with what Dr. Elliott built that allowed a guy like me to come in and brag about what we were doing,” said Bellis.

Bellis felt a sense of gratefulness in what Dr. Elliott built and took pride in representing him outside of the college.

“I always wanted to give him credit for the successful era. He was a real key in advisement. Students and parents would leave happy and he invited them back” said Dr. Elliott. “He lived that philosophy along with the other faculty.”

As they grew in waves, the success in within the college came with more than 800 students today.

Bellis reached his goal of making the change he wanted to within the agriculture education industry, but there was more fulfillment that came with the position that just increasing enrollment.

At first, faculty were not sure what Bellis would do within the

college. Since he was an agriculture educator it was assumed that he would get students into that program, however it was quite the opposite. He believed in getting students where they wanted and needed to be for success.

“It wasn’t trying to push a student to any particular area, but the area they were best suited for and where the jobs were.”

Bellis was more interested in helping the students that came through the college than anything else. From traditional students to transfer students Bellis’ goal was to put each student in a position to be successful. Putting students in the right courses, working to get transfer credits to count for transfer students and other obstacles taught Bellis the virtue of “patience” quickly.

In his earlier years, he would get in contact with future students as early as he could. He talks about how he would go off-campus to see what these students were interested in.

“I would visit the two year colleges in Missouri and meet those students one-on-one while they were freshman and sophomores” said Bellis, “one of the reasons that made recruitment easy was that I knew most of the agriculture teachers in the state being around for 24 years.”

He then goes on to explain how he would visit these campuses multiple times a year and built a sense of trust with the students and teachers. “I tried to play any role I could in helping them be successful.”

ALUMNI SUCCESS

Jarod Coatney, alumni of the Darr College of Agriculture, had somewhat of a close relationship with Bellis during his time at Missouri State University. Coatney

attended Missouri State University-West Plains before transferring to Missouri State University.

“I originally wanted to go into agriculture education, but when I transferred to Missouri State I kind of switched to more animal science,” said Coatney. “When I first got there I had no idea what to do and Bellis told me what to do, where to go and what classes to take. He was very knowledgeable and very helpful.”

Bellis was more than just an advisor to his students. He was always available to have a conversation or lend a listening ear when needed.

“I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL ERA...”
- DR. ANSON ELLIOTT

“He was always very concerned about us students. He would ask how our day was or how the semester is going. It was really nice because you don’t get that asked whole lot,” Coatney said. “I remember one semester I took 21 credit hours and it wasn’t easy. Bellis always told me not to give up and I could do it. He was just very encouraging.”

WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

As Bellis recaps on his time at Missouri State he says his favorite thing about being at the school were the students. Bellis had a caring heart and was always willing to reach out to a student in need. “Just to sit back and listen,” said Bellis, “sometimes there would not be any advice that I would give. I would show them respect one at a time as they would come in, it is the respect that they deserve.”

Bellis had a unique way of

inspiring the students. Instead of carrying on after assigning classes to students he would ask questions like “What makes you happy?” Or “What would you like to do with your life?” And sometimes this is all a student would need during the day or even a semester. He had a way of understanding students and placing them in subjects based on what he learned from them.

The most important aspect of this position for Bellis was building relationships and friendships with

the students that was founded on trust and respect.

Bellis has had an amazing and impactful career at Missouri State and has spread a presence that will last a lifetime. From High School FFA member to assistant to the dean in the Darr College of Agriculture, Bellis has bittersweet emotions about his retirement but is eager to build back the relationship with his cattle and remember the lasting impact he brought to the school.

“This has been the most fun thing I’ve ever got to do” Bellis said. “Everyday just to walk down the hall and see the students smile and remember how I would help them enroll as a high school senior.”

Bellis explained hearing success stories from current and former students and being proud of being a part of that.

“That is what made sitting in this chair meaningful.”



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POTENTIAL Celebrating

Ag Alumni Association celebrates 10 years of providing student support

By: Montana Forcum

The Darr College of Agriculture's Alumni Association provides a variety of support to current and future students through various means. In 2012, Dr. Anson Elliott made the stride to assemble to association with intentions to support agriculture bears. Thus in 2013 the first Alumni and Friends Celebration event was held, which raised funds to provide students with scholarships. A total of \$8,500 were provided to students in need. Whereas in 2022, the association funded 15 scholarships to agriculture students totaling to \$42,000.

Each year the Alumni Association strives to boost morale and engagement not only for agriculture students, but for faculty and staff of the college. A recent morale and engagement activity struck interest among College of Agriculture (COAG) students.

The association hid a total of 96 farm ducks around Karls Hall and the Bond Learning Center. Once a student

found a duck, they had the option to either keep the duck or hide it in a different place. Susan Dawley, an alumna of the COAG since 1982, was inspired to create the event.

"I prayed over those ducks sitting at my dining room table that whatever quote I had found would be just the right one for the person

who found the duck," Dawley said.

The association also funds the Agriculture Ambassadors program, as well as assist with the Bear Pantry located on campus. The Alumni Association has and continues to impact current, future and past students, as well as faculty and staff of the college.



From left to right: Matt Wommack, Dr. Gary Webb, Dr. Lacy Sukovaty, Carrie Crews, Susan Dawley, and Katelyn McCoy. Photo courtesy of the Darr College of Agriculture.

COME AND CELEBRATE...

*The 11th annual
Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends*

A large, bold, dark red number '11' is centered on the page. The number is set against a background of numerous small, golden-yellow confetti dots of varying sizes. Behind the number, there are several thin, concentric circular lines, also in a light gold color, creating a subtle halo effect around the digits.

11

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Hangin' Up The Mic

Janet Adkison shares her broadcasting journey and tribute to Missouri State University

By: Kensie Darst

And for the final time, I'm Janet Adkison reporting for RFD-TV. Janet Adkison grew up on a beef farm, where her family raised Brangus and other commercial cattle. She spent her childhood summers exhibiting livestock and horseback riding. She followed the footsteps of her father and brother and played an active role in the Houston, Missouri FFA chapter and represented her area as a state vice president for the Missouri FFA Association.

Though intrigued by animal sciences, her interests lied within the leadership component of the three-circle model; FFA, classroom, and supervised agricultural experience (SAE). Adkison had her foot in the door at an early age with public speaking. During her FFA career, she competed in public speaking contests, better known as leadership development events (LDE), and participated in leadership seminars to expand her skillset in public speaking. Acting within these opportunities helped lay the groundwork to her future career.

After graduating from Houston High School, Adkison began her collegiate studies at Southwest Missouri State University – West Plains. After

completing a few courses at a more affordable cost, she transferred to Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield to study agricultural communications. She initially sought out a degree in animal science, but quickly discovered the endless career pathways offered in communications.

“Janet is such a professional and personable person, I knew both would come across the radio waves to listeners.”

- Suzanne Hubbard

Adkison was a pioneer in the program since its launch in the 1980s. She took classes such as newswriting, event communication, media appreciation, broadcast communications, and was published in both the Ag Review and the Darr Difference magazines. These classes prepared her for most future encounters she would face when walking into the workforce after graduation. Outside of the classroom, Adkison took an active role in a few student organizations. She was a member of Collegiate Farm Bureau,

Block and Bridle, and competed on the livestock judging team.

Through her experience in college, she could not have done it without the guidance of past director of the School of Agriculture, Dr. Anson Elliott.

“He may have been annoyed by this kid that kept coming in and asking questions, but I felt a kinship and appreciated that he was willing to answer them when I asked,” Adkison said.

Adkison sought out advice and direction from Dr. Elliott and he gladly provided it. She found a level of relation with Dr. Elliott as he too was a graduate of Houston High School.

After graduating from Southwest Missouri State University, she was unsure where life would take her next. One day, she received a phone call from one of her fellow state officer teammates, Suzanne Hubbard. Adkison quickly answered the phone to hear Hubbard inform her of an open farm broadcaster position in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“Janet is such a professional and personable person, I knew both would come across the radio waves to listeners,” Hubbard said.

Without hesitation, Adkison quickly applied and filled the open position,



Janet Adkison reporting on a live story segment for RFD-TV. Photo courtesy of RFD-TV.

where she worked as a farm broadcaster for the Arkansas Radio Network. This was her first step into a career bountiful of opportunities.

Adkison has been a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting for more than 20 years. The association has provided her with the chance to network with like-minded individuals whose interests lie within broadcast; whether in front of the camera or on radio. She has exhibited qualities of an active member by attending national conventions and conferences hosted by the association and taking an active role within.

In 2011, Adkison was elected to serve on the NAFB executive committee which led to her interest to serve as president of the organization in 2014. This position allowed her to conduct meetings with members from across the nation and visit with legislators on capitol hill in Washington, D.C. speaking upon issues affecting agriculture during that time. Adkison displayed leadership qualities not only through her broadcast experiences, but also through this national leadership position.

In 1999, during her time with the

Arkansas Radio Network, Adkison was visiting family in Missouri when she heard the Brownfield Network play over the local station. While listening, Adkison noticed a familiar Missouri native voice play over the airwaves. Andrew McCrea, owner of the American Countryside broadcast, aired on the station. After listening to McCrea's segment, Adkison thought to herself, "Brownfield... that'd be a pretty neat place to work."

*"One of the things I appreciated most was coming in and learning how the TV story is told versus the radio story."
- Janet Adkison*

A few months down the road, Adkison received a phone call from McCrea, informing her of an open position at Brownfield Network. Without hesitation, once again, Adkison quickly applied for the position, knowing this opportunity would only present itself once in her lifetime. Adkison took some time to reflect on the opportunities that

presented themselves at this point of her life. She cannot thank the National FFA Organization enough for the connections, knowledge, and skillsets she developed during her time as an active student member.

Since beginning her career in broadcast, Adkison has worked for several broadcast outlets across the Midwest. She began her career at Arkansas Radio Network, Brownfield Network in Missouri, KFRM in Kansas, and was the farm director for KMZU Radio in Carrollton, Missouri for seven years. Her time behind the mic over radio was about to change in 2013.

On March 29, 2013, Adkison broadcasted her last on-air segment for KMZU Radio. This new journey from behind the mic to in front of the camera was a transition Adkison was ready to make.

On April 15, 2013, Adkison joined the Rural Media Group (RMG) broadcast team in Nashville, Tennessee. This position, as a market reporter for RFD-TV and Rural Radio 147 Sirius XM, later presented the chance to become the outlet's Washington, D.C., News Bureau Chief where she then moved to the east



LIVE

coast for two years, to cover stories happening in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the capital, and the White House. She worked alongside organizations who represent farmers and ranchers in rural communities who were directly impacted by legislative decisions.

Two years later, Adkison moved back to Nashville to rejoin the main studio and begin her role as the news anchor for Rural Free Delivery Television (RFD-TV) Market Day Report.

Adkison served as the anchor of the Market Day Report for RFD-TV for nearly seven years. During her time behind the desk, she has made numerous connections with those involved in agriculture, broadcast, and friends who turned into family from across the nation. The transition from radio to television helped Adkison realize the complexity of making a story come to life on air.

“There’s so many things you learn in college and from those people around college; they’re not only helping you grow, but they’re helping others around you grow, too.”
- Janet Adkison

“One of the things I appreciated most was coming in and learning how the TV story is told versus the radio story,” Adkison said.

In March, 2023, Adkison made the announcement she was leaving RFD-TV to move back to her home state of Missouri. She made the tough decision to hang up the mic and serve

as the new director of public affairs for Missouri Farm Bureau. Although broadcast may not be in her future, Adkison plans to continue to share the many stories of agriculturalists across Missouri.

“In my new role with Missouri Farm Bureau, I expect to share stories of Missouri agriculture through media outlets and social media,” Adkison said. “Highlighting members of the ag industry, opportunities, and challenges.”

Reflecting on her journey to get where she is today, Adkison tributes her opportunities and successes to her

collegiate studies and her time as a Missouri State bear.

“There’s so many things you learn in college and from those people around college; they’re not only helping you grow, but they’re helping others around you grow, too,” Adkison said.

Janet Adkison is an inspiration to more than just her viewers. She inspired those who surrounded her and made an impact on those she encountered. From being raised on a Missouri farm, to sharing the most recent news in agriculture on a national television, to making it full circle where she will serve Missouri farmers and ranchers once again, we are thankful for Adkison and her contribution to the agricultural industry. We have enjoyed watching her effectively share the story of agriculture and cannot wait to see how her story continues to unfold.

For the final time, “Reporting live for RFD-TV, I’m Janet Adkison.”

Janet Adkison posing next to two fellow RFD-TV coworkers and two National FFA Officers. Photo courtesy of RFD-TV.





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Cultivating the *NEXT*





GENERATION of advocates

Darr College of Agriculture students develop passion for advocacy by interacting with policymakers

By: Kensie Darst

On December 4, 2022, participants and members of Missouri Farm Bureau gathered at the Margaritaville Lake Resort for the annual Missouri Farm Bureau meeting. Nervously waiting to compete in the ambassador interviews, Hala Edquist stood behind the door, watching as each seat filled with unfamiliar faces. When the clock struck eight, the interviews began. The day was filled with challenging questions, discussions relating to policy, laughter, and restless minds as 12 candidates competed to receive one of the two spots to become an ambassador for Missouri Farm Bureau.

Although the results were not how Edquist anticipated, she walked away being more inspired than ever to share

the story of agriculture with more than her local community.

Edquist's Journey

Edquist grew up on her family's registered Holstein dairy cattle operation in Mountain Grove, Missouri, then developing into a commercial Red Angus and Black Angus beef cattle operation in 2014. Working alongside her family helped develop a sincere appreciation for agriculture and those who work endlessly within. She quickly found her involvement in agriculture could take her to more places than she could imagine.

During her senior year of high school, Edquist became involved with Wright County Farm Bureau, sharing

her story with those on the local level. She attended regularly held meetings and voiced her concerns about what was happening within the legislation that would affect her family's farm down the road. To receive more insight into what was happening within agriculture in her community, she attended monthly dinners to listen to the celebrations and concerns her local farmers and ranchers would voice.

Edquist is now a junior in the Darr College of Agriculture, studying animal science and environmental plant science on the crop science track. She quickly found her place on campus by participating in the MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau student organization. MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau provided

Edquist the chance to learn about current policy issues and how to help others understand the importance of policymaking. Understanding the need for advocates was her first step toward becoming the voice for the industry she cared deeply about.

Since learning how to become an advocate through MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau, Edquist wished to serve beyond her local county farm bureau. She wished to serve as a Missouri Farm Bureau ambassador in 2020 but was unable because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When it was time to interview for the ambassador program in 2022, Edquist was eager to receive one of the two positions. She prepared for the big day by practicing hours upon hours on potential questions the panel of judges might ask.

During the big day, when she wasn't answering interview questions, Edquist attended legislation sessions and listened to state farm bureau members share their policy resolutions, helping her gain a different perspective from producers across Missouri. Edquist eventually found herself listening to

Gov. Michael L. Parson speak on the influence local members can make to change the minds of those within state and national legislation. Listening to his speech assured Edquist the future of Missouri's agriculture industry was in the right hands.

"Walking away, I just know that Missouri Farm Bureau is advocating for the rural farmer and rancher and that the 2023 farm bill will support us again," Edquist said.

*"I'm a farmer myself and I think the farmer's voice needs to be heard."
- Hala Edquist*

Edquist left the annual meeting unsatisfied with the results of the program but was fueled with passion to become a voice for farmers and ranchers across Missouri.

After receiving word about the upcoming 2023 Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Discussion Meet contest, Edquist felt led to participate in the discussion and represent not

only MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau but advocate for an industry she loves. After hours of preparation with her fellow teammates, Theo Rieckhoff and Tucker Bittick, and receiving several words of encouragement, Edquist was prepared to discuss any topic proposed during the contest.

The day finally arrived, and Edquist was headed to compete in the discussion meet at Margaritaville, located in Osage Beach, Missouri. Edquist found herself seated next to her competitors, recognizing a few familiar faces. Students from the University of Missouri and the College of the Ozarks were also competing in the contest. All competitors discussed topics such as broadband expansion, eminent domain, and property rights to name a few.

Out of the topics, Edquist was most passionate about eminent domain. Thanks to her fellow MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau members and her past internship, where she worked as a crop scout and completed crop consulting, Edquist was equipped with the right discussion points to walk away winning the YF&R Discussion Meet contest.

"I have Tucker and Theo to thank," Edquist said, "they gave me ideas and ways I could tackle the questions that we had on the discussion floor and how to talk with and see the viewpoints of the other panel members."

After graduating in May 2024, Edquist plans to pursue a career in consulting, focusing on how she can become a voice for farmers and ranchers across Missouri.

"I'm a farmer myself and I think the farmer's voice needs to be heard," Edquist stated. "Sometimes a young presence in Jefferson City or Washington D.C. where we're able to relay that information, is important."

Edquist values sharing her experience in agriculture with state and national legislators, but it couldn't have been possible without having instructors who influence students to become involved in

Hala Edquist receives first place YF&R Discussion Meet plaque from Missouri Farm Bureau President Garrett Hawkins in Osage Beach, Missouri. Photo courtesy of Missouri Farm Bureau.



policy. Faculty members like Nichole Busdieker-Jesse encourage students to learn about real-world policy; thus, she invites real-world policymakers into the classrooms of the college.

Professor's Prospective

Nichole Busdieker-Jesse is an agricultural business instructor in the Darr College of Agriculture and advisor for MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau. She teaches the AGR100 Food Security, and AGB444 American Agriculture Policy classes offered within the college. Busdieker-Jesse invites industry policy specialists to speak with her students each semester of her food security class.

"Our next generation of leaders are in our colleges right now, and it's so important for them to be able to experience with our policymakers."
- Director Chris Chinn

"I focus on the importance of the policies," Busdieker-Jesse stated. "We need to get back to making good policies and understanding the policies and policy process."

MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau puts the discussions into action each year during their annual Ag Forum. The Ag Forum is held during the spring semester and invites local, state, and national legislators to Springfield to have an open discussion with students, faculty, staff, and community members about what policies are occurring within Missouri agriculture.

"I think of it [Ag Forum] as a twofold," Busdieker-Jesse stated, "first is to get students to recognize the importance of being engaged in policy and knowing that through the discussions you have, that these policies people are in, are doing stuff that will impact our students at the home front."

Ag Forum brings perspectives from all different backgrounds into one location to ask challenging questions and receive answers from individuals who partake in

creating legislation that affects their daily jobs in the industry.

Busdieker-Jesse has attended the annual Ag Forum since beginning her career at the College of Agriculture in 2016. When asked about her favorite Ag Forum, she excitedly shared that the 2022 Ag Forum was her favorite.

"The reason why was because the students were so ready to get back to a normal, to get back engaged," Busdieker-Jesse began, "they were so driven to really make sure that it was the best experience possible."

The College of Agriculture could not host the event in 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions put into place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it may have been identified as a challenge to reintroduce the event after not being hosted for nearly two years, the members in 2022 organizations put their boots on the ground. The Collegiate Farm Bureau members worked continuously to produce an event, including speakers such as Missouri Director of Agriculture, Chris Chinn.

Director's Devotion

Chris Chinn has served as the Missouri Director of Agriculture since being elected to her office in January 2017. As the director, she has traveled across Missouri and the nation putting policies into place to represent hardworking farmers and ranchers across the state. While being a voice for

agriculture in Jefferson City and Washington D.C., Director Chinn has made it a priority to speak with students of the next generation.

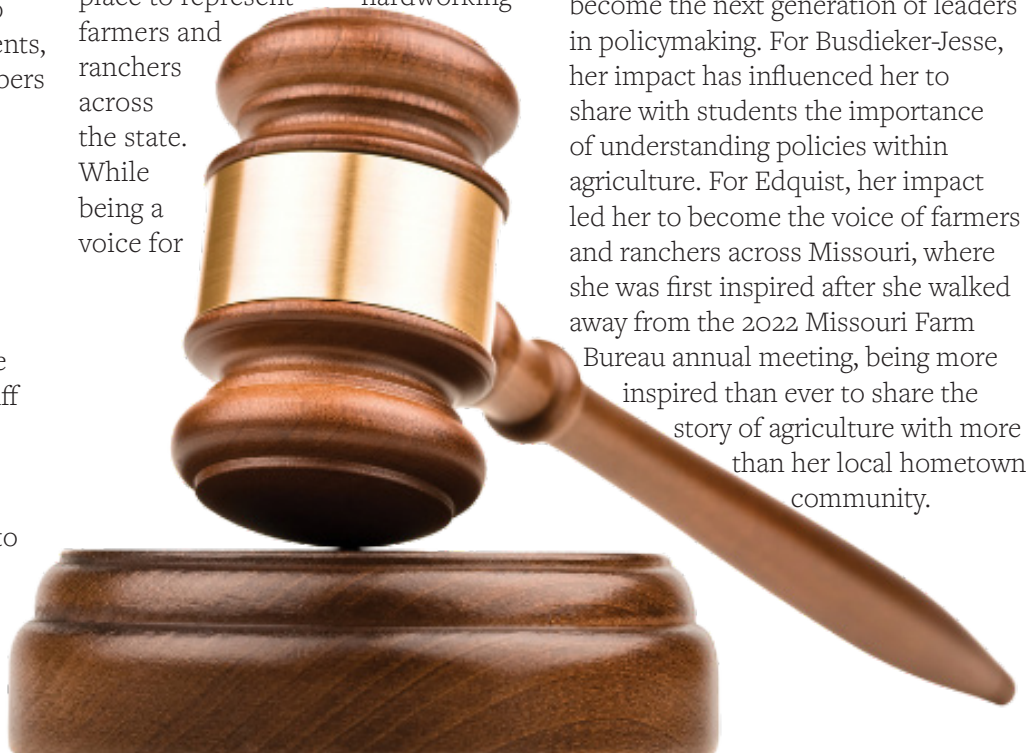
"Our next generation of leaders are in our colleges right now, and so it's important for them to be able to experience with our policymakers that are already in place, having those conversations, and having those experiences to learn from them," Director Chinn said.

Chinn has engaged with more than 100 college students at events within the College of Agriculture, including the annual Ag Forum and Sigma Alpha Symposium.

"My favorite [college event] I have been to is the Ag Forum you all hold," Chinn said. "You bring in big policymakers to be on the panel, you get their opinions at the event, but you also get the college students' opinions and the lawmakers' opinions."

Lawmakers, policy specialists, governing officials, and local county Farm Bureau members have all made an impact on those involved in agriculture, especially students within agriculture.

Each encounter Edquist, Busdieker-Jesse, and Director Chinn have had with legislators has made an impact on them. For Director Chinn, her impact has been to guide students to become the next generation of leaders in policymaking. For Busdieker-Jesse, her impact has influenced her to share with students the importance of understanding policies within agriculture. For Edquist, her impact led her to become the voice of farmers and ranchers across Missouri, where she was first inspired after she walked away from the 2022 Missouri Farm Bureau annual meeting, being more inspired than ever to share the story of agriculture with more than her local hometown community.



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Nutrition Facts

2 servings per container
Serving size 1 cup (255g)

	Per serving	Per container
Calories	220	440
	% DV*	% DV*
Total Fat	5g	10g
Saturated Fat	2g	4g
Trans Fat	0g	0g
Cholesterol	15mg	30mg
Sodium	240mg	480mg
Total Carb.	35g	70g
Dietary Fiber	5g	10g
Total Sugars	10g	20g
Incl. Added Sugars	10g	20g
Protein	10g	20g

Trans Fat	0g	0%	0%
Total Fat	8g	16%	12%
Saturated Fat	1g	2%	5%
Trans Fat	0g	0%	0%
Cholesterol	0mg	0%	0%
Sodium	160mg	3%	7%
Total Carbohydrate	37g	7%	12%
Dietary Fiber	4g	8%	16%

Total Fat	8g	12%
Saturated Fat	1g	5%
Trans Fat	0g	0%
Cholesterol	0mg	0%
Sodium	160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate	37g	12%
Dietary Fiber	4g	16%

Facing the Truth about Food Labels



	Amount	% Daily Value*
Calories	200	
Total Fat	8g	12%
Saturated Fat	1g	5%
Trans Fat	0g	0%
Cholesterol	0mg	0%
Sodium	160mg	3%
Total Carbohydrate	37g	7%
Dietary Fiber	4g	8%
Total Sugars	12g	24%
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20	40%
Protein	10g	20%



Food labels strive to inform consumers about products, yet raise questions instead of providing answers

By: Montanna Forcum

As a consumer walks into a local grocery store to gather ingredients for dinner, they notice their gallon of milk reads “gluten free”. They pause and wonder, “what is gluten?” The consumer looks at a box of cereal to see the label reads how many sugars, fats, protein, and carbohydrates there are, but they wonder how much is in a serving. As they continue to walk through the aisle they notice “antibiotic free” chicken breast, “raised cage free” eggs, “organic” bananas, and their favorite bottle of Norton wine produced by Missouri State University (MSU) has a different label than all the other groceries they have in their cart. They then realize food labels are not easy to read or understand.

Rick Smith, 78, of West Plains, Mo., struggles to understand the language used on labels. He recalls a time when labels were not as confusing.

“I truly struggle trying to understand what gluten, organic, and all the other labels mean. They don’t tell you what it all means when you are shopping,” Smith said.

Regulations

Food labels, or nutrition labels, are a nationwide requirement by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Each group is responsible for the labels on the products they manage.

According to the FDA, the nutrition facts label communicates important information about the food consumers eat. The FDA also governs what label format to use on a product based on package size and contents. The FDA mandates labels to help consumers make food selections that better reflect their preferences or encourage them to choose more nutritious foods.

According to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the USDA has authority over labeling meat and poultry products, eggs, and egg products. Under USDA’s regulation, these items are exempt from complying with FDA standards, including FDA labeling standards. However, the FDA regulates fish, shellfish, rabbit, and game meat.

Labeling of drinks with alcohol content in excess of 7% is regulated by the TTB. The Federal Alcohol Administration (FAA) Act labeling provisions do not apply to all alcohol that contain less than 7% alcohol by volume. Therefore, those beverages are not subject to the same labeling requirements. However, there are some mandatory labeling requirements that apply to beverages that contain less than 7% alcohol by volume such as warnings, alcohol volume, and components.

History

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 was the first consumer protection law of significance enacted by Congress in the 20th century, and led to the creation of the FDA. It was known as the “truth in labeling” law intended to ban altered or mislabeled products and raise the standards across the food and drug industries. The idea to use “truth in labeling” was to protect the consumer from fraudulent and dangerous ingredients.

In 1906, packaged food was a new idea. Most foods during this time were traded and purchased in bulk, which meant unpackaged, boxed, or canned. Thus the Gould Amendment was installed to require all packaged foods to have the quantity of their contents plainly marked on the outside of the package in terms of weight, measure or numerical count.

Food labels first made their appearance on shelves in 1913, mandated by the FDA. The first regulations required nutrition labeling of foods with added nutrients and those for which a nutrition claim was made on the label or in advertising.

In 1938, a new law was added to the Gould Amendment which required any artificial flavoring, coloring, or chemical preservative to be listed on the product label. The FDA also began issuing food standards, “to promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers,” as the law states.

The nutrition facts panel underwent another significant overhaul in 1990. The new label



Apple butter is made from products grown at the Fruit Experiment Station and is manufactured at the station. Photo courtesy of Missouri State University.

required specific listings for added sugars as well as some essential vitamins and nutrients, including vitamin D, potassium, calcium, and iron, to be on all food labels. These are the current labels used.

While changes in the manufacturing processes have been made, purchasing patterns, consumer demands, and requirement changes of the label, the formatting is fairly standardized. It was deliberately designed to be flexible enough to allow regulators to adapt to the changing landscape of nutritional knowledge as warranted by ongoing scientific research.

Label Requirements

Despite the number of regulations for the food manufacturer or distributor is responsible for ensuring food product labeling complies with FDA regulations. Additionally, the organization will not review or approve food labels. If the labels do not comply with FDA requirements, the organization will consider the product misbranded.

The FDA does offer assistance with labeling, and the Label Review Service can help confirm labels comply with the organization’s requirements. According to the FDA, food manufacturers are required to list all ingredients in the food on the label. The labels go in order from most used ingredient to least used ingredient. The label must list the names of any FDA certified color additives. However, some ingredients can be listed collectively as flavors, spices, artificial flavoring, or in the case of color additives. Declaration of an allergenic ingredient could be accomplished by simply naming the allergenic ingredient in the ingredient list.

Grades in Products

The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) provides American agriculture with valuable tools and services, such as grading, certification, and verification, that help create marketing opportunities.



Two of Missouri State University Norton wine displaying TTB’s requirements. Photo courtesy of Montana Forcum.

For dairy products, grade and quality labels include grade AA, A, or B. Grades are applied to butter and cheeses which have been in use since 1947. For poultry products, the grades are A, B, and C, which have been in use since 1976. Eggs use grading of AA, A, and B, these have been in use since 1963. Lastly, beef grades have been in effect since 1927 which include; prime, choice, select, standard, and commercial.

“Our products are very simple and pure with no preservatives or coloring.”
- Leslie Akers

TTB’s requirements vary depending on the wine’s percent of alcohol per volume. If the wine contains less than 7% of alcohol per volume, the bottle must include; name, address, brand name, alcohol content, net contents, designation, health warning statement, and FDA’s labeling requirements (ingredients, allergens, and nutrition). If the wine contains 7% or more

alcohol per volume, the bottle must include all that is on the less than 7% bottle plus, color ingredient disclosure, and sulfite declaration.

Missouri State University

MSU manufactures and sells wine, spirits, jams, apple butter, and more. Each of these products contain food labels, however, they lack some of the main requirements the FDA and TTB mandate. This is due to the amount of food per year they sell. If the producer sells \$50,000 or more food per year, they are required to follow all FDA and TTB requirements. However, if they sell less than \$50,000 per year, they are exempt and are only required to include ingredients.

Leslie Akers, an administrative assistant at the Mountain Grove campus, helps monitor labeling for the food products they produce and sell.

According to Akers, the honey sold from Missouri State's Mountain Grove Campus shares a disclosure that the product has not been inspected by the Department of Health and Senior Services. The label reads the product is not for infants less than 12 months of age.

"Our products are very simple and pure with no preservatives or coloring," Akers stated. "Each label lists the ingredients and the net weight. On the bottom of each jar, there is a best by date. Our apple

butter has the most ingredients of our products and it only contains apples, sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg."

Jeremy Emery, a cellar technician, works alongside Dr. Karl Wilker, a research professor at the State Fruit Experiment Station. The station is dedicated to the advancement and improvement of the Missouri fruit crop industry. Research conducts plant science experiments as well as advisory programs in commercial fruit crops and public education.

The process to create the labels begin with an outline and theme, and utilizing the university's creative services to create the label. After the design is created, the design is sent to TTB for approval to ensure the wording is correct, nothing is forgotten or hidden, and the product is exactly what the labels read.

"Our labels are upfront so the consumer can see exactly what is in the product."

- Jeremy Emery

Before the wine or spirit is ready to be purchased by consumers, producers perform a menthol test to ensure there is no menthol in the product. The labels also require declaration if there is sulfites in the wine or spirit. Sulfites, also known as sulfur dioxide, are naturally occurring and

are antimicrobial agents produced as a byproduct of yeast metabolism during fermentation. They do not run a test; however, there is a potential sulfite could be in the product. It is used as a precaution.

"Our labels are upfront so the consumer can see exactly what is in the product," Emery stated.

Emery and Wilker believe their labels are straightforward and easy to understand. The labeling is required to follow all regulations made by TTB in order to be placed on the shelf. Emery and Wilker both work tirelessly to produce and provide authentic products for consumers to purchase.

Labels are the first step to understanding what people are consuming. The FDA, USDA, and TTB keep up-to-date with research to ensure United States citizens have the tools to make wise choices in their consumable options.

How To Read the Label

To read a label, begin with the serving size at the top. The serving size informs the consumer the amount recommended to eat at one time and the number of servings per package. Next, compare the total calories to your individual needs. You can find out how many calories are in a single serving and then compare it to your total calorie allowance for the day. Continuing down the label is the percent of daily values. Look at the vitamins, minerals, and dietary fiber on the label. This section helps you identify foods with high or low dietary fibers, vitamin D, calcium, and iron. Next, consider the additional nutrients. Understand the amount of protein, carbohydrates, and sugars in the product. Lastly, view the ingredients list to check if the item contains ingredients you may be allergic to.

While labels can be difficult to understand, and there may always be confusion, however, Missouri State University product labels are easy to understand. If questions, concerns, or confusion arise, faculty and staff are readily available and eager to assist.



Pure honey is produced from the hives located at Shealy Farm, the Darr Agricultural Center, and the Fruit Experiment Station. Photo courtesy of Missouri State University.

Behind Labels

Gluten-free:



Gluten is a protein-structure that naturally forms in grains such as wheat and rye. Gluten is only present in products that contain grains. Other products such as milk,

do not contain gluten.

Grass-fed:

The animal is brought to a desired carcass weight and yield grade (such as prime, choice, and select) via a non-grain, forage-based diet.



Antibiotic-free:



Farmers give antibiotics to their animals to treat illness. Before the meat animal is processed, they are weaned for a certain period of time to

ensure antibiotics are not in the meat at time of processing.

Cage-free:

Hens that are raised cage-free, produce eggs labeled as cage-free. The cage-free label indicates that the hen wasn't raised in a cage but doesn't have access to an outdoor environment.

Cages and indoor environments are designed to protect the laying hens from predators.



Organic:



Produce can be labeled organic if the product is certified to have grown in soil that has no prohibited substances applied for three years prior to harvest.

Prohibited substances include most synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

Non-GMO:

Genetically modified organisms (GMO) are used to produce products

that increase crop yields, reduce food or drug production costs, and reduce the need for pesticides.





Beary Important Bees

Colonies of bees positively impact the Missouri State University campus and surrounding community

Bees are an essential part of nature and account for 80% of the pollination of crops grown in agriculture, making them little creatures with a big purpose. Missouri State University (MSU) has several hives at the university farms, including Shealy Farm, the Fruit Experiment Station, Journagan Ranch, and the Darr Agricultural Center. These hives are kept and harvested by Valorie Nichols and John Moore. Nichols tends to the Darr Agricultural Center and Shealy Farm, while Moore tends to the hives at the Fruit Experiment Station and Journagan Ranch.

Nichols' beekeeping story started at a young age when her grandparents had hives. After her grandparents passed and her mother moved, she found that her new neighbor had bee hives. She began asking her neighbor for information about the bees and later joined The Beekeepers Club of the Ozarks in 1984, where she learned

about the importance of bees and how to tend to them. After her first class with The Beekeepers Club of the Ozarks, Nichols attended a dollar auction, where she won her first hive.

Currently, Nichols is the club's vice president and spends time educating new members and the public about the importance of beekeeping. In January 2023, the club had 90 students attend their new beekeepers class to learn how to keep hives of their own.

Nichols has been with the club for almost 30 years and was happy to see many new students interested in learning about beekeeping. Beekeeping at MSU started as an idea by Nichols and Moore. This idea would help promote plant growth for cattle at the university's farms, and allow the trees and brambles at the Fruit Experiment Station to thrive. Bees are a contributing factor to ecosystems and allow diverse vegetation to exist. Without the bees, none of the products at the university store would be available for purchase and the air you breathe would be polluted.

"Agriculture and beekeeping go hand in hand," Nichols stated.

Bees are helpful to plants in the pollination process, and without pollinators, many plants would become extinct.

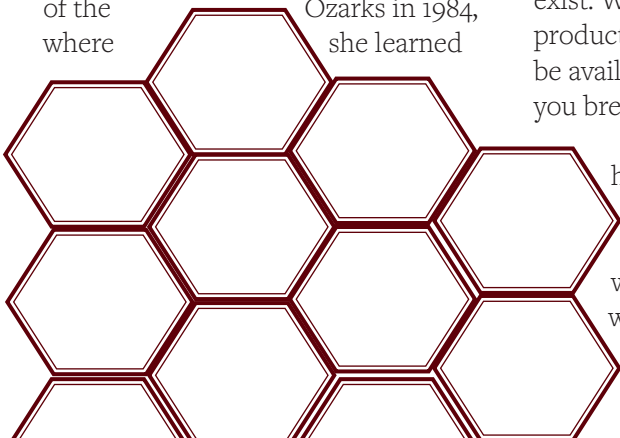
During the process, bees will land on a flower, and the hairs on their bodies will attract pollen grains that will then transfer to the next plant they visit. This allows the plant to reproduce and provides seed, nut, or fruit to be harvested. Each area has different needs, bees are versatile and can adapt to different locations.

*"Agriculture and bees go hand in hand."
- Valorie Nichols*

Migratory beekeeping is a full time job for some beekeepers and will travel anywhere in the country to where farmers need them. Many farmers only want bees on their property for the blooming season, so they are able to rent out hives ensuring the pollination of their crops. On average the bees, only stay two to four weeks of the year before they are moved overnight when the bees come home to their boxes.

"Honey bees can be picked up and moved to different areas for migratory beekeeping," Nichols said.

Bees do not have to be moved at the Shealy Farm and Journagan Ranch because they are kept full time. During the growing seasons at the farms,



they help produce alfalfa, clover, and much of the grassland that cattle graze. These are known legumes and they must be pollinated to mature and produce a seed head that cattle eat. Not only making a valuable nutrition source for cattle, but its roots have nodules with nitrogen fixing bacteria that help promote healthy soil.

The forages such as legumes, cattle eat to gain muscle and fat. Katherine Sanders, a graduate student living at Shealy Farm, is researching for her thesis, In-Vivo vs In-Vitro digestibility that looks at the breakdown of forages in the rumen, which is the cow's "true stomach." "Within the rumen, cattle have a symbiotic relationship with microbes allowing them to break down forages that humans cannot," Sanders said.

The forages cattle eat are digested by the microbes and are broken down via fermentation. This fermentation creates a microbial protein from carbon and nitrogen. This process lets cattle at Shealy Farm and Journagan Ranch gain weight to be butchered.

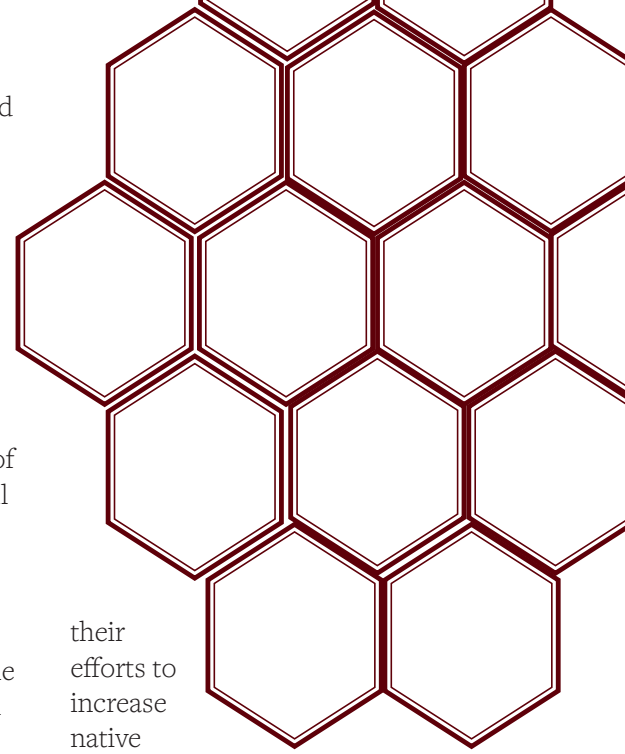
In the United States, there are an estimated 115,000 to 125,000 beekeepers with most being hobby farmers or those with less than 25 hives. In June, you can find approximately 60,000 honey bees in a singular hive. Helping with pollination but also producing a very precious commodity, honey.

Harvest time for honey can depend on the weather each year and the hive being worked with. When harvesting honey, you must take apart the hive box by box. In bee keeping terms, a box is called a "super," which holds nine frames. Each frame holds the comb-like structure that most people think about when bees come to mind. On the comb structure, bees encapsulate the honey with wax, which must be removed before rendering. After the wax is removed, the honey is tested for moisture content to ensure it does not ferment after being bottled. After bottling, it can be sold or given to loved ones.

Nichols harvests the hives located at MSU at the end of July or the beginning of August. The honey collected at the Fruit Experiment Station is bottled and sold along with other jams, jellies, fruit, and MSU products at the store. These products are available for students, families, and anyone interested in supporting MSU.

The club provides the structure of beginner beekeeping classes and will pair the student with a mentor. This mentor will help them through any questions they might have and give hands-on guidance so students can feel confident while working with the bees. The club also provides general community education to spread awareness about the importance of bees and will remove a wild beehive for free if it is causing a problem in its current location.

Currently, no bee-keeping classes are taught at the university, but MSU is an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program. This program is a initiative by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and MSU is one of only three colleges in the state of Missouri to be a part of the program. Bee Campus USA promotes the college campus to enhance pollinator friendly practices. To become an affiliate, the school must apply annually to show



their efforts to increase native plants, decrease use of pesticides, and provide more cover crops for pollinators to hibernate in. Students interested in helping out on campus or learning about pollinator conservation they can reach out to MSU's horticulture department. Students interested in learning more about beekeeping are encouraged by Nichols to join the Bee Keeping Club of the Ozarks.

Missouri State University honey is sold at the State Fruit Experiment Station. Photo courtesy of Macey Hurst.





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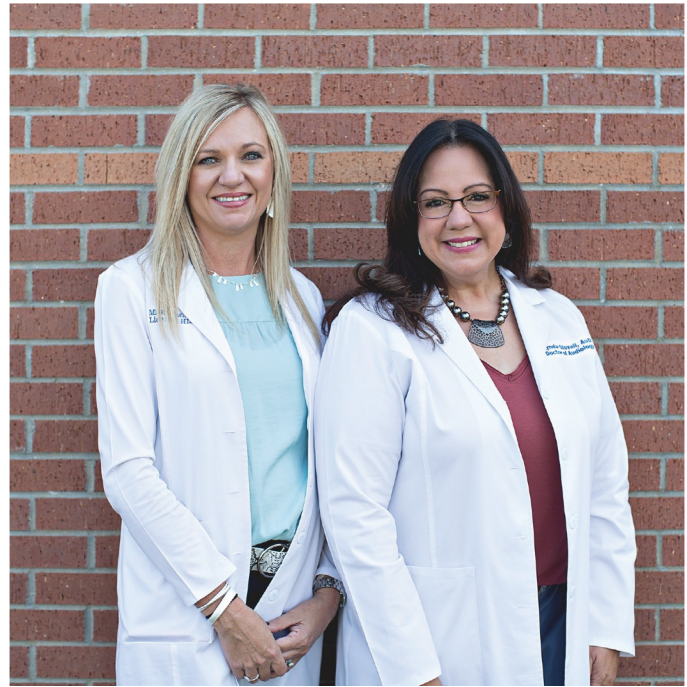
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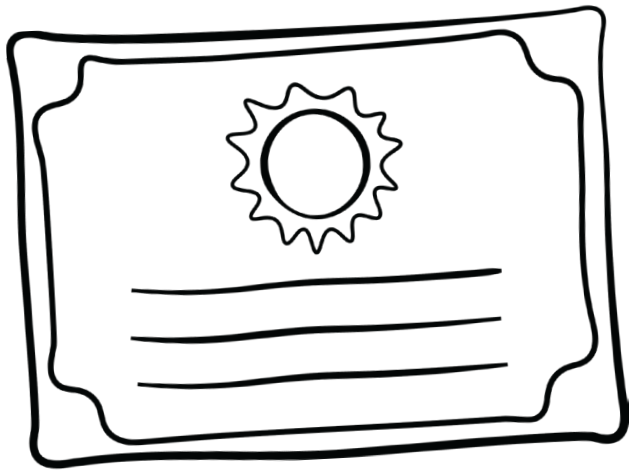
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Investing in the Future

Hale Scholarship gives students from Barton and Vernon Counties endless opportunities

By: Kathryn Zuzack

Undergraduate students who plan to pursue a degree in agriculture and maintain academic merit, qualify for a three-year renewable scholarship. Missouri State University alumni gift estate funds to future students who reside in Vernon or Barton counties in Missouri. An estimated \$12 million will provide students with the opportunity to attend the Darr College of Agriculture through a passion of education held by the Hale family.

Larry and Linda Hale started and operated a real estate business for over 40 years, making the scholarships possible. Alongside the family business, the two raised cattle throughout their marriage. Both receiving their higher education at Missouri State, they walked with great passion and gratitude towards their time on campus. While the couple got to truly live out the ‘American dream’, they wanted to ensure youth involved in agriculture would have the same experience after high school. The Hale’s credited the university for all their success in life.

“Linda chose to leave the bulk of her estate to scholarships for MSU students because she and Larry were both grateful for the education they received at MSU,” said George Nichols, trustee for Linda Hale’s estate

in a 2020 interview with Missouri State. “She was passionate about helping students attend Missouri State and obtain a college degree.”

Five students are currently taking advantage of the scholarship money,



Animal science department head Gary Webb presenting agriculture education junior, George Weber with his Hale Scholarship certificate at the 2022 College of Agriculture Scholarship & Awards Banquet. Photo courtesy of the Darr College of Agriculture.



Former Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio with three of the 2021 scholarship recipients at the 2021 College of Agriculture Scholarship & Awards Banquet. Pictured from left are Michaela Winslow, Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio, Payden Nolting, and Lauren Morgan. Photo courtesy of Missouri State University Visual Media.

to study agriculture business, animal science, agriculture education and more. For students like agriculture education major George Weber, this opportunity opened a door to a more affordable college education.

“With this scholarship, I have been able to continue my education in the agriculture industry. I believe this scholarship is important especially for the students that work on the family farm.”
 - George Weber

Weber is from Lamar, Missouri and is a transfer student from Crowder College in Neosho. With his degree, Weber plans to teach agriculture education at the high school level. When applying for school, Weber’s advisor told him about all of Missouri State’s scholarships and was sure to mention the Hale Scholarship.

He felt very honored to be a recipient of the scholarship. It has helped relieve financial stress and has allowed him to focus more on school rather than focusing on how he was going to finance it.

“With this scholarship, I have been able to continue my education in the

agriculture industry,” Weber said. “I believe this scholarship is important especially for the students that work on the family farm.”

The Hale family ensured the money would go toward students involved within the agricultural industry as a result of the passion they shared for it. In addition, Larry and Linda both understood how important the future would be to agriculture and the need for more youth involvement.

Since the scholarship was established in 2020, the foundation has awarded six students annually, each receiving \$10,000. The recipients of the scholarship must

be undergraduate students enrolled full-time at Missouri State University with a declared major in agriculture. Recipients must be graduates of schools in Barton or Vernon counties in Missouri. The scholarship may be automatically renewed for three additional academic years as long as the student maintains satisfactory academic progress and continues to meet all eligibility criteria. This scholarship is part of Onward, Upward: The Campaign for Missouri State University which is the university’s largest fundraising campaign.

“Scholarships are an essential part of making college affordable for students,” Missouri State President Clif Smart said in an interview with Missouri State in 2020. “We are grateful to Larry and Linda Hale and George Nichols. This gift will help students from Barton and Vernon counties afford a college education for generations to come.”

“Scholarships are an essential part of making college affordable for students.”
 - Clif Smart

The 2022-2023 recipients of this scholarship include George Weber, Michaela Winslow, Payden Nolting, Dillon Hargrove, and James Hargrove.



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Emerging Education through Internships

Why internships like Andi Howard's at Missouri State University's - Journagan Ranch are important

By: Maegen Hicks

Most Missouri State University students must participate in an internship to graduate with a degree. Every year so students can learn from professionals in their respective fields, allowing students to expand their knowledge outside of the seated classroom setting. Andi Howard, a Missouri State University - West Plains transfer student, conducts her internship at Journagan Ranch.

Howard grew up in Dora, Missouri, and had the opportunity from a young age to work with commercial cattle. Having a family farm, she has been able to participate and show cattle from a young age. Howard purchased her first registered Hereford heifer from Journagan in 2018, beginning her tie to Journagan Ranch.

After purchasing a heifer from Journagan, it gave Howard an appreciation for Hereford cattle and the initiative to pursue the internship.

"My first registered heifer came from Journagan, allowing me to show on a higher level than previous cattle I have worked with on my own farm," Howard said.

Although she has prior experience, the internship allowed her to expand her knowledge in herd management, logistics, and understanding how larger ranches operate.

*"My first registered heifer came from Journagan; allowing me to show on a higher level than previous cattle I have worked with on my own farm."
- Andi Howard*

Journagan Ranch consists of 3,300 acres and is located near Mountain Grove, Missouri, housing more than 350 Hereford cattle. Journagan is the

largest seed stock operation owned by a university in the United States. Marty Lueck, the current and longtime farm manager, was her main point of contact during her internship, supplying her with seasoned knowledge of farming and ranching. Lueck has been with the ranch since 1981 and continued with the farm when it was donated to Missouri State in 2010 by the Leo Journagan family.

Howard spent the summer working cattle, mending fence, and helping with the ranch's finances. Everyday tasks can become learning opportunities because each person has their own method for completing them. Knowing multiple ways to solve a problem lets you choose the solution best fitted for the problem at hand. Watching Lueck and the other farm workers allowed her to learn a new skill or lesson every day.

"You know, pretty much she got



Howard showing Journagan Ranch cattle at the 2022 Ozark Empire Fair. Photo courtesy of Empire Imagery.



Above is the Journagan Ranch logo used to signify all registered Hereford cattle owned by Missouri State University. The "M" on top of the hat stands for Missouri, and bottom sideways "S" stands for State. In the "S" there is a "U" representing University.

to touch just about everything on the ranch," Lueck said.

Howard developed a love for management and the financials that accompanied the ranch management process. Currently, she is attending Missouri State in Springfield to obtain a degree in agriculture business with an emphasis in finance and management to gain more understanding of farm finance and how to help other farmers be successful with their accounts.

"I want people to have the ability to grow their farm to fit their dreams. Growing up I knew that I wanted to have a farm of my own, and dealing with our loan officer gave me the idea that I can help others achieve their dreams as well as work on my own," Howard said.

Internships at the ranch are available every summer to students who are willing to put their best foot forward. Leo Journagan, who donated

the ranch, believed students should have the ability to learn through hands-on experience. Lueck did not grow up on a farm, and understands the importance of internship opportunities like this one.

"There's gonna come a time where we're going to get kids from outside of agriculture, and this will be probably one of the few places that they can be able to experience it," Lueck said.

In 2022, Howard was the only intern at the farm, but Lueck hopes more people will apply this upcoming summer. Having two students on the farm will give him more help and the opportunity to reach more students with hands-on education and experience on a large scale ranch.

"I would definitely recommend the internship for anybody that is wanting to learn about a farm, whether they want to learn about the backgrounds and the inputs that go into it, or they

just want to learn the cattle aspect," Howard stated, "Completing an internship through Journagan Ranch gives students the opportunity to find themselves and to grow outside of their comfort zone. Learning how to adapt to a new situation everyday was one of the more challenging parts of my time spent there, however, these were the best days preparing me for the many things I may encounter in future career endeavors."

Reaching out to advisors, friends, and family can help students find internships in any field of employment. Howard was able to learn and experience new things because of reaching out to those. She believes that anyone with ambition to learn new skills can do the same.

"Anyone with a strong work ethic can achieve their goals," Lueck said.

Students of the Darr College of Agriculture are the number one priority and main purpose behind its existence. They exhibit excellence in their character, go above and beyond in their studies, and show the best of what the college has to offer. After a brief hiatus, 10 agriculture students were chosen to serve as Ag Ambassadors for the 2022-2023 academic year. The ambassadors speak with high school FFA programs, recruit at regional and national trade shows, and represent the college at large agricultural events such as the annual Ozark Empire Fair.

The ambassadors began their year of service with hours of training. Katelyn McCoy, advisor for the ambassadors, presented the team with scenario-based situations to prepare them for future presentations.

“I love being able to see students that didn’t know where they wanted to be, where they belonged, or even where their college was going to be, and helping them find that.”
- Jocelyn Dvorak

Additional training topics included answering questions relating to the university, presenting information to a large audience, and understanding how to work at a large recruitment event. The overarching goal is to help the ambassadors set and achieve benchmark goals for the year.

“I want the ambassadors to get out of it what they envision and my role is to help them achieve that vision,” McCoy said.

As a team, the ambassadors do not have any titled positions, but collaborate to ensure themselves and the college is successful in achieving its purposes. Jocelyn Dvorak is a second-year agriculture education major and served as one of the 2022-2023 ambassadors. According to Dvorak, connecting with incoming

students is the most rewarding aspect of her role.

“I love being able to see students that didn’t know where they wanted to be, where they belonged, or even where their college was going to be, and helping them find that,” Dvorak said.

Dvorak also enjoys promoting the opportunities within the College of Agriculture. She recalled one of her favorite events was National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she talked to a student who was unsure about being an agriculture education major. After they talked about why Dvorak went into agriculture education for her own degree, the student decided it was right for them.

In previous years, students who were interested in becoming an Ag Ambassador registered for a class, splitting responsibilities amongst the class. In 2022-2023, faculty and staff provided nominations for students. If accepted, students were received a \$500 scholarship split evenly into the two semesters. The scholarship helped offset travel costs and lower tuition for the students. The scholarship was funded by the Agriculture Alumni Committee. Moving forward, in lieu of nominations potential ambassadors will complete an application, submit a resume, and potentially go through an interview process.

The next pages

will introduce the 2022-2023 ambassadors including their major, hometown, and why they chose to be an Ag Ambassador. The common themes in their answers are dedication, love and passion for not only Missouri State, but for agriculture.



Ag Ambassador Overhaul



2022-2023 Darr College of Agriculture Ag Ambassadors



Payden Nolting
Hometown: Lamar, Missouri
Major: Agriculture Business- Marketing & Sales
“I wanted to be an Ag Ambassador to welcome more students into the family atmosphere that I found at the College of Agriculture.”



Paige Eikel
Hometown: Dardenne Prairie, Missouri
Major: Agriculture Business- Finance & Management
“I wanted to be an Ag Ambassador because I take pride in representing the college and helping future students.”



Paige Bossaller
Hometown: Owensville, Missouri
Major: Environmental Plant Science
“I became an Agriculture Ambassador because I enjoy meeting new people and being involved with events that encourage students to learn more about agriculture.”



Tucker Bittick
Hometown: Mount Vernon, Missouri
Major: Agricultural Communications
“I became an Agriculture Ambassador to be an advocate for our college and its many programs.”



Kathryn Zuzack
 Hometown: Bourbon, Missouri
 Major: Agricultural Communications
 "I wanted to help potential students find a home here in the College of Agriculture like past ambassadors did for myself."



Rachel Grimes
 Hometown: Archie, Missouri
 Major: Agricultural Communications
 "I instantly knew that Missouri State was where I would find success; through being an Ag Ambassador I want to highlight my own experience to help others find theirs."



Jocelyn Dvorak
 Hometown: Hiawatha, Kansas
 Major: Agriculture Education
 "To teach agriculture and to help students that didn't know what they wanted to do, find where they belong, all while being able to promote the College of Agriculture."



Luke Short
 Hometown: Potosi, Missouri
 Major: Animal Science
 "I love the College of Agriculture and believe in the good we provide here. I wanted to help guide students to a college that I believe in."



Colin Boyd
 Hometown: Waynesville, Missouri
 Major: Agriculture Education
 "I wanted to be able to spread the love I have for the College of Agriculture. Being an employee of the COAG I have a unique perspective that I get to share with students."



Dalton Dzurick
 Hometown: Houston, Missouri
 Major: Agriculture Education
 "I wanted to be able to accurately share information to students who desire to know more about agriculture and Missouri State."



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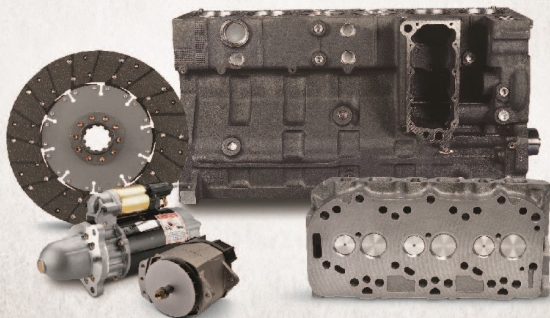
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Humans are HUMANS because of COMMUNICATION

Darr College of Agriculture student becomes first in college history to obtain master of agriculture emphasizing in communication through thesis research

By: Kathryn Zuzack

Similar to many in the agriculture industry, Olivia Robinson found a passion in the exhibition of livestock. In the midst of long summer days, many hours in the barn, and countless memories, Robinson found agriculture was the place for her. Robinson grew up in the suburban town of Washington, Missouri. Although she may have not grown up on a large farming operation, she took pride in raising and showing pigs each summer at her local fair.

Over the course of her childhood, Robinson found an influence in the industry that led her to study agricultural communications at Missouri State University in the Darr College of Agriculture. Although Robinson felt a connection to agriculture, she often found herself reconsidering where her place in agriculture truly was.

From a young age, Robinson had a love for writing. She often received notebooks and steno pads as gifts. Once she reached high school, the chance to enroll in a journalism class arose. She jumped at the opportunity. Following that, she began writing for her high school newspaper during her sophomore year. Robinson, along with 18 other students, worked collectively to produce a 36 page magazine each month. Her junior year, she was the feature editor for the magazine. During

her senior year, Robinson helped piece together every article as the editor in chief. Throughout her time writing for her high school newspaper, she wrote and covered sports and other topics in her high school.

“I loved getting to hear people’s stories and tell those stories and just being really connected through words,” said Robinson.

Her journey didn’t stop after high school graduation. During her time as an undergraduate, Robinson expanded her learning experience with her local county fair, the Washington Town and Country Fair. Her time with the fair began in 2018 where she worked as a project assistant. Since the fair is solely volunteer based, Robinson worked

diligently reaching out to groups and organizations within the Washington community and scheduling them to work at concession stands across the fairgrounds. She also helped with livestock and exhibitor registrations and entries in the home economics building.

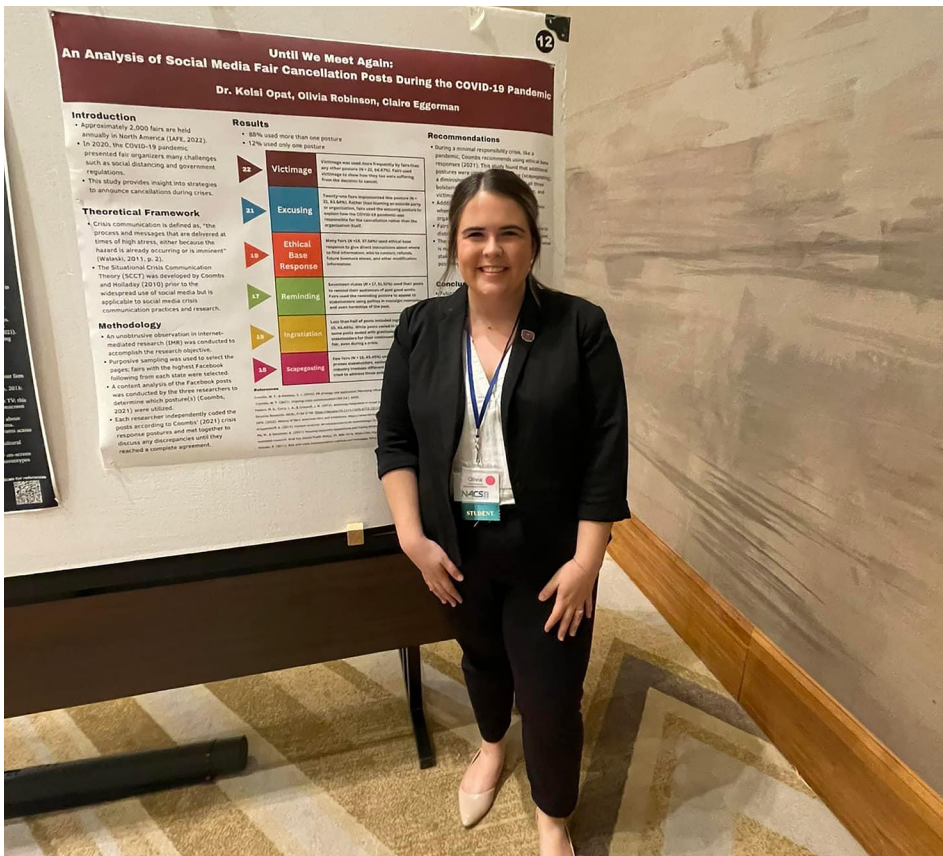
Upon completing her undergraduate degree in agricultural communications, Robinson made the decision to further her education and work toward a master’s degree in agriculture emphasizing in communications.

“I loved getting to hear people’s stories and tell those stories being really connected through words.”

- Olivia Robinson



Robinson presenting her thesis defense on April 17, 2023. Photo courtesy of Kathryn Zuzack.



Robinson presented her research poster at the National Agricultural Communication Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Photo courtesy of Olivia Robinson.

With support from her undergraduate advisor, Katelyn McCoy, her now graduate advisor Dr. Kelsi Opat, and the agribusiness, agriculture education communications department head, Dr. Arbindra Rimal, her decision came confidently. Robinson came by this drive naturally as her mother and father have combined four professional degrees, so she oftentimes envisioned herself completing another degree as well.

“I think there is a lot of room to grow and a lot of potential for the future for more people to continue to study communications in the ag world, and plenty of room for more people to step up.”
- Olivia Robinson

“I think there is a lot of room to grow and a lot of potential for the future for more people to continue to study communications in the ag world, and plenty of room for more

people to step up,” said Robinson.

While pursuing a master’s degree, students must choose one of three options: thesis, non-thesis, or internship. Robinson chose the thesis option for her degree. For her research, Robinson chose to study crisis communication in the fair industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Robinson analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, looking at communication during the pandemic.

She sat down with fair managers who made hard decisions during COVID-19 and surveyed fairgoers on how they felt after the communication was sent announcing the cancellations. She looked at how it was communicated, how the news was received, and how communication can be changed for the future in preparation for crisis management. Living through the pandemic and watching life come to halt influenced Robinson to take a closer look at the impact that it had on the fair industry. Robinson’s study provides an insight into strategies to announce fair cancellations during the crisis.

“Around 32 of the 50 largest fairs canceled during the pandemic. So 32 of the largest fairs in each state canceled during 2020,” Robinson said.

In 2020, the Missouri State Fair was one of the fairs who made the decision to not have a normal fair. In place of a regular fair, they opted to host the regular livestock shows to ensure youth were still given an opportunity to exhibit their projects.

Long time cattle exhibitor and Missouri State graduate student, Caitlin Jedlicka has exhibited cattle at the Missouri State Fair since she was just eight years old. The fair serves as a family tradition of carrying on their agricultural ties. When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many preview, local, state, and national shows, Jedlicka was concerned that she would not have the opportunity to exhibit her projects in 2020.

“It was nice to be able to exhibit and prepare for the fall run,” Jedlicka said. “Typically calves are well traveled by then and since everything except our junior nationals was canceled, it was extremely helpful to get those calves out and actually feel a sense of normalcy.”

The efforts poured out by livestock exhibitors was seen and heard. The Missouri State Fair took place in August of 2020, with nothing except livestock shows.

Following graduation in May 2023, Robinson will be the first agricultural communications master’s student to graduate with a thesis option from Missouri State. Robinson’s work has built the foundation for future students’ ideas about communication in the agricultural industry to come to life.

“Communication research, social science research is so important”, Robinson said. “It helps humans be human. It helps us look at why we make the decisions we make and how we move on in the future to make better decisions and how we communicate and communicate those better decisions.”



CHONGQING, CHINA

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



Students travel from Southwest University in China to continue their education in the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Gabby Mueller

In 2017, Missouri State University hosted the first delegation of students from Chongqing, China. After a successful trip, Southwest University proposed a three-plus-one program in the summer of 2018. A three-plus-one students spend three years at Southwest University in China and one year on the Missouri State campus.

During the first three years, the students would take five courses in plant science resulting in an international plant science certificate. If they complete their fourth year at Missouri State, they will also receive a plant science diploma.

In 2019, the program had its first cohorts. Instructors planned to go to Southwest University and teach the courses. Due to COVID-19, classes had to be conducted online instead of in-person. During the fall semester of 2022, 11 students from Southwest University started their year at Missouri State, and will finish in May of 2023.

“All of this is possible due to the cooperation of students, parents, faculty, and staff from both Southwest University and Missouri State University.” Dr. Ching-Feng

Hwang, Department Head of the Environmental Plant Science and Natural Resources Department and coordinator of the three-plus-one program for Missouri State.

Being a student of Southwest University and being able to travel to Missouri State has been a dream for many students, especially Tingtao Lyu.

“The ultimate goal of our major is to help solve some urgent issues that humanity is facing.”

-Dr. Wenping Qiu

“Sometimes it is hard being so far away from my family but being able to get to experience school here at Missouri State University is worth it,” Lyu said.

While in the United States, Lyu has learned about the culture, language, university, and several other life lessons. He has also volunteered some of his time with Eden Villages, Springfield Library, and Springfield area nursing homes. He loves getting to volunteer

and teach others about Chinese culture. One of the most significant differences he has found is the teaching methods. He likes the forward, focused, and personal approach Missouri State University has provided him. He thinks it has helped him develop more comprehensively. In China, many of the students work on their own and have several task to complete at once.

“Missouri State University has been such a great experience,” Lyu said.

Although the experience of coming to Missouri State was overwhelming at first, students here enjoyed their time and experiences at Missouri State. Many students like Lyu are involved in community service projects, clubs or organizations at Missouri State or enjoy seeing the scenery in the Springfield area.

Several of the three-plus-one students would like to further their education through graduate school at Missouri State University or other colleges. The students in the program completely pay for their courses and their time here at Missouri State.

Many students’ scholarships or

assistance from family back home helps cover the expenses that come with going to college. Getting a job is just another way for the students to learn about the culture and experience new things while at Missouri State.

Dr. Wenping Qiu is one of the professors that has been teaching classes for the three-plus-one students the past few semesters. In the fall of 2022, he taught students biotechnology online. During the spring 2023 semester, he has been teaching the students problems in plant science. During this class, the students talk about problems that occur in not only plant science but in agriculture in general. They discuss plant size, plant research, issues such as global warming, climate change, water resources, soil quality, food security, and more topics like this.



The 2022-2023 three-plus-one students on the Missouri State University campus. Photo courtesy of Kensie Darst.

“Coming to Missouri State University was scary but I am very interested in learning more and broadening my horizons.”
-Tingtao Lyu

The class is covering these topics not only on a small scale but with a global perspective in mind. Plants play a major role in all of these issues, so it is important that the students are taught this while they are studying at Missouri State.

“The ultimate goal of our major is to help solve some urgent issues that humanity is facing,” Qiu said.

Another skill Qiu teaches students is how to effectively communicate issues and potential solutions to friends, colleagues, family, and members of the community. He believes that this is an important aspects to teach his students, especially with how uncomfortable these conversations can be. The class has several conversations about how to communicate to the public about

agriculture needs and how they can help solve these issues.

“We want to continue to expand this incredible program,” Hwang said.

Missouri State University and Southwest University are tirelessly working on the planning and execution of the program. They work on how to increase the program and how to make it a successful experience for all of the parties involved.



Three-plus-one students pictured at Eden Village during a community service project completed for class credit. Photo courtesy of Dr. Ching-Feng Hwang.

DEVELOPING

A GOOD

FOUNDATION

Career Development for Students within the College of Agriculture

By: Alex White

Since the Darr College of Agriculture was established, the main focus of the faculty and staff has been making sure the students who graduate are successful after college. There are many opportunities at Missouri State University however, the College of Agriculture has provided many great opportunities for its students. New and already enrolled students are required to take certain courses directed toward preparing them for life after college, as well as the opportunity to attend certain events to get in contact with people already in the industry.

Paving the Way

The entire college provides the tools for students to be successful, but there is one staff member in particular who takes great pride in helping students navigate their way through college and finding the right path for the future. Katelyn McCoy, agricultural communications instructor within the College of Agriculture has been helping students for the last 7 years and is always willing to lend a helping hand to a student in need. From helping students find the right courses to take to providing them with the necessary tools to be successful, McCoy has built a great reputation when it

comes to the achievements and accomplishments of the students.

McCoy has dedicated most of her time at Missouri State to making sure students are prepared for life after college. Before teaching, she took the career preparation in agriculture course in hopes that she would learn valuable lessons to carry with her into true adulthood.

“My mentoring is a way to give back what I was given... that is the foundation of the College of Agriculture.”
- Katelyn McCoy

“I remember sitting there thinking there’s not really anything that is going to help me going before going into a career,” McCoy said.

She was asked to teach the course after her third year of teaching and since taking over the senior seminar course, she has seen over time how helpful it has been for the students. When McCoy first took over the role of teaching senior seminar, she did not change anything about the course.

She kept things the same her first semester teaching and found some interesting feedback from the students in the course.

“I didn’t get good feedback that first semester. After that, I sat my next class down and asked them what they wanted to know,” McCoy said.

Little did she know this was a huge step in the right direction. Asking the tough questions like “what do you feel like your lacking going into graduation?” and “what do you feel like you need to know about life instead of just coursework?” led the senior seminar course to what it is today.

“I got responses from financial advice to not knowing how to offload

Group of students talking with an employer at 2022 Agriculture Career Expo.
Photo courtesy of the Darr College of Agriculture



student loan payments,” said McCoy, “you don’t know what you don’t know so that’s how it changed from senior seminar to career prep in agriculture.”

The course now is available to students with 60 completed credits instead of just seniors. This further helps prepare students for the basics of transitioning from a student to a working class individual. Instead of taking the class as a senior, McCoy proposed getting students prepped earlier in their college career.

“My goal is to have a four step career prep plan,” McCoy said, “freshman students start with the GEP class and learn what professionalism is, sophomore year students take the career prep course, going into junior year students do an internship, and senior year students can be a professional mentor.”

McCoy has been passionate about this position ever since she took it and has been running with it ever since. She hopes that more of her students will enjoy taking her course as they will be more prepared in the future while finishing up their degrees.

“My mentoring is a way to repay what I was given,” McCoy said, “that is the foundation of the College of Agriculture. My teaching philosophy is taking it student by student, making sure they have what they need, and that is how they become successful.”

Reaping the Benefits

The instructors and staff provide classroom and personal help for the students, however that it is not the only resource students have available for success. The Darr College of Agriculture hosts an annual career expo each fall at the Bond Learning Center where students can go and talk to different businesses involved in the agriculture industry.

Many of these companies and businesses offer internships for students to give them a chance to get their foot in the door in the industry, get a taste of how things operate, and even the potential to secure a job once they have graduated college.

Kelsey West, alumni of the College of Agriculture, locked down an internship last summer with the Farmers’ Cooperative Association in Columbus, Kansas in the agronomy department after she met with two members of the business at the career expo and her internship included meeting with local growers and asking what products she could offer to help them be more successful.

“Because of the College of Agriculture it has really helped me out with identifying the growth stages of crops.”

- Kelsey West

“My internship entailed row crops and management behind that,” said West, “I learned a lot about different chemicals, herbicides, and fungicides that help me in my job now.”

The College of Agriculture played a major role in where she is today. Courses that she took pertaining to her degree gave her the necessary knowledge and skills to help be successful. While the classes she took were not easy, she reflects on how it has helped her in her career thus far. She expands on how Dr. Will McClain played a major role in her success.

“Dr. McClain’s weed class touched bases on chemicals, and a lot of one-on-one time with me about weed identification which is a big part of my job,” said West.

Upon graduation, West accepted a position with Made For Agriculture (MFA) in southeast Kansas as a crop consultant where she has a list of growers in her area that she checks in with every week and makes recommendations on what could help them further into the growing season.

“Since I majored in agronomy, it has helped me out a lot in the crop consulting position,” said West, “because of the College of Agriculture it has really helped me out with

identifying the growth stages of the crops and identifying weeds in different fields.”

West said she has been in good spirits since she parted ways with Missouri State, but also likes to see students behind her take advantage of the opportunities that she did. As she recaps her time in college she offers a word of advice for students next in line.

“Getting involved and building your network with clubs that are within your major will help you in the long run and when those students and professors know you one-on-one they will be great references for the future,” said West.

Success From Within

Organizations within the College of Agriculture also play a major role in helping its members find opportunities after school. Sigma Alpha and Alpha Gamma Rho are two of many organizations in the College of Agriculture that further prepares students for the future.

Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that aims to prepare members with the necessary leadership and networking skills needed to be professional after graduation. Members of Sigma Alpha have certain requirements like dress code, and showing up on time.

Kensie Darst, president of Sigma Alpha, holds these values and traditions close and believes that Sigma Alpha is critical in developing women in the agricultural industry. She, as well as many others, has seen a great deal of progress in the organization with current and former students finding a career after graduation.

“Throughout the year we host different events for our chapter members,” Darst said, “whenever I served as the professional development chairman, I invited three alumni from this chapter and they shared different internship opportunities and how Sigma Alpha has applied to them now.”



2023 Sigma Alpha Executive Board members. From left to right: Payden Nolting, Grace Tate, Cassie Allscheid, Kensie Darst, Caitlyn Power, and Aubrey Jung. Photo courtesy of Kensie Darst.

Another organization similar to Sigma Alpha is Alpha Gamma Rho.

This is the brother fraternity to Sigma Alpha, and while the requirements may be different from Sigma Alpha it still pertains to making sure their members are set up for success.

Drew Bailey is the current president for Alpha Gamma Rho and is dedicated to using the alumni as an impactful resource for the members. Since the fraternity is a national organization, like Sigma Alpha, it helps a student go the distance when applying for jobs upon graduation.

“We have a big connection with our alumni,” Bailey said, “we have alumni through all industries in agriculture and lots of them are in different states.”

Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) has a mentorship program where the current members are matched up with an alumni according to major, and what industry the student wants to enter after college. This is a good first step to getting the students feet wet when entering the work force.

The networking side of it is also beneficial. Having a contact in the field helps students extend their reach when entering the agriculture

industry. Bailey said why Alpha Gamma Rho has such an impact on members after graduation.

“Having AGR on a resume goes a long way, we have had guys get into an interview and the employer turned out to be an alumni,” said Bailey.

Bailey encourages current male students within the College of Agriculture to join Alpha Gamma Rho not only for gaining friends, but also to take advantages of the many opportunities they have to offer.

The College of Agriculture has many opportunities for students to be

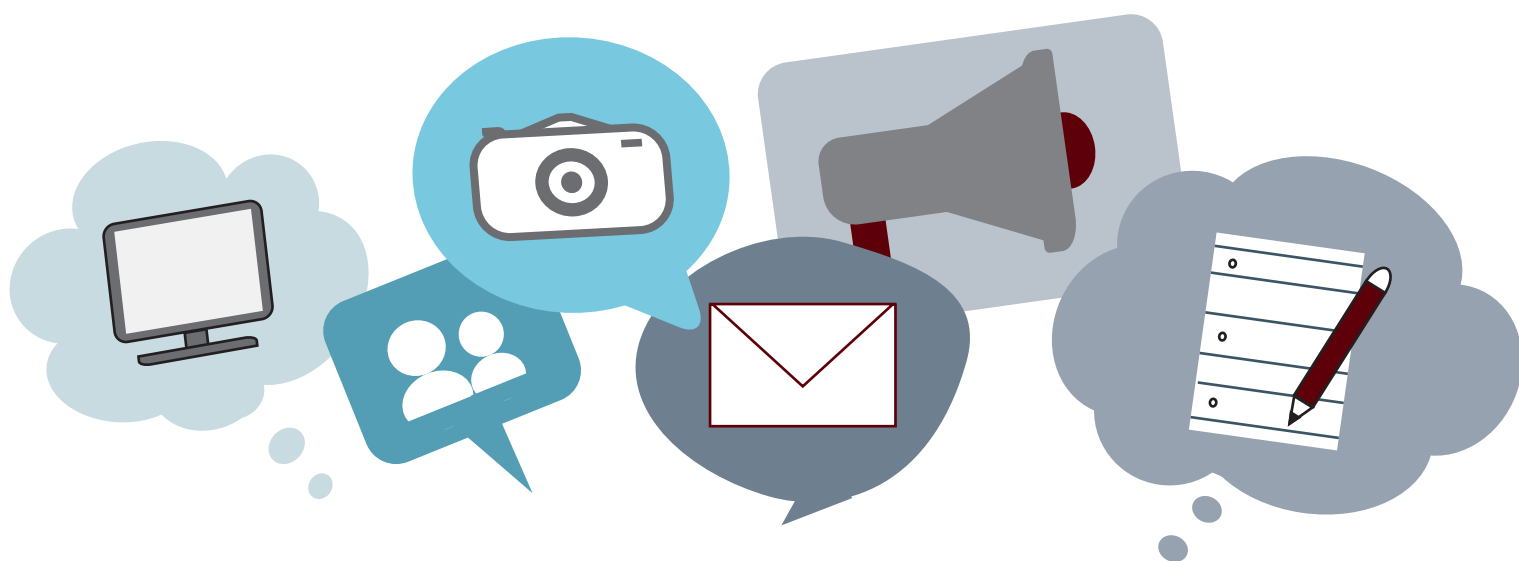
successful. Staff, organizations, and even students are very encouraging to students that want to take that first step to be involved and take advantage of the tools available to them. The instructors and advisors pave the way, students reap the benefits of being involved, and as a result everyone within the college is successful.

Members of the Alpha Gamma Rho 2023 initiation. Front row left to right: Dillon Hargrove, Colin Boyd, Landon Wright, Dalton Dzurick, Jackson Teter, Ryan Reddick, and George Weber. Back row left to right: Warren Meservey, Mason Schallert, Hunter Acheson, Briar Wilhelm, Harris Allen, Drew Bailey, Cameron Hargrove, and Adam Humphrey.



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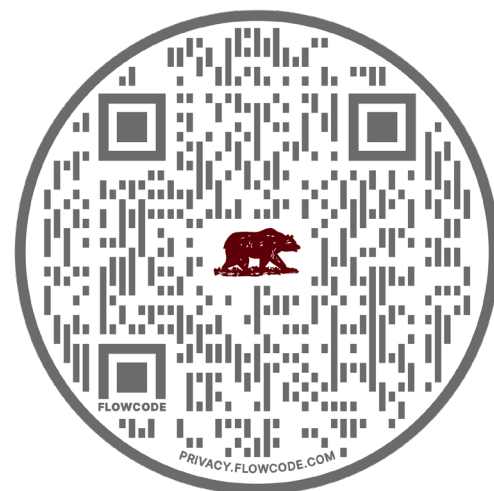
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