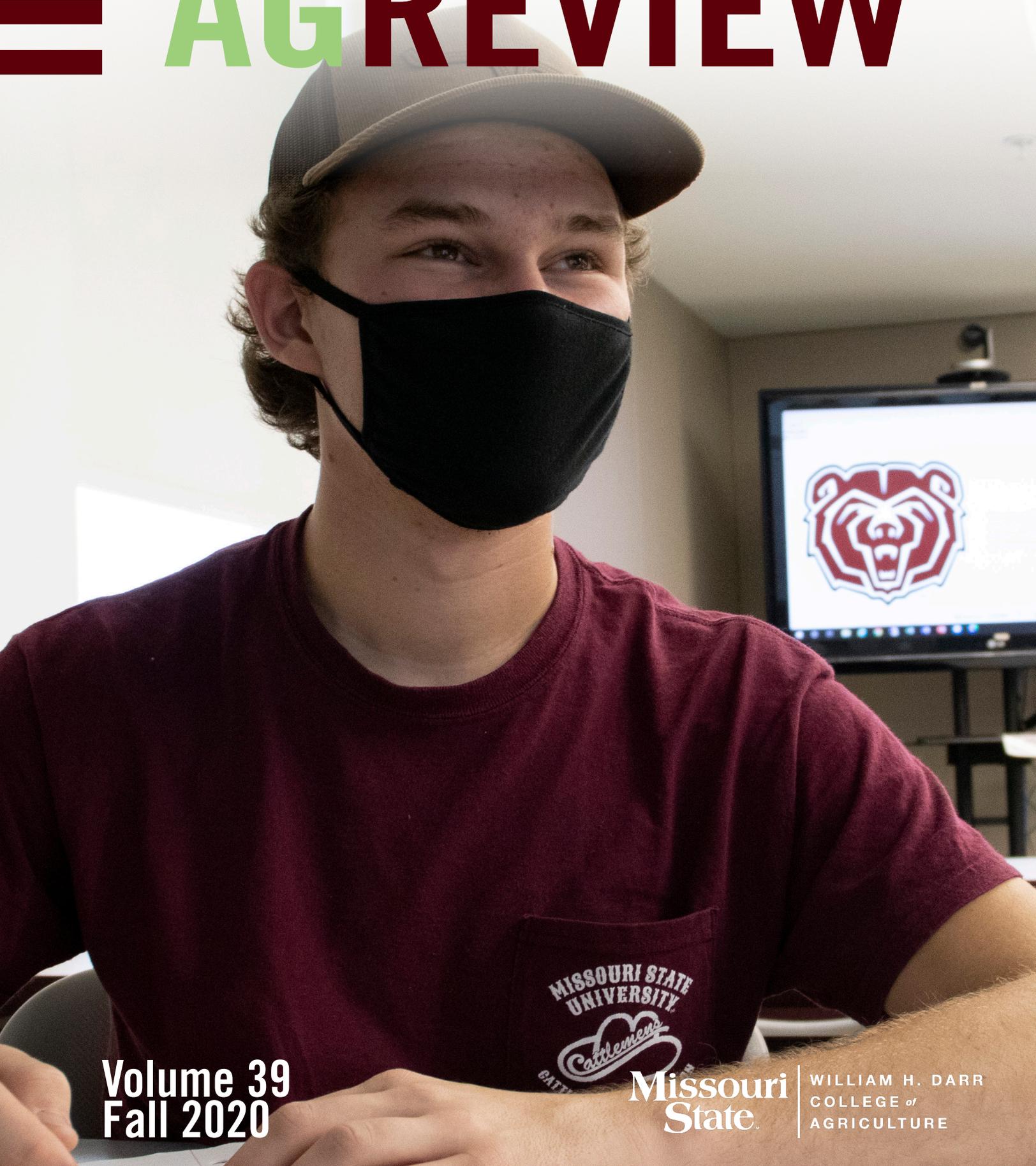


# AGREVIEW



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**Missouri**  
**State**

**WILLIAM H. DARR**  
**COLLEGE of**  
**AGRICULTURE**

# Meet the Writers

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# From the Dean



Had I written this greeting in March, it would have been considerably different. What a year of changes for the world AND the Darr College of Agriculture. While we have all been challenged to change how we do so many things in our lives, the challenges have helped us grow and adapt in ways we could have never imagined. And it's been a success! In the spring, when campus shut down and classes moved online, we hoped it would just be for a few weeks and then all would return to normal. But, as you well know, things progressed considerably and we found ourselves celebrating our student's May graduation virtually with very minimal "pomp & circumstance". But we finished strong and continued to move all of our summer classes online and prepare for a very different-looking fall semester.

We anticipated a very large drop in enrollment, due to the circumstances surrounding us. However, we saw quite the opposite. The University experienced their 2nd highest enrollment and the Darr College of Agriculture had its largest enrollment ever with over 820 students for the fall semester. Our classes quickly took a more "blended" approach as we began the first few weeks of classes in August. Some of our classes rotated days in the classroom (seated), or they accessed their lectures online or using Zoom, if there were quarantine issues. Most of our large events that we typically have in the fall, such as the scholarship banquet, were postponed. We continued the tradition of having our annual Journagan Ranch Cattle Sale in October and we were able to socially

distance our guests and do a large portion of the event by video. It was a great success.

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, I have been impressed with our faculty and staff's ability to consistently change what we've done the same way for so many years. The adaptability of our personnel has helped the semesters continue with little interruptions. The manner in which faculty, staff and students pulled together and supported one another was phenomenal. In a time when it could have been easy to give up, walk away from each other, and become distant and uncooperative... we did just the opposite. The Darr COAG is full of individuals who worked through the adversity and showed outstanding character and resolve. Everyone here has been very considerate of the unique needs of us all as we navigate these trying times.

As the end of the year approaches, I know the Darr College of Agriculture is a truly blessed group. We thank you for your part in helping us succeed and grow. And although we don't know what 2021 will look like, we know we are family and we will continue to do everything we can to help our students have complete success in their education and their lives, as we all work together.

I sincerely hope this letter finds you safe and well. My family and I are so grateful and feel blessed to be part of the MSU COAG. I wish you all good health and my God bless you and your family.

*Ronald P. Del Vecchio*

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# SOAR leaders excel amid COVID-19 challenges

By: Cameron Brown

As one of the staples of the Missouri State experience, the Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration program (SOAR) is highly anticipated and can be the beginning of a great first year here at MSU. Students are able to dip their toes into dorm life and create new friendships that are carried into the school year. SOAR is all made possible through a team of dedicated students called SOAR leaders. Students of the Darr College of Agriculture, Marcella Cadle and Claire Eggerman spent months as SOAR leaders getting ready to facilitate this meaningful weekend with the unexpected twist of a global pandemic.

Going through SOAR training was one of the first major changes this year's leaders had to go through. With the SOAR experience being so important, leaders knew it was going to happen no matter what; it was a question of how.

"The SOAR leaders have to take a class the spring semester before the first year that they serve. So when all classes went online during the Spring semester, I knew the summer was still going to happen but possibly in a different way", said Cadle.

With SOAR training condensed from two weeks to one, many SOAR leaders were nervous about how the summer would look.

"None of the SOAR leaders signed up for a summer during a pandemic", said Eggerman.

As in-person SOAR sessions began in May, they started as a lot of events did early in the pandemic. Precautions such as mandatory mask requirements, social distancing rules and spaced out chairs and tables were all set in place to keep students safe while still gaining necessary knowledge to begin their college

career. As case numbers rose and Missouri State made the cancellation call, SOAR sessions became increasingly hard for leaders to facilitate.

"The biggest and most abrupt change that occurred during this summer with SOAR was

when all four of our sessions went online. It was equally as hard trying to connect with the students over a screen and trying to be flexible when technology failed. There were times when students couldn't hear me or their microphone wasn't working. The worst was when their computer was delayed in sharing the screen so SOAR leaders had to try to memorize the registration screens and basically blindly talk students through different steps", said Cadle.

The move to strictly online sessions was a huge blow to SOAR as a whole since "social interaction was one of the main things" that Eggerman remembers from her time as an incoming freshman. With main events such as the annual family weekend and the Ag Expo being canceled, students were heavily impacted and SOAR just could not be the same fun, interactive experience that we remember.

"The online environment made it difficult for students to connect with each other," said Cadle.

To combat the growing need for alternate forms of connection, Cadle created a GroupMe chat for



**SOAR leaders, Katherine Ruch and Claire Eggerman, pose with President Clif Smart. Photo Courtesy of Eggerman.**

her students as an instant resource and way to connect with others in their group. Even with all of these changes, Cadle said that "even though this summer was under the rain of COVID-19, SOAR was still able to answer student and family questions, be a resource for incoming freshmen and successfully get them registered for classes."

This past SOAR was unlike any we had ever seen. While other universities closed altogether, Missouri State University provided the necessary information that incoming freshmen needed in order to start successfully here at MSU. With an amazing team of SOAR leaders, SOAR was still able to be a new adventure but also a new challenge for everyone. Eggerman said that both passion and flexibility were the keys to success this year and that "this summer was a learning experience from every perspective. From students, to SOAR leaders, to MSU Staff we learned how things can change quickly but it's important not to run from these challenges but to embrace the experience."

# FFA members receive American Degree virtually

By: Maria Boero

Students moving to college have many decisions: where to attend, what major to pursue, how many clubs and sports to join, what style of housing to live in and many others. Living on campus is the reality for a majority of freshmen. It is not just a room or dorm, but it is a place they call home. As new generations of students come to college, their expectations and needs evolve with them. Missouri State University has implemented a unique style of housing called Living Learning Communities, or LLCs, to help those students with their new environment. The purpose of these is to group students with similar interests and

majors so there is a built in system already in place to support them. The LLCs started about 20 years ago at MSU but have been in place much longer at other colleges like Drexel, Clemson and University of Missouri-Columbia.

These 15 Living Learning Communities at MSU range from STEM, to business, to fitness and even agriculture. Their purpose is to let students live with peers that have similar majors or interests. One student, Will Pryor, who has spent time in the Agriculture Living Learning community, explains how his LLC helped shape his time at Missouri State University.

“Coming to college and being surrounded by people with similar backgrounds and interests makes for a smooth transition from high school to college,” said Pryor. This environment fosters a community inside a large university and gives the students in the LLC a way to connect through shared classes and outside the classroom educational trips. Another special perk to living here is the volunteer and networking opportunities that are presented. Faculty of Missouri State and the surrounding Springfield city are involved and help with the growth of these students.

## College of Agriculture adapts classes to COVID-19 restrictions

By: Sarah Mason

Students returned to campus for the fall semester in August 2020. Mask requirements, restrictions on food and drink in classrooms and hybrid class styles have become normal aspects at the Darr College of Agriculture.

March 2020 saw Missouri State University restrict all classes to alternative formats due to the global outbreak of COVID-19. Students were not allowed to return to classes after an extension of spring break in March. The majority of classes transitioned to Zoom or online format, and all in person events were canceled during the Spring 2020 semester.

Jacob Collins graduated from Missouri State with a Bachelors of Agriculture Business in the midst of the shut-down. Graduates were specifically affected by the restriction of in person events, because their graduation ceremonies were postponed. For many students

like Collin's, this ceremony was meaningful to them, their family and their friends.

“As one of the first people in my family to graduate there was a lot of disappointment to not be able to celebrate. And then you add on that I won't be able to attend one of the future graduations because of a job I'm accepting out of town,” Collins said.

Graduates were given the option to walk the stage in a ceremony Homecoming weekend in Fall 2020 or at the December graduation ceremony with Fall graduates.

Missouri State spent months planning for students to come back to campus safely this fall. They are making this possible through rules, restrictions and the use of technology.

One of the many precautions Missouri State has now taken is that students having COVID-19 related symptoms or requiring quarantine

can Zoom into their class. This allows students to still participate and learn virtually.

Megan Wix, a senior Animal Science major, is one of the many students that has struggled to get into the new routines at college. She explained the transition of classes to online formats being stressful for her.

“I just find it stressful to go to class and have to wear that mask. I'm not allowed to bring water into class, and I can't bring my breakfast in the class. I just have very little motivation to go to class anymore,” Wix said.

Students and faculty have each been affected differently by this pandemic. During the shutdown many lost their jobs, moved back home and battled their own challenges. 2020 has proven to be a year of challenges, but the Darr College of Agriculture has faced each challenge head on.

# Missouri State Equestrian Team continues to compete through virtual horse shows

By: Sarah Mason

The Darr College of Agriculture has made many adaptations to the social distance lifestyle during the year of 2020. Many aspects of the college have required innovative ideas and techniques to allow students to receive the same education and experience. The competitive equine teams are one of the student groups that have seen a big difference this year due to travel restrictions.

Competitive equine teams normally travel to numerous shows across the United States each semester. This semester Missouri State University has put a travel restriction outside the state of Missouri, limiting the equestrian teams and influencing a new way for the students to show.

Coach and instructor Natalie Mook has played a huge role in assuring that the equine team has been able to continue showing despite the

challenges of the global pandemic.

“So for the fall we decided to do a virtual horse show, which kind of sounds weird, but it works well with our format,” said Mook.

Virtual horse shows allow the team to record their runs and upload them to a third party app. The app ensures that the runs are recorded and uploaded within a certain time to when the participant starts. Each run is then sent to their class and judged.

Missouri State’s equine team participated in three series during the Fall 2020 semester against five other universities. Virtual horse shows are something that none of the team members expected to experience. Even though everyone involved is anxious to get back to normal shows, temporarily going virtual has allowed students to still practice and prepare for show day while keeping everyone safe.

MacKenzie Larson, president of the Horsemen’s Association, is one of the team members that has adjusted to this new style of horse shows. However, all of the team members, including Larson, are anxious to return to normal shows even though they have enjoyed some of the new aspects that come with a virtual show.

“One thing that I really like is the way we film our videos and our whole team is there with us and cheering us on before and after,” said Larson.

Students are excited to be able to travel to in-person shows soon, but until it is safe they are glad that there is an alternative. Virtual shows have provided the opportunity for them to continue supporting each other as a team and belonging to an important student organization.



Isabella Wobbe rides during a virtual horse show. Photo Courtesy of MacKenzie Larsen.

# Agribusiness major contributes to 2020 Missouri State Fair

By: Cameron Brown

The annual Missouri State Fair held in the summer is essential to the Missouri agriculture industry and a major mid-year climax for livestock buyers and sellers. This year, even in the middle of a pandemic, the show had to go on. Although many of the normal events that would be seen at a state fair were not possible, the livestock shows needed to continue in order to prevent irreversible damage to the livestock market. For this to occur, a hard-working team of interns were tasked with finding solutions to ensure the shows were both painless and accessible. Among these interns was Kendra Betz, a sophomore at Missouri State University studying Agriculture Business, Marketing and Sales.

Ever since she was younger, Betz loved going to the state fair. She loved learning how everything worked and how things ran so smoothly. As she grew up, this passion grew with her and she landed a Marketing Internship with the Missouri State Fair this year.

“Being president of my high school’s FFA chapter in Trenton, Missouri, I learned a great deal about communication which I was able to carry over for my internship,” said Betz.

Each day working as an intern for the fair was fast-paced and always changing. One of the main duties of the interns was to plan events and programs to help the fair run smoothly. From invitations to detailed agendas, Betz stayed flexible and open-minded throughout every day.

Along with planning events, Betz also was in charge of the Facebook livestreams which played a big part in market shows due to COVID-19 restrictions. Social distancing made

it imperative that the shows were streamed online and available to everyone. Without the livestreams, marketing and sales generated by the shows would plummet. Since the livestock superintendents did not know the exact time a show would be ready, it was crucial that Betz remain near the barn and ready at a moment’s notice, sometimes even “turning a ten-minute walk into a two-minute run”.

Throughout her internship, almost everything had to be modified due to COVID-19 and created a radically different experience for this year’s interns.

“I was part of a team that did something completely new. I learned so much about social media communications that I never would have been open to learning before,” said Betz.

The entire Missouri State Fair had to be converted into the 2020 Youth Livestock Program, which did not include some of the main elements of the annual state fair; “the food, concerts, Ferris wheel and fireworks just can’t be replaced,” said Betz.

Big events like the Governor’s Ham Breakfast, the Homegrown Singing Contest and the Let’s Talk Livestock program sadly had to be canceled in order to comply with Missouri regulations. As a result, Betz became a “jack of all trades” in order for the fair to run smoothly. At times she would be attending to phone calls and email from confused or angry people with questions or concerns about the fair. Other portions of her day were filled with meetings with livestock superintendents and making sure she documented everything with pictures and videos for social media since remote



**Kendra Betz in front of the Missouri State Fair Sheep Pavilion during her 2020 internship. Photo Courtesy of Betz.**

marketing was more important than ever.

Overall, Betz loved her time at the Missouri State Fair and recommends the internship for anyone interested in communications or event planning. She was encouraged to accomplish goals and objectives that she never thought were possible. Betz is very grateful for her time well spent as an intern.

“I learned more from this experience than I would’ve during a traditional year. I am so appreciative that the fair staff understood how important this livestock show was to so many 4-H and FFA members. While I didn’t have the opportunity to be a part of the traditional fair experience, I helped to bring one piece of normalcy to hundreds of livestock kids,” Betz said.

# College of Agriculture adapts to COVID-19 restrictions

By: Noah Abassi

In the spring of 2020, a global pandemic began to run rampant through the country. This was met with social distancing and self-isolation to stop the spread of the virus. Colleges around the country closed their doors and sent students home, which, in most cases, meant the rest of the semester. Missouri State students were sent home in March and did not return to campus until the next semester. The fall semester was met with face masking mandates on campus and strengthened social distancing guidelines.

Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio, dean of the Darr College of Agriculture, gave praise to the faculty of the department for their handling of switching to online learning.

“The faculty and staff within

the college did a phenomenal job working with students adapting and adjusting on the fly. The faculty did, and still are, responding in a fantastic manner.”

Dr. Del Vecchio also says that, despite the challenging times that are being faced, it has brought the university closer together.

“There was a lot of hard work behind the scenes that people don’t see. We created solutions for all the “what ifs,” so we felt very prepared for the fall semester”, Del Vecchio said.

Despite the uncertainty of the future, Del Vecchio says that the students’ best interests are always at the forefront of the decision making process.

Dr. Benjamin Onyango agrees that students are the most

important aspect of deciding on future plans.

Dr. Onyango is a professor in the Darr College of Agriculture at Missouri State and said classes requiring hands-on labs made the switch to virtual learning more difficult. Onyango believes the abruptness of the change was the biggest obstacle. “It was a challenge for the students, but they were able to adjust and get accustomed to it quickly.” Onyango continued this thought, saying “It was such an abrupt change, and that made it very challenging.”

Onyango believes that faculty and students alike were able to adjust quickly and effectively to the swift changing educational landscape.

## 29th Annual LJR Journagan Ranch Production Sale moves to online format

By: Caitlin Jedlicka

The Darr College of Agriculture and Journagan Ranch held the 29th Annual LJR Journagan Ranch Production Sale on October 3, 2020. Despite the challenges brought by COVID-19, the crew at Journagan Ranch and Missouri State University hosted a highly attended event that grossed \$305,300 on 90 lots of cattle.

Early planning and creativity allowed the event to be one of the only hosted by the College of Agriculture in 2020.

“It made me nervous, we had to follow Springfield city mandates and Missouri State’s policies,” said Marty Lueck, the ranch manager at Journagan Ranch. “A plan had to be presented to the dean and the provost for approval.”

Part of this plan included the switch from the Pinegar Arena to

the Bond Learning Center Ballroom where chairs could be socially distanced. Attendees had to wear masks but were able to bid and watch the videos of each lot on big screens. Bidders could also bid online from the comfort of their homes through an online auction system.

“Everyone has a different comfort level with the ongoing pandemic, there were concerns about attendance of the sale, but this year’s sale went better than last year,” Lueck said. “We had 27 bidders registered online and ran out of the 175 meals we ordered.”

Nineteen breeding age bulls averaged \$3,826 and eleven spring 2020 bull calves averaged \$2,545. Sixty bred cows and heifers were sold at an average of \$3,410, with 28 cow/calf pairs bringing the most at

an average of \$4,264.

COVID-19 not only affected the annual sale; the annual futurity show



**A young cattleman viewing sale cattle at the 29th Annual Journagan Ranch Sale. Photo Courtesy of Emily Norris.**

for youth who purchased cattle in the 2019 sale was affected. The futurity was necessary to continue the Journagans' support of youth in agriculture with \$5,000 available for youth to put towards the purchase of a new animal from the 2020 sale. The futurity moved to an online format to ensure participation for all.

The Champion heifer shown by Andi and Charli Howard received \$1,250 sale credit. The Reserve Champion heifer shown by Brett and Reagan Sneed received \$750 sale credit for use in the 29th Annual Sale. Each competitor who submitted videos also received \$250 sale credit.

"This year we had to record a video of all aspects of our cattle for

the judge to get the real-life view," said Andi Howard, virtual futurity champion. "This meant we did not get the chance to go exhibit our cattle like we did other shows this summer."

The virtual futurity consisted of each junior sending in a video from every angle of their animal, as well as them walking the animal. A judge critiqued each animal and selected his champions.

"To be named Champion Futurity Heifer at this year's show was a wonderful experience. After reviewing the judge's statements and the other cattle videoed I was ecstatic," Howard said.

The payouts from the annual futurity show allow youth to grow

their cattle herd not only helps the exhibitors; it advances the Hereford breed.

"I then took the sale credit I earned and purchased a heifer to help extend my herd," Howard said.

Even with the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and the regulations placed by the city of Springfield, Journagan Ranch and the Darr College of Agriculture were able to hold an event showcasing the powerful genetics of the Journagan herd while promoting youth in agriculture. Hopes for a traditional sale in 2021 continue to be high as planning begins.



One of the cow calf pairs offered in the 29th Annual Journagan Ranch Sale. Photo Courtesy of Emily Norris.

# MSU Cattlemen's Farm Safety Day hosted virtually

By: Noah Abbasi

The annual Farm Safety Day hosted by the Missouri State University Cattlemen's Association looked different in 2020 than in years past. With the COVID-19 pandemic, it was forced to be held virtually. The event is typically hands-on, so organizers were tasked with finding ways to keep the event effective and insightful.

CarrieLee Holliday, an Animal science major from Salem, Missouri, and president of the Missouri State University Cattlemen's Association, was integral in planning the virtual event.

"This year was very challenging," Holliday said. "Thankfully, we have an overwhelming number of members that are dedicated to our association and with everyone's help we were able to have several quality stations and presenters."

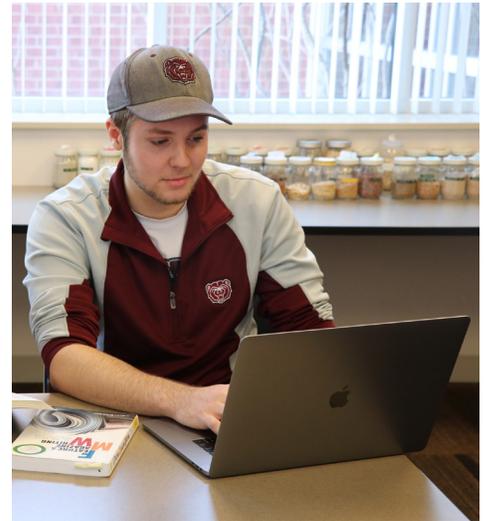
Holliday discussed that farm safety is extremely important, and, if the presentation can prevent just one farm related accident, it was worth it. Among the typical stations of

fire safety, tractor safety and cattle handling safety, mental health was prioritized as well. "I believe the biggest take away from our Farm Safety Day would be understanding that safety on the farm is not just about tractors and cows," Holliday said. "It is mental health as well. We have to feel safe within ourselves first."

During the farm safety day, ideas and principles of overall safety are discussed to teach viewers that farm safety is something to take seriously.

Dr. Elizabeth Walker, professor of Animal Science in the Darr College of Agriculture, lost her father to a farming accident in 2003. She hopes this virtual event will drill the significance of farm safety into students.

"The lessons taught in the video may actually be more effective, because the teachers using the videos in their classes can really engage with their students and hopefully have some great discussions with them," Walker said.



**Nick Kientzy edits the Farm Safety Day video. Photo courtesy of Katelyn McCoy.**

To create a product best viewed by an audience virtually, a substantial amount of work had to be done behind the scenes. Nick Kientzy, senior agricultural communications major from Silex, Missouri, was in charge of shooting and editing the video. Due to the new restrictions that 2020 has brought, it took more time and effort than the traditional Farm Safety Day.

"Around 15 hours were spent editing the video before it was public," Kientzy said.

Though it took extensive time to produce, Kientzy wanted to create a video viewers could engage with as they watched.

"Students can watch the video several times and the video shows real world examples of farm safety," Kientzy said.

With COVID-19 changing the way information is presented, the Missouri State University Cattlemen's Association still made Farm Safety Day a priority. To view the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfXNZFEOFVs>.



**Paul Stark demonstrates proper usage of a syringe gun during the virtual farm safety day hosted by Missouri State University's Cattlemen's Association. Photo courtesy of Nick Kientzy.**

# New faculty join the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Tucker Bittick



**Dr. Adam McGee**



**Dr. Jacob Schneider**

This fall, the Darr College of Agriculture was able to add two new faculty to its ranks to increase the level of education that students receive at Missouri State University.

## **Dr. Adam McGee**

Dr. Adam McGee grew up a short drive from Missouri State University in Purdy, Missouri. Both of his parents were educators, and his dad was an agriculture teacher for 38 years. His family had beef, sheep, chickens and horses, so McGee was around livestock from a young age. McGee went to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and judged livestock. He later completed his bachelor's degree in agricultural education at Kansas State University. He taught high school in south central Kansas for two years, but he began to miss the production side of agriculture. He decided to pursue a master's degree in ruminant nutrition at the University of Nebraska, and he discovered that he enjoyed the research aspect of agriculture as well. Upon graduating from there, he went to Oklahoma State University for his PhD in. He completed the program in 2018.

McGee taught for two more years in Texas, but he saw the job listing at MSU in December of 2019 for a faculty position, and he knew that he

wanted to be here. He participated in FFA contests on campus growing up and believed that the position being offered was the perfect fit for him. McGee sees teaching as “an opportunity to talk about something that I love, and share that passion with other people.” He wants to share that excitement with other people, so one of his goals is to continue to expand the animal science program at MSU and build upon the successes that the college has already had with its programs. McGee wants to see more students interested and involved in the field of animal science.

## **Dr. Jacob Schneider**

Dr. Jacob Schneider is the new professor in the department of plant and environmental sciences. Raised in southern Texas, Schneider developed an interest in wildlife and taxonomy in high school and would go on to college to study molecular and cellular biology. There, he would become more interested in plant function at the cellular level and how that manifests in what we see and interact with. He went back to his own high school to teach for a year with his former biology teacher that originally piqued his interest in biology. Schneider continued to teach there for another ten years.

While growing up in Texas, Schneider was familiar with agriculture in the sense that he saw corn and oranges grown, but he did not have any direct experience in it. Later in life, he would take a position with the USDA to promote jobs in agriculture. While working for them, he came to see agriculture as the application of biology. In the past ten years, his interest in agriculture has only grown.

Schneider has been familiar with Springfield due to vacations since the mid 1990s, so coming to Missouri State to receive his master's degree and PhD seemed like the perfect fit for his family. Schneider would finish his PhD program in 2018, and he became employed full time in the fall of 2020.

A project that Schneider hopes to help see to the finish is the launch and coordination of the college's “3+1” program with Southwest University in China. He believes that this is a program that will be the best for students at Southwest desiring to learn about agriculture internationally.

Schneider wants students to know that what he expects from them is simply their effort and best performance. “If students put forth the effort for me, then their grades will reflect it.”

# Recruitment efforts move online amid pandemic

By: Caitlin Jedlicka

COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of the lives of students and teachers. With the inability to actively reach potential students through school and career fair visits, the Darr College of Agriculture still ensures students are learning about the opportunities and benefits of attending Missouri State University.

Ag Ambassadors and the College Recruitment and Marketing (CRAM) committee are working together to ensure potential students are being reached. New and creative approaches are being implemented by both groups.

Natalie Mook is a member of the CRAM committee, an instructor and the coach of the equestrian program.

“COVID-19 has created a unique situation in regard to recruitment and marketing,” Mook said. “I think we are all learning what the best avenues are to reach students, and students are also learning how to find the information they need to make that big decision.”

In the past, recruitment and outreach has been focused on FFA chapters and rural schools with visits

to speak with students in classes and career fairs. While the college is still highly involved with these two groups, a focus is also being placed on urban areas as the college adds majors and minors.

“We are constantly improving programs, marketing efforts and how we engage with students,” Mook said. “Reaching future students isn’t all about the academics or buildings, but about the people and I think that is what really makes the difference. COAG is a community and something most students interested in ag are looking for.”

One of the most important parts of recruitment is getting current students to talk with future students. A personal approach to recruitment allows for meaningful connections to be made on a campus, but it can be daunting due to its size. The students tasked with making meaningful connections are known as the Ag Ambassadors.

Kaitlyn Neubert, a junior in the Ag Ambassador program is responsible for engaging with potential students.

“While COVID-19 has put a

wrench in our plans, we are working hard to use social media and virtual meetings to meet and connect with potential students,” Neubert said.

Ag Ambassadors work to ensure all students feel welcomed into the COAG family. Through personalized thank you notes, social media takeovers and tours happening on campus, the Ag Ambassadors are the face of COAG and are working to bring more students into the College of Agriculture.

“With the changing times, I think it is going to be hard for kids to come on to campus,” Neubert said. “Speaking on behalf of Ag Ambassadors, we are working to make sure everyone is comfortable and excited to be on campus and that questions are answered to ensure they come to campus.”

Although COVID-19 has made things harder, the CRAM committee and Ag Ambassadors have adapted to the changing times. The efforts of both teams are evident in the new students coming to Missouri State and the future of the Darr College of Agriculture.

## Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends celebrates virtually

By: Katy Horner

The 2020 Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends looked different than the usual social gathering which typically includes a dinner and auction. This year the banquet was a success amidst COVID-19 as a virtual event. The Ag Alumni Association raised \$18,825 from the auction and donations. With Bill Darr matching this amount, the grand total raised was \$37,650.

“Normally, before COVID, the Ag Alumni Banquet is a good time for former students and faculty to come back together and catch up.” said Matt Wommack, association member and event MC.

Matt Wommack is an Agronomy

Research Manager in Technology Development for Bayer Crop Science. He was a 2010 graduate from the Darr College of Agriculture, and obtained his graduate degree in agriculture in 2017. The committee meets throughout the year to plan the event and select students to receive the scholarship funds raised from the banquet auction items.

This year, the College of Agriculture, MSU Alumni Office, and the Ag Alumni Association all worked tirelessly to make necessary changes to the event to ensure it was a functional online event.

“The AG Alumni Committee is a family. We work hard and well

together. I count it as a blessing to be a small part of something so fun and important,” said Carrie Crews, staff representative on the Alumni Committee.

Carrie Crews has worked for the College of Agriculture for over 15 years. Her current role with the College of Agriculture is serving as an administrative assistant as well as the animal science department and Bond Center event coordinator.

The funding from this event will be distributed to current Missouri State University College of Agriculture students in the form of academic scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year.

# Darr Family Foundation donates to build magnet school, begins funding small animal education facility

By: Tucker Bittick

In December of 2019, Bill Darr and the Darr Family Foundation donated 6.5 million dollars to the Missouri State University Foundation. These funds will build an agriculture magnet school for Springfield Public School students and begin funding a small animal education facility for MSU students at the Darr Agricultural Center.

According to Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio, dean of the Darr College of Agriculture, the school is being built for fourth through sixth grade students and will feature typical educational components that exist in other SPS schools as well as including a focus on agriculture.

“The additional curriculum will be about agriculture and construction,” Del Vecchio said. He believes this will positively affect Missouri agriculture by educating students about the impact agriculture has on their lives.

The donation will also begin to cover the creation of a small animal education facility for the college of agriculture. Heather Zormoski, executive director of the Darr Family Foundation, said this project will further enhance the college.

Other educational institutions have a companion animal major, and this facility would pave the way toward developing one for MSU according to Del Vecchio. More funding will be required to cover the expenses for this project, so the magnet school will be the first project to be developed.

Zormoski stated one of the Foundation’s driving statements: “Every child deserves the chance to be successful.” Bill Darr has been kept at the forefront of the school’s development to ensure the school is a testament to that statement. He is the namesake of the Darr College of Agriculture at MSU, so, according to

Zormoski, “It is critical to have [the school] as part of the Darr College of Agriculture” as it will continue the legacy of developing successful students.

She emphasized that having elementary students on the MSU campus five days a week would also create more awareness for the university and create a pathway for students to pursue an education after high school at Missouri State.

Del Vecchio is excited for the school since it “connects MSU more with the community.” Original plans had the school slated to open by the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year, but COVID-19 complications have pushed this timeframe back. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 3, so the project is now on its way. The school is planned to be complete and opened when the school is finished within the 2021-22 academic year.



Below: Brent Dunn speaking about the donation’s future impact on the university. Photo Courtesy of Katelyn McCoy.

# Graduate students provide MSU Bear Pantry with hydroponic solution for fresh produce

By: Noah Abassi

Hydroponic gardening is a growing trend in the agriculture world. Essentially, hydroponic gardening is gardening without soil and growing crops year-round. This establishes a steady supply of healthy foods in a sustainable manner.

Missouri State University has implemented a hydroponic garden that is helping supply food to the MSU Bear Pantry. The pantry is a resource used to fight hunger on the campus by giving students access to nutritious and safe meals.

Alex Johnson, Director of Community Engaged Learning, says they are very thankful to have partners like the Darr College of Agriculture to help address food insecurity.

“Because of this hydroponics system, the Bear Pantry is able to provide fresh produce to those in need. Not only does this hydroponics system increase food security amongst college students, it also provides a sustainable learning lab for MSU students”, Johnson said.

With hydroponics becoming more prevalent, the college seized the opportunity to teach students. Within the college, there is a hydroponics class available in which students are taught basic ideas of hydroponics and eventually build their own garden.

Dr. William McClain, who teaches in the Environmental Plant Sciences and Natural Resources department, says that hydroponics are gaining steam because the population is growing and we are running out of land.

“Hydroponics may be necessary because of urbanization in the future. You could go to an area where it’s all concrete and grow crops with hydroponics, so that is why people really like it and why it’s gaining popularity”, said Dr. McClain.

Sustainable food sources are becoming more popular. Many people are also attracted to the idea of creating their own food source, so they are able to control what they are putting into their bodies through the food they eat.

Scott Cooley, a graduate student in the Darr College of Agriculture, says this is a game changer for the Bear Pantry. “It is important to get healthy options to students which allows them to live a more healthy lifestyle. We will see more in the future what this does, but for now it’s looking really good,” said Cooley.

With the rising interest in sustainable gardening and foods, hydroponics are a way many people are beginning to make the transition. Missouri State University has also begun to use hydroponics to help supply the Bear Pantry to give students access to healthy foods, further deepening its relationship with the community.



Hydroponic food production system at The Bear Pantry. Photo courtesy of Scott Cooley.

# New programs added to the Darr College of Agriculture

By: Tucker Bittick

## Agricultural Communications Minor

The addition of the agricultural communications minor is intended to equip students in any career path in agriculture with the knowledge and experience to effectively communicate.

“I believe agricultural communications is important for all arenas of agriculture,” said Katelyn McCoy, the agricultural communications instructor for Missouri State University. McCoy believes that stronger communication skills will positively affect Missouri agriculture, because the students who will be learning the skills are future leaders.

The agricultural communications field is fairly new, and McCoy wants it to be accessible for as many students as possible. Faculty in other departments saw the benefits of agricultural communications for their programs, so creating a minor became important to implement. The minor only requires 17 hours, so it is more accessible to students than taking two majors.

According to McCoy, all majors in the college will be able to benefit from having agricultural communications education. Animal science, environmental plant science, agricultural education and agricultural business majors will all need to communicate with others in their field.

“Sometimes, you won’t be communicating with someone who agrees with you on everything,” McCoy said. She sees the agricultural communications minor helping students handle these situations to be better advocates for agriculture.

## Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Track

The plant breeding and biotechnology track is intended to give environmental plant science majors a new path towards a future career in a growing industry. Before this addition, the environmental plant science major was divided into either crop or horticulture options and students interested in plant breeding and biotechnology were forced to just take classes that fit that option best.

Dr. Melissa Bledsoe, a professor in the Environmental Plant Sciences and Natural Resources department, said, “We didn’t have a formal track for these students to take...we would get students who would want to do this, but we would have to put them into a crop science major instead.”

The inclusion of this major into the college will open up new doors for students with career opportunities in plant breeding, research, plant molecular biology, phenotyping and even agronomic product sales.

“Agricultural science is a growing field,” said Bledsoe. She went on to say that these students will go on to help develop plants with better genetics that will help all areas of agriculture, so there are many employers seeking students educated in the plant breeding and biotechnology field.

Bledsoe said that she’s excited to have this extension of the environmental plant science major, and she “wants students to know that they can get that experience and have a bright career track at MSU.”

## International Plant Science Certificate

The International Plant Science Certificate is intended for international students at the Southwest University in China to earn a credential before coming to the United States. The “3+1” program that the university and the college have developed with the Chinese university allows for students to take classes tailored to them while they are in China for the first three years.

“This is a part of a continual effort over the years to have a relationship with other universities, particularly this one,” said Bledsoe. “They are a major part of who this university is.”

The program takes over 100 students per year, so it increases enrollment by a considerable amount while providing students from Southwest University to gain international experience.

“Having connections in agriculture and understanding it can drastically influence their career,” said Bledsoe.

While the International Plant Science Certificate is not a bachelor’s degree, it gives students credit for the effort that they have put into our program and theirs in China if they are unable to finish the fourth year of the program. It is meant to encourage students from Southwest University to partake in the program and gain more than one credential.

“Agriculture is a huge interest for our students travelling here from China,” said Bledsoe. She hopes this program continues to draw in interested students from Southwest University as it will continue MSU’s long-term mission to strengthen our international programs.

# Sudbrock awarded with Honorary FFA Degree

By: Katy Grant

Dr. Christi Sudbrock received one of 26 distinguished Honorary State FFA Degrees this spring for her ongoing service to the Missouri FFA organization.

“It has been such a meaningful organization and I am so thrilled that there are still ways that I can pay back the organization throughout my time at Missouri State,” said Sudbrock, assistant professor in the Agribusiness, Communication and Education department.

As a member of the Lexington FFA Chapter through her four years of high school, Sudbrock served as area president and was the 2006 state winner in the outdoor recreation proficiency area. She was

also bestowed with her State and American FFA Degrees.

“I credit my time in high school in FFA as being really formative for me,” Sudbrock said. “I feel like Missouri State has wonderful public affairs and we try to live that, but I think my first experience with ethical leadership began in high school with FFA.”

According to Keith Deitzschold, Missouri FFA Association Executive Secretary, Honorary FFA Degrees began in 1930 and have been presented for the entire life of the Missouri FFA Association. Supporters of FFA are nominated for this honor based on outstanding service to the organization.

“The honorary membership is reserved for those individuals that we recognize who make efforts on the Missouri FFA Association’s behalf,” Deitzschold said, “it is a way for Missouri FFA to recognize those who assist us above and beyond.”

Sudbrock has proudly rendered outstanding service to the FFA organization, qualifying her for this reputable award. According to Sudbrock, she has spent recent years serving as a superintendent for public speaking events and judging the state officer selection. Despite recently rotating off of the state officer interview committee, she really enjoyed playing a part in that process.

Due to the implications of COVID-19, the annual in-person Missouri FFA Convention was unable to be held and recipients were instead recognized in a virtual video ceremony in mid-June created by the state officer team. From an optimistic viewpoint, Sudbrock said even though the ceremony was different, the spirit of receiving the award remains very special to her.

“I never would have dreamed this

big for myself, but FFA did push me to expand my dreams and think beyond the immediate and what could be,” Sudbrock said.

Sudbrock credits much of her success to her experiences and skills learned in FFA. She looks forward to finding more ways to continuously support the organization and, “hopefully help cultivate the next generation of FFAers.”

The Honorary FFA Degree is bestowed upon the highest supporters of FFA and giving this award is a way the Missouri FFA Association staff and state officers can show their appreciation for the recipients’ ongoing service to the organization.

“We appreciate all of the support of, not only our honorary members, but all of our members and supporters across the state that believe in helping youth in agriculture,” Deitzschold said, “and we congratulate all of our award winners, especially Dr. Sudbrock.”

Sudbrock exemplifies the “living to serve” phrase in the FFA motto as she furthers her involvement in FFA throughout her time at Missouri State University.



**Dr. Sudbrock receives Honorary FFA Degree after serving FFA during her time at Missouri State University. Photo courtesy of Brianna Dawkins.**



# Walker named 2021-2022 Public Affairs Fellow

By: Katy Horner



**Dr. Walker organizes the 2021 Public Affairs Conference.**  
Photo courtesy of Missouri State University Visual Media.

Dr. Elizabeth Walker, professor of animal science, will be heading the 2021 Missouri State Public Affairs Conference. With the theme, “Bridging the Divide,” Walker hopes to shed a light on bringing communities together despite their differences.

Missouri State University has held a Public Affairs Conference for more than 15 years, originating in 2005 with the theme of “Celebrating Intellect”. Each year the conference has a different theme that focuses on communal issues that need to be addressed. The conference consists of plenary speakers from various backgrounds who are experts in their fields and have established themselves in their area of expertise. Previous experts that have spoken at the conference consist of Barbara

Bush, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Bill Perry, Kim Stanley Robinson, and several more world renowned individuals. The theme and all plenary speakers are chosen by the provost of the conference. The provost of the conference applies with their idea of the conference and is selected and interviewed by a panel of individuals before being chosen to organize the conference. This year, Walker filled out an application, underwent an interview process, and was chosen as next year’s provost for the Public Affairs Conference. Walker is currently a professor in the Darr College of Agriculture at Missouri State University.

“So it’s bridging the divide, and he and I see it along the same kind of more narrow lines, as far as you know, we really want to stick to the original message. And I think once we can do that, we can at least have dialogue. It seems like right now the media wants you to believe that everybody is divided. I don’t think that’s really true. I think if you actually get out there and speak to people one on one, I think we have more in common than we have different.” Walker said.

With extensive research and education in the agricultural industry, Walker is highly qualified to head next year’s conference. With an undergraduate degree from Angelo State University, and furthering her education at New Mexico State University and the University of Missouri, she has found herself in the agricultural realm. Therefore, she wants to help advocate for the agriculture industry with next year’s conference.

“I think it would help people in

rural areas, maybe get some more respect and understanding. So I’m coming at it, because I think it’ll hopefully help people at Missouri State, you know, the 80 to 90% of people at Missouri State probably don’t have a rural background, or they don’t have a farming background. Maybe it’ll help them understand that the small town kids are not dumb, they’re not Hicks,” Dr. Walker regarded.

Dr. Walker is working on putting together an advisory panel consisting of educators and students to brainstorm for this conference. With a variety of backgrounds and age gaps, they hope to bring inspirational ideas and speakers to this year’s conference. Dr. Walker has focused on a quote to keep at the core of her inspiration for next year’s conference. It was written by Holocaust survivor Vera Herman Goodkin stating, “We are all human beings. Only after this do we belong to educational, ethnic, political, racial, religious, or social groups. If we accept that which unites us, our common humanity, the reasons that divide us should not matter.”

Dr. Walker looks forward to organizing the 2021 Public Affairs Conference and inspiring students to look beyond the aspects that may cause division, promoting similarities in the future.

# 2020 Scholarship Recipients

## **Arne Johnson Agriculture Scholarship**

Michaela Bolick

## **Ben and Janis Fuqua Agriculture Scholarship**

Katy Grant

Bleu Wilson

## **Benjamin Charles Kruse Scholarship**

Jackson McCarter

## **Charles and Patricia Stufflebeam Agricultural Scholarship**

Sarah Huskey

## **Charles Biglieni Memorial Scholarship**

Michael Brock

Samantha Trowbridge

## **Christian Robert Hirsch Memorial Scholarship**

Jessica Bishop

## **Cody R. Uber Memorial Scholarship**

Joseph Perjak

## **David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship**

Willow Breuer

## **Dennis and Phyllis Schmitt Animal Science Graduate Scholarship**

Shianne Walther

## **Dennis M. and Janice K. Grisham Scholarship**

Mattie Cobban

## **Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship**

Mary Books

Grace DelVecchio

Makenna Grider

Lanie Ipock

Brianne Jones

Caleb Kindle

Everett Martin

Danielle Rogers

Brett Schellen

Wyatt Wilson

## **Dr. J.N. Smith/FCS Financial Scholarship**

Trent Bargfrede

Nathanial Forck

Vonetta Ivy-Medlock



### **Danielle Rogers, Senior**

Return to Learn Scholarship through Missouri State's Adult Student Services, Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship, Douglas W Darr Leadership Scholarship

"Returning to school as a non-traditional student is not always an easy decision. These scholarships helped financially assist my family as we adjusted to a single income. They also gave me a boost of confidence and assured me that I was making the right decision by returning to school; I felt like someone was supporting my goals."



### **Matt McKnight, Junior**

Missouri State University Agriculture Alumni Association Student Support Fund

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to earn a higher education and a degree in Environmental Plant Science. With these scholarships from the Agriculture Alumni Association Student Support Fund, I am truly able to make that possible."

**Ed Pinegar Scholarship**

Chase Hultgren

**Einhellig Family Scholarship**

Erika Cooperman

Karlene Negus

**Farmers Cooperative Livestock Marketing Scholarship**

Kaitlyn Neubert

Anna Reinkemeyer

Koleby Washam

Audrey Wilson

**FCS Financial Agriculture Scholarship**

Christian Hirsch

Collin Murray

**Gayle Ashley Horticulture Club Scholarship**

Katlyn Henson

**Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Agriculture Scholarship**

Ashlee Butler

CarrieLee Holliday

Lyndsey Parker

Randi Sharley

**H. Lewis Miller Endowed Scholarship**

Ainsley Cowlick

**Harry and Marion James Scholarship**

Mary Books

Cheston Stacy

**Henry and Grace Carr Farm Scholarship**

Jarod Coatney

Grace Erickson

Lanie Ipock

**Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship**

Bailey Cooper

Lauren Wilson

**Irwin Farms Scholarship**

Paige Wait

**J. Barry & Kelly Watts Scholarship**

Lyndsey Parker

**Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship**

Audrey Wilson

**James P. and Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship**

Emily Grussing



**CarrieLee Holliday, Junior**

Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Agriculture Scholarship

“Without the generosity of various donors, I would not have the opportunity to further my passion. Behind every student, there is a village of dedicated mentors pushing us to succeed. I am thankful for my people whether they have given me a scholarship or kind words of wisdom.”



**Audrey Wilson, Senior**

The Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship and the Farmers Cooperative Livestock Marketing Foundation Scholarship

“The foundation scholarships I have received throughout my years at Missouri State University have been of great assistance towards payment of my tuition, which I am grateful for, especially as I continue on to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree.

The best part of the foundation scholarships is having the opportunity to personally thank the donors, and in previous years meet and get to know the donors at the Scholarship Banquet.”

**John D. Schatz Scholarship**

Adam Barton  
Shelbi Mundy

**Liberty Bank Agricultural Business Scholarship**

Evan Dotson

**Marilyn R. Daniel Equine Scholarship**

Maggie Clark  
Paige Durham

**MFA, Inc. Scholarship**

Molly Frease  
Sadie Murphy  
Lani Ogle

**Missouri Farm Bureau Scholarship**

Sarah McCord  
Jake Yarnall

**Missouri Seedsmen's Association Ron Cowan Memorial Scholarship**

Hunter Bartelt  
Kyndra Chastain

**Missouri State University Agriculture Alumni Association Student Support Fund**

Kaylee Abney  
Kaden Clark  
Claire Eggerman  
Kathryn Horner  
Sarah McCord  
Matthew McKnight  
Cindi Prothro  
Isabella Roth  
Meghan Seibert  
Mary Sharp  
Braylin Shelton  
Ashley Springer  
Kyleigh Sulkowski  
Alexis Sweeney  
Karson Thomas  
Madison Turner  
Hailee Vernon  
Madison Whitaker  
Jake Yarnall  
Paityn Yates

**Pamela Borden Trewatha Horticulture Scholarship**

Kyndra Chastain

**Richard G. Sullivan Endowed Scholarship for Ag Business**

Landon Bilyeu

**Robert F. Thomson Jr. Memorial Family Scholarship**

Kendyl Hayward

**S&H Farm Supply, Inc. Scholarship**

Brandy Downs

**Stanlie H. and Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship**

Jordan Pope  
Lucy Turk

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

Andrea Atkisson

**Theodorakos Vuilleumott Sports Agriculture Scholarship**

Brooke Newell

**Uncle Tom Watkins Memorial Scholarship Danielle Oakley**

Katie Walker

**Vernon Renner Scholarship**

Brittany Byram  
Owen Fabro  
Jacob Gray  
Caitlin Jedlicka  
Ty Rinne

**Waite Scholarship**

Jia Tan

# Club Updates

By: Club Representatives  
Compiled by Katy Horner

## Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT)

ACT is a major based organization focused on promoting the agriculture industry. ACT encourages anyone to join to learn how to promote agriculture efficiently and effectively. Members attend various conferences and contests throughout the year, such as the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention. ACT is dedicated to building professionalism and communication skills. For more information contact Taylor Allee at [taylor315@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:taylor315@live.missouristate.edu).

## Agronomy Club

The purpose of the MSU Agronomy Club is to stimulate interest in plant and soil sciences. The club also provides opportunities for students to sharpen leadership skills, communication skills, cooperation skills, and compete on a national level. Even with this year's circumstances, Agronomy Club is still meeting each month in Karls hall. There will also be upcoming opportunities for students to give back to the community and receive service hours. We encourage anyone with an interest to join us and contact Isabelle VanKirk at [isabelle970@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:isabelle970@live.missouristate.edu) with any questions.

## Cattlemen's Association

Our collegiate cattlemen's association is made of many individuals who share a common interest of agriculture. We are most known for our frequent events advocating for the farmers and ranchers that make up our industry. Along with events on campus, we travel state and nation-wide to develop connections and further our knowledge. COVID-19 has not stopped us but changed our methods of reaching out. Instead of hosting our Farm Safety Day, we filmed a video to then send out to the state FFA chapters. Though the video is still in my works, we are trying our hardest to be present and active for all the students. We will be hosting monthly meetings for anyone and everyone to attend. Every meeting we host a public speaker to educate us about a multitude of topics. Be on the lookout on our Instagram and Facebook page for upcoming events. If you have any questions or would like to become a part of our team, feel free to reach out to me at [Carrieree123@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:Carrieree123@live.missouristate.edu).



## Collegiate 4-H

Collegiate 4-H is a student organization that strives to provide today's youth with leadership, responsibility, citizenship and life skills through workshops and events. Each spring we hold an event that allows 4-H members to present projects they work on and will later submit to their county, and state, fair. Our organization holds monthly meetings where we discuss growth opportunities and work together to be a successful student organization. This year has presented all of us with challenges due to COVID-19, but we are determined to persevere through those challenges and continue educating today's youth with a positive attitude. For additional information, contact Mackenzie Courtouise at [Courtouise563@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:Courtouise563@live.missouristate.edu).

## Collegiate Farm Bureau

The Collegiate Farm Bureau is a professional organization that raises awareness of agriculture issues amongst collegiate students and serves as a connection between the collegiate level and the Missouri Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau. We also help keep students involved in issues that affect agriculture.

COVID-19 has kept us from doing any activities this fall. We have face to face meetings and a zoom link that people can virtually be on. We are hoping to participate in activities in the spring such as the State YF&R convention. Hopefully, we can host our fall events next year and return to full participation. Please contact Wyatt Wilson at [Wilson243@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:Wilson243@live.missouristate.edu) with questions.

## Delta Tau Alpha (DTA)

Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) is an honor society that strives to promote and recognize high standards of scholarship, leadership, and character for agriculture students. Our organization has been involved in philanthropy events such as Adopt-A-Street Clean Up and writing letters to residents in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also participate in college of agriculture days with our annual trivia bowl. This past year we inducted 22 new members into our society. Contact Claire Eggerman with questions at [Claire999@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:Claire999@live.missouristate.edu).



## Pre-Vet Club

The purpose of the Pre-Veterinary Club is to promote interest in the field of veterinary medicine, to prepare students for veterinary school, and to provide opportunities for pre-professional development. We have tried to use the unusual situation we find ourselves in as an opportunity to have speakers we would not normally be able to have. For example, we were able to connect with a former student who is in vet school through zoom. We adjusted for the safety of our members to have meetings outside so we can ensure social distancing. For more information, contact Anna Reinkemeyer at [reinkemeyer319@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:reinkemeyer319@live.missouristate.edu).

## Horticulture Club

The MSU Horticulture Club is in its second year after it was revived last fall by our current Vice President Jane Jackovich. We have really tried to focus on building a tight knit group of people with a shared interest in plants, regardless of major. Our membership has increased significantly this year despite COVID-19 preventing many students from returning to campus. So far this year, we have had several exciting events including a partnership with the Victims Memorial Garden in Phelps Grove Park to take over the maintenance of the flower beds. This will be an ongoing partnership for years to come and we couldn't be happier about it. We've also taken a guided tour of the Mizumoto Japanese Garden and plan to return for their Gardens Aglow event this winter. One of our meetings also involved a pumpkin carving contest and a viewing of Hocus Pocus which was very fun. Due to COVID-19, we are trying to focus our events on either outside, socially distanced events or web-based events like our upcoming series of guest speakers. Email [HortClub@missouristate.edu](mailto:HortClub@missouristate.edu) for more info on joining or attending the webinars!



## The Wildlife Society

Missouri State University's chapter of The Wildlife Society aims to prepare members for careers in wildlife biology, conservation, and management by encouraging professionalism and education on current wildlife issues. The MSU Wildlife Society often partners with the Missouri Department of Conservation, providing valuable field experience to our over 40 members. In the past, we have assisted with bat surveys, quail surveys, prescribed burns, and environmental interpretations. We also have adopted a section of Fasnigh Creek, where we do routine biological and chemical monitoring surveys each semester for Missouri Stream Team. We have a formal meeting once a month, often with a guest speaker, and schedule fun, educational activities throughout the month, including bird watching trips, trail cleanups, potlucks, camping trips, and herpetological excursions. Due to COVID-19, we have transitioned to holding our meetings over zoom and are hosting less in person events, which are only occurring outdoors. We adhere to CDC guidelines and wear masks at each event. Members are encouraged to sign a waiver upon attendance. We are always looking to recruit new members, so feel free to email [peskar798@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:peskar798@live.missouristate.edu) for more information!

# Darr College of Agriculture Graduates

## Spring 2020

Adrienn Allen	Lebanon	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Lena Alsup	Monett	Nat&Appl Sci-AG-Acceleratd-MNAS
Conner Anderson	Strafford	Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
Talena Bailey	Fair Play	Agriculture Education-BSED
Colton Bamert	O Fallon	Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Ginger Barnes	West Plains	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Mackenzie Barnett	Chillicothe	Animal Science-BS
Samantha Bart	Reeds Spring	Animal Science-BS
Adam Barton	Springfield	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Jacob Beck	St Elizabeth	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Karlie Beckett	Springfield	Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS
Alexandra Belshe	Henley	Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Emma Borchering	New Haven	Animal Science-BS
Dakota Boss	Richmond	Animal Science-BS
Taylor Bowling	Mount Vernon	Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Emily Brakemeyer	Springfield	Animal Science-BS
Daniel Breidenstein	Springfield	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Katy Brisco	Anderson	Agriculture Education-BSED
Jess Burns	Springfield	Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS
Megan Cantu	Springfield	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Jordyn Capra	Carl Junction	Animal Science-BS
Brandon Chapman	Carthage	Agriculture Education-BSED
Matthew Clay	Nixa	Animal Science-BS
Martin Coatney	Lebanon	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Jessica Cobban	Fair Grove	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Jacob Collins	Willard	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Anna Dietrich	Hollywood, FL	Plant Science-EP Dept-MS
Olivia Dove	Wentzville	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Benjamin Fizette	Golden City	Agriculture-MS
Thomas Flanders	Springfield	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Angela Frederick	Paris, AR	Plant Science-EP Dept-MS
Reece Gabbert	Sedalia	Animal Science-BS
Joshua Gibson	Eureka	Animal Science-BS
Megan Gilbreath	Carthage	Animal Science-BS
Krista Gilmartin	Lamar	Agriculture-Accelerated-MS
Monica Glick	Edwardsville, IL	Animal Science-BS
Carsen Goodman	Ellington	Natural Resources-BS
Jordan Gott	Strafford	Agriculture-MS
Ben Greer	Marshfield	Animal Science-BS
Danielle Hackett	Ellisville	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Alec Hagan	Republic	Agriculture Education-BSED
Breanna Hammen	Purdy	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Kenny Hannaford	Gainesville	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Kristen Henderson	Springfield	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Nicholas Hirsch	Thayer	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Brett Hoffman	Rolla	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Jennifer Horn	Leslie	Agriculture Education-BSED
Briana Isakson	Rolla	Animal Science-BS
Anthony Jacobson	Traverse City, MI	Plant Science-MS

Hailey Johnston  
Meghan Jones  
Tanner Jones  
Rachel Kassler  
Taylor Kennemer  
Stacey Kenyon  
Brendan Knight  
Andrea Lampe  
Vittoria Lane  
Morgan Ley  
Tayler Limpus  
Drew Marcum  
Everett Martin  
Jeffrey McKee  
Rachel McMahan  
Emily Miller  
Jake Miller  
Morgan Mitchell  
Jacob Newton  
Shannon O'Day  
Delaney O'Donnell  
Ashley Packwood  
Lucas Paloschi  
Cierra Parker  
Kalyann Persell  
Samuel Piontek  
Rachel Porter  
Timothy Post  
Tanner Prenger  
Danielle Price  
Noah Riemensnider  
Tanner Robertson  
Jon Rodriguez  
Matthew Schimsa  
John Scrivener  
Randall Sherman  
Kaitlin Sly  
Isabelle Smith  
Donald Sommese  
Lane Sowder  
Diana Summitt  
Kirsten Talburt  
Alexis Tamborrino  
Katy Taylor  
Hannah Todd  
Adam Uhls  
Sabrina Urbina  
Briana VerPloeg  
Casey Watkins  
Amanda Wecker  
Kirstie Williams  
Wesley Witt  
Katelyn Wray

Raymore  
Kansas City  
Sullivan  
Springfield  
Rogersville  
California  
Raymore  
Fair Grove  
Herculaneum  
Saint Charles  
Everton  
Fordland  
Springfield  
Pleasant Hill  
Greenfield  
Old Monroe  
Marshall  
Seligman  
Rogersville  
Springfield  
Glen Allen, VA  
Springfield  
Ibiruba  
Saint Robert  
Jacksonville, NC  
Washington  
Kearney  
Hall, NY  
Russellville  
Springfield  
Iberia, Brazil  
Sparta  
Neosho  
Pacific  
Rockville  
Quincy  
Springfield  
Ashland  
Branson West  
Asbury  
Springfield  
Wasola  
Saint Louis  
Marshfield  
Seymour  
Festus  
Otterville  
Hartville  
Caulfield  
Reeds  
Rose, OK  
Lebanon  
Harrisonville

Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Plant Science-EP Dept-MS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS  
General Agriculture/Agr-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agriculture-MS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
General Agriculture/Agr-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Agricultural Communications-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
Plant Science-EP Dept-MS  
Animal Science-BS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS  
Agriculture Education-BSED  
Animal Science-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Natural & Applied Sci-AG-MNAS  
Agriculture Education-BSED  
Plant Science-EP Dept-MS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agriculture-MS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Agriculture-MS  
General Agriculture-BAS  
General Agriculture-BAS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS

## Summer 2020

Cortney Allison	Springfield	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
William Behrens	Gerald	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Mary Books	Springfield	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Treavor Bussard	Clever	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Gabrielle Cobb	Clever	Animal Science-BS
Shae Honesty	Hazelwood	Plant Science-AG Dept-MS
Jordan Loftis	Springfield	Animal Science-BS
John Majewski	Festus	Natural Resources-BS
Brittany Pound	Edmond, OK	Animal Science-BS
Madeline Stowe	Union	Animal Science-BS

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## Fall 2020

Christopher Baker	Bolivar	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Zakary Banks	Bolivar	Agriculture-MS
Hunter Barclay	Lebanon	Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
Blake Batson	Galena	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Garrett Baxley	Springfield	Animal Science-BS
Ernania Bonifacia Amaral	Washington, D.C.	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Katlyn Branson	Warrenton	Agriculture Education-BSED
Colton Brown	Stockton	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Brittany Byram	Gerald	Natural Resources-BS
Chloe Calhoun	Bowling Green	Animal Science-BS
Riley Cameron	Rich Hill	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Kyndra Chastain	Elkland	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Steven Coonce	Clever	Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Brianna Dawkins	Springfield	Agriculture-MS
Bryant DeCota	Sikeston	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Michael Dennigmann	Saint Charles	Plant Science-EP Dept-MS
Samantha Dorsey	Joplin	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Lori Duncan	Washburn	General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Nick Duncan	Chillicothe	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
William Edmondson	Cassville	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Grace Erickson	Bolivar	Animal Science-BS
Olivia Falcon	Carl Junction	Animal Science-BS
Nathanial Forck	Jefferson City	Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Hailey Gastler	Montgomery City	Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Nora Gillison	Sullivan	Natural Resources-BS
Kelly Greene	Kansas City	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Dylan Gresham	Eureka Springs, AR	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Kellen Griep	Jefferson City	Agriculture Education-BSED
Derrick Haxton	Kearney	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Duane Helton	Squires	Animal Science-BS
Lindsay Hill	Springfield	Animal Science-BS
Zachary Hill	Bland	Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
Jessie Huntley	Lebanon	General Agriculture-BAS
Allison Jenkins	Butler	Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Austin Keeney	Houston	Natural Resources-BS
Travis Kem	O Fallon	Animal Science-BS
Caleb Kindle	Mansfield	Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Jesse Laughlin	Waynesville	Animal Science-BS

Ashton Light  
Lane Luttrell  
Sarah Mason  
Maddison May  
Benjamin McBride  
Annika McGaughy  
Bryan Meyerowich  
Samantha Michaelis  
Dillon Mize  
Robert Moody  
Gilberto Morales  
Rebecca Morrison  
Lyndsey Parker  
Andrew Patrick  
Brendan Rakers  
Hunter Reed  
Lacie Reed  
Tanner Roberts  
Haley Robinson  
Rachel Robinson  
Brett Schellen  
Meghan Seibert  
Randi Sharley  
Sarah Sharp  
Cheston Stacy  
Madeleine Sullivan  
Alexis Sweeney  
Jonathan Tarkington  
Paige Taylor  
Alyse Teeslink-Allen  
Taylor Trolinger  
Isabelle VanKirk  
Katelyn Voris  
Luke Wallenberg  
Caleb Ward  
Gina Wieberg  
Allison Wilkerson  
Abigail Wilson  
Audrey Wilson  
Megan Wix  
Samantha Ziph

Lebanon  
Iberia  
Chillicothe  
Galena  
Millstadt, IL  
Springfield  
Platte City  
Fair Play  
Malden  
Springfield  
Kansas City  
Moro, IL  
Salem  
Lynchburg  
Saint Louis  
Potosi  
Lebanon  
Ozark  
Harrisonville  
Fair Grove  
Aurora  
Gerald  
Macks Creek  
Grove, OK  
Humansville  
Columbia  
Imperial  
Verona  
Marshfield  
Springfield  
Park Hills  
Rolla  
Half Way  
Jay, OK  
Mount Vernon, IL  
Argyle  
Conway  
Robertsville  
Hollister  
Waynesville  
Springfield

Agriculture-Accelerated-MS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agricultural Communications-BS  
Agriculture-MS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Plant Science-EP Dept-MS  
Animal Science-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
General Agriculture-BAS  
Animal Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
General Agriculture/Agr-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
General Agriculture-BAS  
Natural Resources-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS  
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Animal Science-BS  
Natural Resources-BS

# Faculty and Professional Staff

Dr. Ron Del Vecchio, Dean

## Agricultural Business, Education & Communications

Dr. Arbindra Rimal, Department Head  
 Agricultural Economics/Bus.  
 Ms. Nichole Busdieker-Jesse Agricultural Economics/Bus.  
 Dr. Jim Hutter Agricultural Education  
 Ms. Katelyn McCoy Agricultural Communications  
 Dr. Benjamin Onyango Agricultural Economics/Bus.  
 Dr. Christi Sudbrock Agricultural Economics/Bus.  
 Per Course  
 Mr. Travis Elliott Agricultural Law  
 Ms. Joyce Cutright Agricultural Communications  
 Mr. Jayson Shriver Agricultural Mechanics  
 Mr. Mike Wiles Agricultural Sales  
 Mr. Craig Grisham Agricultural Education

## Animal Science

Dr. Gary Webb, Department Head  
 Equine Reproduction  
 Mr. Will Boyer Animal Science  
 Ms. Natalie Mook Equine Science  
 Mr. Adam McGee Animal Science  
 Dr. Lacy Sukovaty Vet & Small Animal Science  
 Dr. Beth Walker Sheep & Goat Science  
 Per Course  
 Dr. Jason Salchow Veterinary Science  
 Mr. Lyle Whittaker Meat Science

## Plant Science and Natural Resources

Dr. Chin-Feng Hwang, Department Head  
 Grape Breeding and Genetics  
 Dr. Clydette Alsup-Egbers Horticulture  
 Dr. Melissa Bledsoe Plant, Insect & Microbial Science  
 Dr. Mike Burton Agronomy  
 Dr. Michael Goerndt Forestry  
 Dr. Will McClain Natural Resources  
 Ms. Marilyn Odneal Horticulture  
 Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski Integrated Pest Mngmt.  
 Dr. Wenping Qiu Molecular Plant Virology  
 Dr. Karl Wilker Enology & Distillation  
 Professional Staff  
 Ms. Li-Ling Chen Research Scientist  
 Ms. Susanne Howard Grape Research Specialist  
 Ms. Marilyn Odneal Outreach & Vineyard Manager  
 Per Course  
 Ms. Lori Padgett Landscape Design  
 Mr. Timothy Stanton Forestry and Fire Management  
 Mr. Tim Russell Ozarks Wildlife  
 Ms. Bobbie Wixon Floral Arranging  
 Ms. Sheila Wehr Floral Design  
 Mr. Jerry Austin Wildlife Conservation  
 Mr. Clint Dalbom Wildlife Conservation  
 Dr. Anson Elliott Food Security

## Managerial and Support Staff: Karls Hall

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

## State Fruit Experiment Station: Mountain Grove

Ms. Pam Turner Administrative Assistant IV  
 Ms. Leslie Akers Administrative Assistant II  
 Mr. Jeremy Emery Cellar Technician  
 Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski Fruit Culture  
 Ms. Jennifer Morganthal Clinical Assistant  
 Mr. Randy Stout Field Crew Leader  
 Mr. Steve Turner Equipment Mechanic  
 Ms. Sheila Long Field & Maintenance  
 Mr. Michael Matthews Foreman  
 Mr. Robert Mosier Physical Plant  
 Dr. Wenping Qiu Grapevine Biotechnology  
 Dr. Chin-Feng Hwang Viticulture & Enology

## Darr Agricultural Center and Baker's Acres

Ms. Natalie Mook Coordinator of Center  
 Mr. Zach Davis Farm Operations Manager  
 Ms. Carrie Crews Outreach Coordinator & Admin. Assistant II

## Journagan Ranch

Mr. Marty Lueck Manager  
 Mr. Russell Driskell Farm Hand  
 Mr. Eddie Massey Farm Hand  
 Mr. Eric Luek Farm Hand  
 Mr. Jacob Peterson Farm Hand

## Shealy Farm

Mr. Joe Webb Manager

## The Woodlands

Mr. Michael Klem Manager

## VESTA-MVEC

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

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

# MAJORS

Agriculture  
Agricultural Business  
Agricultural Communications  
Agriculture Education  
Animal Science  
Environmental Plant Science  
Equine Science  
Natural Resources  
Wildlife Conservation & Mgmt.



# Missouri State

WILLIAM H. DARR  
COLLEGE of  
AGRICULTURE

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417-836-5638



Agriculture  
Agricultural Business  
Agricultural Communications  
Agricultural Education  
Agronomy  
Animal Science  
Companion Animal Science  
Equine Studies  
Forestry  
Horticulture  
Ranch Management

# MINORS