FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Volume XI, Fall 1996

Greathouse Named Department Chair

FHSU named Dr. John Greathouse, Durango, CO, Chair of the Department of Agriculture, effective June 17.

Greathouse holds a Ph.D. specializing in meat animal growth and development/meat science from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He also has master and bachelor of science degrees from Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Greathouse comes to FHSU from Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO, where he has been Chair of Biology, Agriculture and Forestry since 1991. He has taught there since 1986.

Greathouse has many published scholarly works. He is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, American Society of Animal Science, American Meat Science Association, and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

He has served on several advisory and curriculum committees for Durgano High School, and was a show and contest judge for various county fairs and 4-H competitions.

Chairman's Chat

I am honored to have been selected to serve as Chair of the FHSU Agriculture Department. Past records indicate that I am the third person to hold this position, following in the recent footsteps of Dr. Mike Gould and previously, Dr. Wallace Harris.

The department has been quite fortunate to have had the guidance of these two individuals whose wisdom and leadership allowed for the acquisition of resources and creation of the programs that serve our agriculture students even today.

Assuming the role as Chair in mid summer provided the opportunity to work very closely with the department faculty and staff during a somewhat less hectic time of the year. This gave me the chance to learn more about the department's structure and inner workings. I also traveled to several locations around the state visiting Agriculture Practicum students who were employed in a variety of agricultural positions.

During my trips I was able to visit with a number of FHSU alumni and friends who have a sincere interest in the success of our programs. I appreciated these conversations and I look forward to visiting with even more individuals in the future.

I am confident the agriculture program will continue to meet the needs of its students and provide highly qualified graduates who possess the scientific knowledge and technical skills necessary to enter today's agricultural work force.

Over the past several years enrollment in agriculture has been on the rise. Last year's Interim Chairman's Report by Dr. Garry Brower provided a statistical summary of enrollment figures since 1990, showing a 65.8% growth through 1995-96 (257 majors).

Preliminary data at the beginning of this academic year reflects an enrollment of 276 agriculture and agribusiness majors, which corresponds to a 7.4% increase compared with Fall 1995 enrollments. Overall, student numbers have increased 78.1% since 1990.

These larger numbers are significant because they reflect a sense of optimism toward the future of agriculture within our society. Furthermore, increased enrollments generate administrative support and ultimately strengthen our ability to offer solid academic programs.

If you plan to be on campus at some time in the near future, I would encourage you to call my office to arrange a visit or at least stop by the department and say hello. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

If you know of potential students who might have an interest in our programs, please drop us a line with names and mailing addresses so we can make contact with them.

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Ag Department Joins the Net

The Department of Agriculture at Fort Hays State University can now be accessed on the World Wide Web. The Web address is as follows: http://www.fhsu.edu/htmlpages/fhsu/dept_of_ag.html

As of the beginning of the Fall 1996 semester the amount of information on the department's homepage is very limited.

However, we intend to have corrected this situation by the end of the year.

By then browsers will be able to find information about the faculty, course offerings, a calendar of events involving department faculty and students, information about student organizations and current job openings.

There are plans to develop the Web as a supplemental teaching tool in selected courses. In the future there may be agricultural courses available over the internet.

As we develop this new technology we would appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to communicate with us regarding your feelings.

Graduate of Distinction Award

The department would like your assistance in identifying nominees for the Agriculture Graduate of Distinction Award.

This award recognizes an outstanding graduate of the department who has made significant and unselfish contributions to agriculture, their chosen field and the community.

Past recipients include: Allen Dinkel, Larry Bartlett, Darwin Bickford, Gary Rolland, Bobby Tricks, and Darrell Seibel.

The award will be presented during the Block & Bridle Banquet on April 19, 1997.

Please call or send your nominations to Dr. John Greathouse before February 12, 1997.

Albertson Hall Renovation

Albertson Hall, home of the Agriculture Department, is scheduled to undergo major remodeling beginning in March 1998. The remodel will allow for an upgrade of classrooms and laboratories, in addition to providing improvements in ventilation, disability access and fire safety.

We will be required to move out of our current location and into Custer Hall during the construction. Unfortunately, there has been a delay in initiating development of an architectural plan, which will probably extend the beginning of construction into Summer 1998.

The estimated time-frame for completion of the project is 18 months. In the end, the Departments of Agriculture, Biological Sciences, part of Allied Health and Communication Disorders will reside in Albertson Hall.

Agriculture Practicum

Twenty-one students participated in the Agriculture Practicum this summer which provides college credit for supervised agriculture and agribusiness work experience.

Several agriculture firms provided practicum opportunities, including:

American Cyanamid - Emporia
Collingwood Grain, Inc. - Plains
Crop Quest - Dodge City
Dekalb Swine Breeders - Plains
Ellis County Feeders - Hays
F & S Farms - Carrol, NE
Frontier Equity - Goodland
Harsh International - Scott City
IBP - Emporia
In-Field Agronomics - Odessa, NE
Lyons State Bank - Lyons
Midland Marketing - Hays
Natural Resources Conservation Service - Russell
Phil Martin Farms - Great Bend
Production Advisory Service, Inc. - Sublette
Servi-Tech, Inc. - Dodge City
Simms Farms - Republic
Western Ag Consulting - WaKeeney
Wilbert Bevan and Sons - Macksville

Thanks to all supervisors who participated in the program. If you have an interest in supervising a Practicum student, please contact the Agriculture Department.

Agriculture Department Faculty & Staff

Dr. John Greathouse - Chair - Animal Science, Block & Bridle Advisor, 628-4196, E-mail: agjrg@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu, FAX: 628-4183
Dr. Garry Brower - Animal Science, Rodeo Club Advisor, 628-4366, E-mail: aggb@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Dr. Sandra Johnson - Animal Science, Block and Bridle Advisor, 628-4015, E-mail: agsj@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Dr. Brent Spaulding - Agribusiness, NAMA Advisor, 628-4368, E-mail: agbs@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Dr. Neil Patrick - Agribusiness, NAMA Advisor, 628-5853, E-mail: agnp@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Dr. Robert Stephenson - Crops and Soils, DTA Advisor, 628-4010, E-mail: agbb@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Dr. Jean Gleichsner - Crops and Soils, DTA Advisor, 628-4023, E-mail: agjg@fhsuvm.fhsu.edu
Scott Barrows, Livestock Judging Team Coach, 628-5265
Janet Knipp - Head Secretary, 628-4196

Area Code: 913

Agriculture in the Classroom

Agriculture In The Classroom is a course that started nine years ago and is designed for K-12 teachers who want to learn more about agriculture and ways to incorporate agriculture into their classroom.

Courses are held each year at Fort Hays State University, Wichita State University, Kansas State University and Farmland Industries Research Farm north of Bonner Springs.

The short courses run for two weeks and participants receive three credit hours towards accreditation. Tuition is sponsored by organizations and participants are only responsible for a supplies fee of $100-$125.

Some of the activities at FHSU have included wheat weaving, xerophytic landscaping, a stone post cutting demonstration, tours of ostrich and buffalo operations, a tour of the gluten factory in Russell, a meats cutting demonstration, and numerous other activities.

Next year the FHSU course will be held June 2-13, 1997. Advertising for this course will occur after January 1st through area extension offices and letters sent to K-12 principals.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Agriculture Department at FHSU (913) 628-4196 or Dr. Bob Stephenson (913) 628-4010 or e-mail: agbb@fhsuvm. fhsu.edu.

1996 Fort Hays State University Agriculture in the Classroom participants.

Barrows Named FHSU Livestock Judging Coach

Scott (Bronc) Barrows joins the Agriculture Department as the new livestock judging team coach.

Barrows holds an Associate of General Arts Degree from Colby Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Kansas State University, where he majored in Animal Science and Industry.

In the past, Barrows has worked as an agriculture extension agent and as a sales representative to Moormans, Inc. in Ness City, KS. While employed at Moormans, he was in the nation's top 300 for feed sales.

His most recent experience has involved the production and management of 200+ artificially inseminated cows and market club calves, as well as the management of 590 acres of cropland and 2000 acres of grassland. Barrows is also involved in custom fitting and showing.

In addition to his judging team responsibilities, Barrows will be helping to teach the livestock evaluation courses and is also pursuing a Master of Science degree in Communication at Fort Hays State University.

Livestock Judging Team

The Fort Hays State University 1997 livestock judging team will be comprised of several new faces, including coach, Scott (Bronc) Barrows.

Barrows accepted the appointment at the start of the Fall 1996 term and has aggressively recruited students to build a new and competitive team.

An excellent foundation was created for Coach Barrows by former Coach Kevin Huser, whose continuing help is making the transition both smooth and positive.

Coach Barrows feels his style will only complement the program already established at FHSU.

The current plan for the team is to work out this fall competing in several small practice contests. This will enable the new team to gain experience and then make their debut at the national contests beginning in January 1997.

Fifteen students have expressed an interest in judging livestock for the FHSU team. Those students are an equal balance of junior college transfers and 4-year program students at FHSU.

This should prove to be an exciting and challenging year for the Tigers.

Agriculture Scholarships

Over $76,000 in scholarships were awarded to freshmen, transfers, and continuing students majoring in agriculture.

Scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of academic achievement and interest in agriculture.

1996-97 Freshmen Scholarship Recipients— Row 1 (L to R): Dr. Jean Gleichsner - Scholarship Coordinator, Tisha Hoogendoorn, Kelly Casey, Terri Murphy, Staci Cuthbertson, Tiffany O'Neill, and Kerry Bowman. **Row 2 (L to R):** Jeff White, Greg Kerr, Douglas Bunck, Todd Miller, Robby Gardner, Kristin Bemis, and Sarah Kindt.

1996-97 Continuing and Transfer Students Scholarship Recipients— Row 1 (L to R): Travis Crites, Stephanie Helms, Kate Shepard, Tammy Peterson, Sara Hibbard, Sharla Rubottom, and Dr. Jean Gleichsner - Scholarship Coordinator. **Row 2 (L to R):** John Minet, Phil Henrickson, Clint Shapland, Marcella Warner, Jared McCoy, Melvin Rodarmel, and Darren Rubottom. **Row 3 (L to R):** Kevin Rippe, Jacob Dumler, Troy Laughlin, Ty Gerlits, Randy Lix, Tom Wapp, David Huff, Lance Feikert, and Shawn Lindenman.

Generous gifts made by two area farm couples, Herbert L. and Susie Fought of Norton County, and Edward and Carolyn Scanlon of Trego County are primarily responsible for the success of the scholarship program.

Continued and increased support from area companies and individuals insures the growth of the scholarship program at FHSU and, more importantly, provides the opportunity for ag students to complete their education.

Congratulations to each scholarship recipient and a special thank you to the scholarship sponsors.

Dean Virgil Howe presents Travis Crites with Outstanding Student Award.

Crites Named Outstanding Student in the College of Health and Life Sciences

Travis Crites, agribusiness major, was recognized last Spring for his high academic achievement and leadership roles on campus. He served as VP for the Student Government Assoc., the Student Alumni Assoc., and NAMA.

Travis grew up in Kirk, CO and served as the State FFA Secretary.

Dean's Honor Roll

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll a student must complete 12 or more credit hours with a GPA for that academic term of at least 3.6.

Congratulations to the following agriculture and agribusiness majors for obtaining such an honor.

Fall 1995

Travis Crites
Terra Gottschalk
Mark Lang
Todd Ragsdale
Darren Rubottom
Donald Sanders, Jr.
Scott Schertz
Katie Shank
Thomas Wapp
Marcella Warner
Rolland Winter

Spring 1996

Travis Crites
Tami Deters
Mathew Dreiling
Shelby Hayden
Troy Laughlin
Mark Lang
Darren Rubottom
Katie Shank
Thomas Wapp
Rolland Winter

Farm Update

All of us at the University Farm wish to thank Dr. Garry Brower for his help and support during the past year. Despite his many responsibilities as Interim Agriculture Department Chair, Dr. Brower still found time to insure that any problems we had were taken care of and that he was always available for consultations.

The new department chair, Dr. John Greathouse, has made a favorable impression on all of us at the University Farm. We look forward, with optimism, to many years of his leadership. Welcome to the family, John!

As always, the unit managers are looking forward to visiting with you. Call ahead if possible (phone numbers appear after each unit's report), but please stop and see us.

Crop Unit

Once more the weather has made this a challenging year for farming. Extremely dry conditions from June to mid September cut our milo harvest to less than half of our average.

A timely rain in September got the wheat off to a good start but the dry conditions throughout the winter months and early Spring made us extremely pessimistic about wheat harvest. Luck was with us, however, and the rains came at just the right times for the wheat. Though cutting was slow, due to weeds, the wheat averaged 40 bu/A and we had two fields go over 50 bu/A.

Frequent rains this summer made it difficult to put up hay, but have provided abundant moisture for what looks to be a bumper milo crop. Moisture is more than adequate for seeding wheat and we are extremely optimistic about the coming year.

Steve Engelhardt, Manager
Harland Werth, Asst. Manager
(913) 628-8713

Beef Unit

Best regards from the FHSU Beef Unit. Current student employees include: Dustin Mattke, Ogallah; Jayson Sneath, Meade; and Sara Hibbard, Hardtner.

This has been a pretty interesting year in the cattle business. We have gone from severe drought to extremely wet range conditions, deteriorating cattle markets to some strengthening recently, and record high corn prices to some weakening this Fall.

If stress is a good motivator, we should be pretty well motivated after this year.

Here are some thoughts that we think are important for us to consider as we try to sustain and strengthen our resources:

1) We need to have a well defined management plan that helps us make sound decisions and not over react to short term problems.

2) We need to build a simple and economical operating system that not only makes best use of resources, but also replenishes and improves them.

3) Specifially, with respect to the cow-calf operation, our goal is simply to be a perpetual low cost producer of a high quality product that deserves and receives a premium.

Critical areas include: grass management, feed and supplement costs, a health program, the genetic impact on efficient production, and product quality and consistency.

We are fortunate at Fort Hays to be in a setting that not only provides the opportunity to educate by practical example, but has the tremendous resource of learning by interaction from many sources including students, industry and interested alumni.

Gary Rolland, Manager
(913) 628-8045

Dairy Unit

Greetings from the FHSU Dairy Unit. This year has dealt us some very interesting and exciting events around the dairy.

In January, Kathy Huser left the dairy to help with the family farm. Stephanie Eckroat was promoted to manager and Mike Hammerschmidt was hired as the new assistant manager. Mike and Stephanie have a lot of ideas and hope to make a good team.

The Dairy Unit has had to face some difficulties this past year due to high grain prices. Despite this problem, we are very optimistic. Because of a nationwide milk shortage, we are hearing rumors of record breaking milk prices for this Fall.

Stephanie Eckroat, Manager
Mike Hammerschmidt, Asst. Mgr.
(913) 628-8615

Swine & Sheep Unit

Things at the Swine and Sheep Unit have gone fairly well this past year. Hog prices have rebounded and reached highs in the lower 60^{00}'s/cwt. The average for the year has been in the upper 40^{00}'s/cwt.

The results of the pigs and lambs from this year's sale, which was held on April 28th, were good.

Show winners this year include: Grand and Reserve Champion Market Hogs at Ellis County Fair in Hays; Grand Champion Market Lamb at Ellis Free Fair in Ellis; Grand Champion Market Lamb at Greeley County Fair in Tribune; Reserve Champion Market Hog at Trego County Fair in WaKeeney and Reserve Champion Market Hog at Kit Carson County Fair in Burlington, CO.

Probably the most exciting news from the unit is that we are in the process of constructing a new swine finishing facility. The building should be completed later this Fall.

We have needed this facility for quite some time and feel fortunate to be able to construct one. The new building should allow us to finish all our feeder pigs to market weight.

This will allow us better feed efficiency and provide the opportunity to collect more carcass data. We feel this will allow more profit potential since there is more profit in finishing hogs than in selling feeder pigs.

Kevin Huser, Manager
(913) 628-8730