FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Volume XIV, Fall 1999

Chairman's Chat -- Dr. John Greathouse

The current academic year holds an atmosphere of anticipation as we prepare to cross the chronological boundary into the 21st century. What awaits society in the new millennium is unknown. One can be certain, though, that agriculture will continue to play a crucial role in providing food, fiber and natural resources to meet the needs of an expanding and diversified world population.

As in the past, the Agriculture Department will continue to offer a solid academic curriculum with a balanced emphasis in agricultural business, agronomy, and animal science. Traditional coursework will provide the instructional framework necessary to develop a basic understanding of concepts important to the individual disciplines.

Where appropriate, we will make every effort to introduce students to the practical application of advanced agricultural technology in preparation for future industry careers.

Utilization of precision agriculture technology continues to be a major focus within all departmental disciplines.

This is the second year that John Deere has provided a Greenstar™ equipped combine to collect site-specific crop production data on the University Farm.

Additional industry support from Collingwood Grain, Crop Quest, Farmland Industries, Monsanto, and ServiTech, in the form of contributions of resources and services, has strengthened our position in this academic venture.

Acquisition this summer of a Heat Watch estrus detection system has allowed an expansion of precision agriculture technology into the beef and dairy units of the Farm. This addition joins a computerized Dairyplan Herd Management System upgrade recently donated by the Westfalia company.

We are in a unique position to be able to offer undergraduate students access to these advancing technologies. These experiences will ultimately give our students the competitive edge when it comes to pursuing their career goals!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Enrollments in agriculture have dipped slightly this year in comparison with the stable enrollment experienced over the past several years. Approximately 250 agriculture majors are enrolled for the Fall '99 term.

Our current location on campus is in the north annex ("A" section) on the 3rd floor of Wiest Hall. The department moved this past summer as part of the Albertson Hall renovation project. It is anticipated that we will return to Albertson sometime next summer.

Some of you are aware that Kevin Huser resigned his position this past spring after 10 years of service as manager of the swine/sheep unit and livestock judging team coach. Mark Murphy, a native of Natoma, has replaced Kevin as unit manager.

Scott Clark has been hired to fill the assistant dairy manager position previously held by Mike Hammerschmidt.

We have submitted a request for the university to approve a new position that will include judging team coaching responsibilities. Action on this request will not occur, however, until later in the academic year. We are optimistic the position will be funded.

We hope you will find this year's newsletter to be informative. Please contact us at any time if we can be of assistance to you!

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Agriculture
Hays, Kansas (785) 628-4196
www.fhsu.edu/agriculture

Ag Outlook Conference

The 22nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference was held Friday, October 22 on the Fort Hays State University campus.

The conference began with a general outlook on the economy and agriculture, presented by Kristin Mitchell, an economic research associate at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank.

Joe Christopher, assistant vice-president and analyst, LFG L.L.C., Denver, followed with the outlook for grain prices.

Bill Buckner, president of Excel Corporation, (a Cargill Food Company), presented his view on the global meat industry in the 21st century.

The luncheon speaker was Dan Johnson, a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. His remarks addressed the crisis in agriculture and what the State of Kansas can do to provide relief. Dan recently was selected as chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

Andrew Gottshchalk, senior vice-president, LFG L.L.C., Denver, closed the conference by presenting his views on the current cattle situation and its future.

Inside

Department News 2-3
Crops Judging Team 3
Quiz Bowl Team 3
Ag in the Classrooom 3
Student Honors 4
Graduate of Distinction 4
University Farm News 5
Student Club News 6-7
Dean's Comments 8
NAMA Contest 8

Agriculture Department Faculty & Staff -- Row 1(L to R): Dr. John Greathouse, Steve Engelhardt, Dr. Brent Spaulding, Dr. Brittany Bock, Harland Werth, Dr. Robert Stephenson and Dr. Garry Brower. **Row 2(L to R):** Mark Murphy, Stephanie Eckroat, Dr. Jean Gleichsner, Scott Clark, Melissa Rudell, Dr. Neil Patrick and Gary Rolland.

Agriculture Practicum

AGRI 316-Agriculture Management Practicum is a course which provides university credit for students who complete an "internship" experience with an agriculture emphasis.

We appreciate the interest and support from the cooperators and organizations that provide these practicum opportunities.

Please contact the department if you have an interest in supervising a Practicum student in the future.

The following businesses/individuals supervised our AGRI 316 students this past year:

Billips Farms - Hill City
Conrad & Clark Cox Farms - Long Island
Conrady Implement Co., Inc. - Anthony
Collingwood Grain - Western KS
CRA-Gro Crop Service - Arapohoe, NE
Crop Quest - Western KS
Dickinson's Cattle Ranch - Gorham
Dundy Ag Services, Inc. - Haigler, NE
Ellis County Extension - Hays
Excel - Dodge City
Farmco Inc. - Tribune
Farmway Coop, Inc. - Beloit
FMS Corporation
FHSU University Farm - Hays
Garrett's Agrivision, Inc. - Great Bend
Hanson Farming Co. - Pawnee Rock
KSU Ag Research Center - Hays
Natural Resource and Conservation Service
Ratliff Hay Service - Smith Center
Rex Ranch - Ashby, NE
Seaman Crop Consulting - Hugoton
Teimeyer Ag - Dodge City
YMCA Camp - Elmdale
Zephyr Project, LLC - Geneseo

Ag on the Internet

AGRI 220 Agricultural Accounting is now available as an internet course for both on- and off-campus students. The course is scheduled to be offered each fall semester. Please contact the department for more information.

Dr. John Greathouse - Chair
Animal Science
Office Phone: 628-4196
E-mail: jgreatho@fhsu.edu

Dr. Garry Brower
Animal Science
Office Phone: 628-4366
E-mail: gbrower@fhsu.edu

Dr. Brittany Bock
Animal Science
Office Phone: 628-4015
E-mail: bbock@fhsu.edu

Dr. Brent Spaulding
Agribusiness
Office Phone: 628-4368
E-mail: bspauldi@fhsu.edu

Dr. Neil Patrick
Agribusiness
Office Phone: 628-5853
E-mail: npatrick@fhsu.edu

Dr. Robert Stephenson
Crops and Soils
Office Phone: 628-4010
E-mail: rstephen@fhsu.edu

Dr. Jean Gleichsner
Crops and Soils
Office Phone: 628-4023
E-mail: jgleichs@fhsu.edu

Ms. Melissa Rudell
Office Manager
Office Phone: 628-4196
E-mail: mrudell@fhsu.edu

Area Code: 785

FAX: 628-4183

Pasture and Range Plants

This authoritative hardbound reference to plants of the Great Plains offers one of the finest contributions to understanding rangeland management. An extremely useful guide to recognizing and understanding the plants of the prairie!

- 180 full-page four color illustrations
- Awarded U.S. Department of Interior's Conservation Service Award
- Valuable, easy to read reference guide
- Tenth printing of the first edition

only $25 tax & delivery included

Order by contacting:
Fort Hays State University Alumni Association
600 Park St., Hays, KS 67601-4099
or
FAX (785) 628-4191.

Make checks payable to FHSU Alumni Association.
VISA & MasterCard accepted.
Pre-payment required on all orders.
Quantity discounts available.
Questions, e-mail alumni@fhsu.edu or call 1-888-351-3591.

NACTA Quiz Bowl Grand Champions (L to R): Burt Wilson, Jason Dvorak, Mark Sorensen, Chris Oborny and Jared Mai.

Quiz Bowl Team Victorious

The FHSU Quiz Bowl Team was crowned grand champions at the NACTA Contest in April. The team consisted of Burt Wilson, Hays; Jason Dvorak, Lecoma, MO; Mark Sorensen, Grand Island, NE; Chris Oborny, Rush Center, and Jared Mai, Lenora.

Questions were asked in five areas: agribusiness, soils, crops, ag mechanization and animal science.

FHSU defeated teams from Panhandle State University, OK; University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Abilene Christian University, TX; University of Minnesota-Crookston; Cal Poly Pomona, CA; Chadron State College, NE and Purdue University, IN to be crowned 4-Year Division Champions.

The winners of the 2-Year college/university division and the 4-Year university division met in the championship round to determine the overall winners.

FHSU defeated Dodge City Community College, KS to be named Grand Champions.

Crops Judging Team

The FHSU 1998-99 Crops Judging Team competed in contests this past year at Manhattan (Mid-West Regional) and at Concordia (NACTA).

The team consisted of Ryan Kufahl, Hoyt; Mark Lubbers, Plevna; Sarah Robben, Victoria; Danzey Nickel, Johnson; Todd Ragsdale, Agra and Matt Dreiling, Holdrege, NE. Students are allowed to participate in each contest once, consequently some of the members competed for the experience and not for awards.

This year's team members include: Danzey Nickel and Mark Lubbers; Andy Zweygardt, St. Francis; Kristi Darnall, Palco; and Toni Wesley. A team consists of 4 students and members may compete for individual awards.

This year the students are sponsored and provided with scholarships. Sponsors include: American Cyanamid, Monsanto, Collingwood Grain Inc., and Crop Quest.

Ag in the Classroom

Agriculture in the Classroom ran from June 8-19, 1999 at Hays and attracted 16 K-12 teachers from across western and central Kansas. Several new topics were addressed this year including a panel discussion of current agricultural issues, an agricultural history day (old and new ways of farming), composting, and other topics. Speakers from across the state made presentations and provided participants with ideas on ways to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms.

Teachers receive three hours of tuition-free graduate credit. Participants are required to pay a supplies fee of approximately $110 for handouts, binders, etc.

Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of this unique program. Information regarding next year will be coming in January 2000, along with the program dates. Anyone interested in the program is encouraged to contact the Agriculture Department at FHSU.

Agriculture Scholarships

Over $80,000 in scholarships was awarded to freshmen, transfers, and continuing students majoring in agriculture.

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

Major contributions made by two area farm couples, Herbert L. and Susie Fought of Norton County, and Edward and Carolyn Scanlon of Trego County, and numerous other donations have allowed us to continue with our successful scholarship program that offers valuable support to our students.

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

1999-2000 Agriculture Department Scholarship Recipients — Row 1 (L to R): Brad Shank, Chad Rupp, Jeanine Haney, Becky Werth, Jennifer Poore, Chris Oborny, Christi Cundiff, Nathan Lager, and Kristi Darnall. **Row 2 (L to R):** Wade Stewart, Evan Hopkins, Sarah Farlee, Saleena Dutton, Quinley Oliphant, Bryan Church, Jared Warner, Jared Scheetz, Matt Foos, and Jim Lewton. **Row 3 (L to R):** Danzey Nickel, Darin Gronewoller, Lynnsey Meyer, Laura McGuire, Emily Stulz, Todd Slavik, Curtis Smith, Sr. and Mark Lubbers.

Graduate of Distinction

Dr. John Curtis was named a Graduate of Distinction in the Agriculture Department this spring at FHSU. The Hays High School graduate earned his bachelor of science degree in agriculture, focusing on animal science. He graduated summa cum laude in three and a half years. During that time he served as president of Seventh Cavalry and treasurer of Delta Tau Alpha. He also was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Mortar Board and Phi Kappa Phi.

Curtis went on to earn a master of science degree in reproductive physiology and biophysics from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in animal science-forage preservation from Kansas State University.

In November 1990, Curtis founded and became president of Agtech Inc., a company that distributes pharmaceuticals, biologicals, culture media and instruments to veterinarians and livestock producers who are involved with livestock embryo transfer procedures.

His products and services help to improve beef and dairy production in more than 38 countries.

Curtis is a member of the International Embryo Transfer Society and the American and Canadian Embryo Transfer Associations.

He wrote "Cattle Embryo Transfer Procedure," a text sold worldwide.

He received a $12,000 grant from the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) to assist with the research and development of the "CURTIS Embryo Filtration and Examination System," for which he holds a U.S. patent.

In 1996, Kansas Governor Bill Graves and the KTEC recognized Agtech as the fifth-fastest growing technology-based company in KS.

The company was named State of Kansas Small Business Exporter of the Year in 1997.

John was recognized by FHSU in 1997 for his accomplishments as a recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award.

Curtis contributes his success to the support from his parents, Rex and Marge Curtis, his brother Jeff, his wife Laurie and their children Matthew, Julie and Lindsey.

Dean's Honor Roll

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll at FHSU 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 1998

Jason Berning
Carl Chizek
Landon Frank
Casey Finlay
Brian Gertsberger
Clinton Herl
Jonathon Joy
Ryan Kufahl
Mark Lang
Mark Lubbers
Monty McLain
Jared Mai
Danzey Nickel
Chris Oborny
Kalyn Osthoff
Adam Otte
Jill Pfeifer
Jason Pinkston
Louis Pohl
Todd Ragsdale
Sarah Robben
Katie Ruff
Brad Shank
Todd Slavik
Wade Stewart
Holly Werth
Heather Wendell
Brad Windholz
Hope Whitaker
Katie White

Spring 1999

Jason Berning
Neal Bailey
Bryan Church
Ross Cox
Casey Finlay
Matt Foos
Clinton Herl
Jonathon Joy
Ryan Kufahl
Mark Lang
Mark Lubbers
Monty McLain
Jared Mai
Danzey Nickel
Chris Oborny
Kalyn Osthoff
Jason Pinkston
Brendon Pishny
Louis Pohl
Sarah Robben
Brandon Roy
Brad Shank
Todd Slavik
Mark Sorensen
Wade Stewart
Holly Werth
Katie White