FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Volume XV, Fall 2000

Plan to attend the
Albertson Hall and "Toiling Fell" Plaque Rededication Ceremony

Saturday, September 30, 2000
9:00 am
at the north entrance to Albertson Hall

A reception will follow.

Visitors will be able to tour the renovated facility with a self-guided walking tour.

FHSU agriculture alumni and friends are invited to attend the

All-Agriculture Reunion Tailgate Party

Lewis Field Parking Lot
prior to the
FHSU vs. Fort Lewis College homecoming football game.

Saturday, September 30, 2000
Noon to 2:00 pm

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Please RSVP to the Agriculture Office (785-628-4196) if you plan to attend!

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We look forward to seeing you!!

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

Ag Outlook Conference

Make plans now to attend the 23rd Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference scheduled for Friday, November 3.

Registration begins at 8:30 am in the FHSU Memorial Union Ballroom.

Visit the department website for the latest conference itinerary and registration information.

Ag Computing Conference

The Conference on Applied Ag Computing is an event which all agricultural producers interested in computer applications on the farm would benefit from attending. The event is being cosponsored by FHSU Agriculture Department and K-State Research and Extension. The conference will start at noon on January 5 and will end at noon on January 6, 2001 in the Fort Hays State University Memorial Union.

—see computing conference - p. 8

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Chairman's Chat – Dr. John Greathouse

Albertson Hall, constructed in 1928, has been home to a number of departments during its 72 year history. Alumni and faculty obviously have a vast array of memories associated with their experiences in this facility.

Still recognized as the building with the "observatory on top", Albertson Hall has been transformed into a modern instructional facility following a complete internal renovation. Its occupants include the Departments of Agriculture, Biology, Communication Disorders, Allied Health and the Dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences.

Agriculture has assumed occupancy in the north wing of the second floor. Approximately 5,424 square feet of space is assigned to the department. This includes 3,089 square feet of laboratory space to satisfy the department's instructional needs.

The Analytical Agronomy/Animal Science Lab is a 24-student facility containing a fume hood and several sinks to perform wet-lab procedures. The 24-student Applied Agronomy/Animal Science Lab is designed for dry-lab instructional purposes. The Agri-Business Center is a 24-station computer lab that also doubles as an instructional classroom with mediated presentation capabilities.

Shared mediated and non-mediated classroom space is available throughout the first three floors of Albertson Hall. Students also have access to two study rooms within the building.

Alumni, friends, and families are encouraged to attend the Albertson Hall rededication ceremony scheduled for Homecoming weekend (Saturday, September 30, 2000) to view these new facilities. An agriculture reunion tailgate party also will take place prior to the Homecoming football game. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and the fixings will be available from 12:00 noon-2:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

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We were unsuccessful, this year, in our attempts to create an agricultural specialist staff position. This position would have provided a permanent livestock judging team coach who also would have coordinated laboratory instructional efforts with the University Farm divisions. Currently there are no plans to re-establish a livestock judging program until an acceptable coaching position can be developed.

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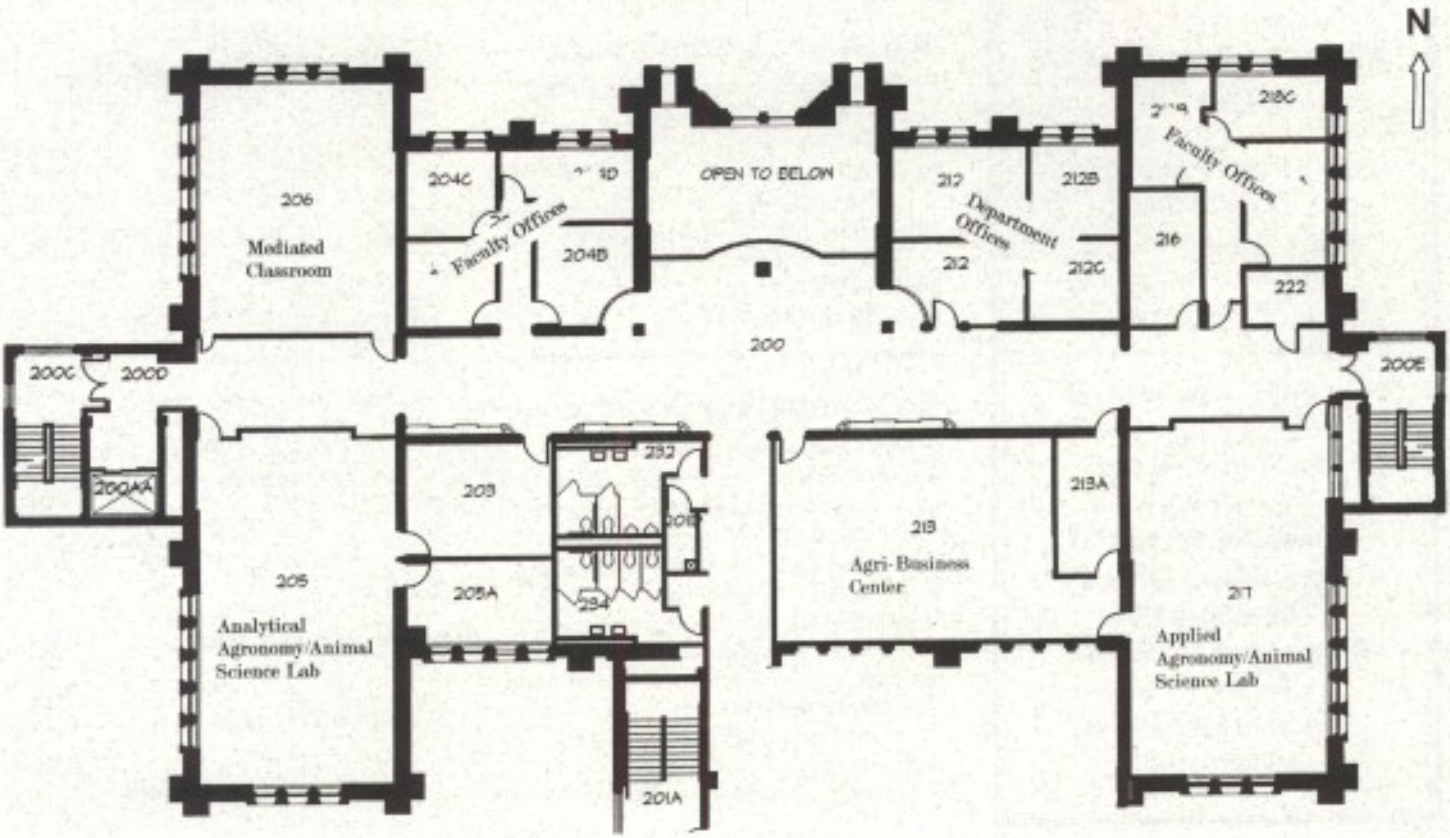
Major upgrades continue as we improve the function and appearance of our facilities. A major portion of the income generated by the University Farm has been used for this purpose over the past several years. Department and university funding, financial support from alumni and friends, and a commitment by the university to provide support personnel for improvements have contributed significantly to the progressive changes that have occurred.

Various articles in this newsletter highlight a number of the facilities improvements made over the past year. We are excited about these changes, and feel these efforts are a move in the right direction as we strengthen the quality of our academic programs!

Architectural Schematic of the Ag Department's Renovated Space - Second Floor Albertson Hall



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:
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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.

Crops Judging Team – Row 1 (L to R): Kristi Darnall and Toni Wesley. **Row 2 (L to R):** Coach Dr. Robert Stephenson, Ryan Schultz, and Andy Zweygardt.

Crops Judging Team

The FHSU 1999-2000 Crops Judging Team competed in contests this past year at Manhattan (regional), Kansas City (mid-west regional), and at Crookston, MN (NACTA). The team consisted of: Kristi Darnall, Palco; Mark Lubbers, Plevna; Toni Wesley, Lake City; and Andy Zweygardt, St. Francis. These individuals were supported by scholarships from American Cyanamid, Monsanto, Collingwood Grain Inc., and Crop Quest.

At the collegiate level, students are allowed to officially participate in each contest once. Rather than use up eligibility, some of the members competed for the experience and not for awards.

The team performed quite well at all contests. At Manhattan they competed in the Plant and Seed ID and Seed Analysis sections of the contest. At Kansas City they competed in all parts, including Grain Grading. This was the first year that any FHSU team has attempted competition in Seed Analysis or Grain Grading. At the NACTA contest, with competition in four sections, Mark received 2 plaques: one for 3rd high individual in Lab Practical and another 3rd place for high score overall individual.

Kristi Darnall, Toni Wesley, and Andy Zweygardt are returning team members this year, and we anticipate they will compete for both team and individual awards at all contests.

For further information we would encourage you to visit our web site at: http://www.fhsu.edu/agriculture/cropsteam99.htm

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Agriculture Scholarships

Almost $90,000 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.

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

Ark River Bend Chapter, Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Scholarship Fund
Laura McGuire - Cheney

R. Guy Bemis Memorial Scholarship
Jonathan Joy - Cuba

Paul W. Boxberger
Ryan Schultz - St. Francis

Farm Credit
Becky Werth - Ellis

Herbert L. Fought Fund
Brett Ayers - Winona
Brian Bauck -Leoti
Brandon Baugh - Dodge City
Sara Beyrle -Viola
Jayne Bock - Belpre
Chris Brubeck - Osborne
Matthew Byrum - Lewis
Bryan Church - South Haven
Matthew Deyle - Imperial, NE
Saleena Dutton - Macksville
Scott Evans - Bucklin
Amie Farmer - Wichita
Monte Green - Clay Center
Jeanine Haney - Greensburg
Carl Heincker - Wichita
Tiffany Hendrix - Towanda
Amanda Holley - Satanta
Evan Hopkins - Towner, CO
Nathan Hopkins - Almena
Shawna Howell - Garden City
Johnne Jacobs - Sublette
Susan Jobe - Dodge City
Jonathan Joy - Cuba
Rusty Klitzke - Ransom
Joshua Koehn - Montezuma
Jeff Kruse - Hanover
Travis Latham - Winona
Mark Lubbers - Plevna
Anita Lyon - Smith Center
Angela Majors - Sutton
Steven Marcy - Leoti
Andrew Maupin- North Platte
Curtis McKain - Delphos
Laura McGuire - Cheney
James Melton - Salina
Lynnsey Meyer - Davenport, NE
Daniel Miller - Topeka
Valerie Miller - Hutchinson
Kenny Mizner - Esbon
Molzahn James - Agra
Cynthia Myers - McPherson
Danzey Nickel - Johnson
Shane Ohlde - Palmer
Quinley Oliphant -Valley Center
Adam Otte - Downs
William Pope - Olsburg
Monica Rein - Cimarron
Bo Ringer - Concordia
Timothy Rippe - Ludell
Amanda Roth - Kirwin
Amy Schmidt - Geneseo
Ryan Schultz - St. Francis
Levi Selfridge - Burdett
Jeremy Simon - Cimarron
Todd Slavik - Kensington
Emily Stolz - Wichita
Megan Stotts - Greensburg
Kale Unruh - Cimarron
Joshua Vohs - Downs
Cory Wagner - Otis
Nick Wagner - Holcomb
Jared Warner - Alton
Timothy Weber - Garden Plain
Eric Weeks - Brownell
Anne Weilert - Hays
Heather Wendell - Dickens, NE
Derek Wright - Wallace
Lance Zimmerman - Hays
Amy Zweygardt - St. Francis
Andy Zweygardt - St. Francis

Ruff Genry Fund
Chris Brubeck - Osborne

Martin and Amelia Gross Family
Amy Schmidt - Geneseo

Kansas Farm Bureau
Bradley Shank - Hanson
Becky Werth - Ellis

Kansas Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
Bryan Church - South Haven

Kelly Lenz/WIBW/Machine Shed Restaurant
Daniel Miller - Topeka

Midland Marketing
Jarett Schmeidler - Hays

Kathy Patton/Kansas Ag Network/ Machine Shed Restaurant
Jamie Mulanax - Hoyt

Edward and Carolyn Scanlon Fund
Seth Albers - Hays
Johann Buck - Plainville
Kristi Darnall - Palco
Sadye Flynn - Hays
Justin Georg - Rush Center
Justin Goetz - Park
Jamie Holopirek - Otis
Justin Keith - Penokee
Tony Kinderknecht - Park
Carl Klitzke - Ransom
Shelly Lewis - Stockton
Julie Patton - Hays
Jennifer Poore - Woodston
Derek Remington - Gove
Kameron Sam - Hays
Jarett Schmeidler - Hays
Bradley Shank - Hanson
Curtis Smith, Sr. - Hays
Ryan Staab - Hays
Anita Walker - Hays

Servi-Tech
Mark Howerton - Lyons

Charles and Lura Stutzman Memorial
Jamie Holopirek - Otis

Carl and Caroline Wheeler Book Award
Jamie Holopirek - Otis

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 1999

Matt Barten	Jamie Mulanax
Jason Berning	Danzey Nickel
Bryan Church	Chris Oborny
Matthew Foos	Tammy Packer
Jamie Holopirek	Brendon Pishny
Jonathan Joy	Ryan Schultz
Jessie Knott	Bradley Shank
Kristin Koch	Todd Slavik
Ryan Kufahl	Heather Wendell
Mark Lubbers	Becky Werth
Daniel Miller	Katie White
Todd Miller	Jeremy Woydziak
Travis Moore	Andy Zweygardt

Spring 2000

Jason Berning	Jamie Mulanax
Kerry Bowman	Chris Oborny
Christina Cundiff	Adam Otte
Kristi Darnall	Brendon Pishny
Mathew Dreiling	Jason Pinkston
Matthew Foos	Jennifer Poore
Wayne Frost	Aaron Powell
Jamie Holopirek	Jarett Schmeidler
Amanda Holley	Bradley Shank
Mark Howerton	Todd Slavik
Jonathan Joy	Becky Werth
Jessie Knott	Holly Werth
Nathan Lager	Jeremy Woydziak
Mark Lubbers	Amy Zweygardt
Daniel Miller	Andy Zweygardt

You are invited to call and learn more about the University Farm and its role as an instructional management facility that complements the academic programs of the Department. Please contact the respective production divisions to arrange for tours of individual facilities.

Beef Division

Best regards from the FHSU Beef Division. The combination of a good group of students, a mild winter, cheap feed, much needed rains early in the summer, and a strong cattle market have made this year both profitable and pleasurable.

We continue to be very optimistic about the future of our industry and opportunities for our animal science graduates heading into the cattle business — as long as we continue to learn how to more efficiently produce quality beef products while sharpening management and leadership skills.

The 1999 production numbers reflect weaning breakeven's in the mid to upper $0.50 range on a per cow exposed basis, leaving around a $130 calf profit. Feedlot closeout on '99-'00 steers were 3.62 ADG, 5.55 feed efficiency, 0% death loss, $37.69 cost of gain, and $101.91 net return per head (calves valued at $0.85 at 607# on delivery).

We are very fortunate at Fort Hays to be in a progressive system that provides the opportunity to develop and refine production, management and leadership skills in a practical and positive setting. We encourage you to visit us anytime you are in Hays, or give us a call. You are always welcome.

Gary Rolland, Manager
(785) 628-8045

Crop Division

It has been another year of extremes (weatherwise) for the Crop Division. We had plenty of moisture to get our wheat started last fall and to carry the milo through to a good harvest (107 bu/A). The winter months, however, turned out to be extremely dry. For a while last spring, we were afraid there would not be a wheat crop. A couple of timely rains proved adequate, though, to carry the wheat to a 43 bu/A harvest, which is close to our historical average.

The spring rains were enough to get our milo started and several rains in July resulted in strong stands that looked promising. The rains shut off near the end of July, however, and we have had only a couple of 0.20" sprinkles in August. The milo is suffering and it is difficult to be optimistic about the fall milo harvest.

Subsoil moisture is good on the wheat ground, but we will need rain to moisten the topsoil before drilling.

We continue to work with industry representatives to build and improve on our precision agriculture focus. We also have initiated an intensive cropping demonstration area that involves a no-till farming venture. These efforts continue with support from John Deere, Monsanto, Collingwood Grain, Agris Corporation, and Farmland Industries.

If anyone would like to know more about what we are doing out here, give us a call or stop by!

Steve Engelhardt, Manager
Harland Werth, Asst. Manager
(785) 628-8713

Dairy Division

A new electronic heat detection system was put to use this past year at the Dairy Division to assist with our breeding program. The HeatWatch system uses a combination of transceiver patches, an antenna-mounted receiver, and a computer hookup to track mounting activity within the herd. We initiated use of the system the past year and demonstrated its usefulness as an instructional tool. The Beef Division also used the system this past summer in a pilot study to correlate mounting activity with visual heat detection in a group of first-calf heifers.

Capital improvements continue to occur as we upgrade our facilities. One of the modifications has focused on a renovation of the free-stall area to enhance air-flow ventilation and animal comfort. The grain cart storage shed north of the bull pens has been demolished. We also have invested in two new grain bins to expand feed storage capabilities.

The Dairy Division has cooperated, for the third year, with the Kansas Dairy Association to create an exhibit and conduct milking demonstrations at the State Fair. These efforts have provided a great opportunity to educate children and adults about dairy cows and milk products, while promoting the agriculture programs at the university.

Milk production within our herd this past year has been quite impressive. Our current rolling herd average is 21,117 lbs. of milk, 747 lbs. of fat and 647 lbs. of protein. Our top cow had an average daily production of 167.0 lbs.

We encourage you to stop by to visit when in town. Please call ahead of time, if possible, so we will be available to show you around!

Stephanie Eckroat, Manager
Scott Clark, Asst. Manager
(785) 628-8615

Swine & Sheep Division

An extensive remodel occurred at the Swine Division this past year. Numerous modifications were made to the farrowing and gestation barns to enhance their effectiveness and utilization in the agriculture instruction program. The hay storage shed east of the office has been removed, and several feed storage bins have been relocated to more strategic positions.

The old nursery building has been razed. A new state-of-the-art nursery facility was erected this past spring with the cooperation of Double-L Group (Dyersville, IA). This building measures approximately 16'x104' and has two environmentally controlled rooms (a hot weaning room and cooler growing room) with a 400 head total capacity. An isolated viewing room allows visitors to view both rooms from one central location while maintaining biosecurity.

The nursery features shower-in and shower-out capabilities, and has a separate computer controlled environment in each room. The computer constantly monitors 24 different functions, including temperature and humidity, while automatically making adjustments to maintain preset values dictated by pig age and size.

We now use a total artificial insemination program with semen being collected and extended on-sight from our boars. With approximately 100 sows and gilts in the breeding herd, we are moving toward a monthly farrowing and marketing schedule. We just completed installation of an evaporative cooler in the farrowing house that will maintain an 80-degree temperature, even on the hottest days, to facilitate year-round farrowing.

The ewes in the sheep program performed quite well this year. Using two rams, including one from a personal donation by Clifford Hawk of Highland Community College, we weaned a 160% lamb crop. We have bred some ewes already to produce a small herd of fall-born lambs, and plan to breed the remainder of the ewes to produce late winter lambs.

Visitors are welcome, but limited tours are available for biosecurity reasons. Please call at least 72 hours in advance to schedule a visit.

Mark Murphy, Manager
(785) 628-8730