

From the Chair -- Dr. John Greathouse

The University Farm is a tremendous educational resource for students and faculty on our campus. Most notably, it provides access to livestock and crop land that support the academic programs within the department and a number of extracurricular needs of our student organizations. The Department of Biological Sciences also utilizes this facility as an instructional and research site to examine characteristics and interactions of the native animal and plant ecosystems. Even the Physics and Art departments have accessed the Farm for various educational ventures.

A few years ago the Department of Geosciences constructed a small weather station in a far southwest pasture to collect local weather data. Since the initial installation, real-time data has been transmitted, via wireless signal, to Tomanek Hall and posted on that department's web site for a variety of uses. Within the past year a larger radius of the area surrounding the weather station has become home to a Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN) facility supported by a National Sciences Foundation grant.

The SuperDARN project is a collaborative partnership between the departments of Agriculture and Geosciences and researchers from Virginia Tech. The primary objective is to study interactions of the Earth's magnetosphere and upper atmosphere with the space environment (i.e., the impact of space weather — solar storms — on the Earth's ionospheric plasma; the aurora borealis, or northern lights, is a visual outcome of this type of



Located on the southwest horizon of the University Farm is the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN). Constructed in collaboration with Virginia Tech, the paired radar systems became operational in November 2009.

interaction). Student intern projects and professional faculty interactions have been the immediate rewards of this project.

The Fort Hays site is unique because its relatively flat terrain and central location allow for a paired radar system design with an almost 180 degree view of activity in the atmosphere above the northern U.S. and into the southern half of Canada. This site complements the single radar arrays currently operating in Wallops Island, VA, Blackstone, VA, and Hokkaido, Japan. Additional SuperDARN structures are scheduled for construction within the next few years in Corvallis, OR, Azores, Portugal, and Adak, AK.

Major participants in another collaborative venture that took place on the University Farm this past year include the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. These agencies cooperated in an extensive waste management renovation project at the Dairy that was designed to address issues of limited livestock waste storage capacity and concerns about surface drainage patterns at this facility.

Cost-share funding for the dairy project was provided by the Ellis County Conservation District, through the state non-point source pollution control program, and the Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (Kansas WRAPS) project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The renovated area has been identified as a public demonstration site for Best Management Practices in Livestock Waste Systems (see photo on page 11). A spring tour date soon will be announced as part of an upcoming Conservation Practices Tour coordinated by the Big Creek and Middle Smoky Hill River Kanopolis Lake Watersheds.

Presented in this year's newsletter are articles that detail other initiatives and activities that involve the department and our students. We hope that you will find these articles to be quite informative. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you desire additional information.

Best wishes for a very productive year!

—see Chair - page 11

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Service-Learning Projects -- Dr. Jean Gleichsner

Students in agricultural classes have had the opportunity to participate in service-learning activities over the past year. Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning that integrates community service activities into academic curricula and expands the learning of students from the classroom to the community.

This past spring Home Horticulture students travelled to Greensburg to plant a tree arboretum and an ornamental grass display at the fairgrounds. Funding for the project came from a State Farm Good Neighbor Grant, the Hays Lions Club, Wal-Mart and the State Forest Service.

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Pictured (L to R) are Weston Cossman (Jetmore), Jay Lindahl (Clearwater), Seth DeWerff (Ellinwood), and Joshua Fiscus (Stafford) planting a tree for the arboretum at the Greensburg fairgrounds.

Watershed on Wheels (WOW) Trailer -- Dr. Bob Stephenson

Students from four Fort Hays State University departments (Agriculture, Technology Studies, Art and Communication Studies) have been working on a service-learning project that depicts the Smoky Hill and Big Creek watersheds. The purpose of the project is to enhance the public's understanding of watershed pollution (both urban and rural sources).

The Watershed on Wheels (WOW) Trailer is the first ever watershed project of its size. Students and faculty designed and painted 3 x 6 ft canvas panels that will be hung in a cargo trailer specially fitted to transport and showcase the artwork. The trailer will help educate the public on the causes of water pollution. The trailer will be used at schools across the state, the Hays Home & Garden Show and Water Festival, special field days, the Kansas State Fair and other events. Dr. Bob Stephenson and K-State Watershed Specialist Stacie Minson coordinated the project with the help of other faculty and almost 100 students. Students from Dr. Stephenson's Soil & Water Management class that were involved include: Josh Adelhardt (Cunningham), Andrie Baird (Brewster), Carmon Crawford (Cambridge, NE), Amber Friedrichs (Bremen), Tyler Heinson (Greensburg), Jonathan Iman (Agra), Jared Nelson (Formosa), Joe Princ (Luray), and Luke Whitehill (Garden City). Students from the Agriculture Department will be involved with presentations at planned events.



Pictured above are the canvas panels showing the watershed and the potential sources of pollution. Pictured right is the trailer that will be used to transport the panels to the events.



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Dr. John Greathouse - Animal Science
Dr. Brittany Howell - Animal Science
DISPATCH is now available on-line at: www.fhsu.edu/agriculture/newsletter

Mr. Brian Lockman - Swine Manager
Mr. Gary Rolland - Beef Manager
Ms. Melissa Rudell - Administrative Assistant
Mr. Bronc Rumford - Rodeo Coach
Mr. Ross Russell - Asst. Rodeo Coach
Dr. Robert Stephenson - Crops and Soils
Ms. Shelly Vandiver - Asst. Dairy Manager
Mr. Harland Werth - Crop/Shop Manager

Agriculture Scholarships

Departmental scholarships were awarded this year 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.

Anthony R. Legleiter Memorial Ashley Montgomery - Hays

Roemer
Benjamin Martin - Columbia, MO
Colburn Patterson - Plainville
Mallory Saathoff - Naponee, NE
Macy Sexson - Weskan
Katie Sharp - Newton

Bill and Deniece Roth Family Amber Friedrichs - Bremen

Ark River Bend Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society Bryce Allen - Argonia

Boxberger Nikki Brobst - Stockton

Department of Agriculture Endowed Stephen Hornung - Stratton, CO

Edward and Carolyn Scanlon Fund Nikki Brobst - Stockton Ty Brunswick - WaKeeney Sara Favinger - Hill City Nathan Felder - Brownell Katelyn Keller - Ellis Alisha Markle - Ellis Michael Schamberger - Hoxie Cassandra Wasko - Hanston

Albert Graf Erica Wasson - Baldwin

Martin and Amelia Gross Family Craig Dinkel - Palco

Guy Bemis Memorial Scholarship Kelsey Bonifas - Blue Hill, NE

High Plains Farm Credit Tyler Heinson - Meade

Midland Marketing Nikki Brobst - Phillipsburg

Base Camp Leasing Stevie Magnuson - Lyons

Kansas Farm Bureau Chelsea Cunningham - Ashland Travis Goetz - Grainfield

Kansas Farm Credit Adam Stegman - Spearville

Kansas Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Chad Schmidtberger - Victoria

Herbert L. Fought Fund Josh Adelhardt - Cunningham Bryce Allen - Argonia Justin Angleton - Esbon Kelsey Bonifas - Blue Hill, NE Lane Bruce - Argonia Carmon Crawford - Cambridge, NE Jennifer Daffer - Danbury, NE Wendy Dague - Washington Kelsie Dinkel - Hays Bruce Figger - Hudson Keaton Frewen - St. Francis Amber Friedrichs - Bremen Anna Friedrichs - Bremen Cody Gillespie - Amherst, NE Shea Henderson - Levant Jordyn Herman - Hill City Chance Hobrock - St. Francis Karen Holliday - Liberty Michael Holton - Tonganoxie Kayla Jarvis - Phillipsburg Clinton Kershner - Rush Center Matt Langley - Beatrice, NE Lanee Lausch - Scott City Stephen Leyerzapf - Hill City Chris Mader - Quinter Benjamin Martin - Columbia, MO Samantha McGuire - Pratt Erin Montgomery - Guide Rock, NE Royce Myers - Rush, CO Jared Nelson - Formosco Jason Nelson - Formosco Kirk Nielsen - Minden, NE Erik Pracht - Council Grove Sam Rempe - Superior, NE Aaron Roach - St. John Zion Roth - Garden City Evan Schluntz - Republican City, NE Cassie Schmidtberger - Victoria Robyn Sellard - Bucklin Bradley Talkington - Matfield Green Lane Underwood - Esbon Nickie Weir - Courtland Jamie Werkowitch - Osawatamie Greggory Whisman - Palco Chelsea Wilkens - Washington

Charles and Lura Stutzman Memorial Kirk Nielsen - Minden, NE

Wheeler Cole Pearson - Clearwater

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 Agricultural Business majors for obtaining such an honor.

Spring 2009

Bryce Allen - Argonia
Kelsey Bonifas - Blue Hill, NE
Lane Bruce - Argonia
Ty Brunswick - WaKeeney
Bruce Figger - Hudson
Cody Gillespie - Amherst, NE
Emily Griess - Grand Island, NE
Brent Gruenbacher - Colwich
Tyler Heinson - Meade
Jordyn Herman - Hill City
Michael Holton - Tonganoxie
Stephen Hornung - Stratton, CO
Kayla Jarvis - Phillipsburg
Mallory Kerns - Naponee, NE
Stephen Leyerzapf - Hill City
Benjamin Martin - Columbia, MO
Corey Moomaw - Dighton
Kirk Nielsen - Minden, NE
Cassie Schmidtberger - Victoria
Chad Schmidtberger - Victoria
Sage Sexson - Weskan
Blaine Walt - Collyer
Andrew Wiechman - Scott City

Fall 2009

Bryce Allen - Argonia
Kelsey Bonifas - Blue Hill, NE
Ty Brunswick - WaKeeney
Nathan Felder - Brownell
Bruce Figger - Hudson
Amber Friedrichs - Bremen
Cody Gillespie - Amherst, NE
David Hadley - Phillipsburg
Tyler Heinson - Meade
Jordyn Herman - Hill City
Michael Holton - Tonganoxie
Kayla Jarvis - Phillipsburg
Mallory Kerns - Naponee, NE
Stephen Leyerzapf - Hill City
Corey Moomaw - Dighton
Kirk Nielsen - Minden, NE
Molly Nill - Strasburg, CO
Cole Pearson - Clearwater
Erik Pracht - Council Grove
Michael Schamberger - Hoxie
Cassie Schmidtberger - Victoria
Chad Schmidtberger - Victoria
Macy Sexson - Weskan
Bradely Talkington - Matfield Green
Andrew Wiechman - Scott City

Crops Judging Team -- Dr. Bob Stephenson

The Fort Hays State University Crops Judging Team came off another successful year. In April the team participated in the NACTA (North American Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Crops Contest at Wooster, OH. The team: Jordyn Herman (Hill City), Steve Leyerzapf (Hill City), Craig Dinkel (Palco), and Michael Holton (Tonganoxie) placed 3rd, 5th and 6th in the plant and seed identification, lab practical and general knowledge portions of the contest, respectively. Craig was 2nd high individual in plant and seed identification. Andrie Baird is back, as well as Joe Princ. New additions include: Ashley Montgomery, Erik Pracht and Chris Staub. The team is preparing for the NACTA Contest in April at El Reno, OK.



2009-2010 Crops Judging Team -- Front Row (L to R): Andrie Baird (Brewster), and Ashley Montgomery (Hays). **Back Row (L to R):** Joe Princ (Luray), Jared Nelson (Formosa), Erik Pracht (Council Grove), Chris Staub (St. John) and Dr. Bob Stephenson, Coach.

Livestock Judging Team -- Mr. Buddy Curry

The livestock judging team has been preparing to start their year of competition at the national western. This year the students are from Kansas and Nebraska. This fall they have been traveling to practices and small mock contests. This spring's travel schedule will include National Western, Fort Worth, Dixieland Nationals, Nebraska

Cattleman's Classic, Houston and NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture).

The planned fall contest rotation is National Barrow Show, Mid-American Livestock Judging Contest, Tulsa State Fair, American Royal and North American International Livestock Exposition.

FHSU freshman and sophomore teams are practicing to participate in the NACTA competition in horse and dairy judging. This is a tradition that will continue so that the incoming freshmen feel part of the team and keep their interest up until it is their time to be on the senior team.

Swine Show Team -- Mr. Brian Lockman

This was the second semester for the Fort Hays State University Swine Show Team. They exhibited for the first time at the 2009 World Pork Expo where an estimated 14,625 people from all over the world attended. The spring 2009 Swine Show Team consisted of Nick Noterman (Niwot, CO), Jacob Wulfkuhle, and Drew Buettner (Kearney, NE). Jacob Wulfkuhle, Matt Railsback, Travis Goetz, and Elizabeth Koch made up the fall team. Throughout the semester, they went to the University Farm on their own time to work with the hogs: walking, washing, feeding, fitting, and caring for them.

On June 2-6, the team traveled with two registered York boars and two registered York gilts to Des Moines, IA to the World Pork Expo. The boars placed 8th and 10th, and the gilts placed 7th and 8th. While at the World Pork Expo, students were able to meet and talk to some of the biggest and most successful breeders across the nation.

The Show Team started the fall semester by going to the National Barrow Show. This was the Swine Show

Team's most successful show, exhibiting two York boars and two York gilts that later sold from \$350 to \$1200. The team finished the semester by going to the Fall Classic in Duncan, OK. This is a

great learning experience for the students to meet breeders, see the wide array of products and jobs available in the industry, and see some of the best purebred livestock in the country.



2009-2010 Swine Show Team -- Front Row (L to R): Elizabeth Koch (Abilene), Jacque Gallentine (Hays), and Mr. Brian Lockman, Coach. **Back Row (L to R):** Jacob Wulfkuhle (Rossville), Matt Railsback (Osage City), and Travis Goetz (Dodge City).

Delta Tau Alpha - Agriculture Honor Society -- Dr. Jean Gleichsner

Over the past year, Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) has been very active both on- and off-campus. The chapter participated in a variety of activities including: the Adopt-A-Highway Program, Agriculture Freshmen Recruiting, and Homecoming

Banner Contest. The club again sponsored the Ag Quiz Bowl. The club hosted a joint Christmas Party with the Agronomy Club.

Last spring the chapter held the 16th annual Ag Quiz Bowl.

Participating teams tested their knowledge in the areas of agribusiness/economics, agronomy/horticulture, animal science, and general agriculture. The team of Kelsey Bonifas (Blue Hill, NE), Michael Holton (Tonganoxie) and Mallory Kerns (Naponee, NE) was victorious.

The DTA chapter attended the 50th National DTA Convention held in the spring at Missouri State University in Springfield. The chapter participated in Ag Olympics, Ag Quiz Bowl, and the Corbus Book Competition - a book of the chapter's activities. The team of Travis Goetz (Grainfield), Michael Holton (Tonganoxie) and Cody Gillespie (Amherst, NE) placed first in the Ag Quiz Bowl. Our chapter placed first in the Corbus Book Competition and received a plaque with an accompanying \$150 award.

The 51st National DTA Convention will be at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX.

Dr. Jean Gleichsner was reelected to serve as National Advisor. She has served as National Advisor since spring 2003.



2009-2010 DTA Club Officers (L to R): Robyn Sellard (Bucklin), Treasurer; Amber Friedrichs (Bremen), Secretary; Kelsey Bonifas (Blue Hill, NE), Vice-President; Carmon Crawford (Cambridge, NE), President; and Dr. Jean Gleichsner, Advisor.

Agribusiness Club -- Mr. Mick Glaze

This year the Agribusiness Club has 12 active members. Though small in numbers, we have not forgotten the purpose of the club – educate, promote, and actively support production agriculture.

In the spring of 2009, the club took a tour of agricultural based businesses in eastern Kansas and northwestern Missouri. The club visited with potential employers and other successful agricultural companies, including: Great Plains Manufacturing, Science Diet factory, Triumph Foods swine slaughterhouse, Lifeline Foods, Valley Vet, Mar Con Pies, Kansas Service Dogs, and Linn Pipe and Post. Members of the club were able to talk with potential employers and gain more resources for the future.

Each Agribusiness Club member works to achieve five hours of community service to our goal of 20 hours of community service for the club. We volunteer at the Sterling House and also with the Earth Team through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Agribusiness club conducted a food drive to help the local food pantry.

There are multiple activities scheduled throughout the year that will present opportunities for members to network with potential employers and promote agriculture. Dan Meyerhoff from the NRCS has been a guest speaker and spoke to the members about job opportunities with NRCS. We have several other guest

speakers scheduled to speak at upcoming meetings.

By participating in service learning projects throughout the year, the Agribusiness Club members will be able to transform from college students to active members in communities, an aspect of life that always has a positive outcome.



2009-2010 Agribusiness Club Officers (L to R): Anna Friedrichs (Bremen), Secretary/Treasurer; Ben Tipton (Coffeyville), President; Morgan Meyer (Auburn, NE), Vice-President; and Mr. Mick Glaze, Advisor.

Agronomy Club -- Dr. Bob Stephenson

The Agronomy Club has a busy agenda this year with several activities planned. The club sold cheeseburger pockets and cinnamon rolls at the 2009 Oktoberfest. The weather wasn't the greatest, but sales were excellent. The club teamed up with DTA (Agricultural Honor Society) this fall for their annual Adopt-a-Mile highway cleanup and enjoyed pizza afterwards. They helped with Toys for Tots in December and rang the bell for the Salvation Army for community service projects. They had a Christmas dinner with DTA. The club will chaperone middle school dances at the Hays Recreation Complex to raise funds for a spring trip to the John Deere plant in Moline, IL and a no-till conference.

Recreational activities will include a spring golfing night at Precision Valley Golf, a spring cookout and bowling.



2009-2010 Agronomy Club Officers (L to R): Andrie Baird (Brewster), Secretary; Lane Bruce (Argonia), President; Jared Nelson (Formoso), Vice-President; Josh Adelhardt (Cunningham), Treasurer; and Dr. Bob Stephenson, Advisor.

Block & Bridle Club -- Dr. Brittany Howell

The 2008-2009 school year was full of activity again for the FHSU Block and Bridle Club. The 2008-2009 officers were Emily Griess (Grand Island, NE), President, Jason Smelser (Oskaloosa), Vice-President, Wendy Dague (Washington), Secretary, and Bridget Brown (Hays), Treasurer.

The year's activities included serving food for the annual FHSU Back to School Picnic, hosting the Northwest District FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging Contests, and providing demonstrations and information for children at Ag Awareness Day. We also had fun creating a float for the Homecoming parade, and won the highest award, the FHSU Sweepstakes Award and \$200!

The FHSU Block and Bridle stepped up this year to advocate animal agriculture across campus in two great events. For Earth Day, they created a display at the Memorial Union which promoted information on how animal agriculture helps the environment. Candy was passed out to visitors that had attached to it facts about animals and the environment. The club also joined together with the Beef Production class, Collegiate Farm Bureau and Trent Loos to promote beef and animal agriculture to the campus community. The club created signs which contained positive information to educate everyone on campus about the benefits of agriculture. This coincided with the activities of the Beef Production class which served flat iron steak and beef jerky samples and created informational



Trent Loos (standing) interviews Tanner Kinen (St. Francis) about his knowledge of beef during the Earth Day event.

posters. Trent Loos moderated the event with his usual great humor, style and flair. Collegiate Farm Bureau provided beef hotdogs, chips and drinks to those attending. Promoting beef production and agriculture was the goal of the day.

Another big change to normal events for Block and Bridle was to move their

Little International competition from the traditional spring to a fall event. This helped balance their activities between spring and fall and was a good way to induct new members into the favorite activity of the year! Hosting of the Little I in the fall is planned to be a permanent change at this time.

Students attended the National Block and Bridle Convention held in San Antonio, TX, February 12-15, 2009. Eight club members along with club advisor, Dr. Brittany Howell, traveled to San Antonio to listen to top notch speakers such as Paul Genho, manager of the King Ranch and Trent Loos, of Loos Tales and many others. They toured agriculture operations around south Texas and stopped at the Fort Worth Stockyards to watch the cattle drive and learn about its history. Dr. Howell serves as the National Block and Bridle Secretary/Treasurer.



2009-2010 Block & Bridle Club Officers (L to R): Dr. Brittany Howell, Co-Advisor; Meagan Nelson (Paola), Secretary; Lindsey Gordon (Hays), Treasurer; Jared Grauerholz (Kensington), Vice-President; and Paul Case (Cheyenne, WY), President. Not pictured: Mr. Buddy Curry, Co-Advisor.

Rodeo Club -- Dr. Garry Brower

The Fort Hays State University Rodeo Club has entered a new era. Dr. Edward Hammond, the 8th president of FHSU, reinforced his support of the Rodeo Club by supplying two new positions that permitted the employment of Mr. Bronc Rumford as the coach and Mr. Ross Russell as the assistant coach. Dr. Hammond declared his support of the positions for a period of five years, with renewal dependent upon the progress of the rodeo team. A portion of the agreement mandated an increased recruiting effort to maintain new recruits at 25 per year. This mandate places a very special emphasis on alumni support for rodeo scholarships and recruit recommendations. Dr. Hammond has shown his support and the importance of the Rodeo Club to FHSU and now it is your turn to show your support of the efforts of Bronc and Ross. Donations to either the Scholarship Fund or the Unrestricted Fund can be remitted to either Bronc, Ross or Garry Brower at the Department of Agriculture, Fort Hays State University, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601 or can be sent directly to the FHSU Foundation with designation for the Rodeo Club Scholarship or Unrestricted Fund. You can contact Bronc or Ross at 785-628-4689 or email



2009-2010 Rodeo Club Officers (L to R): Ross Russell, Assistant Coach, Cody Kiser, President; Matt Becker, Vice-President; Nikki Brobst, Secretary, Cecilia Reiter, Treasurer; Bronc Rumford, Coach, and Dr. Garry Brower, Faculty Advisor.

them at cbrumford@fhsu.edu, rdrussell@fhsu.edu. Check out the web site www.fhsu.edu/rodeo to review the team members, competition schedule or order your exclusive Fort Hays jewelry.

The year has started out with several very positive outcomes. The recruiting effort resulted in 15 freshman and 12 transfer students. Cody Pratt, a recruit from Monte Vista, CO, was elected to the very prestigious position of Student Director of the Central Plains Region. Cody will assist the Faculty Director, Mr. Chad Ramirez (SWOSU-Weatherford), in representing the institutions and students of the Central Plains Region at

the winter board meetings in Las Vegas (during the NFR) and the summer board meetings in Casper, WY. Blair Jones (Monte Vista, CO) is currently 4th in steer wrestling, Cole Pearson (Clearwater) is 11th in team roping (header). At the end of the fall schedule of 4 rodeos, Fort Scott Community College is leading Panhandle State University by 30 points and NWOSU-Alva is 3rd over SEOSU-Durant by 10 points in the Men's Division with Fort Hays State in 11th position. The Women's Team is currently not ranked but it is simply a matter of eliminating barrier penalties.



2009-2010 Rodeo Team -- Front Row Sitting (L to R): Kadie Hays (Phillipsburg), Nikki Brobst (Stockton), Cassie Wasko (Hanston), C.J. Pence (Anthony), Kara Hackney (Hays), Jordan Sammons (Plevna), Erin Rossman (Ottawa), and Jamie Werkowitch (Osawatomie). **Kneeling (L to R):** Adam Stegman (Spearville), Shane Harmon (Hill City), Lena Biel (Leoti), Josie Brenner (Pratt), Autumn Winter (Simla, CO) and Colton Stueve (Emporia). **Middle Row (L to R):** Cole Pearson (Clearwater), Matt Becker (Mankato), Tanner Jessup (Almena), Cody Kiser (Augusta), Gage Blair (Andover), Alexandra Umphenour (Pleasanton), Callie Capraro (Grover, CO), Cort Chittick (Maywood, NE), Jennifer Sherman (Brule, NE), Bobbi Cox (Purdum, NE), Shea Henderson (Levant), Jamie Elwood (Oberlin), Cecilia Reiter (Jewell), Josh Smith (Jewell), Blair Jones (Monte Vista, CO), Cody Pratt (Scott City), and Colby Worrell (Fredonia). **Back Row (L to R):** Garret Ludwig (Sterling), Ethan McDonald (Solomon), Ross Russell, Assistant Coach, Bronc Rumford, Coach, Dr. Edward Hammond, FHSU President, Dr. John Greathouse, Agriculture Department Chair, Dr. Garry Brower, Faculty Advisor, Ben Robinson (Brule, NE), and Bret Daly (Paxton, NE).

Agriculture Management Practicum -- Dr. John Greathouse

AGRI 316 – Agriculture Management Practicum is a course in which students participate in a supervised agricultural “internship” experience. A majority of our students enroll in the Practicum course during the summer semester with positions that typically offer full-time employment opportunities. Other

students obtain part- or full-time employment positions during the fall or spring academic terms and complete the Practicum during the traditional school year. The experiences typically are mutually beneficial to the cooperating employer, who may be seeking an individual to train for future employment needs, and to the students

who gain valuable experience working in a chosen career field.

We welcome the interest and support of the cooperators and agencies who employ our Practicum students. Students and their respective employers who participated in a 2009 summer or fall Practicum experience are pictured.



Pictured upper left: Chad Schmidtberger (Victoria) was employed by John Karlin (left) to assist with day-to-day cattle, crops, and crushed concrete operations at Karlin Farm and Ranch, Inc. near Walker, KS. Pictured upper right: Michael Schamberger (Hoxie) interned with Double R Farms north-east of Hoxie. He was supervised by owner, and FHSU alum, Brent Rogers (left). Pictured left: Cristy Ziegler (Alamosa, CO) worked as a veterinary assistant for the large and small animal practice of Dr. Ben Konishi based in Alamosa.

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Service-Learning

from page 2

Another very successful project was Roll Out the Rain Barrel. Students in Home Horticulture, Soils, and Soil and Water Management built rain barrels for the community in Hays (304 barrels), Victoria (49 barrels), Russell (71 barrels) and Wichita (786 barrels). The rain barrel allows collection of rain water from the roof through the downspout. The water can be used in the landscape.

Funding for the rain barrel project was through WaterLINK, a service-learning project available to college and university faculty and community watersheds in Kansas, and is funded by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, with partial funding from EPA 319 funds. The 55 gallon barrels were supplied free of charge from Coca-

Cola Enterprises. The goal of WaterLINK is to improve water quality through community/campus partnerships.

Spring 2010 Roll Out the Rain Barrel events are planned for Russell (March 6), Wilson (March 23), Ellsworth (March 25), Ellis (April 15), Hays (April 20) and WaKeeney (April 29). Visit www.mykansaswatershed.com/rainbarrel for complete details.

Amber Friedrichs (Bremen) and Jason Nelson (Formosa) construct a rain barrel at the Wichita event. Students from Soil and Water Management assisted in constructing 786 barrels for the event.



Practicum

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Chance Bezona (Holly, CO) worked as a crop scout with Servi-Tech, Inc. in the Sharon Springs, KS area. Chance is pictured above with his primary supervisor, Mike Dart (left). Pictured right: Chris Jones (Fullerton, CA) trained under Bill Prame (not pictured) with Jones Environmental Laboratories based in Fullerton. Chris' job included the mobile collection and laboratory analysis of soil and water samples for customers in southern California, as well as the experimental production of bio-diesel from used cooking oil.



Pictured above: Jessica Schulz (Hays) is pictured (L to R) with supervisors Rusty Bevel, Becky Flanagan, and Randy Paetzold. Jessica's practicum experience was as a commodity merchandiser trainee with Archer-Daniels Midland in Hereford, TX. Pictured below: Jeff Hubl (Lawrence, NE) scouted crops with his supervisor, Rob Hrnchir (left), in the Juniata, NE area with H&H Crop Consulting.



Pictured above: Jacob Hueftle (Broken Bow, NE) interned as a crop scout with Pioneer Seeds around the Broken Bow area under the supervision of Tim Lewandowski (right). Pictured below: Morgan Meyer (Auburn, NE) interned with Rain & Hail Crop Insurance and with the Meyer Insurance Agency under the direction of Glen (left) and Brian (right) Meyer.



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Pictured above: Chance Hobrock (St. Francis) is pictured with his supervisor, Charlie Kraus (right), during his Practicum experience at Golden Valley Farm in Hays, KS. Pictured below: Tyler Heinson (Meade) was supervised by Travis Meyer (left) as a crop scout intern with Crop Production Services located in Plains, KS.



Picture above: Luke Whitehill (Garden City) helped manage the irrigated crop and farming operation for Richards and Deaver Farms near Garden City. Luke was supervised by Mike Deaver (center) and assisted by Mike's son, Kyle (right). Pictured below: Michael Holton (Tonganoxie) worked in the San Luis Valley of Colorado as a student intern with Donald Greenstreet (left) at the USDA Farm Service Agency offices in Monte Vista and Center.



Pictured top left: Anna Friedrichs (Bremen) was employed as a student trainee with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Hill City. Pictured with Anna is her supervisor and District Conservationist, Brad Shank (left), who also is an FHSU alum. Pictured bottom left: Amber Friedrichs (Bremen) is pictured with her supervisor, Eldon Kroemer (right) at the Ag Valley Coop location in Arapahoe, NE. Amber's employment primarily consisted of crop scouting in the Arapahoe area.



Ag Outlook Conference -- Mr. Mick Glaze

The 32nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference, sponsored by the Agriculture Department, was held on October 30, 2009, in the FHSU Memorial Union. Dr Jeff Briggs, Dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences, gave the opening welcome to nearly 100 guests.

The lead speaker **Dr. Alan Barkema**, Senior Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, MO., had good news for conference attendees. Of course everyone wanted to know his take on the current economy. Barkema said, "The worst is behind us." The U.S. has experienced nine recessions and it seems that the deeper and longer the recession is the sharper and stronger the recovery. This recession which began in December 2007 has seen one of the longest economic declines, with an economic decline of 4%. The recession of the 1980's saw only a 2% economic decline and the 1990's only one half of one percent economic decline. Farm balance sheets look fairly healthy. But look for recovery in the livestock sector to be fairly slow. It all depends on increased consumer spending. In summary Dr. Barkema said to look for recovery to be slow. We had a big wake up call. Consumers saw that they had too much money borrowed and many were living beyond their means. He told us to remember that recovery happens. Our economy is not going to stay in recession forever.

Mr. Tom West was next on the conference schedule. Mr. West is now retired from DuPont after a 37 year career. For the last nine years West held the title of Pioneer Hi-Bred Vice President. Mr. West opened with some thought provoking remarks. He said that we must produce more food with fewer resources. Today we are growing corn where we never grew corn before. Crop adaptability will make marginal land become more productive. Water and water quality are becoming major issues world wide. Most increases in crop production will come from technology. Increased food production will also come from more intensive farming practices. We are currently increasing corn production by about one and one half percent one year and that is a big deal. "Organic gardening will not do it." Bio-technology acceptance is growing around the world except Europe. It will probably take a major disaster to eventually get acceptance there too.

Drought tolerance is very complicated. It is not just like turning on and off a light switch. It works in specific plant growth stages.

Dr. Dell Allen, was the Vice President of Technical Service and Food Safety at Excel Corporation. He told the group about many of the changes he has seen in the beef industry. He said cattle numbers peaked in 1975 as a result of President Nixon's price freeze. Numbers have declined since. The numbers of cattle operations and profitability have also declined. The average age of cattle producers however has gotten older. Allen says we've seen an explosion in technology in the last 50 years. There has been an increase of 700% in beef per acre from roughage. With over capacity in slaughter plants we may lose more plants. Calves are being slaughtered at a younger age. We can't continue. We'll need more calves. Cow slaughter continues to be high especially with the dairy buyout. Total cattle numbers is steady to declining due to increased slaughter weights and better beef efficiencies. The cost of beef production has been dramatically impacted by ethanol. Allen believes more sorting will be done at the feedlot instead of the slaughter plant. We'll feed more appropriate for the end market to increase productivity efficiencies. By-

product values tend to go up as the dollar goes down, since most by-products go to international markets.

Andy Gottschalk, of R. J O'Brien and Associates and HedgersEdge.com, LLC, Greenwood Village, CO, presented his grain and livestock outlook to wrap up the conference. He started by saying the production of ethanol has raised the demand for corn. However, the net change for ethanol will start to slow. Another point which was also mentioned by Tom West earlier is that people want to climb up the protein ladder. But it's not population that drives that change, it is politics and income. "Poor people do you no good in terms of economic growth." The cow/calf sector should see gains in profitability. Demand will increase as total employment increases. (Remember what Allen Barkema said, "Consumers will drive our beef prices.") Long term, world demand for meat protein should continue to grow, driven by rising incomes in China and Eastern Europe. There is no herd expansion in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The supply side of the cattle market projects to remain "bullish" for the next two – three years. Lack of herd expansion will limit the availability of calves and yearlings.

All in all it was a great conference.

Chair

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A picket dam and concrete settling basin/waste stacking structure are part of a recent renovation project at the FHSU Dairy. This design enhances the Farm's ability to manage solid and liquid waste produced in this confinement facility and minimizes the potential for accidental surface and groundwater contamination.

From the College Dean -- Dr. Jeff Briggs

Forward thinking. World ready.

This is the new tagline for Fort Hays State University. This brand promise is built on the presence of learning opportunities with exceptional depth, inside and outside the classroom; outstanding faculty and staff who deliver exceptional attention and support; an expectation of social, civic and professional engagement; partnerships and learning experiences that bring together cultures, perspectives and thinking from around the world; and a focus on innovation. These brand drivers describe the academic programs that make up the College of Health and Life Sciences at Fort Hays State University. Even as



the State of Kansas budget concerns dominate many of our conversations, departments in the College of Health and Life Sciences have identified opportunities for growth and advancement and have successfully taken on new challenges in an effort to extend the influence of Fort Hays State University academic programming. Through meaningful educational experiences provided by caring faculty, our graduates develop technical expertise in their area of specialization as well as skills in communication, technology applications, and an understanding of and sensitivity to complex issues inherent in today's workplace.

The Department of Agriculture has played a primary role in the continued advancements in the College of Health and Life Sciences. With strong academic programs, excellent hands-on experience, service learning opportunities, and abundant

possibilities for student involvement and leadership through professional organizations, the department continues to serve the educational needs of students in our service area and beyond. The department has extremely active faculty, staff, and students who continue to work diligently to promote the department, the college, and the university. It has been my pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated group. It takes the support of faculty and staff, current students, alumni, and other friends of the program to continue to meet the needs of our constituents. Through the continued support of so many, we have been able to provide a foundation for programming which enables our departments to provide leading edge preparation in our respective disciplines.

Thank you for your support of Fort Hays State University.

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