



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Fall 2024 Newsletter

The Department of Agriculture prepares students with the necessary skills and experiences for the evolving agriculture industry. Through hands-on learning and diverse academic programs, graduates find fulfilling careers, from returning to the family farm to taking a leading role in global agribusiness corporations.

The 2024-25 FHSU Rodeo Team

The FHSU rodeo team began the 2024-25 season with big wins in their fall competitions. This year, the rodeo club grew from 20 to 40 members, with 30 team members eligible to participate in competitions this season and an additional ten club members.

Through everyone's hard work and with the help of coaches Guy Forell and Trevor Meier, the team got off to a great start with numerous impressive performances from several members.

From Crookston, Neb., state high school barrel racing champion and FHSU freshman Hailey Witte opened the season with a first-place overall finish in Manhattan. Abigail Olson, from Sheridan, Wyo., and also an FHSU freshman this year, placed sixth overall in barrel racing after finishing first in the opening round. Senior Prairie Robbins from Brookville finished in ninth overall, while two other FHSU competitors, Lexi Wooten from Udall and Kagan Davis from Purcell, Okla., finished just out of the top twelve.

The FHSU Rodeo Team competes in the Central Plains College Rodeo Circuit and has made a great showing this fall.

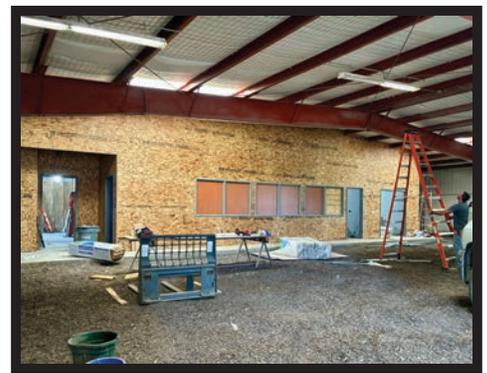
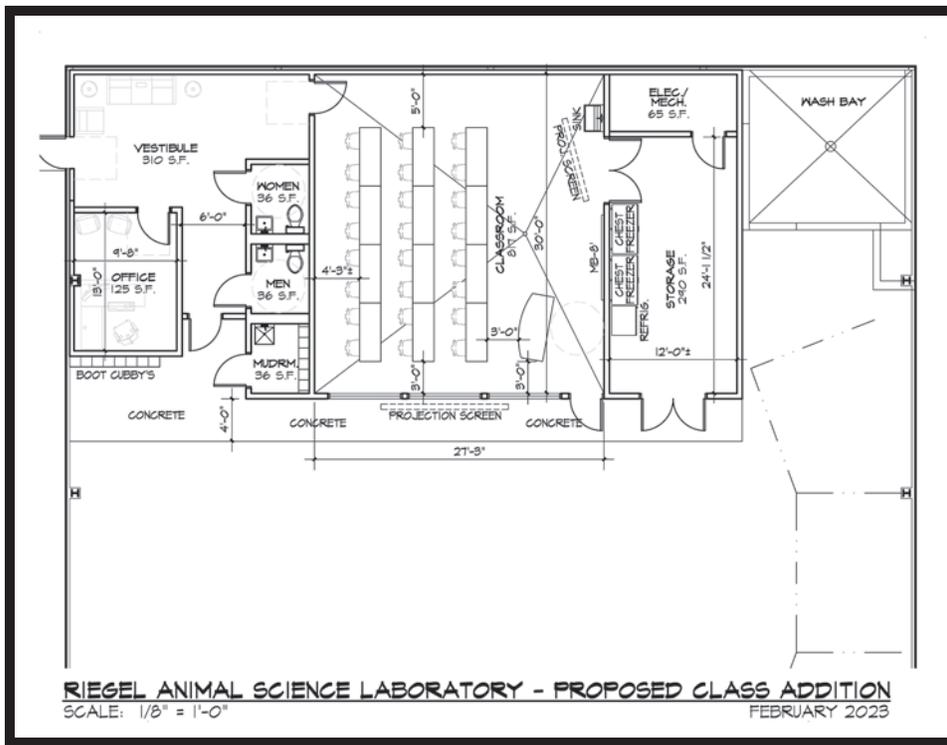


Photo by **Brecken Preitauer**



Enrollment Holds Steady

The Department of Agriculture has been stable in terms of enrollment counting close to 400 majors. Of particular note, part of those 400 are about 125 online students in agribusiness and agricultural leadership.



Riegel Building construction nears completion

Essential to FHSU Agriculture, the Riegel Building is used for numerous class activities, and the new construction will enhance the capabilities of many classes. Nearly half of the building underwent construction and remodeling to include a lab/classroom that will allow for observation of the indoor arena, a mudroom for easier and indoor cleanup, a new manager's office, and a new bathroom, all of which will be ADA compliant. Courses that will immediately benefit from the new classroom space include Intro. to Animal Science, Techniques on Livestock Selection & Evaluation, Beef Production, Anatomy & Physiology of Domestic Animals, and Reproductive Physiology of Domestic Animals. As the building opens to full use, more classes are expected to find use for the facility.



FHSU to host 3rd annual Western Ag Summit

As drought and water conservation issues continue to grow across Kansas, the 2024 Western Ag Summit, set for Dec. 9, will focus on how communities in Western Kansas are dealing with the issue of water. Speakers will include experts in the areas of geology and geosciences, as well as numerous community water managers and representatives from industry. The session is set to conclude, once again, with a panel of state legislators who plan to attend the event.



Questions? We're here for you!

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