



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2025 Fall 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.

Dr. Sophie Ano

We say goodbye and good luck to Dr. Ano as she has accepted the position of Associate Dean of Agriculture and Academics at SUNY Cobleskill University. In this role, Dr. Ano will provide oversight of campus farm operations and agricultural learning labs, while supervising instructional support staff.

A note from Sophie....."I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for the chance I got to serve the Department of Agriculture at Fort Hays State University over the past three years. This role has been both a challenging and rewarding experience; one that has significantly contributed to my professional growth. I will carry with me many valuable lessons from my time at FHSU. I am confident that the department is well positioned for continued success. The progress we have made in facilities development, curriculum innovation, and cultivating a more vibrant departmental culture is something I am proud to have been a part of. I have great respect and admiration for both FHSU and the agricultural community of Western Kansas, and it has been an honor to contribute to its legacy."

The Department is currently in the process of conducting a search for a new department chair. In the meantime, Mr. Glen McNeil is serving as interim chair. Mr. McNeil has a long history of service to Fort Hays State University in a variety of academic and administrative positions.

Enrollment Numbers

Enrollment in the Department's programs continues to be strong, showing 378 majors and 20 minors. On campus numbers continue to be greater than online with 245 on campus and 133 online students enrolled throughout the 8 programs, the largest of which is the BS in Agriculture Business.

FHSU Rodeo Club Update

The Fort Hays Rodeo Team started their fall semester strong with multiple first place finishes at Colby, KS by Trevor McCullar in tie-down roping, Madison Scott in breakaway, Hailey Witte in barrel racing, Tee Koch All-Around cowboy, and first place Women's Team. The team followed that with multiple top 3 finishes between Durant, OK and Stillwater, OK by Abigail Olson, Madison Scott, and Tee Koch. The last rodeo of the fall will be October 30th in Alva, OK.



Meet the new faculty members in the Department of Agriculture

 <p>Dr. Anjorin Adeyemi</p> <p>Assistant Professor of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Comm.</p>	<p>Dr. Adeyemi recently completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications from Texas A&M University, where his research focused on the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. He also holds a master's degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics and Extension, both from the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria, and a Diploma in Science/Environmental Education from Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan. He brings a strong passion for teaching, student engagement, and applied research that connects classroom learning with real-world agricultural challenges.</p>
 <p>Dr. Laren Mack, DVM</p> <p>Assistant Professor of Agriculture Veterinary Medicine, Animal Science</p>	<p>Dr. Lauren Mack is a veterinarian that has been practicing mixed animal medicine in her clinics locally for over a decade. Her passions lie in production animal medicine, epidemiology and training the next generation of animal professionals. She brings a strong passion for animal health, teaching, student engagement through hands on activities, and applied research directed towards understanding and working to maintain the health and safety of animals in agriculturally related fields. She lives locally with her husband, Josh, and son.</p>
 <p>Dr. Alan (Yilan) Xu</p> <p>Assistant Professor of Agricultural Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Environmental Economics, Consumer Food Choices</p>	<p>Dr. Alan Xu teaches undergraduate courses in Marketing Farm Products, Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Finance, as well as three MBA courses within the Agribusiness concentration. His research as an applied economist centers on behavioral nudges, sustainability and food choices, food marketing, consumer behavior, environmental valuation, and discrete choice modeling. He primarily utilizes original data collected through surveys and economic experiments. Dr. Xu earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics from The Ohio State University, and holds master's degrees in Economics from the University of Delaware and in Statistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.</p>

Check It Out!

[FHSU University Farm trains
Ag students with livestock
https://tigermedianet.com](https://tigermedianet.com)



**Questions? We're here for
you!**

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