

College of the Ozarks Agriculture Department

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Student Spotlight

Ryan Meeks is the featured student for this newsletter. Ryan was born and raised in Stockton, Missouri. He spent a lot of time at his grandma's farm as a kid. He raised show hogs for two years and became very interested in agriculture and FFA during high school. Through FFA, Ryan was able to travel to Kentucky, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Indiana where he received his American FFA Degree. He was also able to work with local farmers doing odd jobs throughout high school.

Ryan had a summer job at Hammon's Products, the largest processor of black walnuts in the world. He spent most of his time there pruning trees, caring for experimental plots of grafted trees, and rotating the cattle that grazed under the trees. Last summer, Ryan did an internship at the Southwest Research Center, where he helped manage black walnut trees, grapes, elderberries, and pawpaw trees. Ryan has already made arrangements to work there again this summer.

Ryan is a senior Agricultural Education major and will be student teaching in the Spring of 2013. His success in FFA as a student has inspired him to pursue teaching as a career. Ryan has worked on campus at the Processing Plant for the past year. He says he is able to work with a lot of good people, making the work more enjoyable. After graduation, Ryan plans on teaching in southwest Missouri. He said, "I would like to eventually return to my hometown, but at this point I am keeping my eyes open for any possible jobs in the southwest area."



Faculty And Staff Spotlight

Mark Sanders is the hog farm manager in the Agriculture Department. Mark has been at College of the Ozarks since July 2009. He teaches Animal Science, Monogastrics, Animal Health, Farm Machinery and helps with Livestock Merchandising. Mark will also be teaching new course this year, United States Agriculture Policy, which will study the significant government involvement in agriculture.

Mark received all of his degrees at University of Arkansas. During his career, he has taught High School Agriculture, been a Principal and Superintendent, and is now an Associate Professor. Mark stated that some of his favorite parts of the job are, "working with the students and the pigs!" The only negative aspect he stated was, "the super cold mornings on the farm." Mark also told us that his favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 6:10, "Finally be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."

When Mark first started college as a student, he came to then The School of the Ozarks and worked at the hog farm. He has now come "full circle" back to the place his college education began, and we are so glad he did!



Featured Operation

This issue's featured operation is the Agriculture Office, managed by Mark Hubbard. Essentially, the Agriculture Office is the heart of the Agriculture Department at large. The office is the first thing people see when walking into the building, therefore, the office workers make the first impression on visitors. The Agriculture Office has a part in most classroom agendas, FFA and Aggie club activities, and various functions of farm operations.

There are typically 3-4 students who work in the office. These students are responsible for tasks such as ordering office supplies, writing newsletters, student scheduling, giving tours of the Agriculture Department for guests, coordinating with other workstations to host campus-wide events, answering phones, and completing a variety of tasks the eight agriculture professors ask them to do. When asked about her favorite part of being an office worker, Emilee Akins stated "I love having the opportunity to work with and influence people on a daily basis, while also being granted the responsibilities that will be beneficial in landing a job after I graduate."

The most important job the Agriculture Office workers are responsible for is the planning, hosting, and leadership positions of the College of the Ozarks Annual FFA Workshop. College of the Ozarks has been hosting its annual workshop steadily since the late 1970's. When asked about the importance of the workshop, student worker, Stephanie Knowles said, "The workshop gives the students a great opportunity to put their knowledge to the test before District and State contests." This year, the FFA Workshop took place on March 3 and hosted around 2300 high school students from 85 different schools. A majority of the schools were from Missouri, however, there were a few schools from Kansas and Arkansas.

The Agriculture Office workers are responsible for registration, putting up signs and contacting high school Agriculture Teachers among many other things. But the campus farms also play a huge role in hosting the workshop. They spend countless hours before workshop preparing the animals and facilities for the event and are also required to work the day of the workshop. When describing the intensity of the FFA Workshop, student worker, Kelly Steinbeck, said, "The FFA Workshop is a lot of work and commitment on the part of the entire department but when the day comes and everything runs smoothly it is a great sense of accomplishment to have been a part of such a worthwhile event."

If you would like to visit our Agriculture Department or have any questions, please call our office at (417) 690-3360.



Emilee Akins, Stephanie Knowles, Kelly Steinbeck, Lauren McDaniel

"FARMING LOOKS MIGHTY EASY WHEN YOUR
PLOW IS A PENCIL, AND YOU'RE A
THOUSAND MILES FROM THE CORN FIELD"

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Calendar of Events

- April 26-Awards Convo.-7pm-Jones Auditorium
- May 7-11-Finals Week
- May 12-25-Two 40 hour student work weeks
- May 13-11am-Baccalaureate-Keeter Gymnasium
- May 13-2pm-Graduation-Keeter Gymnasium
- May 17-Noon-Regional Guernsey Sale-Sale Barn
- May 28-Start of Summer Work Weeks
- June 24-Honor America





Scheer Dairy Farm's owner Rick Scheer

Agriculture Industry Tour

During the College's Spring Break, March 19-23, students in the Agriculture Industry Tour class toured a variety of Missouri's major agricultural operations. They were able to visit a new place each day and were given the opportunity to learn about new developments in the agriculture industry. Among the new developments students focused on included how each operation was financed, various production practices used, how products were merchandised, and how businesses plan to survive through these hard economic times. This class is offered in the Spring of even numbered years. They have been meeting once a week to prepare for this tour and will continue to meet to discuss plans for the next tour.

Scheer Dairy Farm in New Haven was the first place the class visited. The Scheer's have incorporated two robotic milkers into their daily routine, eliminating a labor factor. The next place visited was Riegal Dairy Farm in Washington. Day two consisted of a tour of Lucas Cattle Company in Cross Timbers. Lucas Cattle Company excels in superior genetics in Simmental cattle. The class also went to Lorenae Dairy in Galena, the ADM Feed Mill in Springfield, the State Veterinary Lab in Springfield, Genex in Strafford, and the sale barn in Buffalo.

Awards

- Marvin Oetting Award: Bryan Cizek
- Endowed Ag Awards: Noble Carpenter, Brianna Verploeg, Chet Bailey and Wes Paul
- Tom Smith Award: Ty Rowland
- Claude Parrish Award: Bryan Cizek
- Olen and Alpha DePew Memorial Scholarship: Garrett Dyer
- Taney County Farm Bureau CWM Award: Carly Combs
- Edwin and Helen Krohn Scholarship: Thomas Ovington
- Tommy Villers Award: Micah Duvick
- Goldie Howard Award: Nan Hutcheson
- Ag Education Award: Ryan Meeks
- Horticulture Scholarships: Taylor Smothermon and Brandon McCall
- Janice Franklin Scholarship: Nathaniel Hartsell
- Farm Bureau Scholarship: Logan Lowery and Nan Hutcheson
- Smith-Oetting Memorial Award: Ben Sims
- Friends of the Agriculture Department Award:
Dr. Gordon and Carol Heseman
- DTA Outstanding Freshman Year Cumulative GPA: Janelle Willis
- DTA Outstanding Senior Year Cumulative GPA: Luke Harding
- Marie Jessa Academic Award: Megan Murry
- Aggie Club Outstanding Member: Ben Sims
- Aggie Club Outstanding Senior: Stephanie Knowles
- C of O FFA Outstanding Member: Lyndi Utter



Dan Swearengen presents the 2012 "Friends of the Agriculture Department Award" to Dr. Gordon and Carol Heseman.