

College of the Ozarks Agriculture Department

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Faculty And Staff Spotlight

Dr. Donn Russell has been at College of the Ozarks since January 2000. He previously taught at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa for approximately three years. Dr. Russell's teaching load consists of 12 different classes in the areas of Ag. Education, Ag. Business, Technology, and Equine Science. His teaching philosophy is pragmatic in nature and many of his classes include completing projects that simulate real-life experiences. An example of this would be the business plan that students complete in his General Farm Management class. By completing this plan on a business of their choice, students research what it takes to operate such a business successfully.

Dr. Russell is also the workstation supervisor in the Technology Department. When asked about his thoughts on the Technology Department's renovations, he replied, "The renovation is scheduled to be completed in November of 2012. The remodeling of the small engines lab, welding lab, and construction lab would have cost the college many thousands of dollars to complete. However, because of the ingenuity and creativeness of the technology workers, they have completed this task at a small fraction of the cost".

A few fun facts about Dr. Russell that many faculty and students do not know are that he has two boys, Microsoft employee Brian, age 24, and high school senior Drew, age 18. He has been married to his attorney wife, Vickie, for over 34 years. His favorite bible verse is Romans 8:28, "God causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him". His favorite hobbies are horseback riding, softball, and, prepare to be shocked, water sports!

When asked what he is passionate about, Dr. Russell simply replied, "Teaching". Dr. Russell asked in one of his classes, "What are you passionate about?" He then stated, "You need to identify what you are passionate about and try to pursue a career in that area. The richest men in the world got to be where they are today because they were so outrageously passionate about their work that, to them, it did not feel like work at all....You will go much farther in life by focusing on and doing what you are passionate about, rather than being concerned with the trivial pursuit of money".

Student Spotlight

Nan Hutcheson is the featured student for this newsletter. Nan was born and raised on a 40 acre farm in Sedalia, Missouri. Over the years her family has raised sheep, rabbits, cattle, hogs, chickens, and ducks. Nan describes her farm as more of "hobby farm" as opposed to the larger commercial farms. However, the small farm life helped stimulate and form Nan's passion for farm life. An interesting fact about Nan and her family is that they sold duck eggs in Kansas City to chefs who were interested in a "healthy" food alternative to chicken eggs.

When questioned about her pursuit of an agriculture-based education, Nan stated, "Being in 4-H introduced me to friends who had commercial farms and I always knew there was a risk with owning a commercial farm, such as not being able to easily take a vacation, but farming is a way of life that I love and enjoy. I am willing to take the inevitable risk that farming life brings because it is a huge part of who I am".

Even with just a few years experience, Nan has already gained a versatile knowledge within the field of agriculture. She worked for two years at the C of O greenhouse where she learned the production side of horticulture. Then, she worked for a year at the C of O beef farm where she learned how to recognize and treat cattle illnesses, as well as gained experience with beef farm management. Last summer, she interned at a farm camp in Central Missouri whose purpose is to educate children about agriculture and the connection between the farm and the food people buy at the store. Nan was in charge of creating the curriculum which the camp would use to educate the campers about agriculture awareness. By the end of the summer, Nan had the opportunity to teach 200 people about the importance of agriculture.

Nan is currently working at the C of O hog farm and is a Senior Animal Science/ Agribusiness Major. Nan does not currently have any permanent prospect for a job after graduation, but she is considering working for a company such as Cargill, George's, or Tyson. Her dream is to find a niche market to sell Highland cattle. Nan should have no problem obtaining whatever job she decides to pursue because she is known in the Agriculture Department as being very intelligent, level headed, a leader among students, and just a genuinely nice person.



Featured Operation

This issue's featured operation is the new Agronomy workstation, managed by Tammy Holder. There are 2 students who work in the Agronomy Workstation this semester: Zach Wilkinson and Logan Lowery. These students are responsible for tasks such as: cutting, raking, and wrapping hay/baleage, planting seed, spraying and killing off weeds, and re-drilling seed back into the fields. The students also perform soil testing and manage nutrients by applying fertilizer. In the winter months the students will be responsible for cutting downed trees, keeping the fence lines clean, and up keep on maintenance and farm equipment. Dairy workers often assist the Agronomy workers with raking the large fields and wrapping the bales of hay. The Agronomy Workstation manages fields at the dairy, beef, and hog/Belt farms about 1,000 acres total.

At this workstation, students learn many different tasks, some of which include: basic farm operation, learning how to skillfully drive and operate a tractor, and learning how to plant fields with forage. Tammy Holder has done a great job at managing and renewing our pastures with more nutrients and has selected improved forages for our livestock. Some of the forages that have been planted this year include: drought tolerant red clover, alfalfa, cereal rye, wheat, Australian winter peas, Amba orchard grass, and novel endophyte fescue. Novel Endophyte Fescue does not produce the ergovaline toxin the normal endophyte infected fescue does. This toxin can cause diseases like fescue foot and can seriously harm or kill cattle and horses.

When asked about his favorite part of being an agronomy worker, Zach simply stated "Being out in the open fields and pastures experiencing God's glory through creation." Logan loves the new workstation because he says, "It gives me the proper hands on experience that I will experience later on in my career." Logan also states, "I have learned many things from working at the Agronomy workstation that will help me throughout my life." Some of the things he has learned includes different planting mixtures and learning how to properly identify and treat plant diseases.

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



Zach Wilkinson and Joey Ledford

"I think you will find that a lifetime of success is not just a single act or event. It is the result of good habits cultivated and perfected through work and continuously doing the right thing at the right time for the right reasons and doing those right things the best you can." -Dan Swarengen

Homecoming Festivities

- Nov. 3-11:00am-Room 118 of the Youngman Ag. Center-Voting on Officer Selection Proposal and Electing Officers for Ag. Alumni Chapter
- Nov. 3-10:00am-2:00pm- Activities Field-Ag. Club Booths
- Nov. 3-2:00pm-Parade with Ag. Float
- Nov. 3-After Parade 3:15pm -Basketball Game
- Nov. 3-6:00pm -Upstairs in the Youngman Ag. Center-Alumni Association Banquet



Calendar of Events

- October 5th, 6th, and 7th-East E-Plex of the Ozark Empire Fairground in Springfield, MO-**Ag. Department Recruitment Booth at FarmFest**
- October 11th-8:00pm-11:00pm-Sale Barn-**Barnwarming**
- Nov. 13-6:30pm-Upstairs in the Youngman Ag. Center-**Agriculture Career Symposium**

Farmfest

We hope to see many of you at the Ozark Fall FarmFest this year! It is our 10th year to have a recruiting booth at this event. Over the years, we have truly enjoyed visiting with you and your families. In a way, this event has been like a mini- alumni reunion.

New Staff

Mr. Bryan Cizek has recently been employed as our Assistant Dairy Farm Manager. He is one of our recent graduates. You may recall that he was a "Spotlight Student" in one of our previous issues. He was also the recipient of the 2012 Marvin E. Oetting Award which is given to a student that exemplifies leadership, character, and scholarship. We have big aspirations for Mr. Cizek in the Agriculture Department!

New: Dairy Science Major

College of the Ozarks is introducing a new major this year, Dairy Science. This major has taken the Agriculture Department over 2 years to fully discuss and create. The new major was made official last April and is now available for students this fall, 2012. Courses specific to the major are:

Dairy Science Emphasis:

A student majoring in Agriculture with an emphasis in Animal Science may not have an emphasis in Dairy Science.

Required major courses:

AGR core courses

AGR 203 Dairy Cattle Selection

AGD 303 Dairy Nutrition

AGR 352 Dairy Products and Marketing

AGR 343 Dairy Farm Management

AGR 402 Artificial Breeding

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

AGR 413 Forage Crop Management (F-E)

AGR 49V Internship (3-6 credit hours)

****Highly Recommended:** two years or more work experience at the dairy

Originally a dairy internship was going to be required, but there was one big problem; many students at C of O absolutely have to work on campus 40 hours a week for the duration of the summer. Although an internship is highly recommended, an alternative had to be created. That option was to be able to take the Forage Crop Management class. Forages are very important in dairy management.

Presently there are four students enrolled in this major. Coincidentally, these four students all are working at the dairy, which is encouraged by the degree. Jessica White, a student with a Dairy Science Major, was asked how having this major will help her in her career after C of O. Jessica replied, "By having a lot of hands-on experience incorporated within the class room/dairy labs and also working on the dairy farm has given me the knowledge and learning experience on how to deal with different situations that arise."

Since College of the Ozarks has its own dairy, the students will have the opportunity for hands-on experiential learning. The classes will have a lab built into them and the lab will be our dairy, which is just a block away. The professor will be able to teach about a certain concept and then demonstrate that same concept at the dairy.

This major will create many career opportunities including: dairy farm manager, dairy cooperative, dairy nutrition and feed sales, dairy products development, dairy AI companies, and dairy equipment businesses.