

# College of the Ozarks Ag Department

Volume 1, Issue 11

Spring 2015

## *Special points of interest:*

- Faculty & Students Go to World Dairy Expo and World Forage Analysis Superbowl
- Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Eric Bolger, Dean of the College
- Student Spotlight: Tara Williams
- Calendar of Events

## Faculty & Students Go to World Forage Analysis Superbowl

Beef farm and agronomy supervisor Tammy Holder and two senior agricultural students, Brooke Lair and Zane Lowrance, entered C of O forage into the World Forage Analysis Superbowl at the World Dairy Expo. The forage had been cut in May, during a rain free weather period, and an analysis of the hay showed it to be of extremely high quality. During the awards luncheon for the Forage Superbowl in September in Madison, Wisconsin, Tammy, Brooke, and Zane discovered their hay had ranked second in the world— an outstanding accomplishment for them as well as the entire college!

The group also made other stops while on the trip to the World Dairy Expo. They toured a Hoard's Dairyman farm, a cranberry farm, and observed a corn harvest in Illinois. Brooke said the entire trip was a great experience, but the best part for her was the second place recognition at the Forage Superbowl. She was gratified that all of the hard work which she and the agronomy crew had put in had paid off with the award.

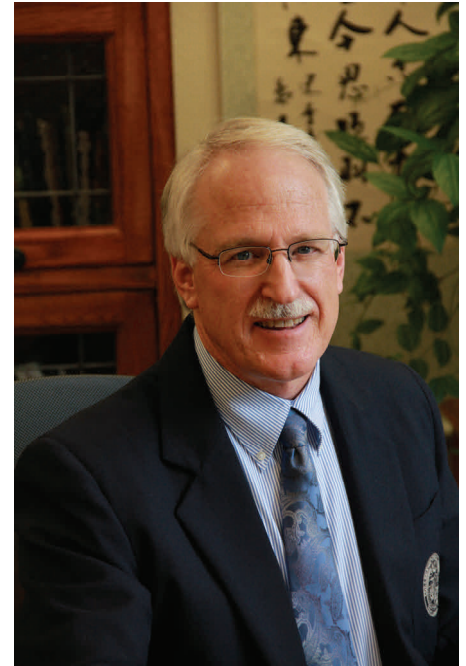


**Pictured from left to right: Brooke Lair, Zane Lowrance, Tammy Holder, and Luke Wilson (Midwest sales representative for Barenbrug Seed)**

## Faculty Spotlight: Dean Bolger

Dr. Eric Bolger is Dean of the College. He began his career at C of O over 22 years ago as a Religion Professor in August of 1992! As the Dean of the College, he oversees all academic areas, including full-time and part-time faculty, the library, the athletic program, and the Child Development Center. Dean Bolger and his wife Janet have been married for 33 years and have three boys, a granddaughter, a dog, and two cats. Andrew, their oldest son, is the C of O Campus Minister. Andrew and his wife have a daughter that is 18 months old. Dan, their middle son, is the Residence Life Director at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. Mark, their youngest son, is a recent C of O graduate who works as a software engineer near San Francisco, California. Dean Bolger's favorite farm animals are cows because "they are big, but gentle and have such big, curious eyes." His favorite agricultural activity is gardening, and his favorite plants to grow are vegetables, berries, plums, and peaches. Dr. Bolger enjoys gardening in the "not so hot months." He does not have an agricultural background, though he has lived on a 45 acre cattle farm for three years. Also, he always enjoyed visiting his grandfather's farm and his aunt's orchard. The Ag Department holds several events each year and his favorite is the annual division BBQ picnic each spring held in the sale barn.

Dean Bolger said he believes that "Agriculture is at the heart of what C of O does. Ag workers tend to exemplify hard work, along with self-reliance coupled with dependence upon God." Also, he thinks the professional nature of agricultural training C of O provides is a great complement to the school's liberal arts core curriculum. He also has several goals for the Ag Department. Dean Bolger said he would like "to continue to emphasize excellence, and to continue to combine solid and rigorous academic training with the practical training available on the farms and other Ag industries on campus." He also commented on how he would like to encourage the Ag Department to stay up to date on the latest technology. Dr. Bolger believes the future of the Ag program is secure and bright because it is one of the largest majors on campus, that it provides products for other industries on campus, and that it has an excellent reputation and great faculty and staff.



*"To [his saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27*

## Student Spotlight: Tara Williams

Tara Williams is an Agriculture Business and Animal Science major and is currently working in the Agriculture Office. Tara was born and raised in Berryville, Arkansas and attended Blue Eye High School where she graduated in 2011 with fifty-eight students in her class. Tara originally wanted to become a nurse, but quickly realized she wanted to go back to her roots and pursue a degree in agriculture. "After all, I am just a country girl born and raised on a beef cattle farm. Plus, nothing is better than wearing boots to class everyday", Tara said. Tara's favorite farm animal is a horse and Tara has competed in, along with her family, cowboy mounted shooting events all over Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas for close to two years. "My horse is my teammate. Without my horse, I would not be able to participate in a sport that I love. He is a 7 year old Blue Roan quarter horse." While at C of O, Tara has worked in the Keeter Center, Landscaping, and for the past four semesters, in the Agriculture Office as a secretary. Tara has had many responsibilities in the office, and has played a crucial role in organizing the Annual FFA Workshop. Throughout her time at C of O, Tara says that she has benefited from all of her agricultural courses, and her favorite courses were Meats and Animal Health, both taught by Mark Sanders. Through these courses she has obtained a greater understanding of the meat industry. These courses also helped her the most in her current job. After graduating in December, Tara has been blessed with the opportunity to begin full time work for the United States Department of Agriculture. She is currently working as an intermittent food inspector in Springdale, Arkansas in which she hopes to pay her dues, climb the ladder, and end up at the top.



*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10"*



**Tara competing in a cowboy mounted shooting event on her horse, Blue.**

# Annual Summary of the Agriculture Department - 2014

---

Here are a few highlights for the year:

We produced abundant and excellent forages for dry and baleaged hay this year. In fact, one of the grass forages was entered into the 2014 World Forage Analysis Superbowl Contest in Madison, Wisconsin and captured second place in the Grass Hay category. Congratulations to Tammy Holder and her Agronomy crew!

Unfortunately, Mark Sanders will be retiring from his Hog farm and teaching responsibilities in May, 2015. We will all miss him tremendously for he is a top notch manager and professor. There may also be some internal moves or openings that will be addressed during this time of hiring.

Total agriculture student enrollment is 146 (down from our peak of 167 in 2013). Male: 99 (68%), Female: 47 (32%), Freshman: 43 (17 are “brand new” to college) 29%, Sophomore: 27 (19%), Junior: 35 (24%), Senior: 41 (28%), Majors: Agribusiness Emphasis: 49 (26%), Animal Science Emphasis: 56 (30%), CWM Major: 37 (20%), Horticulture: 12 (6%), Agriculture Education Major: 18 (10%), Agronomy Emphasis: 10 (5%), Dairy Science 3 (1.5%) and Pre-Vet Major: 3 (1.5%)

Josh Franks is completely finished with his Master’s Degree. Bryan Cizek is very close - he only lacks the completion of his research thesis. Congratulations to both of them!

Capital Improvements include: water fountains, digital scales, fencing supplies and gates for the beef farms; improved Agronomy truck with portable fueling tank and tool box combo; manure spreader and bottling equipment for pints for the dairy; utility tractor with loader, one bottom plow, tiller, trim mower and utility trailer for the farmers market/gardens; very nice used feed deliver truck with bins for the feed mill; microscopes for laboratory experiments in Youngman Ag Center

Milk processing is going well with the incorporation of the new “pint” sized bottling just underway. We are excited to see how they sell to the campus family and public.

---



# Annual Summary of the Agriculture Department - 2014

---

We made the first corn silage in many, many years and are looking forward to seeing how the dairy cows produce with this new feed. The corn was excellent and the chopping a gift from an alumnus.

The new Clevenger Farm is coming on line. Hay has been made on it as well as brush hogging, fertilizing and spray of weeds. The major limitation is water on it and the Belt farm. It is hoped the submitted cattle water fountain projects will be accomplished soon.

The Beef farm continues to move forward towards their next production sale in 2015. Great strides are being made in the genetics and feeding of the animals. A new Angus bull has been purchased.

The Feed Mill has fully implemented its newer feed delivery truck. The old one was placed in the annual auction. The morale of the students in that area is high.

Our enormously successful 2014 Farmers Market ended on October 31, 2014. The number of guests to the market and sales was significantly higher this year over last. Many new vegetables, breads and culinary demonstrations were added this year. The doubling of the garden area helped to meet the needs of both the Keeter Center and Farmers Market. The new equipment for the Farmers Market was a life saver this year. We are so thankful for it. The first Farmers Market for 2015 will open on May 29th.

The annual FFA Workshop will be on Saturday, March 7th this spring. All faculty, staff and students workers are needed to coordinate and run this event effectively. It is our largest educational outreach and recruiting effort of the year. 2014 was a great success – 2,040 students from 69 high schools.

---

# Calendar of Events for Spring 2015

- ◆ February 26 ~ Career Day, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the rubber courts in Keeter Gymnasium
- ◆ March 7 ~ Annual FFA Workshop 8:30 a.m.-Noon
- ◆ March 11-17 ~ NAIA Men's National Basketball Tournament at College of the Ozarks, Keeter Gymnasium
- ◆ March 23-27 ~ Spring Break
- ◆ March 30 - April 10 ~ Pre-registration for Fall 2015 classes
- ◆ April 16-18 ~ DTA National Convention at MSU in Springfield, Missouri. Agenda forthcoming.
- ◆ April 20 ~ Annual Agriculture Awards Assembly. Begins at 4:00 p.m. upstairs in the Youngman Ag Center
- ◆ May 4-8 ~ Finals week
- ◆ May 10 ~ Baccalaureate at 11:00 a.m. in the Keeter Gymnasium
- ◆ May 10 ~ Graduation at 2:00 p.m. in the Keeter Gymnasium
- ◆ May 29 ~ First Farmer's Market for 2015. Hours-7:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the sale barn

