



Calendar of Events

- ~March 5 ~ Annual FFA Workshop
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- ~March 9-15 ~ NAIA Men's National Basketball
Tournament at College of the Ozarks, Keeter
Gymnasium
- ~March 21-25 ~ Spring Break
- ~March 28-April 8 ~ Pre-registration for Fall
2016 classes
- ~March 31 ~ Career Day, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
on the rubber courts in Keeter Gymnasium
- ~April 18 ~ Annual Agriculture Awards
Assembly. Begins at 4:00 p.m. in the Plaster
Business Building Auditorium
- ~May 2-6 ~ Finals Week
- ~May 8 ~ Graduation at 2:00 p.m. in the Keeter
Gymnasium
- ~May 27 ~ First Farmer's Market for 2016.
Hours – 7:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the sale
barn



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WHAT'S NEW AT FARMER'S MARKET?

ANSWERED BY LORI SIMMONS, FARMER'S MARKET SUPERVISOR

What is new about the market?

The few things new to the market are: new display cases, new signage, free popcorn and lemonade, and a couple of new vegetables like kohlrabi and sweet potatoes.

How have you changed up the atmosphere of the market compared to last year?

The atmosphere was already so lovely, however, a few changes did occur. A front porch with picnic tables and a checkerboard were added to the sale barn. Our customers now feel like they can visit at the market on the porch. Some families stop to play checkers. We also have a group of women that we call the Farmers Market Breakfast Club that came each week and bought their breakfast and ate it together at the market.

What is your favorite thing about the market?

People. Life is all about relationships. In the Farmers Market, the community comes to us. Each week we pray that God will let the light of Christ in us shine for Him as the community comes to market. We aren't just selling vegetables, we are investing in the people who shop with us by showing them that we remember them each week, we care about them, and no matter who they are or where they come from they are loved. We want them to feel at home. Also, the relationships that I have with the students who work for me are very important. As we pick peppers, tomatoes, or whatever it is we are doing for the day, the conversations we have and the relationships we are building while working hard together are special.

What is the best-selling item at market?

The best-selling item is green beans. They go quickly. Bread and meat products are also in high demand.

Can we expect any new products for next year?

We will try out some new varieties of produce and we will also be making an effort to create a soap recipe that will be an exclusive C of O product. We are researching different things to see how well we think they would sell at our market. Rhubarb and asparagus are also being considered.

In what ways have you integrated technology into the market?

Having a Facebook business page has been a big part of market this year. We have also used our iPad to play great music for our customers to enjoy while shopping. We have had two credit card machines installed. This has been a great help!

What does a normal day at the market consist of for you and your student workers?

Monday through Thursday my crew and I work out in the garden raising the produce. On Fridays we arrive by five in the morning. We open up the sale barn and start setting everything out to sell. We work hard and fast setting up displays, making coffee, hanging signs, decorating, and more in order to be ready to ring the cow bell at seven when the first customers come in to shop. We try to be done with set-up and ready to pray and eat breakfast together by 6:30-6:40. It is not unusual for us to have up to 30 people waiting on the front porch to get into market when the bell is rung. During market, we run registers, bag, help people to their cars with their purchases, keep the produce shelves stocked, pop popcorn and hand it out, keep things clean and running smoothly, and guide guests on tours of the garden. At 12:30 PM, the cow bell rings for a second time to signal the closing of market. We then clean and put away anything we use to run the market and we have a meeting to discuss how the market went for the day and anything we need to change for the next week.

NEW INTERIM ASSISTANT DAIRY MANAGER: RYAN BILYEU

Ryan Bilyeu is the new Interim Assistant Dairy Manager. Ryan came to College of the Ozarks as a student and graduated on May 10, 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy and Ag Business with a minor in Animal Science. He started his job just a few short hours after graduation. As a student, Ryan started as a calf feeder and moved his way up to herdsman. He held that position for two years. Ryan grew up in Ozark, Missouri where he and his family raise beef cattle and quality forages. He said "I am involved with the production of different forages such as alfalfa, wheat, sudan, orchard grass, and fescue." Also, Ryan's beef herd is a three way cross in which he is in charge of all artificial insemination and vaccinations. He brings a lot to the table in his work. He is knowledgeable of feeds and forages, breeding, genetics, and much more. Ryan's goal as a supervisor is to help educate students, take care of the animals to the best of his ability, and to learn something new everyday. "The dairy is a great educational tool for the Agriculture Department. As a student, I enjoyed learning in the classroom, and then applying what I learned while I was working. I believe the dairy helps the students prepare for having a job after graduation. They have to be able to adapt to early mornings and late nights. The dairy also teaches them skills such as responsibility, hard work, time management, and punctuality." Ryan's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Ryan said that "during different situations God gives us strength to help achieve his goals for us through the good and bad times."

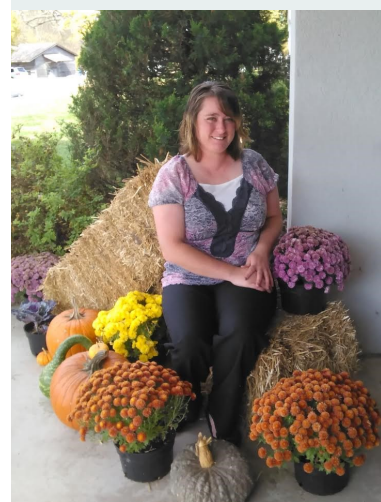
STUDENT SPOT LIGHT: LEAH PETERSEN

Leah Petersen is a senior Animal Science major who is currently working at the dairy. She was born in Riverside, California, and moved to Sheridan, Missouri approximately 10 1/2 years ago where her family still resides. Leah was homeschooled along with her four siblings. Because of their family business, they had school throughout the year. Her family owns and operates a meat processing plant. Leah wanted to become an ag major after working for a veterinarian in 2010. She said "I love helping animals and also working with them." She plans on going to graduate school after C of O to receive her masters degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in management. The classes that have helped her the most are Animal Breeding and Animal Nutrition. Animal Breeding helped her learn the fundamentals of reproduction and Animal Nutrition helped her learn how "feed is properly digested and used in an animal." An interesting fact about Leah is that she is currently serving as the Vice President of the College of the Ozarks Chapter of Delta Tau Alpha National Agriculture Honor Society. Her favorite farm animals are horses because they are like big pets. They like to be loved on and fed treats, but most of all she likes the fact that they can be told anything and no one will ever know what was said.



The Lord your God is with you, he is might to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17



ADMINISTRATION SPOT LIGHT:

PRESIDENT JERRY DAVIS



“So don’t worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the kingdom of God your primary concern. So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Matthew 6:31-34

College of the Ozarks President Jerry Davis and his three siblings were raised by their grandparents, and he fondly remembers: ‘being raised by my grandparents was the greatest blessing of my life.’ Dr. Davis’ grandpa was town pastor and his grandmother was a homemaker, planting a garden and caring for chickens. At the age sixteen, his grandfather placed him in a work-school, and Dr. Davis credits his success there to his work ethic gained on his grandparent’s farm. Dr. Davis believes he would not be where he is today without his grandparents.

President Davis and his wife Shirley have three children and nine grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoys both his family and his job, and when asked about his job, President Davis said “Travel, Travel, Travel.” That travel consists of talking with donors across the country and makes the operation of College of the Ozarks possible. He is also responsible for day to day operations of the college. Dr. Davis has been President at College of the Ozarks for twenty-eight years and previously was President at Alice Lloyd College for eleven years. Dr. Davis graduated from Ohio State in 1970 with a degree in Biology. For his dissertation, he wrote a book about crop pests. Dr. Davis’ favorite farm animals are horses and as a youngster, he and his siblings rode horses owned by a deacon in their church. He has always thought about owning one, but has never had the time to care for one due to his travels as President.

Dr. Davis stresses the importance of agriculture as the root of the College because one time early in our institution’s history it produced most of our food. College of the Ozarks has been involved in agriculture since day one, and while he is here, Dr. Davis wants to continue to improve the agricultural component of the College. One of President Davis’ favorite agricultural events was a greased pig contest held at Barn Warming one year. He also enjoys the biennial beef production sale put on by the students and faculty and the annual Division BBQ Picnic each spring. President Davis encourages the Agriculture Department to always improve because of its centrality to the College and its mission. Dr. Davis considers the agricultural programs foundational to the College and its mission as a vocational school, and sees it as “the icing on the cake” of liberal arts.

ADJUCNT PROFESSORS:

BRYAN OETTING AND MARK SANDERS

The Ag Department is glad to welcome back two of our retired professors for the 2015-2016 academic year. Bryan Oetting and Mark Sanders have come back ready and eager to teach classes at C of O once again. "As a student, it has been great to have two very knowledgeable and well-liked professors in the classroom." - said Alexa Williams, Animal Science Major

Bryan Oetting taught Meats during the Fall of 2015, and this Spring he will be teaching Ruminant Livestock Management. Mark Sanders taught Dairy Cattle Nutrition and Animal Breeding during the Fall of 2015, and this Spring he will be teaching Animal Health.



NEW OFFICERS FOR THE AG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please make welcome our new Ag Alumni Association Chapter officers. They were elected at the annual Homecoming meeting on November 7, 2015.

President– James Cooper

President Elect– Mary Jo (Ford) Kobyluk

Vice President– Jeff Holder

Secretary– Carrie (Baker) Crews



LETTER FROM DAN SWEARENGEN

Dear Friends,

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." That is exactly how I feel about my time at College of the Ozarks. I have been blessed richly by hard work that is meaningful and bigger than myself. Therefore it is with mixed feelings that I submit to you this letter to formally notify you of my retirement date. It will be on July 11, 2016. On that day I will have completed 39 years of service to the College. Part of me is excited and pleased while another part is a bit sad and nervous. What is for sure is that it has been my privilege and honor to have been involved in such a great institution whose mission and vision I fully support all these years. I look back upon many accomplishments and good memories of projects completed and lessons taught and learned for the benefit of our students. Relationships have always been very important to me. I will miss all the kind, friendly and talented employees that contribute so much towards the betterment of the institution. Of course, I will also miss our students. It has been such a privilege to serve them.

Marvin Oetting use to say; "You want to retire before everyone wants you to retire." Dr. Jerry Davis says; "You want to retire while people still want you to stay." I have always found that to be sage advice from men I greatly admire. I believe that time has now come for me. I hope that you have found my contributions to the agriculture program and the other areas I have served to be beneficial. I have always felt that I was led to S of O/C of O by Divine Providence. This college has been my only full-time employer and career since graduate school. I cannot think of another place I would have rather been. I am extremely thankful for these 39 years. I pray for continued blessings to be bestowed upon this institution and all those that serve it. I hope to continue to contribute to College of the Ozarks in other ways through my retirement years.

Sincerely,

Dan Swearengen

Dan Swearengen
Chairman, Division of Technical and Applied Sciences
General Farm Manager