

The Farm Link

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AG 450 Web site

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Fall 2005 Ag 450 Class



Class Motto:
“Learning
Farm
Management
Skills To Lead
Us Into The
Future.”

Committee Updates

Marketing Committee

During the past months, the Marketing Committee has been striving to achieve the goals that have been set forth in the farm’s mission statement. One of the goals of this mission statement is to market commodities at or above local area average prices.

So far the marketing committee has marketed the following commodities:

- Rolled two hedge-to-arrive contracts into March of 2006
- Contracted one November mini-hog contract with Farmland
- Filled 1,000 bushel corn contract at \$2.18
- Filled 1,000 bushel soybean contract at \$6.47
- Filled 3,000 bushel soybean contract at \$6.89
- Purchased a December hog put option with a strike price of \$60.00

With the harvest winding down, the Marketing Committee is now working on future pricing strategies that will help the farm market commodities above its goal.

Crops Committee

The corn and soybean yields have been doing very well, and the 2005 crops look to be the best in farm history. Preliminary reports say that the average yield for corn will top 200 bushels per

acre and the soybeans yielded over 55 bushels per acre. As a result, the Crops Committee has been busy looking into purchasing a 40,000 bushel grain bin to assist with the on-farm storage. Also, the Crops Committee has been busy with prepaying for anhydrous, seed, and chemical inputs for the upcoming planting season.

Machinery Committee

This semester, the Machinery Committee began organizing the machinery shop. At the beginning of the semester, it was brought to the attention of the committee that certain standards and safety guidelines had to be met to avoid any potential hazards. With the newly acquired student fees, the committee made numerous investments of various tools and apparatuses that were needed to bring the farm back into safety compliance.

The committee has also worked on breaking down scrap pieces of iron that can be used for miscellaneous fabrication material and also dealing with the day-to-day issues that arise from a typical farming operation.

Fall 2005 Class Roster

Buildings & Grounds

Michael Wayson
Brandon Lamb
Dustin Reicks
Tina Lewis
Gretchen Wilson
Wade Aukes

Crops

Marcus Juhl
Michael Murphy
Kyle Manz
James Jesina
Greg Messerschmidt
Nick Stein
Drew Pullen

Finance

Zach Vander Linden
Mark Van Wyngarden
Adam Hill
Travis Wilson
Michael Horan

Machinery

Joe Unger
Jason Long
Jared Garoutee
Ben Eekhoff
Chris Kampen
Todd Kraft

Marketing

Scott Cramer
Jenae Westmeyer
Kevin Jans
Jeff Schroeder
Ryan Kuhlert
David Christoffel

Swine

Amanda Humpal
Kelli Schleisman
Dan Greenfield

Public Relations

Alex Segebart
Melissa Robinson
Justin Messer
Colby Smith

Swine Committee

The Swine Committee started implementing several changes in the swine operation. This year's summer class decided to purchase feeder pigs, and this semester's class has also decided to purchase feeder pigs that arrived at the end of October. A majority of the farm's hogs are going to market averaging 250 to 270 pounds.

On October 13th Mike Ehlers, Farmland Procurement Officer, came in to talk to the class about the \$81 million improvement project at the Denison facility. The planned expansion will address added slaughter capacity and additional capacity for smoked sausage, ham slicing, and hot dogs. He also explained the condition of the farm's hog cutability ratings. Overall, the Ag 450 farm has good cutting hogs and Ehlers expressed appreciation for the farm's effort to produce quality hogs.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee is highly motivated this semester to improve the overall awareness of the 450 farm. In the beginning of October, the committee coordinated a tour of the farm for the AgEd&S 110 classes. Changes are being made to the farm's Web site that should be completed by the end of the semester. The committee is also coordinating the development of a new promotional video.



Jason Long, of the Machinery Committee, cuts apart scrap iron to help clean up the north side of the shop.

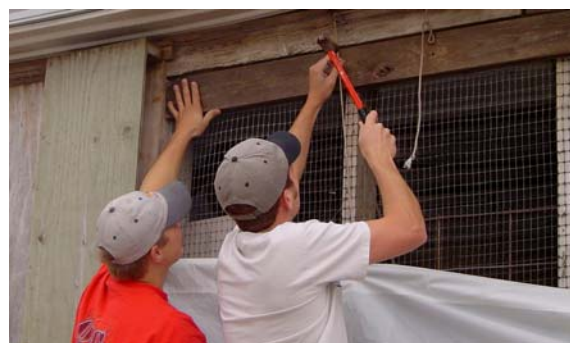
Finance Committee

"Where did that bill come from?" This is a common expression heard around the Finance Committee's table.

This committee has been given the task to oversee all of the finances the farm has incurred. These issues include: Making payments on the swine finisher, improving cash-flow budgets, staying current on bills, and improving all financial aspects of the farm.

The Finance Committee has been working on the following items:

- Updating monthly cash flow budgets
- Evaluating the financial viability of the farm through December to allow the Marketing Committee to make marketing decisions
- Justifying the profitability of our feeder pig loan to the ISU loan officer.



Dustin Reicks and Brandon Lamb, of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, put up a curtain on the G-Barn. The curtain was purchased by the summer class and installed this fall.

Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been improving the overall aesthetics of the farm this semester. With the assistance of multiple committees, the iron pile north of the shop has been cleaned up, trees have been cut to improve sightlines, and doors have been replaced on the farrowing house.

A new curtain has been installed on the G-barn, and they have also assisted in putting in a new heater in the nursery in preparation for cold winter months. Improvements around the farm house have also been conducted by cleaning the gutters and keeping grass trimmed.

Ag 450 Corn Test Plot

After taking out the test plot, the class was very pleased with the results. More than fifty varieties from eight different companies were grown in the test plot. All of the seed for the test plot was donated in the spring. Local Pioneer dealers Ron Finch and Bob Lund donated their time to come out and weigh the hybrids for the farm. The yields ranged from 215 to 259 bushels an acre, moisture ranged from 13 to 16 percent, and test weight was excellent with most of the corn above 58 pounds.



On November 10th the test plot was harvested, the initial yields look promising.