



# The Farm Link

Publication of the AgEds 450 Class and the Ag 450 Farm – An ISU Student Managed Farm

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2009  
Volume 8  
Issue 1

## Contact Information

### Instructor

Thomas Paulsen  
Department of Agricultural  
Education  
and Studies  
217 Curtiss Hall  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa 50010-1050  
(515) 294-0047  
tpaulsen@iastate.edu

### Farm Manager

Greg Vogel  
ISU Ag 450 Farm  
52097 260<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ames, Iowa 50011  
(515) 292-0742  
gvogel@iastate.edu

### Teaching Assistant

Gary Clark  
gwclark@iastate.edu

### 450 Class Officers

#### Chairman

Klark Telleen

#### Vice Chairman

Alex Johnk

#### Secretary

Cole Simmons

#### Historian

Public Relations Committee

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, marital status, disability or status of a U.S. Vietnam Era Veteran. Any persons having inquiries concerning this may contact the Director of Affirmative Action, 318 Beardshear Hall,

(515) 294-7612



## Community Betterment Day Held

A community betterment day was held at the Ag Eds 450 farm on September 19, 2009. The day was attended by 20 Iowa State Students who worked to do various clean-up projects around the farm. The main area of focus was clearing some of the trees that had taken over our fence lines. Following the work day, the participants received a meal that was donated by many local businesses.

## 450 Farm Decides to Discontinue Custom Chopping Operation

The 450 class has decided that it is no longer cost effective for the farm to continue the custom chopping operation. The chopper that has been being used is getting older making it inefficient for the number of tons we chop. Future classes will be given the opportunity as to what the farm would like to do from now as far as exploring future custom operations.

## Ag Eds 450 Farm Gets Technology Update

Over the summer, The Ag Eds 450 Farm received all new computers for the lab. With this update, they were able to add a couple computers. With this new technology, more members of the class are able to work on projects and find solutions to any issues that the farm faces. They also got a video camera for the class room installed to allow lectures and business meetings to be recorded for use to demonstrate how the class operates as well as to keep any students who are not able to be at class up to date on what is going on at the farm .

## New Grain Transfer System Installed

A transfer system was built to help with the efficiency of transferring dry grain from the dryer to the new storage bin. While it still is not totally self transferring, the grain no longer needs to be put in a wagon and moved around to put in the other bin.



# Committee News

IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2009  
Volume 8  
Issue 1

## Fall 2009 Class

### Building & Grounds

Garrett Boeding  
Brad Ganef  
Alex Johnk  
Brady Kruger  
Scott Venner

### Crops

Michael Brown  
Eric Elsbernd  
Sam Katzer  
Jessica Kragel  
Mike Murch  
Dustin Schirm  
Carter Schulte

### Finance

Nathan Meyer  
Eric Ogren  
Blake Reynolds  
Cole Simmons  
Tyler Underwood

### Marketing

Mark Clinton  
Mark Laubenthal  
Nick Letsche  
Matt Maher  
Dean Sorensen  
Austin Studer

### Machinery

Shawn Assman  
Aaron Crews  
Kurt Dunham  
Nathaniel Hofmann  
Greg Schmitt  
Joe Vonnahme

### Customs

Andrew Burt  
Jason Edmund  
Dan Hartmann  
Alex Recker  
Klark Telleen

### Public Relations

Sam Drenth  
Brandon Anderson  
Andrea Beatty  
Greg Weis

IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

### *Machinery*

Maintaining and repairing the farm equipment has been the key goal of the machinery committee this semester. We have been faced with many challenges that have been enlarged by the difficult weather. We have had a few minor break-downs, but nothing major which has allowed us to keep a steady pace with harvest activities. We have also invested a lot of our time in determining whether or not we could make efficient use of a semi. We concluded that as of right now, with our current land base it would not be feasible. We feel that our machinery inventory is sufficient for our land base due to the recent upgrades.

### *Marketing*

As the marketing committee we have sold corn and soybeans. We strived to market those commodities at the highest value achievable. We still have more corn and beans to market and are striving to design a marketing strategy to succeed as a farm.

### *Finance*

The Finance committee has been working hard at keeping the farms financial situation under control. We are making progress with updating all the records and hopefully we are making it easier for next semester's class. The Ag 450 farm is working farm, so we constantly have bills coming in. Dealing with the financial situations for this farm has been a positive learning experience and it will help us greatly in our future.

### *Buildings & Grounds*

The Building and Grounds committee has been very busy throughout the semester. We are currently working on cleaning up around the farm and helping with harvest duties. Our new fuel barrel that we purchased is set up and has been working great. We are pleased to say that the Farm Op 450 farm clean up was a success this year. We had many tasks that we had planned that got that got accomplished throughout the day. We have also been busy completing our strategic issue presentation which consists of planning for a future state of the art agriculture teaching facility here at the farm.



### *Crops*

The Crops committee has purchased most of the seed and inputs for next year's crop. They have successfully completed soybean and corn harvest. They also conducted moisture tests and yield estimates. The crops committee helped coordinate harvest by finding the driest fields. They also updated the Ag Leader software to create yield maps for our fields. Throughout the semester, the committee has maintained good relations with vendors they work with.

### *Customs*

The Customs committee has made many changes to the custom operations throughout the semester. They have replaced the old curtains on the hog building with new curtains. Furthermore, they looked into upgrading equipment on the farm that could improve productivity of the custom operations. To increase our fall tillage operation, the custom committee has made the recommendation to upgrade to a 7 shank ripper.

### *Public Relations*

The Public Relations committee has been working to keep the web site up to date. This year we added videos from the farm as well as updates about what is happening. We also worked to get new t-shirts designed and made to help promote the 450 farm. We also gave many tours to show off the unique experience that the farm has to offer.