



The Farm Link

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

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New Contract Brings Pigs Back to the 450 Farm

In 2002, the Ag 450 farm farrow to finish production levels slowly began to decrease due to a PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in the swine herd. After evaluating our production records and concerns over a labor shortage the class decided to depopulate the entire herd. The 2007 Ag 450 class approved signing a contract with Jay Lampe of Swine Graphics to raise feeder to finish pigs. The swine committee worked with Jay to update the finisher and get the building ready for the pigs. The pigs arrived on the farm March 19, 2007.

Ag Shop Constructed

The Iowa State Research farms, Animal Science department, and the Ag 450 class have constructed a new shop and educational teaching laboratory to better fit the needs of students and the College of Agriculture. The Ag 450 class donated the location for the shop and the users will share a percentage of the cost and time in the building. The primary uses for the shop will be to manage repairs for the Animal Science farms and Ag 450 farm. The agricultural mechanization teaching laboratory will be used to assist in preparing Agricultural Education majors to teach the Agricultural Mechanics classes, such as welding, machinery maintenance and repairs, and electricity. Courses will be designed for current students and continuing education for current agricultural teachers in the state and others interested in agricultural mechanics courses. The shop consists of three shop bays, a classroom, office, restroom, and storage area above the shop.



Spring 2006 Class

Committee News

Buildings and Grounds

Aaron Bouma
Lucas Collins
Nathan Drury
Eric Madsen
Troy Meyer

Crops

Tyler Boeckman
Marc Hardy
Steve Johnston
Brian Perry
Tyler Standley
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Joel Allison
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Gavin Burgess
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Marketing

Jason Bovee
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Machinery

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Kevin Lents
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Swine

Nathan Foresman
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Travis Lautner
Kyle Schulte
Daniel Whitaker

Public Relations

Emily Cummins
Kelle Kew
Kayla Lyon
Melissa Paulus

AG 450 Web site
www.ag450farm.iastate.edu

Buildings and Grounds: The buildings and grounds committee members went through the farm's insurance policy and made updates as needed. They also made repairs on the roof of the farm's house and cleaned up trees around the farm. Committee members also decided to tear out the scale as it was not in working condition.

Crops: The crops committee arranged for 57 different varieties to be planted in the test plot. Committee members are implementing different weed management practices for the Ag 450 farm. This semester, the farm will plant 550 acres of corn and 70 acres of beans. The crops committee also looked in to other options for crop insurance.

Finance: The finance committee has been busy this semester going through and analyzing the farms short and long term debt. Committee members have also developed a plan to reduce the debt. A yearly cash flow and budget sheet were updated to meet the farm's changes and needs. Finally, members managed the daily finances of the Ag 450 farm.

Marketing: Marketing committee members worked on forward contracting the old crop as well as forward contracting the new crop for October 2007. They filled the remaining contracts and delivered the remaining old crop to Heart of Iowa Coop for price later. Forward contracts included: 5,000 bushels Corn-October \$3.69, 2,000 bushels Corn- July \$3.86, and 3,500 bushels Beans-July \$7.25. Cash sales included: 2,500 bushels Beans- \$7.00 and 3,200 bushels Beans-\$6.89.

Machinery: The university land manager was concerned about our ability to meet the increased needs of the custom cultivating work. The machinery committee organized the purchase of a new 42 ½ foot Case IH Tiger Mate Field Cultivator. Committee members also received the approval to put new front tires on the Case IH 5240. General machinery maintenance was also completed throughout the semester.

Swine: The swine committee helped organize the change from farrow to finish to contracted feeder to finish through Swine Graphics. Committee members were responsible for making updates to the finisher and preparing the building for the new pigs. The committee contacted Jay Lampe of Swine Graphics in order to address the potential use of the Gestation barn to increase the finishing contract to 300 more head. Committee members also installed new waters and new feeders in the finisher after the building had been cleaned and disinfected.

Public Relations: The public relations committee decided to become involved with some new promotional events for the Ag 450 Farm. The committee organized an informational booth that was set up on Saturday during VEISHEA participating in the "Club Crawl" event. Two tours were also hosted at the farm during the FFA State Convention.

