

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

As the world continues to expand its technological knowledge, the spring class saw fit that the Ag 450 farm do the same. It is crucial on a farm that is meant to give students realistic, hands on experience. That is why the RTK system was purchased from John Deere by the 2012 spring class. **Real Time Kinematic** satellite navigation is a tool used for surveying the land and for things like auto steer. It has the ability to provide accuracy to within a centimeter. Planting has been the first test for the new system. This will help the farm by increasing efficiency and decreasing costs for fuel.

FARM HOUSE RENOVATION

The farm house saw a makeover this spring. The Building and Grounds committee decided to follow through with renovations to a couple of problem areas that Greg, the Farm Operator, and his wife had brought to their attention. The ceiling showed damage from a past leak in the roof. The roof also had wear and tear. From that, Buildings and Grounds decided to replace the shingle roof with tin. The bathroom was another problem area. The closet was too small to adequately use so they made two closets into one that allowed a lot more closet space.

CUSTOMS

Throughout the semester the Customs committee made several accomplishments. Among these was working with Kent Berns to obtain an accurate estimate of acres for spring tillage and planting. Another accomplishment was working with the Machinery committee to buy a GPS system for the farm.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

This committee is in charge of maintaining, repairing, and keeping track of the farm's buildings and that is just what they did. First buildings and grounds completed the renovations to the house including the bathroom remodel and the roof. They also fixed the machine shed doors damaged in the wind last summer, cleaned out the basement of the house, cleaned the fence row out and cut trees in the field. Even with all of these accomplishments they have a long list for future committees to complete in their time. Overall it was a very successful semester for this committee.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Class Officers

Chairman	Vice Chairman
<i>Spring</i> Ryan Augustine	<i>Spring</i> Matt Reed
<i>Summer</i> Evan Schaal	

Secretary

Spring
Kate Longley
Summer
John Ferneding

Historian

Spring
Public Relations
Committee

SPRING COMMITTEE NEWS

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CROPS

The crops committee has been busy this spring preparing for planting and working in the field. They began the year by itemizing which hybrids should be planted in each field in order to complete planting in a timely manner. The Crops committee also established where the test plot would be located (the SE corner of the farm) and which varieties to plant. They also worked with the Machinery committee and looked into purchasing a yield monitor for the combine.

FINANCE

One of the busiest committees with a constant flow of bills coming in, the Finance committee was able to complete quite a few of the goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the semester. They were able to accurately update the cash flow, income and expense statement and departmental statement. Throughout all of this they were also able to stay on top of projects required by the class itself.

MACHINERY

This committee's first goal of the semester was to get the farm's tillage and planting equipment ready to go. They also purchased the Real Time Kinematic (RTK) system from John Deere and familiarized themselves with JDLink. The committee also looked into rock damage on the combine which occurred the fall semester. One of the committee's long-term goals is to purchase a semi-truck to haul grain.

MARKETING

Keeping up with the markets became a daily task for this committee. The committee worked hard and increased the average selling price for corn and soybeans. Something the whole class was excited about was decals the marketing committee had made for the grain trucks. The nice thing about the decals is that they were created as magnets. The committee also kept excellent records for future committees as well.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Spring started slow for the PR committee, but it did not take long for tasks to show themselves. Facebook and Twitter statuses were updated every class period, as well as the blog. PR also gave several farm tours once the weather warmed up. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @ ISUAg450Farm, and friend us on Facebook at ISU Ag 450 farm!

SWINE

The swine committee set several goals for the semester. Their first was to acquire a new bulk bin for the G-barn and reconfigure its feed system. The current system was inadequate because it followed a U-pattern with only one motor. The swine committee also reviewed and renewed their contract with Swine Graphics and monitored the barns every day. This semester the farm received 368 weaned pigs into the nursery and 1419 pigs into the finisher. We sold 1298 pigs.

Committee Members

Buildings & Grounds

Morgan McCarty
Kyle Schnell
Ben Krause
Alex Nelson
Matt Riessen
Nick Hageman
Chad Fonken

Crops

Kirn Stevenson
Michael Koenig
Adam Ganeff
Josh Hitzhusen
John Laubscher
Matt Kopriva
Carl Wiedemeier

Custom

Kyle Groenhagen
Dustin Gorackowski
Scott Albrecht
Clinton Swick
Ryan Oberbroeckling
Jaymes Maciejewski

Finance

Jay Manternach
Andrew Chambers
Matt Reed
Ben Schanbacher
Zach De Rooi
Kate Longley
Ryan Augustine

Machinery

Nicholas Hansen
Ryan Sass
James Salemink
Kyle Vavricek
Ben Shivers
Jordan Picht

Marketing

Bradley Evans
Devin Neuman
Matt Sievers
Johnathan Lichty
Erin Hermiston
Taylor Flynn
Neal Grant

Public Relations

Janelle Hayek
Kelli Krause
Lewis Wenell
Ashley Volk
Kody Trampel
Wes Strohhenn

Swine

Mara Budweg
Sean Inks
Laura Bro
Ashley Baert
Ben Metcalf

SUMMER COMMITTEE NEWS

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CROPS

The Crops Committee worked on scouting the fields weekly and made sure to give weekly reports on how the fields look and what our recommendations are as to spraying. They also met with the local agronomist to give everyone a brief discussion on what to look for and what some of this years problem are and how to fix them. We also had the local Heartland Co-op come and spray the fields when we believed it was needed.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee was in charge of paying bills and maintaining a positive cash flow. A major accomplishment this semester was that the finance committee was able to pay off half of the departmental debt. They also made sure to keep the budget up to date and kept all debt payments up to date.

MACHINERY

The Machinery Committee began by cleaning up the spring field equipment and getting everything put away in the shed to keep it out of the weather. We also brought the Combine back from Van Wall as well as the corn head. We put the sprockets and gathering chains back on. Then finished the semester by assessing what needs to be done on the fall tillage equipment for the next class.

MARKETING

The Marketing Committee fulfilled the July contract by making sure it got to Lincoln Way Energy in the month of July since we had pre sold the corn. We also decided to sell what was left in the bin for the daily selling price at the co-op. They also signed a contract for Oct for 3000 bushels at \$6.06.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations Committee has worked on updating the social media. We have multiple social media accounts such as Twitter, Facebook and a Blog. If you are interested in finding us on any of the above mentioned sites please search ISUAg 450 Farm. We also created a new t-shirt design which we have showed at the bottom of this page.

SWINE

The Swine Committee has finally installed the new cup watering system in nursery. We also got in a new load of piglets and are about to ship out of the finisher. They also got the new bulk bin up and are beginning to work on updating the feeding system. They also made sure to update the emergency calling system for the hog building.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds Committee worked on getting the compost shed completed. Their next big project was to level dirt and remove some of the trees to install our new windbreak since the one that was their previously has been flooded out. There were some small tasks to be completed as fixing the sign, putting up new flags in the front yard of the farm house. Fixing the machine shed doors so they close properly and cleaning up the shop were some of the other small tasks.

CUSTOM

The Custom Operations Committee worked on getting all of the bills out for the custom acres we worked this past spring. We also got a offer for some custom work this coming fall but after we discussed it we had too much on our plate to take on another job.

Committee Members

Buildings & Grounds, Swine, Public Relations & Finance

Evan Schaal
Mairyah Danielsen
Tisha Pol
John Ferneding
Jake Bauer

Machinery, Marketing, Custom Operations & Crops

Travis Oelmann
Justin Lamaak
Katie Mittman
Eric Vogel
Schontonia Davis

