

Custom Swine Operation

In 2007, the Ag 450 farm class voted to switch from a farrow-to-finish swine operation to a custom feeding operation with Swine Graphics. The custom operation committee strives to maintain a disease-free environment while using proper handling techniques and necessary skills for the day to day operations of the custom swine feeding operation.



Crops Operation

Every year, the Ag 450 class strives to produce a corn crop that is above the Story county and state averages. Each year, the class plants a test plot to compare different varieties and to assist with variety selection. Soybean yields have consistently been similar to the state and county averages. The farm uses liquid manure from the finisher as fertilizer on the corn and soybean acres.



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For more information, please visit the
Ag 450 Farm website at
<http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu>

**Iowa State
University
AG 450 Farm**



Mission Statement:

**To be a practical educational resource
for Iowa State University and the
Department of Agricultural Education
and Studies demonstrating quality and
sustainable production agriculture in the
Midwest.**



History of the Ag 450 Farm

In 1938, Dr. William Murray, Professor of Economics, developed the concept of the course and farm. He was convinced that while enrolled at Iowa State, students needed the experience of managing an actual farm to better prepare students entering farming or other related occupations. Dr. Murray's dream became reality when the first AG450 class was offered in the Winter Quarter, 1943 with Dr. Murray as the instructor.

Chronological History of the Farm:

- 1942- The first farm was purchased
- 1943- A farm hand was hired and the first crop was planted
- 1960's– The swine enterprise was expanded and beef cattle were added
- 1980's– More specialization was added to the farm with the acquisition of more land and further expansion of the swine enterprise
- 2007– Farm started custom feeding pigs for Swine Graphics
- 2008– New Ag Mechanics Teaching lab was built on the farm. The farm and the Ag Mechanics classes have access to the lab



Farmstead in 1982



Ag Mechanics Teaching Lab built in 2008

AgEdS 450 Class Structure

The Ag 450 farm has been completely student managed since 1943. Each semester, students are split up into seven committees. Students are challenged by daily issues facing the farm. The farm currently manages about 1,400 acres of crop land and a custom swine operation.



Course organization consists of the following daily activities:

- Lecture is related to farm management and operation in today's agricultural situation
- Hands-on laboratory opportunities to obtain information observe operations, learn skills, and function as committees
- Farm committees that solve problems and make decisions related to the planning and evaluation of farming operations

AgEdS 450 Class Committees

Buildings and Grounds: Works with the farm operator to coordinate the construction, operation, maintenance, repair and keep records for the buildings and grounds on the farm

Crops: Maintains a monthly crop inventory, manages stored grain and the crop enterprise

Finance: Develops and monitors the farm budget including cash flow, year-end financial summaries and debt

Machinery: Acquires, repairs, maintains, keeps machinery management records and use of all farm machinery

Marketing: Monitors grain and hog markets on a weekly basis, reports to the class, and makes marketing recommendations throughout the semester

Public Relations: Promotes the farm by helping with farm tours, writing news releases, updating the website, and communicating with the public

Custom: Manages the custom swine operation and various farming operations for Iowa State University

