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 farmhand 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.
2009-Updated new corn head, traded in 12 row planter to a 16 row planter. Leased a gator for farm use.

Mission Statement:
To be a practical education resource for Iowa State University College of Ag and Life Sciences and the Department of Agriculture Education and Studies.

Ag 450 Farm Contact Information
Iowa State University
Ag 450
Department of Agricultural Education and Studies

For more information, please visit the Ag 450 Farm website at http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
The Iowa State University Ag 450 farm is the only completely student managed farm at a land grant university. Each semester students are split up into eight committees. Students are challenged by daily issues facing the farm. Students currently manages about 1,400 acres of crop land and 1,650 hogs. While students serve only on one committee, they quickly find out that they must collaborate with every committee to make the farm a success.

The mission of the farm is 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. To achieve the farm’s mission, the following goals have been articulated for the farm and course:

- Maintain a self-supporting agricultural entity
- Engage in practical and economical Midwestern production agriculture
- Develop an agricultural farming system (crops and livestock) that uses farming resources (land, labor and capital) efficiently and effectively
- Efficiently and competitively produce and market quality agricultural products
- Implement agricultural production technologies that maintain economic efficiency, agricultural sustainability, and complement cropping and livestock production activities on the farm
- Provide exposure of production agriculture to the public
- Function as a farm management laboratory for students enrolled in AGEDS 450

450 Committees

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

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

Custom
Works with all custom farming operations such as harvesting, planting and field work.

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

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

Public Relations
Promotes the farm by helping with farm tours, writing new releases, updating Web page and communicating with the public

Swine
The swine committee manages the swine operation of the farm.