

# History

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



Farm Address:

52097 260<sup>th</sup> St.  
Ames, IA 50011  
Phone: (515) 292-0742

Professor in Charge:

Dr. Thomas Paulsen  
201 Curtis Hall  
515-294-0047  
tpaulsen@iastate.edu

Farm Manager:

Greg Vogel  
52097 260th St.  
Ames, IA 50011  
515-292-0742

For more information, please visit the Ag 450 Farm website at <http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu> or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Iowa State  
University  
Ag 450

**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



Department of Agricultural  
Education and Studies

# Course Structure

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.



- ⇒ Lecture/discussions related to farm management & operation in today's agricultural environment
- ⇒ Hands-on laboratory opportunities to obtain information, observe operations, learn skills, & function as committees
- ⇒ Farm committees that solve problems & make decisions related to the planning & evaluation of farming operations
- ⇒ Officers elections & business meetings used to decide and implement decisions related to the current & future operation of the farm
- ⇒ Significant experiential learning experience related to the farming operation
- ⇒ Semester-long strategic issues assignments designed to identify, study, analyze and make recommendations for solving critical short & long-term issues facing the farm

# Mission & Goals

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



# Committee Details

Students are selected to be in one of eight committees in the 450 class. Each committee has two to six students. Descriptions of each committee's responsibilities are listed below. The committees present a "state of the farm" report each semester to discuss short-term and long-term goals.



## 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.