



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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450 Class Officers

Chairman

Calvin Pudenz

Vice Chairman

Andrew Rudolphi

Secretary

Kelcey Garrett

Historian

Laura Johnk



Harvest Went Well

Harvest on the 450 farm was a success this year. There were a few hiccups on the way, like the combine catching on fire a few times, however once the kinks were worked out it was smooth sailing. It took about two weeks to do bean harvest and two weeks for corn. It was amazing! We had hardly any drying to do; moisture was around 12-15 percent.

450 Farm Gets A Combine Upgrade

The Ag 450 started to use the newly purchased combine this fall. The Spring 2010 450 farm class has purchased a JD9660 to upgrade from a JD9600. The upgrade moves the farm from a walker combine to a rotor, increasing our capacity and giving us the option to add more acres to our custom harvest operation in the fall.

The class got the opportunity to learn how to use new technology- GreenStar when in the combine. "The new combine is an acre eating machine, it helps the students learn a lot about new machinery and it's abilities to decrease harvest time," said Chad Fertig, Machinery committee member.

Experiential Teaching

This year there has been a new class activity where every committee puts together a lesson about what they do and include the class on helping to get something done. The activities are useful for the farm future and for the future reference of the students. An example of an activity was the Public Relations Committee taught the class how to make a script and a film for advertising what each committees duties and goals are, using filming techniques and being to the point with the information.

New Technology

Each semester the Ag 450 class has student funds to spend on making educational improvements to the farm. As the class has expanded we have decided to use our newly purchased Ag Leader SMS technology units to scout fields for problems, make field boundaries so we know what the acre amount actually is. We are also considering using the new technology to soil sample in the future.

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Committee News

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Fall 2010 Class

Building & Grounds

Calvin Pudenz
Casey Schnieder
Tanner Bohman
Ben Carlson
Nicholas Diers

Crops

Janie Imming
Josh Abel
Tim Graham
Derek Kleve
Nate Mayland
Brad Ruppert

Finance

Kelcey Garrett
Tanner Howard
Trevor Appley

Marketing

Seth Newton
Daniel Jenkins
Kyle Frerichs
Nick Sennert

Machinery

Tyler Wangsness
Chad Fertig
Andrew Rudolphi
Randy Nosbisch

Customs

Neal Siela
Ryan Davison
Nathan Friedman
Daniel Smith
Luke Vierkandt
Matt Royster

Public Relations

Shawna Lee
Lacy Bonner
Abbey Richarson
Laura Johnk

Finance

The Finance committee has spent the semester redesigning the cash flow spreadsheet and reanalyzing past cash flows to obtain the most accurate financial records possible. Having accurate records will greatly benefit the farm and its future. The Finance committee is also responsible for paying bills in a timely manner and keeping up to date on all financial records for the farm. They recently brought it to our attention how much we were paying for DTN satellite, and the class decided to drop the subscription.



Pictured-Machinery Committee members, Chad Fertig, and Andrew Rudolphi stay busy this fall unloading grain.

Marketing

The Marketing committee has been busy filling contracts, watching the market and making new contracts for the upcoming year. The hope is to generate enough money to pay off some long outstanding debt.

Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds committee held a farm clean-up where they invited the Farm Operations club out to help with general up keep of the grounds and the tear down the old hog nursery building. They have still been working on that since the clean-up day and are making very good progress. They have also worked on helping Greg and his wife with the house and different issues that have popped up this semester.

Crops

The Crops committee has kept busy with harvest, deciding whether or not it is a good idea to bale our stalks and preparing for the upcoming planting season. Thanks to good weather conditions, harvest went very smooth and fast. Recommendations of hail and crop insurance were also made to the class. The ripping is about done. The next thing the class is working on is their issue, "Alternative Cropping Options under a Reduction in University Land Base."

Public Relations

The 450 farm is now on YouTube! Visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/ag450farm>. We created the YouTube account for our experiential teaching assignment to showcase the assignment we had the class learn and do. We also still have our blog at <http://www.isuag450farm.blogspot.com/>. We have also recently added the 450 farm on Facebook search for us if you have Facebook at *Isuag fourfifty Farm*.

Machinery

This semester the Machinery committee has kept busy preparing the combine and tillage equipment for the fall harvest. They also spent a lot of time creating a presentation to teach the class about how our new combine works, about how the GreenStar system works and how to measure harvest loss to the ground at harvest time.

Custom Operations

The Customs committee has been busy working on fixing the curtain on the hog finisher building. They have recently been working on the custom farming billing from the tillage, planting and the combine work. They taught the class how to use the auto steer system for their experiential teaching assignment.

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