



# 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

#### President

Scott Beenken

#### Vice President

Brady Smith

#### Secretary

Brianne Tabke

#### Historian

Terry Sponheim

### AG 450 Web site

www.ag450farm.  
iastate.edu



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## FFA 450 Farm



More than 40 FFA students, advisors, and parents toured the Ag 450 Farm during the state FFA contest on April 18-19. Dr. Steiner and the public relations committee led FFA students on a tour of the farm, and discussed the classroom components of the 450 course as well.

## 450 Committee Updates

### Marketing

The marketing committee has been busy from the beginning of the semester. Their goal was to sell everything for a profit. When they took command at the beginning of the semester they were left with 30,000 bushels of corn, 2,500 bushels of soybeans, and hogs to market.

Since February the marketing committee has marketed the following commodities:

- Mini hog contract June 1 - 15  
\$57.31 per hundred weight
- Mini hog contract June 16 - July 15  
\$55.13 per hundred weight
- Full hog contract July 16 - August 15  
\$53.10 per hundred weight
- Mini hog contract August 16 - 31  
\$48.40 per hundred weight
- 2,500 bushels of corn sold at \$1.73
- 2,500 bushels of corn sold at \$1.88
- 2,500 bushels of July corn sold at \$1.83
- Hedge to arrive contract for 5,000 bushels of corn for December 2005  
\$2.30 minus basis
- Hedge to arrive contract for 5,000 bushels of corn for December 2005  
\$2.40 minus basis

The summer marketing committee will face the challenge of watching the soybean market, and selling the remaining corn to make way for the new crop.

## Buildings and Grounds

With recent repairs emphasized on the farm house, the buildings and grounds committee has focused primarily on the farmstead. Throughout the semester the committee set out to complete a variety of projects including graveling the driveways, replacing trees in the windbreak, and making further improvements on the shop and feed handling facilities. The committee has remained busy replacing two windows in the farmhouse. Two Pella windows were purchased from Lowe's to replace the older windows in the house. The committee hopes the two new windows will lower utility costs, and give a more comfortable living environment for the farm manager and his family.

## Machinery

The machinery committee has been busy this last month with organizing the shop and machinery repairs. The shop has been cleaned out and organized for easy use this upcoming planting season. After organizing the shop the committee compiled a list of tools that the farm will need for the planting season. All of the farm's planters are being inspected by John Deere, so they will be ready for planting. The committee is also looking at changing the sprayer nozzles from 30 to 20 inches. The 450 Farm will have its hands full this planting season.

# Spring 2005 Class Roster

## Buildings and Grounds

Neil Einck  
Ross Kuper  
Alex Blood  
Jeremy Feldmann

## Crops

Adam Kramer  
Chris Montag  
Tim Yoder  
Brady Smith  
Brent McDowell  
Brent Thompson

## Finance

Nick Fritzgerald  
Nick Thompson  
Jason Fagan  
Jason Smith  
Pete Burmeister  
Clayton Harms  
Josh Ewoldt

## Marketing

Jordan Branstad  
Mike Kauffman  
Terry Sponheim  
Ray Hauser  
Joe Johanns  
Casey Schleusner

## Machinery

Nate Callahan  
Josh Lyon  
Nate Frein  
Bart Olthoff  
Mike Szydlo  
Scott Beenken

## Swine

Luke Schuldt  
Brianna Tabke  
Jim Wallace  
Kiel Fritz  
Kevin Crawford  
John Readout

## Public Relations

Nick Albright  
Nick Slater  
Tom Ries  
Rob Rudolphi



Pictured to the left are students in the AgEdS 450 course that are working on the 450 Farm's corn test plot. The crops committee collected more than 40 different corn varieties for the test plot, which is located north of the 450 homestead. Corn produced in the test plot is weighed, and records are kept on each variety's yield, test weight, and moisture. All corn grown in the test plot is stored in bins to be fed to the farm's 1,200 head of hogs.

## Finance

This semester's finance committee has tackled the challenge of keeping the 450 Farm current on all bills. When they took over, the new finisher loan was the only loan not current. The committee outlined these following priorities for this semester: stay current on bills, accurate cash flow budget, update breakeven prices, improve current ratio, increase net worth, and improve working capital.

In March the class decided to purchase 300 head of feeder pigs to better utilize the finisher space available. The finance committee has had to recalculate the yearly cash flow because of this purchase.

## Swine

In the swine department, the committee began to implement several changes in the operation. They focused on making the program more efficient, while learning to deal with PRRS. The committee has purchased identification equipment in order to keep better records on sow performance through the PigChamp software. Tattooing and ear tag identification has been completed on nearly the entire sow herd. By having better records on the farm, the swine committee will be able to better manage the sow herd and make more informed decisions to increase profitability.

The committee purchased two boars this semester from Cain Super Sires, and culled several old sows in the herd. One of the goals of the committee was to improve the overall health of the sow herd. The breeding program at the 450 Farm continues to place emphasis on growth, feed efficiency, and high cutability genetics.

## Crops

The crops committee has been busy with planning the materials that will be needed this planting season. The committee decided to plant 417 acres of corn and 220 acres of soybeans. Varieties of corn and soybeans have been purchased from Ag Venture, DeKalb, Pioneer and Northrup King. In order for yields to increase, the committee has worked with vendors to ensure quality yields. This year the crops committee has worked with Northrup King to assist in planting their test plots. The committee thinks that the yields this fall will be above average for Story County.

## Public Relations

The public relations committee has been diligently working at several new tasks including developing a new 450 Farm road sign, PowerPoint presentation for a virtual tour of the farm, spring newsletter, and updating the 450 Farm Web site. They have also been giving 450 Farm tours to FFA members and other student organizations.



Three-hundred feeder pigs were purchased in March to fill the one vacant room in the finisher. The student managers analyzed the impact of PRRS on the farm's market hog inventory, and decided to purchase feeder pigs to fill the finisher to capacity.