



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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AgEds 450 Class Purchases New Planter



The Spring 2009 AgEds 450 Class made a major improvement in efficiency this planting season by upgrading to a John Deere 1770-16 Row Planter. Prior to this semester the

class has been planting with a John Deere 7200-12 Row Planter. This upgrade will allow the class to plant at least 5 more acres an hour. The ability to plant more acres per hour will help the class to be more efficient and timely, even in times of low labor and bad weather.

The next step to increase productivity will be to upgrade the corn head to match the planter. Currently, the farm owns a 6 Row Corn Head and would like to upgrade to an 8 Row Corn Head in the future.

Farm Hand Reaches 25 Year Mark

Roger Leininger started working at the 450 Farm in April of 1984. He retired in 2003, but has ever since been helping through the spring and fall here at the farm. This year marks the 25th year that Roger has been involved in working at the farm and we would like to recognize him for his work and support throughout the years.



AgEds 450 Class in Search of New Labor

With increasing custom operations and long hours in the fields, the AgEds 450 Class is evaluating the best solution for labor shortages. This summer the class will hire a student employee to assist with overall farm operations. This student will perform daily livestock chores, operate machinery for required field work, and work with the farm operator and class to help complete miscellaneous projects.

Ag 450 Farm Employee Requirements

- General Farm Background
- Proficient in Machinery Operations
- Self-motivator
- Good Work Ethic
- Availability for nights and weekend work



Committee News

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Spring 2009 Class

Building & Grounds

Gary Clark
Eric Kropf
Dustin Mortensen
Jeff Schleisman
Garrett Yoder

Crops

Aaron Ellensohn
Brandon Milligan
Dane Reiter
Dusty Rosendahl
Dustin Sage

Customs

Brandon Buffington
Dustin Buetel
Cole Cherland
Jason Hixson
Mary Irlbeck

Finance

Paul Crosman
Tim Couser
Amanda Davis
Marc Johannsen
Mitch Nelson

Machinery

Ross Enslin
Travis Juhl
Carson Marlay
T.J. Mortenson
Dan Oetken
Dustin Wickman

Marketing

Adam Ebert
Jeff Meyer
Zach Neilson
Jared Preston
Jason Steffensmeier

Public Relations

Allson Cairns
Derek Hommer
Megan Marriott
Sarah Rammelsberg

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds committee has kept very busy this semester working on a variety of projects. They removed two hoop buildings, finished putting new steel on the machine shed, repaired the roof on the feed shed, built shelving units for storage, cleaned up scrap metal, and updated utility maps for the farm. In the classroom, they did some organizational updating and installed a new toilet.



Crops

The Crops committee has spent the semester analyzing the input needs for the spring planting season. They have accomplished this by meeting with a variety of seed vendors as well as coops to understand the fertility and seed needs of each specific field. Another task completed was clearing the fence lines of brush to make fieldwork easier.

Custom Operations

The Custom Operations committee worked on a variety of tasks this semester. They put together a plan and budget for custom manure application. They also looked at potential sites for an additional swine facility and priced buildings while providing some upkeep to our current building.

Finance

The Finance committee worked hard at updating financial records and keeping things organized. They developed a Net Worth statement for the farm and created a cash flow budget for 2009. They worked closely with the Marketing committee to determine monthly cash needs and also analyzed the labor needs of the farm currently and into the future.

Public Relations

The Public Relations committee updated the video that is posted on the website to reflect changes to the class and farm. They also updated the farm's website throughout the semester. This committee also purchased a new digital camera to capture the happenings here at the farm. They also worked on organizing computer records to make them more easily accessible to future classes.

Machinery

Besides purchasing the 16-row planter, the Machinery Committee upgraded our major tillage tractors to a 7630 and 8430. Thanks to Ryerson's Implement, we are able to lease these new tractors which allow students to become familiar with new technology. New shovels were also put on the field cultivator.

Marketing

The Marketing Committee was very active in watching market trends this semester and trying to hit the highs. They sold most of the old crop and started pricing new crop. They looked at options as an alternative way of marketing, but it proved to be too expensive for the class. With the use of DTN and the Roach Report this committee was able to stay on top of the markets.

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