



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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Web site

www.ag450farm.
iastate.edu

A "Cheesy" Experience



Students try two different kinds of chevre, goat cheese, produced by Northern Prairie Chevre. Northern Prairie Chevre opened its doors to the public in 2000.

Entrepreneurship

Two days were dedicated this summer in the 450 course to entrepreneurship education. Students learned about the different characteristics of entrepreneurs, types of ventures they could start, how to come up with a business idea, and other entrepreneurial topics. To give students a first hand experience of entrepreneurship, the staff brought in an owner of Northern Prairie Chevre. Northern Prairie Chevre is a business in Woodward, Iowa, that produces fine quality artisan crafted cheeses. Students



Connie Lawrance, pictured above, explained her entrepreneurial venture of processing and marketing different varieties of goat cheese.

had the opportunity to listen to Connie Lawrance, one of the three partners of Northern Prairie Chevre, discuss the rewards and challenges of entrepreneurship.

Feeder Pig Purchases

Students at the 450 farm have added a new learning component to the farm. In 2005 students have decided to purchase more than 800 head of feeder pigs. The feeder pigs are utilizing existing buildings and by locking in a market price, are also adding additional income to the farm. Students are using a software program from Kent Feeds that estimates operating expenses, and allows students to determine a breakeven price needed to be profitable. Students use this program in order to figure out what they can bid for feeder pigs, and how much they can roughly expect in income. Before 2005, feeder pigs had not been brought onto the 450 farm.

Summer 2005 Class Roster

Buildings & Grounds/Swine

Trent Claussen
Brandon Edmonds
Amanda Humpal
Justin Junk
Dale Musser

Crops

Justin Bellcock
Randy Christensen
James Hedges
Rick McMichael
Jason Smith

Finance/ Marketing

Liz Gaskins
Brooke Lueder
Thomas Peckumn
Betsy Rouse
Brent Wedemeyer

Machinery

Adam Kohler
Larry Maher
Ben Pingel
Bryce Rasmusson
Brad Smiley

Ag 450 Summer Committees



**Swine/Buildings &
Grounds**



Crops



Marketing/Finance



Machinery

Summer Accomplishments

Crops

- Scouted fields weekly, communicated with Heartland Co-op and Ag Venture
- Row-crop cultivated Norman farm
- Sprayed key areas at Bates and Brooks farm by hand
- Recommended spraying Bates farm for aphids and weeds

Marketing/Finance

- Forward contracted three contracts of new crop corn with Heartland Co-op in Slater: 7,000 bushels of new crop corn at \$2.08; 2,000 bushels at \$1.83; and 1,000 bushels at \$2.18
- Locked in a three lean hog contracts with Farmland: July 16-August 15 full contract at \$53.10 cwt; October 1-15 mini contract for \$40.70 cwt; December 1-15 mini contract for \$40.26 cwt
- Forward contracted two contracts of new crop soybeans with Heartland Co-op in Slater: 3,000 bushels at \$6.89; and 1,000 bushels at \$6.47

Machinery

- Created a tool inventory
- Purchased a new John Deere Lawnmower
- Prepared silage equipment for fall
- Fixed bean head trailer
- Painted one straight truck
- Fixed silage wagon
- Purchased new tires for combine and one straight truck

Swine/Buildings & Grounds

- Purchased two boars
- Purchased 570 feeder pigs, 20 of them were replacement gilts
- Developed a relationship with veterinary school to regularly test for pregnant sows
- Increased the amount of feed given to the sows to improve sow body condition
- Reduced the sow herd, and placed all sows in the gestation barn
- Improved vaccination program
- Developed a feeder pig contact list



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