



# 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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David Burmiester (Summer)

### Vice Chairman

Megan Seys (Spring)  
Kyle Porter (Summer)

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The Summer 2011 Class



The Spring 2011 Class

## 450 Gets a New Look!

The next time you visit the AgEds 450 Farm, you should recognize a new look to the farm! On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the class successfully tore down two 2,000 bushel bins. The two bins hadn't been used for quite some time so the Buildings and Grounds committee thought it was time to tear them down. The Buildings and Grounds committee has been very busy this semester, which is evident with the cleanliness and organization around the farm.

## Plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Public Relations Committee worked extensively on the plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Agriculture Education curriculum, and the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ag 450 Farm. The event is planned for Saturday, October 22, 2011 before the Iowa State University homecoming game vs. Texas A&M. All alumni that have taken the AgEds 450 farm are welcome to attend. There will be a short program, which will follow with lunch. After the game, the 450 Farm will be open for tours so that alumni can see how the farm continues to change



Above, Sarah changes sweeps on the cultivator during the Machinery Committee Experiential Teaching

## New Technology

This semester, The Ag 450 Farm welcomed the addition of four new laptop computers. Two of the computers were provided by the University's student technology fees, and the other two were purchased with money from the 450 farm's student account. These computers were much needed, and helped the students get a lot of work done during class time. They arrived at the perfect time, as the farm also received a new cabinet, donated by Dr. Harold and Rachel Crawford, to store them.



# Committee News

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## Spring 2011 Class

Cody Dumont  
 Jared Hammen  
 Thomas Schott  
 Bradley Schulte  
 Kevin Wuebker  
 Layton DeGroot  
 Ryan Langel  
 Shawn Lawler  
 Devon Murray  
 Brian Rosburg  
 Brennen Triplett  
 Ross Andersen  
 Corey Bjstrom  
 Brett Brannaman  
 Travis Rinner  
 Megan Seys  
 Jonathan Deerberg  
 Alex Hilbert  
 Kenneth Luckstead  
 Bradley Mauerer  
 Ryan Steinbronn  
 Coryden Taylor  
 Kevin Anderson  
 Jacob Butson  
 Randy Evans  
 Brad Grandgeorge  
 Andrew Schroeder  
 Tyler Whipple  
 Abraham Arndt  
 Ethan Henderson  
 Zachary Moorman  
 Andrew Noland  
 Tyler Paris  
 Sarah Pakala  
 Spencer Jordan  
 Tyler Till  
 Brandon Swanson  
 Beau Skellenger  
 Raven Butteris  
 Joshua Manternack  
 Dan Martwick  
 Bradley Muller  
 Jessica Peter

## Summer 2011

Jenna Alme  
 Levi Bergmann  
 David Burmeister  
 Jesse Deardorff  
 Jeremy Hockman  
 John Kennedy  
 Chad Krull  
 Jared Langel  
 Nathan Legler  
 Brett Ludwig  
 Kyle Porter  
 Sarah Sletten  
 Derek Van Weelden  
 Morgan Weaver  
 Thomas Welter  
 Bret Wiggins



## Finance

The main goal for the summer Finance committee was to improve the transition between semesters at the farm. We wanted to have all records updated so the new finance committee in the fall would be able to see current farm financials on day one. One major step that was made was incorporating QuickBooks on the farm. With QuickBooks, we were able to better track expenses and our current financial standing, giving the finance committee an improved way to show the rest of the class the farm's financial position. We also updated the cash flow statement, addressed discrepancies that were found, and made recommendations for future committees.



Above, the Buildings and Grounds Committee explains how to use bin jacks to take down the bins

## Marketing

The marketing committee of spring 2011 had a very busy semester. To start the season off, the guys learned that the corn had been over marketed by the fall 2010 class. Although this caused temporary panic on the 450 farm, the group pulled together to find a solution, and have come very close to making up the difference. Through their hard work and upbeat attitudes, the spring 2011 marketing committee made the semester a successful one.

## Buildings & Grounds

Buildings and grounds committee was hard at work all throughout the semester. They started out by helping hang the hog curtain and replaced the old one. They were a clean group and wanted everything to be in order so they cleaned up the shop and organized the tools. They went out in the field and cleaned up the dead trees in some of the windbreaks and finished cleaning up the pile of scrap that was left over from the farrowing building that got torn down last fall. The summer class started work on a compost shed. Hopefully it will be completed this fall.

## Crops

The crops committee was busy throughout the semester preparing for planting but with a wet spring, they were never able to get in the fields during the semester. Seeding and fertilizing recommendations were made in consultation with farm vendors. The class also approved full coverage on hail insurance. The summer class installed software for the SMS handhelds, and tried to teach the class how to use them. As of July, the crops look great! All the spraying has been done, side dressed nitrogen has been applied and there's not a lot of insect pressure. Weekly crop scouting, by class members helped in determining recommendations.

## Public Relations

Apart from updating social media sites such as Facebook and the class blog regularly, they were dealt the task of planning a celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ag Education Curriculum & the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 450 farm. As the semester progressed, so did the plans for this event, and much of the framework is done. The tailgate celebration will take place before the homecoming ISU home football game against Texas A&M, and past professors and operators, as well as alumni are expected to be in attendance.

## Machinery

This summer the Ag450 class updated to a new bean platform. The old one didn't match up as well with our current combine. They purchased a 630F John Deere bean platform. The ripper had to have the drag re-installed, and the field cultivator needed to be serviced. Representatives from John Deere gave a tutorial on JD Link, which is installed on all three of the new John Deere 8000R series tractors on the farm.

## Custom Operations

The custom committees have been working hard this semester! This semester the committee was split into custom crops and custom swine to accommodate the large class size. The swine committee has looked into purchasing an alarm system to monitor the finishers and nurseries. The committee has also been researching bringing back beef cattle to the Ag450 farm. The custom crops committee worked with Dr. Mark Honeyman to determine land base of the 450 farm.