



# 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

Carl Horne

#### Vice President

John Stoakes

#### Secretary

Betsy Larsen

#### Historian

Kristin Hammen



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## Spring 2006 AgEdS 450 Class

Spring 2006 has been a busy semester that has brought about several issues for the class to discuss. Important discussions on the 2007 Farm Bill, rising input prices, swine production, and other topics have occurred this semester. Strategic issues have lead to potential significant changes in the swine operation at the farm.

## 450 Committee Updates

### Buildings and Grounds

The buildings and grounds committee has been busy with remodeling the Cargill unit (outside swine building) to bring in more income to the farm by running two set of market hogs through the unit. They have also been working on improving the hog finisher by patching and replacing the curtains on the building. To continue the positive appearance of the farm, this committee has landscaped, maintained and repaired buildings and fences. This semester's buildings and grounds committee as well as past committees, have looked at plans for a potential new grain facility on the farm.

### Finance

Managing the finances of the Ag 450 farm is the main responsibility of the committee. As a team they have strived to keep loan payments up-to-date and to manage bills so that there is adequate cash flow for the entire farm. Several purchases have been made for crops, swine, and equipment this semester. The finance committee has been very efficient in ensuring that we can meet these commitments. The finance committee has developed a cash flow budget for current assets and liabilities, and has produced a budget estimating expenses for the next class.

# Spring 2006 Class

## Buildings and Grounds

Scott Cherne  
Cory Doerder  
Kurt Christensen  
Jason Wessel  
Kyle Hotz

## Crops

Casey Onstot  
John Clefisch  
Evan Beshey  
Brock Wilson  
Brad Smith

## Finance

Jeff Johnson  
Jessica Edge  
Nick Ohrtman  
Carl Horne

## Marketing

Luke Davis  
Noll Ernst  
Michael Lathrop  
Tom Cannon

## Machinery

Gabe Fiscus  
Jared Whitaker  
Dustin Fouch  
Adam Pope  
Adam Banks

## Swine

John Stoakes  
Justin Pringnitz  
Adam Richmann  
John Schubert

## Public Relations

Kristin Hammen  
Betsy Larsen  
Scott McLaughlin  
Landi McFarland  
Ben Syslo

## **AG 450 Web site**

[www.ag450farm.iastate.edu](http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu)

## **Swine**

The swine committee has made many changes to swine production throughout the semester. They have been working on increasing conception rates and lowering mortality by spending extra time in the buildings and ensuring that all of the animals needs are being met. To compensate for the inefficiencies in the farrowing and breeding operation from the contraction of PRRS, they made the decision to purchase feeder pigs to keep the buildings full.



Justin Pringnitz and Adam Richman, swine committee members, vaccinate new feeder pigs at the farm.

## **Marketing**

Major marketing accomplishments for the semester include:

- Sold 2,000 bu. corn to ISU sheep farm at \$1.86 and 1,000 bu. at \$1.91
- Sold 2,500 bu. of new crop soybeans in November at \$2.34 to Heart of Iowa Co-op to be sold to Lincoln Way Energy
- Placed a soybean put option for November 2006 at a \$5.60 strike price and a 16 cent premium
- Sold a mini hog contract for delivery on July 1-15 for \$46.90
- Sold 3,000 bu. of old corn crop to Heartland Co-op at \$1.99/bu. for April delivery

## **Machinery**

Maintaining and repairing farm equipment has been the key goal of the machinery committee this semester. They have also invested in buying a new field cultivator and leasing a larger tractor. The new equipment will allow farm work to be accomplished easier and more efficiently. The machinery committee has also invested much of their time in preparing the planters and tractors for spring work.

## **Crops**

The crops committee has developed planting, chemical, and fertilizer plans for the corn and soybean enterprise this year. They have worked with the ISU land manager and retailers to develop a new fertilizer plan that will be more cost effective. They have also been busy with delivering grain and planting crops.

## **Public Relations**

Keeping information current and easy to read has been a major focus for this semester's public relations committee. As a committee they have updated the Web site and the bulletin boards in the classroom by minimizing text on the Web site and increasing pictures to be displayed. Check out the Web site at: [www.ag450farm.iastate.edu](http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu). They also planned tours for FFA chapters during State FFA Convention in hope to recruit future students.

## **Strategic Issues**

Each semester, committees are faced with an in-depth examination of a subject relating to the farm. The strategic issue for each of the seven committees this semester was to create a strategic plan for each committee and the farm. The strategic issue examined how the farm is currently operating and what changes to the operation should be considered. Topics analyzed by the committees were: vision, mission, objectives, critical issues, strategic goals, multi-year action plans, and measures of success for each committee and the farm.