



The Farm Link

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Spring 2008
Volume 5
Issue 1

Publication of the AgEds 450 Class and the Ag 450 Farm – An ISU Student Managed Farm

Contact Information

Instructor

Tyler Schau
Agricultural Education &
Studies Department
217 Curtiss Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50010-1050
(515) 294-0047
tyschau@iastate.edu

Farm Manager

Greg Vogel
ISU Ag 450 Farm
52097 260th Street
Ames, Iowa 50011
(515) 292-0742
gvogel@iastate.edu

Teaching Assistant

Matthew Clarahan
mclaraha@iastate.edu

450 Class Officers

Chairman

Tom Schroeder

Vice Chairman

Doug Puffet

Secretary

Sarah Gould

Historian

Sarah Cordes

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"The original grain storage was built in the early 60's. It was small and outdated and the farm size has increased, about tripled in the last 15 years. So more storage which will help create better marketing opportunities is a pressing issue for the farm."

– Greg Vogel, ISU 450 Farm Manager.

During the final days of the Fall 2007 semester, the 450 class moved, seconded, and decided on the purchase of a new Brock Brand 50,000 capacity grain bin for the farm. The new bin allows to now store grain on the farm rather than storing at an elevator. Moreover, the new bin allows the class and the Marketing Committee to be more flexible in marketing the farm's grain. Due to the grain bin being purchased it was also necessary for the farm to upgrade to an 82 foot auger in order appropriately utilize the new bin.



The Crops Committee was responsible for handling a very important issue this semester; determining whether or not selling corn stover bales is a viable option for the 450 Farm. In order to appropriately assess the issue the Crops Committee needed to consider many factors in the decision making process. The key factors were, what nutrients will be lost when the stover is removed and the affiliated cost of replacing those nutrients?

The Committee researched publications like, "Nutrient Removal When Harvesting Corn Stover" and established that the nutrients that were of highest concern would be the loss of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Generally there are 3.3 tons of stover removed from an acre which can translate into 66 pounds of nitrogen, 19 pounds of P₂O₅, and 83 pounds of K₂O that will be removed per ton of dry matter. Since the Committee was aware that the bales are not fully dry it is important that the numbers were reduced to an 80% dry weight factor. The Committee was also aware that several macronutrients will also be removed with the Stover such as calcium, magnesium, and sulfur.

With these factors in mind, plus many others, the Committee was able to establish a price for the corn stover. The set price came out to be \$25 per ton.





Spring 2008 Class

Building & Grounds

Doug Puffett
Matt Ramaker
Andrew Butcher
Chris Moore
Ted Knust

Crops

Pat Lennon
Alex Mortenson
Justin Rumble
Haylee Henke
Heather Bear

Finance

Kathryn Rohe
Kirk Anderson
Josh Broseder
Jason Zamastil

Marketing

Tom Schroeder
Blair Lincoln
Aaron Wender
Ben Olson
Johnathan Friedman

Machinery

Kyle Patten
James Nelson
Jim Fitzgerald
Kevin Moeller
Travis Vandersnick

Customs

Ashley Sample
Jackie Johnston
Ryan Vavroch
Ben Zitelman

Public Relations

Sarah Cordes
Sarah Gould
Katie Kotz
Ashley Studer

Machinery

This semester the Machinery Committee was busy maintaining the equipment on the farm. One of the projects that they completed was fixing the planter. The Committee also saw a need to update the



equipment inventory in order to make the farm more efficient. The committee worked with the Finance Committee and the class and decided to sell the 5240 and loader. Moreover, a Parker 550 and 7250 wagon was purchased plus a 624 grain cart.

Finance

The Finance Committee had many responsibilities this semester. First the committee was in charge of working with the University in order to establish a repayment plan of debt owed. The repayment plan was finalized and then passed by the class. The committee also worked on implementing a method of organization of current and past financial records. Moreover, the committee also analyzed the financial status of the farm over the past five years.



Marketing

The Marketing Committee was busy watching the markets all semester and selling the 450 Farm grain at the optimum prices. The Committee sold 15,000 bushels of corn from the previous crop and 10,500 bushels of the new corn crop. A grain storage plan was also developed for the upcoming harvest.



Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings & Grounds Committee was responsible for implementing an equipment storage plan. They also determined the site for where the new grain bin would be placed. The Committee was also busy ensuring the house and the grounds were maintained properly.



Customs

The Customs Committee has been working hard the past few months to develop a manure management plan. Since the farm did not have a plan that complied with DNR regulations it was extremely important that the 450 Farm had an updated manure management plan established. Through careful planning and working with those in the industry, like Kapil Arora the now complies with the DNR.



Crops

Due to the winter and spring weather is was difficult for the Crops



Committee to get in the fields. However, through out the semester the committee worked on organizing the crops records from the past five years. The committee was also responsible for setting the price on corn stove. The price set came out to \$25/ton.

Public Relations

This semester the Public Relations Committee worked at finding ways to help boost summer enrollment. Currently, the summer course has significantly lower attendance than the fall and spring semesters and if the summer enrollment continues to remain too low there is a risk that the course could be cancelled. Cancellation of the summer course means that management would no longer be in the students' hands, thus going against the mission of the 450 Farm. To encourage enrollment the PR Committee developed a mass email for the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences students plus visited the Agricultural Student Council.

