



# The Farm Link

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Spring 2010

Volume 9

Issue 1

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

## Contact Information

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### 450 Class Officers

#### Chairman

Anthony Lackore

#### Vice Chairman

Ben Butcher

#### Secretary

Samantha Ehrhardt

#### Historian

Nicole Meyer

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AG 450 CLASS SPRING 2010

## Endowment Proposed for Teaching Assistant

The public relations committee worked closely with Ryan Harms of the Iowa State University Foundation to establish an endowment to fully support the salary of a three-quarter time teaching assistant grad student. Currently the grad student is currently only working one-quarter time. With this improvement the graduate student may be responsible for teaching the summer semester of AgEds 450 as was the case in previous years. If you are interested in making a donation contact Tom Paulsen, Ag 450 Farm instructor.

## 450 Farm Gets Approved for Combine Upgrade

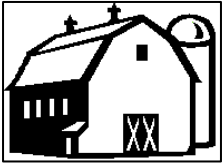
The Ag 450 Farm has been approved to purchase a new combine. After a professional presentation given by the machinery committee to Dr. Mark Honeyman and Dr. Wade Miller of the Ag Ed Department our situation was referred to Dean Wintersteen and approved. The 450 farm has purchased a JD9660 to upgrade from a JD9600. The presentation consisted of a partial budget to show the effect of the purchase on cash flow. Also a comparison of efficiency including money spent on labor and fuel. The upgrade moves the farm from a walker combine to a rotor, increasing our capacity and giving us the option to add more acres to our custom harvest operation in the fall.

## Custom Committee Moves to Purchase Manure Pump

The Ag 450 Farm is currently using a 1,500 gallon honey wagon to transfer manure between buildings. This system has been deemed inefficient as it takes about 38 hours to empty the pit putting tach hours on the leased tractor and costs the farm in labor. After an economic analysis and a vote by the class, the custom committee decided to purchase a Jamesway manure pump. It is rated at 2,000 gal/hr which will cut transfer time to .5 hours saving the farm in both leased tach hours and labors costs.

## New Technology

Each semester the Ag 450 class has student funds to spend on making educational improvements to the farm. As the class has expanded we have slightly outgrown our current computer lab that was kindly donated by Pearl Rathman in 2003. The spring 2010 class has moved to purchase two new lap tops for the finance and public relations committee to keep more accurate records.



# Committee News

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## Fall 2009 Class

### Building & Grounds

Kurt Dunham  
Nick Laubscher  
Josh Pfantz  
Michael Schreck  
Amanda Shelman  
Mark Tapper

### Crops

Lucas Bushong  
Jake Klaver  
Nick Hoffman  
Brian Behrens  
Jay Puffett  
Brian Grote

### Finance

Cory Kuehn  
David Rice  
Chase Crill  
Brooke Jensen  
Alicia Wulf

### Marketing

Jacob Benda  
Tom Clagett  
Brad Derner  
Matthew Knight  
Anthony Lackore  
Amanda Symens

### Machinery

Curtis Bierbaum  
Seth Kloetzer  
Tanner Synhorst  
Ethan Crow  
Chasen Stevenson  
Brandon Shelton

### Customs

Benjamin Butcher  
Austin Berry  
Joseph Brady  
Jordan Eggman  
Garrett Tingwald  
Nicholas Knudsen

### Public Relations

Nicole Meyer  
Kim Flynn  
Kaleb Applegate  
Samantha Ehrhardt



### Machinery

This semester the Machinery committee has kept busy in the shop repairing and preparing equipment for the busy spring ahead. They recently got the planter ready just in time for planting season. They also spent a lot of time creating a presentation in favor of the combine upgrade.



### Crops

The Crops committee has kept busy preparing for the planting season. Thanks to good weather conditions, planting has begun for the year. Crops committee worked with several seed dealers to finalize seed needs. They also talked to Heartland Cooperative to finalize chemicals and fertilizer plans and prices. Recommendations of hail and crop insurance were also made to the class.

### Marketing

The Marketing committee has decided to create an FC Stone account to utilize puts, calls and other options. FC Stone follows historic trends and indicates sell signals. There are generally three to five significant price peaks of sells signals in a spread. The spreadsheet developed will allocate for old and new crop bushels to be sold.

### Finance

The Finance committee has spent the semester redesigning the cash flow spreadsheet and reanalyzing past cash flows to obtain the most accurate financial records possible. Having accurate records will greatly benefit the farm and its future. The Finance committee is also responsible for paying bills in a timely manner and keeping up to date on all financial records for the farm.

### Custom Operations

After some investigation the Custom Operation committee suggested to upgrade the watering system in the barn by installing cup waterers to improve efficiency. With the help of the farm operator Greg and the grad student/farm employee Gary they installed the cup waterers and have decreased water usage considerably.

### Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds committee decided to replace the flooring in the entry way and kitchen of the farm house. They decided to install the floor themselves, learning many carpentry skills. With the help of the class on a sunny spring afternoon they also removed an old fence between two farms fields we operate. Buildings and Grounds will get some assistance cleaning up the farm on the Farm Clean-Up day with the help of the Farm Operations Club. They plan on cleaning road ditches, painting and cleaning up the windbreak.

### Public Relations

The 450 farm is now blogging! The blog spotlights weekly updates of the farm from guest speakers to general labor being done on the farm. Visit our blog and become a follower at: <http://isuag450farm.blogspot.com/> The Public Relations committee has also stayed busy updating the website with pictures and videos. Visit our official website at: <http://www.ag450farm.iastate.edu/>

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