

Alumni:

Greetings Alumni & Friends!

I hope that each of you has prospered in health and happiness this year! It has been an exciting year for the Department of Agriculture, with many changes in faculty and staff, as well as progress made on a number of goals held by the department, and new opportunities discovered. A brief summary of these points follows, and more in-depth information can be found in the articles in this newsletter. Please enjoy reading! And as always, come see us when you can.

Changes in faculty and staff have included: (1) **Dr. Charles Anderson**, Equine professor, retired December 31, 2015, (2) **Dr. Jack Rudolph**, Ag. Education and Ag. Mechanics professor as well as former Department Head, retired July 1, 2016, (3) **Mr. Tim Jones**, Exposition Center Director, resigned to take a similar job at a larger facility in Ohio, (4) **Mr. Ryan Phelps**, Vineyard Technician, left his position to follow an opportunity in another state, (5) **Ms. Lindsay Meeks** left the position of Office Associate in the Department of Agriculture to become the Exposition Center Director, (5) **Ms. DeAnna Durrant** joined the department as our Office Associate, (6) **Mr. Cory Wallace** joined our unit as the Livestock Technician, (7) **Mr. Adam Blessinger** joined as the Dairy Technician, (8) **Mrs. Carla Beu** joined as the Equine Technician, and (9) **Dr. Jennifer Gill** accepted the position of Equine Assistant Professor.

Referencing goals that I relayed to you last year in this publication:

- The farm has made progress on the improvement of our dairy and beef cattle herds. Artificial insemination, a strict culling program, and genetics have helped this effort.
 - The equine program is growing with the addition of our equine technician, quick replacement of our equine professor, and a focused effort to place students in internship experiences.
 - The curriculum was updated with the development of a Precision Agriculture course, which is being offered for the first time this fall semester.
 - The non-thesis Master of Science in Agriculture degree which emphasizes animal science is now fully available online. Tangential to the availability of that coursework, the department now has a corporate partner in AllTech, Inc. In fact, approximately 19 AllTech employees are beginning the degree program this fall.
 - Research and demonstration work for the benefit of our agriculture stakeholders is moving forward. Most recently, the department hosted a first annual Industrial Hemp Conference and Field Day, which drew about 130 participants from as far away as North Carolina and California, and which included representatives of Senator Mitch McConnell's office as well as KY Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles' office.
 - The meat quality and handling laboratory is developing nicely. Funding from the Ogden Dean's Office and from grants is helping to outfit it with the appropriate instrumentation and equipment. It is expected to be operational next semester.
 - The department has been given permission to hire a Beef Specialist! This has been requested for some time and is a real coup for our department.
- Best Regards,
Linda Brown, Department Chair

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If you don't already receive the newsletter by email and you would like to, please send your e-mail address to:

agriculture@wku.edu

2015-2016 Outstanding Agriculture Students (Pictures not available)

The Elmer Gray Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Brett Maxwell
Hillsborough, FL

Outstanding Senior
Molley Scott
Munfordville, KY

Outstanding Agricultural Education Student
Ashley Cottrell
Magnolia, KY

Outstanding Horticulture Student
Corinn Sprigler
Floyds Knobs, IN

Outstanding Agricultural Business Student
Amber Daniel
Hopkinsville, KY

Outstanding Student in Agronomy– Plant Science
Tara Watkins
Frankfort, KY

Outstanding Student in Agronomy– Soil Science
Morgan Gentry
Glasgow, KY

Outstanding Animal Science Student
Tyler Hollis
Bowling Green, KY

Outstanding Turfgrass Management Student
Luke Headley
Hudsonville, MI



The mural of the WKU Farm, painted by Barbara DeGraves, is in the Department of Agriculture's student lounge. Prints of the mural will be sold at the tent during Homecoming. Prints are unframed and are \$20 per print.

Photo by Barbara DeGraves

WKU Retirements

Dr. Charles Anderson
(Effective December 31, 2015)

Dr. Charles Anderson was raised in central Missouri. He earned a B.S. in Agriculture at the University of Missouri, an M.S. in Animal Science from Texas A & M. University and a Ph.D. in Equine Nutrition at the University of Kentucky. He joined the faculty at WKU in the Department of Agriculture in 1978.

The WKU Horse Science Program began with the first horse training class being held in the sink hole behind what most of you know as the “beef barn” (the L.D. Brown Exposition Center was not yet completed). Our herd consisted of 6 donated horses; 2 walking horses, 2 Arabians, and 2 race horses. Since no facilities were available on the farm, the horse herd was moved to the stall barn behind O’Brien Veterinary clinic in Richpound. Horse Science classes were conducted there until the fall of 1982. After receiving a small grant to purchase a truck and trailer, Dr. Anderson began hauling horses to and from the exposition center each day so that students could actually utilize the exposition center arena.

Due to the efforts of Mr. Billy Ray Smith, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner and other interested parties, in 1992, the Kentucky General Assembly established the Equine Revolving Trust Fund for the express purpose of funding development of the 5 existing University Horse Science programs in Kentucky. As an officer of the Council on Postsecondary Education’s, Equine Trust Fund Advisory Council, Dr. Anderson wrote competitive grants and received funding for; the construction of the first Equestrian Center stall barn on the farm in 1993, the construction of the Student Equestrian Center Arena in 2000, and the new 40 stall Equestrian Center horse barn in 2012. Funding for pastures, fencing, tack, and machinery was also afforded through these grants.

Over time, through the buying, selling and trading of donated animals, Dr. Anderson has built the University horse herd up to 40 high quality registered Quarter Horses, making it the only known University herd to have been procured without any cash outlay from the University budget.

Dr. Anderson coached WKU’s Intercollegiate Horse Show Association teams to 2 national championships and 1 reserve national championship as well as numerous regional championship titles. Many more WKU alumni won individual national championship titles while competing on our teams.

Dr. Anderson has directed many research projects focusing primarily on blood glucose and laminitis interactions as well as other animal science topics.

Dr. Anderson’s expertise in equine nutrition and horsemanship will be missed in this department, as well as his sense of humor and commitment to the equine program.

The Department of Agriculture wishes Dr. Anderson the very best in his retirement!



Dr. Jack Rudolph, Jr.
(Effective July 1, 2016)

Dr. Jack Rudolph, Jr. announced his retirement in July 2016. Having joined WKU agriculture faculty in 1994, he completed 22 years of teaching agriculture education and agriculture mechanics at WKU, and he also served 11 years as Head of the Department of Agriculture.

Originally from Virginia, Dr. Rudolph served in the U.S. Navy from 1971 to 1975. Thereafter, he earned a B.S. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, an M.S. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University, all in agriculture education.

Dr. Rudolph was key to the establishment of the Floral Design Training Center on Regents Blvd., construction of a second greenhouse at the WKU Agriculture Research and Education Center (i.e. the farm), improvement and replacement of several miles of fencing, initiation of the cheese processing facility at the Taylor Center, and establishment of the WKU Vineyard. Dr. Rudolph initiated some tremendous cooperative projects during his tenure. One of the most significant is the establishment of The Challenge Course, otherwise known as the ropes course, located at the WKU AREC. It occupies land that was not suited to pasture or row-crop production, but made an excellent staging area for the kinds of leadership development and team-building activities, as well as personal-growth challenges, that are typical of other high-ropes and low-ropes courses. It is a cooperative project that Dr. Rudolph started, and it involves the WKU Office of Intramural Recreational Sports, and the WKU School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport.

The department will miss Dr. Rudolph’s quick wit, as well as his dedication to Agriculture at WKU. The department wishes Dr. Rudolph the very best in his retirement!



Industrial Hemp Field Day

Around 200 hundred participants from around the nation attended the first WKU Agriculture Industrial Hemp Conference and Field Day at the L.D. Brown Exposition Center located on WKU's Agriculture Research and Education Center this past July. Most participants were from Kentucky. However, individuals from Colorado, North Carolina, Washington D.C., and Tennessee also attended the event. Dr. Todd Willian presented past and current research efforts at WKU. In addition, Leah Black and Dr. Tom Keene from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Eric Walker from the University of Tennessee presented seminars during the conference.

Dr. Paul Woosley and graduate student Brett Maxwell headed up field plot tours of current research being conducted at WKU which included hemp cultivar, nitrogen and phosphorus fertility, and weed control studies. In addition to seminars and field plot tours, a round-table discussion was held on the future of industrial hemp in Kentucky and the U.S. The panel consisted of: Tim Thomas, Field Representative for Senator McConnell, Warren Beeler, Director of Ag. Policy for Governor Bevin, Wilson Stone, KY House Representative for District 22, and Brent Burchett, Division Head of Value-added Plant Production for the KDA.

The event successfully brought together industrial hemp producers, processors, researchers, and policy makers to share information and technologies as well to network and collaborate on future efforts to expand the industry. The event also showcased WKU Agriculture's efforts in Industrial Hemp Research. There is tremendous interest and excitement towards industrial hemp production. WKU Agriculture will continue to conduct research in this field in order to better understand and describe the potential of industrial hemp's role in Kentucky's Agriculture Industry. Submitted by: Dr. Paul Woosley



Industrial Hemp Conference 2016



The Agricultural Education program continues to make changes in an effort to stay current on educational trends, practices, and state guidelines. The addition of the AGED 200 course and the new mandated Literacy course will be new additions to the Fall 2016 program area. These courses will compliment the needs of the undergraduates that are making WKU AGED their college and career destination. As students are being asked to complete more requirements in their undergraduate program than ever before, the addition of new courses and stream lining the degree program will enable students to work their way through the discipline and become prepared professionals ready to step into the classroom. The Agricultural Education Society (AES) assisted in implementing these changes and continues to build upon the skills the students already possess.

One of the many highlights from the year was the Purdue/WKU AgEd exchange trip. WKU students went to Purdue University to interact with students in the AgEd program. The group made a few stops along the way to Purdue University. These included: Indiana FFA Leadership Training Center, Wind Turbine Farm, and Fair Oaks Dairy. The students visited and were housed with fellow AgEd students and enjoyed a tour of the campus and exchanging ideas within their undergraduate degree programs.

Another highlight of the year was the spring break Travel trip. Students were given the opportunity to enroll in a course entitled Agricultural Education Explorations in Arizona. WKU AgEd students were able to travel to Arizona to visit recent WKU graduates that are engulfed in Arizona agriculture. Arlee Blaker, AgEd Teacher at the Arizona Agriculture Equine Center - Paradise Valley, and her Husband, Josh Blaker, Assistant Superintendent of the Cochise Course, were gracious to host the students for the duration of the trip. The students visited the University of Arizona and assisted in their State CDE contests. Students served as judges for the state Agriculture Mechanics contest and the Veterinary Science contest. The experience allowed them to compare the differences and similarities from Kentucky contests to Arizona contests. They also toured the AAEC - Paradise Valley with Mrs. Blaker, Cochise course with Mr. Blaker, Buckeye Union High School, and Monument Valley High School. Students were able to tour Tombstone, Grand Canyon, Bisbee Mine, and the Navajo territory.

The final event for the school year was the AES banquet that was held in May and top individuals were rewarded for their efforts for the academic year. Terry Shartzter, the new Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center director was the keynote for the event. Leadership awards were presented to freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors and the senior future teachers were recognized as well. Award recipients were Ben Benton, Emilee Graves, Ashley Cottrell, and Aaron Brooks. Graduating teachers were Kara Back, Erin Bennett, and Aaron Brooks. Ashley Cottrell also received the Ogden College Agricultural Education award. Submitted by: Dr. Thomas Kingery



The Agricultural Education students at the University of Arizona .



WKU students at the Indiana FFA Leadership Training Center.



WKU students at the Bisbee mine in AZ.



Aaron Brooks, Emilee Graves, and Ben Benton receive their AES Leadership awards.

2016-2017 Agricultural Ambassadors



Weston Boone
Agriculture
Leitchfield, KY

Victoria Carter
(Picture Not Available)
Agriculture Education
Salvisa, KY



James Edington
Agriculture Education
Lawrenceburg, KY



Wesley Estes
Agriculture Education
Auburn, KY



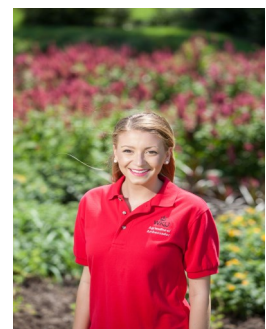
Dixie Major
Agribusiness
Hickman, KY



Julia McClain
Animal Science
Georgetown, KY



Thomas Poole
Agricultural Education
Auburn, KY



Kara Robertson
Agriculture Education
Bardstown, KY

Equine News

The Ag Dept has partnered with Kentucky Downs and Old Friends at Kentucky Downs to offer Co-op opportunities for WKU students interested in the Thoroughbred Racing Industry. Kentucky Downs is open to anyone interested in the racing industry regardless of major. They are willing to tailor experiences to the interest of the student.

Lexie Spohn, an Animal Science major in her senior year, is the first student to participate. She has been working with the re-tired Thoroughbred racehorses at Old Friends and is looking forward to being actively involved in the daily operations of Kentucky Downs during the live racing in September. For more information about this opportunity email Carla Beu, Equine Facilities Technician.

Submitted by: Carla Beu



Agriculture Exposition Center

. Greetings from the WKU L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center! The Expo has been staying busy with many returning events and some newly scheduled events. Many of our events have been here for several years and we appreciate the continued partnership with them. We are excited to have booked some new events for 2017. Check out our website (www.wku.edu/expo) to keep up with events that are scheduled. Also, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

I want to take a minute and introduce myself. My name is Lindsay Meeks and I started as Director of the Agricultural Exposition Center on March 1st. As a graduate of the WKU Department of Agriculture, I am excited about seeing the Expo Center flourish. I look forward to seeing everyone at Homecoming! Go TOPS!

Submitted by: Lindsay Meeks



Agriculture Students Striving for Effective Tomorrows (ASSET) Conference

WKU's Department of Agriculture hosted 23 students at the ASSET (Agriculture Students Striving for Effective Tomorrows) Conference June 12-16, 2016. The five-day conference is designed for students who have completed their junior year of high school and are interested in attending college and studying agriculture. The conference focused on activities that consist of leadership, communication and social development; making the most of a college experience; and created awareness of the opportunities within the agriculture industry. Activities included visiting Diamond C Produce, touring the WKU Farm, learning problem-solving skills at the WKU Challenge Course, and participating in labs which covered topics including animal science, beekeeping, floral design, and electricity.

ASSET Counselors included **Keith Reesor** (Head Counselor), Cecilia, KY; **Jacob Scott**, Sparta, KY; **Emilee Graves**, Springfield, KY; **Erin Masterson**, White Mills, KY; **Cassie Vowels**, Cecilia, KY; **James Edington**, Lawrenceburg, KY; **Julia McClain**, Georgetown, KY; **Victoria Carter**, Harrodsburg, KY.

ASSET participants included: **George Board**, Vine Grove, KY; **Bree Boils**, Albany, KY; **Zachary Brinkley**, Russellville, KY; **Madison Callaghan**, Goodlettsville, TN; **William Clift**, Princeton, KY; **Braaen Florence**, Georgetown, KY; **Logan Haven**, Scottsville, KY; **Courtney Holman**, Tell City, TN; **Emery Hunt**, Brownsville, KY; **Logan Joehl**, Lake St. Louis, MO; **Slaton Kelley**, Brownsville, KY; **Carley Leamer**, Georgetown, KY; **Reiann McGee**, Georgetown, KY; **Andrew Milam**, Olmstead, KY; **Monica Murray**, Upton, KY; **Matthew O'Bryan**, Roundhill, KY; **Abigail Payne**, Maysville, KY; **Edward Price**, Russellville, KY; **Robert Stewart**, Scottsville, KY; **Austin Stigall**, Somerset, KY; **William Taylor**, Lewisburg, KY; **David Williams**, Bloomfield, KY; **Mackenzie Works**, Sadieville, KY;



If you have a high school junior or know of one that might be interested, please contact the Agriculture Department (agriculture@wku.edu) (www.wku.edu/agriculture) and we will make sure that the student receives an application.





Farm improvements

Buildings

Finished 2 new Quonset one for hay storage and one for equipment storage at mulch yard.

Repaired storm damage to older hay storage Quonset and Coverall.

Installed new gutter drain system on north side of free stall barn to keep water off bedding pack

Installed new gutter drain system on equipment storage shed to help keep water from running through shed.

New door on dairy barn that had been widened.

New roof on goat barn and steel sheeting on west end.

Two new heat pumps one for house number 2 and one for house number 3.

New hay conditioner for hay to speed up drying and improve quality.

Equipment

New hay mower without conditioner less damage and faster mowing and better cut.

New small bale accumulator for putting up more small square bales with the idea to be able to sell them.

Used Combine for corn ,soybeans and wheat no more renting or trying to find someone to harvest more timely harvest.

New vertical tillage tool to help in pasture renovation and weed control in land preparation with resistant weeds. Has very good depth control.

New Quarter milking claws at the Dairy for better udder health.

WKU Agriculture Connect

The WKU Agriculture Department's dual credit program, **WKU Ag Connect**, continues to grow in high school districts around the state. Courses that are currently available are ANSC 140: Introduction to Animal Science, AGRO 110: Introduction to Plant Science, AGRI 108: Rural Sociology, and AGRI 101: The Science of Agriculture. These courses offer a foundation for introductory agriculture curriculum at the same expectation that would be represented onsite at a WKU campus. To learn more please contact Lindsey Reynolds at 270-659-6983.



Make A Gift

We hope that you have enjoyed our Newsletter this year. Please make a gift today to support the Department of Agriculture. Your financial support will help with student learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

WKU Department of Agriculture



Please make checks payable to the "WKU Foundation"

Donations can be mailed to:

Department of Agriculture
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd #41066

Or Visit:

www.wku.edu/makeagift

Under Designations type Agriculture

WKU Soil Judging Team

Justin Bary, Zack Choate, Morgan Gentry, Garett Igleheart, Will Kemper, Janis LeMaster, Zack Perry, and Austin Smotherman participated in the 2015 Southern Regional Soil Judging Competition which was hosted by Murray State University. Darwin Newton and Becky Gilfillen went with the group as coaches. The NACTA Soil Judging Contest was held in April 2016 in Crookston, Minnesota. Due to some health problems, both coaches were unable to take the team this spring. We look forward to competing in Auburn, AL in October and Manhattan, KS in April. Congratulations to Zack Choate and Garett Igleheart who graduated in December, 2015 and Justin Bary, Morgan Gentry, Janis LeMaster, and Austin Smotherman who graduated in May, 2016.

Submitted by: Dr. Becky Gilfillen



Agriculture at WKU Glasgow Campus

Among Western Kentucky University's regional establishments, the Glasgow Regional Campus has the highest enrollment of agriculture students. On average, the WKU Glasgow Campus services 60 agriculture major/minors annually. Introductory agriculture courses offered here allow students to start their college careers with schedules and a location that is convenient for working students and those with families to support. Colonnade or general education courses are also abundant and students usually can complete 3 or more semesters before transitioning to Bowling Green. There are also options for study away/study abroad courses for agriculture students at Glasgow. In May of 2016 twelve agriculture students enrolled in The Kentucky Experience study away course, which focused on the diversity of agriculture in Kentucky. Areas of central, northern, and eastern Kentucky were visited on a week-long trip concentrating on animal, plant, and resource industries.

Students studying agriculture at WKU Glasgow Campus also extended efforts of community outreach by being participants in the Barren County Detention Center project Breaking Ground: A Sustainable Garden. This gardening project involves various disciplines with a goal of continuing a fresh food source for the detention center. The environmental science course designed and installed an herb garden in this project and provided information on herb care and usage.

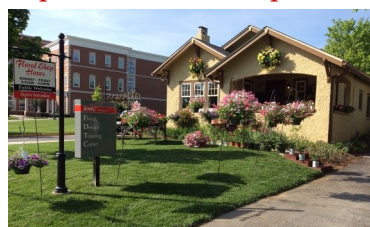


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WKU Floral Shop

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Located behind Gary Ransdell Hall
Open M-F 8 am-5 pm/Sat. 9 am-12 pm



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Candy Jewelry Wind Chimes Candles
Greeting Cards Unique Gifts*

Delivery Service Available

No delivery charge on-campus or to local hospitals and funeral homes

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receive a 20% discount on an in-store purchase
(Expires 12-31-16)

*Valid for in-store use only. One coupon per visit.
Excludes weddings, funerals, and delivery.*

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:

November 12, 2016 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Alumni Gathering

**Graduates from 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986,
1996, 2006 and 2016 will be recognized.**

Saturday, October 22, 2016
Tailgating will begin at 2:30 pm
Remarks at 3:00 pm

WKU Floral Shop

Please call (270) 745-3151 or email
deanna.durrant@wku.edu to RSVP by
October 8, 2016

No charge for the meal
Donations will be accepted.

WKU Football Kickoff—6:00 pm