



New Ground

The Official Newsletter of The College of Agriculture



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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

In a recent interview with Dr. Greg Phillips, Dean of the College of Agriculture, he discussed many issues of importance both in the College of Agriculture and in the broader area of agriculture. These included upcoming events at the college as well as the success of previous events, the expanded role of ASU with the University of Arkansas research at Judd Hill, the role of robotics in the future of agriculture, and a special message to the students.



Greg Phillips, Dean

In the conversation about upcoming events at the college, Dean Phillips mentioned the Bill and Alice Petting Zoo in April as well as the Sage Meadows-Newground Classic Golf Benefit, which Dr. Phillips stressed was of vital importance to the College; the proceeds directly benefit the College of Agriculture students. The funds raised from this event, the dean said, pays travel, lodging and other expenses incurred during official student trips for meetings and activities.

Dr. Phillips stressed the importance of the research taking place at Judd Hill. This is a program that the dean feels is of great importance, as it not only helps research into better cotton production, but is also helps strengthen the relationship between the Judd Hill Research Station, the University of Arkansas and ASU. The dean repeatedly emphasized that this was helping expand ASU's research role and brought a vital and important link to cotton farmers statewide.

"I think that we'll see more impact of technology in the next year" Dr. Phillips stated, referring to internet-based information on agriculture as well as an expanded role of robotics in production agriculture. Although robotics have been used for years in the refining and manufacturing of raw agricultural products, he felt that "robotics will be more in play" in the near future. Dr. Phillips believes that as input costs became more and more costly, there would be a move towards using robotics to help cut labor costs, stating that after the initial cost of the robotic equipment, there would be very minimal operating cost.

Dr. Phillips also had a message for the students in regards to both the past and upcoming events at the College of Agriculture. "My message to the students in agriculture is that they need to take advantage of these opportunities. Farmers need to be innovative and must be able to talk with their colleagues, vendors, and others intelligently." Dr. Phillips related the importance of the events at the college, stressing that these are for the students and are great opportunities for the students to meet with potential employers, networking within their chosen fields of study. He stressed that these events are also an important chance for the students to learn about exciting developments and enable them to intelligently discuss issues that are important to them both as students and future agriculturalists.

Josh Pippenger, Junior Ag Education major, Bradford AR



Dr. Mark Drabenstott, Director, Rural Policy Research Institute - Center for Regional Competitiveness

Agribusiness Conference Features Unique Speakers

Each year the Agribusiness Conference draws more and more interest to Arkansas State University; no surprise, since agriculture accounts for a whopping one quarter of the state's economy. On February 13, 2008, more than 500 attendees flocked to the Fowler Center to enjoy the ASU Agribusiness Conference, co-sponsored by fourteen corporate sponsors. To prepare for the crowds takes an entire year of planning. Dr. Bert Greenwalt, conference coordinator, acknowledged that many are involved in the success of the event. "One or two students assist with preparations during the early spring semester," he noted, "and many students assist on the day of the event." This kind of student involvement prepares them to take on leadership roles in the future.

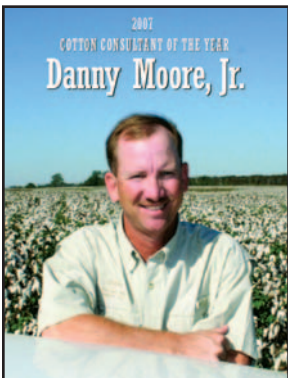
"The ASU Agribusiness Conference is a major service activity for the COA – one which brings several hundred people to campus each year," said Dr. Greenwalt, also a professor of agricultural economics, "The event provides our students a unique educational opportunity, plus the opportunity to network with the conference sponsors and guests." Guests primarily represented Arkansas, but this year, attendees also came from Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, and even Wisconsin.

Dr. Greenwalt's goal is to present nationally known speakers with a broad perspective on trends and issues impacting agriculture. He emphasized the uniqueness of the lectures: there were 15 speakers, and many of them "our guests are not likely to see elsewhere." One great example was the keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Dabenstott, the Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute at University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Drabenstott, an economist who specializes in how regional markets can compete globally, has been frequently invited to speak before Congress on the same issue he spoke on at ASU.

Another noted speaker was Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Richard Bell, who led the panel discussion and fielded questions from the attendees. He presented at the conference last year and is a familiar authority on state and local issues.

Topics ranged from biofuels, carbon credit markets, the role of rural economies in a global market, the impact of the latest Farm Bill, the potential for farmers' market growth in the region, managing business liability, and market outlooks on grain, beef, and other markets. Some of the conference topics are annual, such as the outlook for agriculture commodity markets, while others are chosen based on current events and the availability of speakers.

Stephanie West, Senior Agricultural Education major, Brighton, TN



Reprinted with permission from Cotton Farming magazine

Alumnus Receives National Award

It is not an easy task to be named "Crop Consultant of the Year." Only four Arkansans in 26 years have received it. Danny Moore Jr. of Marion, AR is the latest to achieve this title.

"This is a great honor," Moore noted, "but it still shocks me!" A 1990 graduate of ASU, he began his career soon after graduation when he and three family members began their crop consulting business. They gave consultations on cotton, rice, corn, and soybeans. Today Danny Moore is mainly a cotton consultant. He is very thankful for the success of his business and says that his customers have grown in number each year since he began.

Moore says the hardest task for him to perform is trying to keep up with the latest technology. He also believes that consultants will continue to play a major role in the decisions of many farmers across the area. He says that his wife Paula and his family are a great asset in his company by offering support and encouragement. Moore received his award on January 8 in Nashville, TN at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. Congratulations to Mr. Danny Moore Jr. for his accomplishments and on being named Cotton Consultant of the Year!

Nikki Lenderman, Junior Ag Education major, Brookland, AR

Agricultural Career Fair Returns to Woo Soon-to-be Graduates

On March 26, the Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) and the Agribusiness Club hosted the Second Annual Agricultural Career Fair at the ASU College of Agricultural Building. Tables, posters, and displays lined the hallway and main lobby as students gathered to ask questions and meet possible employers. Eleven companies attended this year: Bunge, Tyson, Townsend, Partners Advantage, Food and Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Bayer Animal Health, Farm Credit Midsouth, ASU Career Services, Greenway Equipment, Ritter Agribusiness, and MWI Veterinarian Supply. Dr. Bud Kennedy, the faculty sponsor for the Career Fair, hopes the Fair will help students with their post-graduation job prospects.

New this year were the resume books put together by the Agribusiness Club. This was a big help for graduating seniors because each company at the Career Fair received one. Margaret Brewer, the representative from ASU Career Services asked, "Who can I contact to tell what a great job has been done with this job fair?" This is a comment any sponsor loves to hear. The hope is that the success of this semester's Career Fair will continue to draw both more companies and a greater diversity in agricultural job prospects to the attention of COA's job-seeking students.

Danielle W. Jones, Senior Animal Science major and President of Delta Tau Alpha, Calico Rock, AR

New Metallurgy Program Begins in Fall of 2008

Dr. Charles Coleman: A Vision for Technology



As the agricultural industry grows more and more dependent on new and emerging technologies, the boundary between the two fields blurs. Dr. Charles Coleman, the director of the Department of Technology in the College of Agriculture, feels that the Technology department "serves the needs of students, industry, and government in Arkansas."

Part of the success of the program has been the incorporation of laboratory training and experience. Students tend to find hands-on training both interesting and pertinent. The Department of Technology has a track record to be proud of. Dr. Coleman boasts that "for the past 3 years [...] all students have gotten a job or have been promoted."

As much as the Department of Technology has grown in recent years, Dr. Coleman still perceives room for growth.

When asked about his vision for the future, he hopes to be able to offer new degrees, such as Associate of Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in industrial engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology. Additionally, all of the technology programs will become certified by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. A non-degree certificate program is also a possibility.

"What our department will look like in five years depends on the support we get from the College of Agriculture and the support we get from industry."

Moytri Roy Chaudhury, Graduate Student, India

Dr. Zac Chaudhury Joins ASU's Technology Program →



Dr. Zariff (Zac) Chaudhury joined the Technology Program in Sept 2007 as an Associate Professor in Metallurgical Technology area. Dr. Chaudhury has worked for more than 29 years as an engineer including positions in industries, R&D and teaching in universities. Before joining ASU, he worked for seven years at Intel's facility near Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1999 he was certified by the state of Arkansas as an Examiner of Quality for industries. He has several years experience in ISO 9001-2000 quality systems. He is a RAB certified Quality Management Systems auditor.

Dr. Chaudhury has authored/co-authored several technical publications in peer reviewed journals. During his Ph.D. work, he identified five new phases which are accepted internationally.

When asked what he found the most appealing about ASU, Chaudhury stated, "A very friendly environment with tremendous opportunity! "

A native of Bangladesh, Dr. Chaudhury resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico before he moved to Jonesboro. He has a wife and 2 children. His wife works as a Software Development Manager in the New Mexico State Gov't. Both of his children are successful college students and one is pursuing a post graduate education.

Dr. Zac stated that the best way for students to learn is "hands on".

"I want my students to not only listen to me lecturing in class out of a book but to also be able to go into a lab and challenge themselves to learn by doing."

David Carwell, Senior Animal Science Major, Wynne AR

Interview with Dr. Zac Chaudhury

What was it that attracted you to ASU?

Since ASU planned to open a new program in metallurgical technology from scratch, I thought it would be good for me. I was an Associate Professor of Metallurgical Engineering Program in the past. I am pleased by the vision of two persons also. One is our Dean Dr. Greg Phillips and the other is our Technology Director Dr. Coleman. I thought if I could be a part of this new journey, it would be great.

Why do you think this program is important to ASU and to the region?

If ASU can help North East Arkansas industries hire manpower with metallurgical background, this will be a huge help for the industries in this region. These industries can reduce hiring people from outside this region. We have already visited several big companies like Hytrol, Thomas and Betts, Southern Casting, Carson Casters, Nucor Steel, and American Railcar Industries. All these companies and more showed interest in our program.

What are the needs of this new program?

We need money to build and equip a Heat Treatment Laboratory and a Materials Characterization Laboratory. We are asking for donations from any sources like personal, private organizations, other state or government agencies.

What will the metallurgy program be like in five years?

We will enroll approximately 20 students per year in this program. So in five years, you will see students graduating with a metallurgy background. If we are successful, we will plan to hire more faculty with metallurgy background so that we can offer other new courses. Once companies see the benefits in learning metallurgy, some of these industries will donate to build our labs and buy new equipments for this program.

Moytri Roy Chaudhury, Graduate Student, India

Student Report from Costa Rica



COA Students at the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica presenting Riceland rice to Ms Katherine Nushiura, the Regional Agricultural Counselor for Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama.

"Buenas dias!" A visitor will hear this frequently, walking up and down any Latin American street. I recently participated in the ASU College of Agriculture's "International Study Tour" which traveled to Costa Rica. It was a remarkable experience! We trekked eight wonderful days over the entire country. The main goal of the trip was to get an understanding of International agriculture. We toured banana plantations, coffee farms, cattle feedlots, swine operations, dairy farms, agricultural universities, technical high schools, volcanoes, and three rain forests.

One of the biggest eye openers for me was learning how sustainable Costa Rican agriculture really was. Nothing was wasted. If it could be put to use, it was. Some of my favorite examples were using methane gas from the animal manure to run house hold appliances, gravity feed fish ponds from a nearby creek that was diverted to the holding ponds and then directed back to the creek, using chicken manure as fertilizer, and using banana stalks for making paper. These are just a few, but it demonstrates what Costa Ricans are trying to accomplish.

Costa Rica's main agriculture commodities revolve around fruit crops and livestock. Large quantities of bananas, coffee, mangos, oranges, and coconuts are grown here and exported all around the world. Cattle, chickens, and swine are also huge commodities in Costa Rica, although these are mainly raised to provide meat for the country instead of exportation. Costa Rica's next largest sources of income are tourism and ornamental plants. About 2 million people visit Costa Rica each year: not bad for a country with only 4 million people.

Without a doubt, Costa Rica is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. It is quite adventurous when to travel across the country, one minute driving down scenic paved roads or by the beach at Jaco, the next minute told to move to the back of the bus because the bus is climbing up a steep hill on a gravel road. There are vast mountains, some of which seem to have a 90 degree incline, and only two hours drive away are rice farms in the flat lands. It is one of the most diverse places I have ever seen.

This experience was the chance in a lifetime. I learned a lot about international agriculture, Latin American culture, and myself. When I went to Costa Rica and saw the locals make do with what they have and then returned home to see that I have everything and more, and yet people still complain about not having something. The trip turned my perspective about life a full 180 degrees and made me really appreciate the fact that I live in America and have the opportunities that I do.

David Carwell – Senior Animal Science major, Wynn AR

The College of Agriculture is delighted COA students have the life-enriching opportunity to travel. Thank you to our donors who make their educational travel possible.



Students take an afternoon ride on the farm where they stayed in Costa Rica.



A tour of botanical gardens at CATIE



David Carwell milks a cow the old fashioned way in Costa Rica



Courtney Russell at a Farmers' Market in Costa Rica learning about Fruits and vegetables.

➔ **WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK GREENWAY EQUIPMENT INC. FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS TRIP.**

MEET THE STUDENT WRITERS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND DEVELOPERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter issue was developed at the request of the Dean by Ag Ed majors in the Alpha Tau Alpha and the Collegiate FFA under the supervision of David Agnew and Joy Holmes and with help from students from other majors. A special thank-you to all who provided photos to include in this issue.

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Joshua Pippenger
David Carwell
Moytri RoyChaudhury
Danielle Jones
Stephanie West
Nikki Lenderman
Jason Somers
Brian Ballew
Evan Hall
Mandy Reilly

Agribusiness Students Visit D.C. with Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce

Four ASU Agribusiness students joined Dr. Bert Greenwalt and fifty members of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Chamber's annual legislative relations trip to Washington D.C. on February 23-27. Students Amy Tacker, Evan Hall, B.J. Fort, and Brian Ballew participated in meetings with Senator Blanche Lincoln, Senator Mark Pryor, Congressman Marion Berry, and their staff members. During the meetings, Chamber leaders made presentations on the infrastructure needs of Northeast Arkansas – including the new ASU overpass. The students also met ASU-J Chancellor Robert Potts and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe. The students' participation in the trip is a project of the Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee.

With Dr. Bert Greenwalt, the students visited American Farm Bureau, John Deere, and Bunge on February 25. At the American Farm Bureau Federation's national headquarters, the students received briefings on the 2008 Farm Bill and animal welfare issues. The students met with John Deere Chief Economist Dr. J.B. Penn in Deere and Company's Washington office and discussed the company's global operations. Dr. Penn is a 1965 graduate of the ASU College of Agriculture and a recipient of the College's Outstanding Alumnus Award. At Bunge's Washington office, the group visited with Mr. Doug McNeely, Center Gulf Regional Manager (who is based in Pine Bluff, AR) and Victoria Sevcik, Director of Government Affairs. The students also had lunch with Mr. Tate Heuer, a 1997 ASU Agribusiness graduate and now a Senior Legislative Assistant for Senator Mark Pryor.

During their free time, the students toured Annapolis, Maryland, Arlington National Cemetery, and participated in a nighttime tour of the Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt Memorials organized by Dr. Len Frey, Dean of the College of Business.

Ms. Amy Tacker, President of the ASU Agribusiness Club, was surprised by the youth of the staff people she met. "I had no idea Washington was run by so many young people" said Amy. Many staff for the Senators and Congressmen are in their twenties. According to Brian Ballew, a valuable benefit of the trip is the relationships he built. "We met so many great people on the trip – both the people in Washington and the people we traveled with from our city" said Brian. He also recommends that College of Agriculture students seriously consider a Washington internship as part of their college education.

*Brian Ballew, Evan Hall, Senior Agribusiness majors
and Dr. Bert Greenwalt, Agribusiness professor*

College of Agriculture Student Hand-selected for Conference in the Nation's Capitol

In January of 2008, The Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. gave me the opportunity to attend their annual winter conference. The Leadership Institute, a 501c 3 nonprofit organization founded in 1979 by Morton Blackwell, identifies recruits, trains, and places conservatives in the public policy process. Each member in attendance was hand selected, with approximately 1 representative from each state.

During the week I was there, I received helpful training in areas that increased my leadership skills, communication, and organizational planning. All of these tools have been tremendous in helping to form and progress the student-led club we began in the fall of 2007. Along with the week's training, representatives from other states were able to bring new ideas to the table. Being the only agriculture major in attendance, I was able to highlight certain political issues in the agriculture community during this year's conference. Modern Americans must remember how essential agriculture truly is to America's economy, playing a vital part in even the political arena. In order to help our way of life progress, we must all stay well informed with new bills and reforms and make our voices heard.

Along with attending the conference, I visited several of the historic sites of Washington D.C. The Vietnam and Lincoln memorials were two of my personal favorites. Viewing these sites brought to mind the true freedoms that we enjoy in our everyday life. Although we may not agree on the political path of our country, surely we can acknowledge the men and women who have fought and died to keep our country free.

Jason Somers, Senior Ag Science major, Piggott AR



*From left to right:
Amy Tacker – President of ASU Agribusiness Club
Mike Beebe – Arkansas Governor
Evan Hall – ASU Ag Council Representative*



*Students visit the John Deere office in Washington D.C.
From left to right:
Brian Ballew – Vice President of ASU Agribusiness Club
Amy Tacker – President of ASU Agribusiness Club
J.B. Penn – Chief Economist, John Deere
Evan Hall – ASU Ag Council Representative
Bert Greenwalt – ASU Professor of Agricultural Economics
BJ Fort – ASU Agribusiness major*

Faculty Kudos

Dr. Zariff (Zac) Chaudhury: Research proposal for "Process improvement and Fabrication of Microscopically Shape Memory Alloy short fiber/Particle Reinforced Metal Matrix Composites" has been granted \$5,000 by the Arkansas State University's Office of Research and Technology Transfer to conduct research during summer 2008 at the Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

Dr. David Agnew and **Mr. David Powell** will be presenting results of research on Agricultural Literacy in May at Reno, Nevada at the National Agricultural Education Research Conference. At the same conference, Doctoral student **Bridgett Duncan** and **Dr. Agnew** will be presenting a poster on recruiting agriculture majors.

Dr. Agnew and **Bridgett Duncan, Debbie DeRossetti, John Davison, Morgan Ruff, David Powell,** and **Okoro Akinyemi** (from Germany) will be presenting five papers at the 15th International Conference on Learning that will be held in Chicago this June.

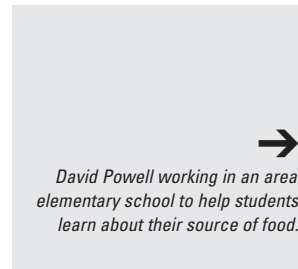
Dr. Charles Coleman received a re-certification as an "engineering technician & technologies" in industrial technology - from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) "sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers."

Dr. Steve Green received the 'Environmental Stewardship Award' presented by the College of Sciences and Mathematics for efforts to increase the environmental sustainability on the ASU campus through student service learning activities.

Graduate Student Research: Agricultural Literacy

David V. Powell, a doctoral student in Educational Leadership, and former graduate assistant from the College of Agriculture is working with five area school districts to implement the Food, Land, and People (FLP) integrated agricultural and academic curriculum. Fall semester teachers in 3rd and 5th grade classes in the participating districts used at least five FLP lessons in their regular academic classes. The goal of this research is to determine the impact on agricultural literacy when students are taught academic content lessons using agricultural issues and contexts. Mr. Powell and Dr. David Agnew (COA/Ag Ed) conducted teacher in-service workshops in June and September of 2007 in the five participating area school. Students were administered a pretest in early September. From September to November teachers used the FLP materials to teach traditional academic course work to the 3rd and 5th graders. Post-test data was collected in early December. Student reactions to the hands-on project-based curriculum have been very positive. Mr. Powell will complete his research and graduate in May with his Ed.D. He has accepted a teacher education position at Southeast Missouri State University for fall of 2008.

David Powell, Doctoral Student, Educational Leadership, Thayer, Missouri



College of Agriculture Honors Banquet



Outstanding Club Members



Dr. Phillips presents Harold Riggan with Alumnus Award



Dr. and Mrs. Jasper Hayles

The College of Agriculture held their annual Spring Honors Banquet on Thursday, April 10. The banquet is held each year to honor numerous students and organizations as well as to announce scholarship recipients. Outstanding Graduating Seniors were as follows: Agriculture Business- Amy Tacker; Animal Science/ Pre-Vet- Danielle W. Jones; Agriculture Education- Joseph V Smith, III; Horticulture- Jarrod Lee Dement; Plant Science-Joseph Blake Richardson; Technology-David A. Taylor. The Outstanding Student Organization award went to the Collegiate FFA, with outstanding member-Amanda Reilly. Other outstanding members of student organizations: Agribusiness-Amy Tacker; Alpha Tau Alpha- Joseph V. Smith, III; Block and Bridle/Pre-Vet-Desiree

Thomas; Delta Tau Alpha- Danielle Jones; and Plant Science- Charles (Chuck) Gratzle. Dr. David Agnew gave special recognition to Dr. Jasper Hayles, a former ASU Agricultural Education professor who retired in 1988 but never had a portrait of him dedicated. There were also three Alumni Awards received by Kyle Blankenship, Harold "Blue" Riggan, and Jim Tubbs. ASU would like to congratulate all of the recipients of awards for all of their hard work and commend them on a job well done!

Nikki Lenderman, Junior Ag Education major, Brookland, AR

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

- Summer I Classes Begin — May 28
- Summer II Classes Begin — June 30
- Regular Classes Begin — August 25
- Labor Day Holiday — September 1
- COA Leadership Conference — September (TBA)
- 2008 Farm & Safety Expo — October 1
- Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday — November 24-29
- Last Day of Class — December 6
- Commencement — December 13
- Agribusiness Conference — February 11, 2009

For more information, please contact us at 870-972-2085 or visit the College of Agriculture Webpage at: <http://agri.astate.edu>

Summer is an ideal time for students to get ahead in their coursework! Summer classes are often smaller, so there is more one-on-one interaction between the professor and the student. Taking only one or two classes at a time also means that the student can devote their academic energies to those classes exclusively, without the distraction of other coursework. Summers at ASU have three terms: full term, first half-term, and second half-term. Students, please remember this as you sign up for your summer coursework.

- Full term: May 28 – August 1, 2008 (10 week course)
- First half term: May 28 – June 27, 2008 (5 week course)
- Second half term: June 30 – August 1, 2008 (5 week course)

The College of Agriculture will have the following courses offered this summer:

AGRI	4201-3	INTERNSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE
ANSC	4633 / 5633	DISEASES OF FARM ANIMALS
ANSC	4743/5733	EQUINE NUTRITION
ANSC	6003	CURRENT ISSUES IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE
FDST	330V	FOOD TECHNOLOGY PRACTICUM
VOED	6503	PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AGEC	3043	MARKETING SPECIALTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
VOED	4513/5513	HANDS ON ACTIVITIES & OBERVATION EXPERIENCES
VOED	4533/5533	METHODS OF ORGANIZING AND TEACHING CAREER ORIENTATION
HORT	4253/5253	GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT
HORT	429V	SP PROBLEMS IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

BSA Degrees offered in:

*Agriculture Business
Agricultural Education
Agriculture Science
Animal Science
Food Science
Plant Science*

Associates Degrees in:

*Technical & Vocational Ed
Food Technology*

Endorsements in:

*Adult Education
Career Education*

— Please cut or tear along dotted line, place in envelope with check, and mail to appropriate address —

Please remember ASU in your Charitable Giving. If you would like to make a gift to the College of Agriculture or the scholarship fund please complete the information below, or go to the ASU Web site: <http://support.astate.edu/OnlineGiving.htm> and complete the form online.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Amount of Gift: _____

- How would like to direct your gift?**
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm & Safety Expo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Food Land and People | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and Water Conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Leadership Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Discretionary Fund (General College Fund) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jasper A. Hayles Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Brinkley Endowment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Langlois Endowment | Other, Please Explain or Specify _____ | |

Send all gifts to the ASU Foundation, P.O. Box 1990, State University AR 72467-1990. If you have questions, you may contact the College of Agriculture at 870-972-2085 or the ASU Foundation Office at 870-225-8343

NORTH DELTA FARM EXPO EXPANDS

The 2nd Annual North Delta Farm Expo was held February 7th and 8th at the Northeast District Fairground in Jonesboro. The College of Agriculture Student Organizations operated the concession stand again to help raise money for each club. The auction this year was larger than last year. Dr. Greg Phillips credited the growing interest in the North Delta Farm Expo partially to the larger-scale auction. "The addition of the farm equipment sale to this year's North Delta Ag Expo proved

to be instrumental in bringing more attendees. The quality of the equipment was very high. The board is considering expanding next year's event to build on this response. We also had numerous positive comments about the quality of the speakers on this year's program." Here is hoping for even more success next year.

Mandy Reilly, Senior AG ED major, Greenbrier, AR

FACULTY RESEARCH

Environmentally-Friendly Control of Phosphorus & Ammonia

Research on the ASU campus has been quite active this year with professors like Dr. Steven Green, Dr. Bud Kennedy, and Dr. Jerry Farris (Associate Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics) making great steps forward in improving the control of phosphorus runoff. Agriculturists know that applying phosphorus is an essential part of any properly managed fertilization program. However, excessive amounts of phosphorus can run off into ground water and pollute drinking water used by both humans and animals. "Grass barriers show promise as an economic alternative to existing conservation practices," noted Dr. Farris.



Runoff collection frame in use

Dr. Green and Dr. Farris developed a research project in which plot borders contain a certain area of top soil. At the end of these plot borders, a containment chamber holds any phosphorus that runs off from fertilizer. These borders are placed on different elevations to allow the research environment to mimic a "real world" application. The frames used to catch the runoff have been built in the Ag Mechanics lab by Mr. Chuck Gratzle an Ag Ed major under the supervision of Dr. Agnew. Three different treatments will be used, chicken litter (due to its popularity in western Arkansas), a chicken litter fertilizer with an additive still in development, and no litter at all. Dr. Farris has high hopes for the outcome of this research. "We hope that this project contributes to [. . .] cost effective practices that reduce pollution and save money." All analysis will be done at the COA Soils Lab with new equipment being provided by the NSF grant.

Dr. Bud Kennedy is conducting related research. The new developmental additive may have some beneficial effects on chicken in poultry houses. Dr. Kennedy, with graduate student Chrissy Harris, traveled to Cave City in order to conduct a trial on six poultry houses. In this trial, three houses were treated with the additive and three were left untreated. When applied with rice hulls, this additive shows the ability to cut back on ammonia levels in the poultry houses.



Chuck Gratzle displaying one of the 12 frames he built to contain the runoff.

Jason Somers, Senior Ag Science major, Piggott AR

Do you have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received that you think should be in the newsletter? If so, please send it to Dr. Greg Phillips at agri@astate.edu

We also ask that you send us your email address that we may send this newsletter by email in the future. Send your email address to: agri@astate.edu

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