Comments from the Department Head  
Dr. Jenkins Britt  

Homecoming  

Plan now to attend Homecoming on October 26, 2002. This year we are recognizing our graduates with reunions based on year of graduation at 5-year intervals. If you graduated in '97, '92, '87, '82, '77, '72, '67, '62, '57, '52, '47, '42, '37, or '32 you have a special invitation to attend this event. Names of our graduates came from the WKU alumni list and “Road to Excellence”, Mr. H. C. Cary’s history of agriculture at WKU. Details of the Homecoming activities are near the end of this newsletter. Of course if you did not graduate in one of those years you still have a special invitation to attend.

New Faces and Places  

If you have not been at the farm or on campus lately you may see several new faces and new facilities. On campus the nutrition lab (room 129) has been converted to a United States Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) lab for animal waste and forage research. USDA-ARS scientist Dr. Karamat Sistani will join WKU scientists Todd Willian, Becky Gilfillen and Byron Sleugh in that lab. Room 124 will be converted to a multi-use lab available to several faculty members. Room 250 has been rearranged so that it can better serve as either a teaching or laboratory room. Room 8 has been rearranged for horticulture labs and teaching. Room 9 will become an engineering lab during construction of the new science building in the former Snell Hall parking lot.

At the farm the new teaching arena built with money from the Equine Trust Fund is finished and in use.

You will want to take a look at that new facility. At the dairy barn a new double 6 New Zealand style milking parlor has replaced the flat barn parlor that has been in use for over 10 years. This parlor is within the stanchion barn, which was built in 1943. The design allowed us to keep 30 stalls for use in teaching labs.

Dr. Paul Woosley joined our faculty in August to replace Dr. Haibo Liu who moved to a position at Clemson. Paul will be teaching and doing research in the area of turf grass management. We currently have made an offer to a new faculty member in the area of horticulture who will likely join our faculty in December. Dr. Jim Martin continues to lead that section even though he has taken optional retirement but still teaches six hours per semester.

You might also see that WKU is busting at its seams with a total enrollment at the main and extended campuses of 17,770 for the Fall of 2002. In agriculture we believe we have the largest new or transfer student enrollment ever with over 150 students going through Orientation Advisement Registration (OAR). That makes our total agricultural enrollment about 517 students. A special thanks goes out to the Ag Ambassadors along with their advisors Drs. Jones and Sleugh for leading our student recruitment efforts.

Financial Support  

We are very thankful with the financial donations or “in kind” contributions many of you make to WKU Agriculture each year. These dollars go for scholarships, faculty development and teaching equipment. Many times those that donate large amounts to the University get the most publicity but we appreciate your support regardless of the amount.
Tours

If you would like to tour the farm or the EST building prior to the Homecoming luncheon we will have Ag Ambassadors at each location to show you what is going on at those sites.

Farm Tour 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon
meet at the Expo Center
EST Department Tour 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
meet at EST room 269

University Farm

Student, alumni, staff, I did not foresee that evolution when I graduated from WKU in 1987. Since beginning my position as WKU farm manager, I have hardly had time to catch my breath. Trying to learn my role, maintain production, and lead staff has been a challenge, but has presented me with the urgency to find fellow alumni and agri-business leaders who want to help develop many of the opportunities awaiting WKU at our university farm. With over twenty work study employees, we need the latest in technology to prepare them for the workplace. We have a tremendous location and many resources that can make partnering with us a win-win situation. We are exploring hosting a major field day event next summer that will include exhibitors, field demonstrations, speakers, and etc. Our farm also can be used as a teaching laboratory for our students, area schools, and area producers. I look forward to hearing your ideas and offers, e-mail me at tim.hughes@wku.edu. - Tim Hughes

Dairy Club

The WKU Dairy Club has been very active over the past year. Our club has traveled to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, the World Dairy Expo in Madison, the Kentucky State Fair, and numerous other weekend trips in surrounding states. While at the State Fair we set up a booth to inform students and passerby-s about our organization. The booth proved to be very valuable as we met with alumni and many other people curious about the dairy industry.

In October our club will return to the World Dairy Expo with a dairy judging team to compete. While in Madison we will view the outstanding cow families exhibited at the show. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and plan to take many more trips to expand our knowledge of the dairy industry. If anyone is interested in supporting the WKU dairy club they can contact Brandon Davis, chapter secretary, at brandonkdavis@yahoo.com. Our officers for the 2002-03 school year are: Brent Mays - President - Green County; Andy Pike, - Vice President - Taylor County; Brandon Davis - Secretary/Treasurer - Green County; and Dustin Adkins - New Member Ambassador - Russell County. - Dairy Club Secretary

Ag Expo Center

The L. D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center has had a very successful year. This past summer, the Expo hosted the American Junior Simmental Association’s Summer Classic XXII. This event brought several hundred youth from across the U. S. and Canada to the WKU Campus. Expo Director, Darrell Towe was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the League of Agricultural and Equine Centers, which is a national professional organization for facility managers. The Expo also received free use of a Kubota M5700 with front loader through a joint effort by Kubota and Yearwood Equipment Company. - Darrell Towe

WKU Collegiate FFA

WKU Agriculture is expanding! Collegiate FFA is the new organization on the block with agriculture education being the emphasis. The club assists agriculture teachers in events such as the WKU Field Day at the farm. WKU FFA has basically taken the place of the Ag-Ed Club. Dr. David Coffey is the advisor as he was the advisor of the Ag-Ed Club. WKU FFA was chartered in June at the Kentucky State FFA Convention.
WKU FFA has a few events lined up, but is experimenting with a few things to get the club up and running. WKU FFA held a recruitment week a few weeks into the semester. They plan on working the state photo booth at the National FFA Convention in Louisville as a fundraiser. There will be an Agriculture Sales contest around November that the WKU FFA is also in charge of. Also, WKU FFA holds monthly meetings where the members get together for socializing, eating, and listening to a guest speaker. WKU FFA is a great experience for both those who have been in FFA and those who haven’t. - WKU Collegiate FFA Reporter

Agronomy Club

We just had our first meeting in which we elected officers, and talked about things that we want to accomplish this semester. The Agronomy Club has three advisors: Drs. Gilfillen, Sleugh, and Willian. The new officers are President, Luke Griffith; Vice President/Treasurer, Stacy Antle; and Secretary/Public Relations, Brandie Murphy.

We are going to try to do some fundraisers, possibly with another club, to earn some money to go on a couple good trips. We had about ten students show up at our last meeting and we hope that a lot more students will get involved. We are open to all majors, there are no dues to pay, and students can join anytime. - Agronomy Club President

Ceres Women’s Fraternity

The Western Kentucky University Chapter of Ceres Women’s Fraternity has been very busy, as the new school year has gotten underway. Ceres has 10 active members and 8 pledges making up their sisterhood this semester. Ceres is very pleased to announce they are finalizing the zoning of their common housing located at 340 E. 14th Street. A new advisor, Ms. Barb Way has joined current Ceres advisor, Ms. Tricia Harper. As a fundraiser, Ceres members will be selling WKU Agriculture Department shirts starting around mid October.

An increased focus of community service, as well as Greek and philanthropic involvement are chief goals for WKU Ceres during the 2002-2003 school year. Ceres members have already begun reaching those goals by volunteering at several local elementary school fall festivals, the Warren County 4-H Mud Fest, and the Bowling Green 10K Classic. Currently a masquerade ball is being planned to help benefit our Philanthropy of Cervical and Breast Cancer Research. In addition a pet wash is also being planned to benefit the Warren County Humane Society. Ceres will be participating in WKU Homecoming week activities in full force! Ceres participation is expected in all campus wide contests and events as members show their Hilltopper Spirit! The Ceres Association will also be holding a meeting during homecoming weekend.

- Ceres Women’s Fraternity Reporter

Newest Faculty Member

I am Paul Woosley, the newest faculty member in the Department of Agriculture. I was hired in August 2002 to fill the position vacated by Dr. Liu. I was raised in Edmonson County and attended WKU from 1992-1996. After graduating from WKU, I enrolled in graduate school at the University of Kentucky where I received my Ph. D. in Turfgrass Science this past summer. I am very excited about returning to Western Kentucky University.

Currently, there are 40-50 students in the Turfgrass Management program. This fall, we are renovating one putting green at the farm to L-93 creeping bentgrass. I am in the processes of implementing the following research program. Currently, we are establishing test plots containing experimental and newly released varieties of creeping bentgrass. In the coming weeks, we will initiate an over-seeding experiment to study the effect of seeding date on winter survival of bermuda grass. Next year, I hope to conduct experiments relating to control of Poa trivialis in creeping bentgrass and identify management practices that expedite the establishment of new seeded bermuda grass varieties. I am the
advisor for the Turf Club, which is currently raising money to attend the GCSAA meeting in Atlanta, GA. I am also an advisory board member of the Kentucky Turfgrass Council. I look forward to meeting and having fellowship with the alumni at this year's meeting. - Paul Woosley

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Homecoming 2002
‘Once Upon a Hill’

October 26, 2002

Farm Tours - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon (CST)
meet at the Expo Center

Department Tours - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon (CST)
meet at EST room 269

Luncheon - 12:30 p.m. (CST)
Garrett Conference Center Ballroom
$15 per plate

Ball game - 4:00 p.m. (CST)
WKU vs. Indiana State

R.S.V.P. by
October 21st

Tel: (270) 745-3151
Fax: (270) 745-5972
E-mail: agriculture@wku.edu
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