Fall 1999

UA66/5 Newsletter

WKU Agriculture

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records

Part of the Agricultural Economics Commons, Agricultural Education Commons, Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons, Dairy Science Commons, Higher Education Administration Commons, Horticulture Commons, and the Other Animal Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records/3180

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
Greetings from the Department Head
By Jenks S. Britt – Head of Agriculture

It has been almost 10 months since I became Head of Agriculture at WKU. I can say it has been a busy time but thanks to our talented faculty and staff the transition has been smooth from my point of view. I was fortunate to follow Ray Johnson and Gordon Jones who both served as interim heads following Luther Hughes who moved to a Vice President position. Both Ray and Gordon did an outstanding job of keeping the department well organized and running efficiently.

We have several Homecoming activities planned for October 22-23, 1999 and I hope you can attend.

You may not recognize some of the new faces in the Department. Dr. Todd Willian is starting his third year at WKU and is an outstanding teacher and researcher in the area of weed and plant science and tobacco. Todd also has industry experience prior to coming to WKU. Todd has generated significant research funding and has been very busy this summer with multiple research projects on the WKU farm.

Dr. Becky Gilfillen has taught soil science this past year and like Todd, Becky has been involved in vegetable and fertility research at the farm this summer. Both Todd and Becky have supported graduate assistants and undergrad students with their summer projects.

Congratulations are due to Dr. Linda Brown-Ferguson who has been promoted to Assistant Dean of Ogden College. Linda will continue to teach one class each semester in the Department.

When is a Farm Not a Farm?

The WKU farm complex has been renamed the Agricultural Research and Exposition Complex (AREC). This new name better identifies the many teaching, exhibition and research activities going on at the farm. The 783 acres includes the Taylor Center which houses the golf course/turf management program as well as the ag-mech program. Drs. Jack Rudolph, Haibo Liu and Mr. Pete Dotson have active research and teaching programs at this location. Jack and Pete have reconstructed the Taylor Center into two teaching and hands-on labs. The AgMech shop behind the Taylor Center is full of mowing, turf and Ag-Mech equipment. About 40 students are enrolled in this program.

The Wetlands is located between the Taylor Center and Dairy Barn and is the site of environmental research on water quality. Dr. David Stiles is active with this project. The Dairy Barn, now in its 56th year of use houses the dairy herd which is about 60% Holstein and 40% Jersey. Current research activities there involve the use of electronic technology to manage reproduction. The Center House, Corner House and Back House all have 4 students each living in them. All of the young ladies who work on the farm live in the Center House.

The Beef Barn houses the working area for the 120 cow beef cow herd. Construction of a new Beef Barn handling and demonstration facility should be under construction by October. A new Machinery Shed is now located adjacent to the Farm Shop. The rear barn near the swine unit now houses a flock of sheep and is now called the Sheep Barn. The Swine Unit is being upgraded with the addition of a new pre-built nursery and the farrowing facilities are due upgrading. Two new metal Hay Barns and one Cover-all barn...
were built by students this last year. The coverall barn houses finishing hogs. Again this year we are continuing our agreement with the City of Bowling Green to accept all of their leaves at our Mulch Site. These leaves are composted for several months and sold to the citizens of the area as leaf compost. This past year compost sales generated over $12,000 in scholarships for agriculture students. Research is being conducted with various types of wood products and manures in an attempt to develop other types of composted products.

A just completed Livestock Facility is behind the EXPO Center. This building can serve as a covered arena or can contain 6 rows of portable stalls which will double the horse and cattle holding capacity of the Expo Center. The Horse Barn located east of the EXPO is home of Western’s famous riding team.

Crop Production at the AREC continues to diversify with increasing research demand. The current emphasis is on forage production.

The farm Greenhouse is being rehabilitated with a new heating and cooling system as well as a new rigid covering. This is part of the farm improvement made possible from monies from the Program of Distinction. The new facility will be used for both teaching and research.

KDA Grants

WKU-Ag has received $700,000 in grants from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in the last 4 years (’96-’97, ’97-’98, ’98-’99, ’99-’00). These funds have been used to upgrade fencing, watering systems, new buildings and equipment at the AREC.

Legislative Funding

State Senator Roger Thomas has assisted in funding construction of the just finished $215,000 Livestock Facility adjacent to the EXPO and the soon to be bid 100’ X 300’ enclosed riding and show facility also adjacent to the EXPO just east of the horse barn.

Faculty Presentations

Jim Martin made a presentation to an international group, the North American Association of Environmental Educators, at their annual conference in Cincinnati, August 29, 1999. The title of the presentation was “A Framework for Teaching Plant Science, K-12.”

Todd Willian is planning a presentation for January, 2000 at the Southern Weed Science Society in Tulsa, OK.

Faculty Research

Research projects for David Coffey include his Plow project. People Learning Others Ways - Model for Language training for Farmers in Spanish and Farm workers in English for Daviess County. Second phase beginning in September with farmers who participated last year going to Level II and a Level I class for beginning farmers. Workers will continue in Level I ESL (English as a Second Language). Last year attendance averaged 42 farmer family members and 26 workers attending each of 10 classes. David’s Ecuador Project with Brenda Oldfield, an ag teacher from Scott County High School, involves working on a grant from USDA funded through the Partners of Americas Farmer-to-Farmer. The program is to create a cross between 4-H and FFA for rural youth leadership development in Ecuador.

Current research for Becky Gilfillen includes the effect of various nutrient sources on yield and quality of tomato, pepper, cabbage, snap bean, and cantaloupe.

Haibo Liu and the Turf Team have conducted several research projects which include bentgrass fairway with different mulch materials as nitrogen input, tall fescue variety trails, seeded Bermuda grass trials, and low soil pH study on the Lincoln Homestead Park Golf Course.

Dave Stiles is continuing his work on the wetlands project. He is also doing research with Jenks Britt in the accuracy of electronic estrus detection using the “Heat Watch” system.

Todd Willian is working with Becky on the above mentioned research project and also has the following
projects which include the evaluation of sulfosate in glyphosate-tolerant soybeans, effect of tillage and clomazone rate on growth of wheat cover-crop following dark fired tobacco, and evaluation of mesotrione for weed control in conventional field corn.

New Curriculum

The WKU Agriculture and Biology Departments are working to establish a Biotechnology curriculum. We hope to have this curriculum in place by the Fall of 2001. This curriculum will train students for the changes in the agriculture job market.

WKU Alumni Ag Leaders

Several WKU Ag Alumni are in major leadership positions in the Southeast. Billy Ray Smith ('65) is the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. His leadership in "value added" marketing has given new ideas for increased farm income in Kentucky. Dr. Jack Britt ('66) is Vice President of the University of Tennessee as head of The Institute of Agriculture which includes the College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Extension Service and the Research Farms. Mr. Billy Joe Mills has been elected as chairman of the UK Board of Regents.

NCAA

Western's riding team coached by Dr. Charles Anderson may become a recognized NCAA women's sport this fall. The riding team finished 6th in the nation in the Spring of '99.

Student Activities

Agriculture Education student teachers who completed student teaching last spring include the following (student name - cooperating high school/high school graduated from are listed): Heidi Hayden - Central Hardin/North Hardin; Tim Adams - Franklin-Simpson/Menifee County; Jay McElwain - Logan County/Muhlenberg North; Brandi Wilson - Metcalfe County/Barren County; Katy Foster - Metcalfe County/Allen County Scottsville; James Bonta - Barren County/Green County; Casey Hall - Henderson County/Apollo; Kristin Hall - Edmonson County/Scott County; Justin Horton - Franklin-Simpson/Wayne County; Chandra Hobbs - Ohio County/Breckinridge County. Thanks to retired teachers Jim Bates and James Bailey for assisting with Student Teacher Supervision. About 20 students are already signed-up for Student Teaching in the Spring of 2000.

We continue to have a strong interest in the Golf Course Management program. Our student numbers are averaging around 40. Our students are busy this fall earning money to attend the Golf Course Superintendents Association Annual Meeting in February in New Orleans. While at the meeting our students will compete in collegiate competition in golf course management. Last year our team placed in the top 15 out of 36 teams in the competition. Several of our students will be involved in the PGA tournament at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, August 2000. One of our students has successfully interviewed and been asked to help a coop student at Augusta Golf Club for the Summer of 2000. As our turf program continues to grow we are having to expand classroom space in the Taylor Ag Center and we (Ag Structure Class) are in the process of building an equipment storage building behind the Ag Mech Shop.

Students in the Horticulture option are required to do at least one summer internship. This year we were able to place two people at Disney World in Orlando, FL, one in Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA, and one at Monrovia Nurseries in Dayton, OR, as well as many in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Ag Ambassadors

The 1998-99 Ag Ambassadors attend the National Ag Ambassadors Conference in January, 1999 in San Luis Obispo, CA. The new Ag Ambassadors have been chosen the 1999-2000 and have begun getting organized as a group.
Club and Fraternity Activities

Under the advisement of Dr. David Coffey, the Agricultural Education Club members are busily preparing for the National FFA Convention to be held for the first time in Louisville during the last week of October. While the department has had a booth at the National FFA Career Show, this will be the first time that our members will assist in other areas.

The Agronomy Club activities, under the advisement of Drs. Todd Willian and Becky Gilfillen, include the Fall Pumpkin Sale (planned again for the Fall of 1999) and visits to area industries of interest (the latest was a visit to BioSource Technologies). The group takes one day trips within the region.

The Block and Bridle Club, under the advisement of Drs. Gordon Jones and Nevil Speer, had an extremely productive and active 1998-1999 academic year. The year began with 14 new initiates in addition to the existing 74 members. Highlights of the year included a visit from cowboy poet Baxter Black in October. Nearly 300 people were in attendance at the Ag Expo Center for this special evening of entertainment. November brought about the Farm-City Day Breakfast in which B and B members made a presentation entitled “The Importance of the Horse Industry to Kentucky” to the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce. Service activities for the year included a donation to the Warren County New Beginnings Riding Program, involvement in the Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family program, a canned food drive with donations going to a local orphanage (Potter Children’s Home) and support of the Paul Lane Memorial Fund. And of course, Block and Bridle members continued time-honored activities such as Little North American, meal preparation, and seasonal get togethers.

On a special note: Congratulations goes to Charles Farber (past Block and Bridle president) as Charles was selected as the 1997-98 National Block and Bridle Outstanding Senior. Charles received his award at the annual convention in Ft. Worth, TX. Charles is currently pursuing a master’s degree at Michigan State University.

The CERES Women’s Fraternity, under the advisement of Dr. Linda Brown-Ferguson and Mrs. Tricia Harper, has had a lot of exciting things happen to the organization in the last few years. In the Spring of 1998 we became an active member in the Panhellenic Council. However, the most exciting news is that in the Spring of 1999 five members moved into the Ceres house, located at 711 Cabel Drive. Currently our membership consists of 14 active members and 6 pledges.

The Dairy Judging Team, under the advisement of Dr. David Stiles, will travel to Maryland, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Louisville, KY on judging trips.

The Horsemen’s Association and Intercollegiate Horse Team, under the advisement of Dr. Charles Anderson, hold monthly meetings featuring guest speakers, produce four intercollegiate horse shows, and compete in twenty intercollegiate horse shows throughout the country.

The members of the Horticulture Club, under the advisement of Dr. Jim Martin, flew to Los Angeles during the Christmas break for a one week visit of horticultural attractions. The Club makes money to support these trips by a poinsettia sale prior to Christmas break and the Spring Plant Sale.

Dr. Jenks Britt is advising a Pre-Vet Club which has recently been formed. Students are planning a trip to Auburn University to visit the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Homecoming Weekend

Mark your calendar for the weekend of October 22-23 for your return to WKU to visit friends, enjoy an Agriculture Alumni luncheon which will involve award presentations and seeing WKU re-enter the OVC football conference. There will be fraternity, sorority, and club activities. The luncheon will be served Saturday, October 23 at 12:30 p.m. in the Garrett Conference Center Ballroom. The charge for the luncheon is $12, you may pay at the time of the luncheon. Please phone (270/745-3151), fax (270/745-5972), or e-mail (agriculture@wku.edu) your reservations to us by October 19. We look forward to seeing you there. If you arrive to campus early and have spare time stop by and visit the farm.
We offer a self-guided tour for anyone interested.

**Donations to the Department of Agriculture**

Thanks to all the donors listed below for your continued support of WKU Agriculture. Your funding allows us to recruit new students, provides some support for our regular students to participate in national activities, and gives us a source of funds for some special faculty needs. Some of you have designated that your contributions be used for much needed undergraduate student scholarships. We are most appreciative to each of you.

**Phonathon Donations (1998 - 1999)**

Ms. Shanna R Abney  
Mr. Gerald Eugene Adams  
Mr. Harry Lindol Adkisson  
Dr. Gary Wayne Akin  
Mr. Frederick David Alcott  
Mrs. June Alcott  
Mr. Mark David Alcott  
Mr. Christopher S Alexander  
Mr. William H Amos  
Mr. John Allen Arnels  
Mrs. Angela Carlton Arnold  
Mr. Kevin D Arnold  
Mr. Carl L Atherton  
Mr. Keith Mason Ayer  
Mrs. Susan E Ayer  
Mr. James W Bailey  
Ms. Karen Bailey  
Mrs. Sandra Kay Baird  
Mr. Thomas Kelly Baird  
Ms. Mary Margaret Baker  
Dr. Rodney Burns Baker  
Dr. James David Baldock  
Mr. Benjamin Thomas Baldwin  
Mrs. Juanita Fay Ballman  
Ms. Ellen F Banks  
Mr. Randall Lee Banks  
Mr. John Mason Barnes  
Mr. James Michael Bartos  
Ms. Mary Batsel  
Mr. Paul W Batsel  
Mr. Robert Norman Beatty  
Mr. Terry Darrin Benton  
Mr. Bradley Wayne Bickett  
Bischoff Equipment Llc  
Mr. Louis Thomas Bischoff  
Dr. Julia Renee Black  
Mr. Charles O. Blair  
Mrs. Mary Blair  
Mr. Charles J Blankenship  
Mr. Gregory Alan Blaydes  
Mrs. Dana Wayne Boden  
Mrs. Rayetta M Boone  
Mr. John Correll Brainard  
Mr. Darrell G Bratcher  
Carolyn Britt  
Dr. Danny G Britt  
Dr. Jack H. Britt  
Dr. Jenks Britt  
Mr. Kevan D Britt  
Mrs. Lucena Kate Filer Britt  
Mr. Ricky Joe Brockman  
Mr. Donald Ray Brown  
Mr. John R Brown  
Mr. Robert Lewis Brown  
Dr. John T Buck  
Mr. David Buckingham  
Ms. Alice A Willis Burks  
Mr. Terry Burks  
Ms. Jessica Mack Burns  
Mr. Charles Thomas Button  
Dr. Samuel Thomas Buttram  
Mr. Kenneth E Byrd  
Mr. Danny J Calvert  
Mrs. Regenia Faye Calvert  
Mr. Max Cambron  
Mr. Kevin Gene Campbell  
Mr. Don F Carlisle  
Mrs. Marilyn Carlisle  
Mr. Billy Wilson Carr  
Ms. Jane W Carr  
Mr. Scott B Carr  
Mr. William Todd Caudill  
Mr. Marty Alan Chandler  
Dr. John J Chewning  
Mr. Anthony Conrad Clark  
Mrs. Betty Claycomb  
Mr. David Wayne Claycomb  
Mr. James Emerson Claycomb  
Mr. Kenneth G Cobb  
Mr. Martin G Cohron  
Dr. James C Coomer  
Mr. James Neal Cooper  
Ms. Karen Marie Cottingham  
Dr. Tim Cottingham  
Mr. Gil Ray Cowles  
Mr. Joe R Cowles  
Mr. William Mason Crawford  
Mr. Ronald Crisp  
Mrs. Martin D Cross  
Col. Clyde Ramey Cunningham  
Mr. Bruce James Currie  
Mr. Wilford Thomas Davenport  
Mr. Donald Lee Davis  
Mr. Herbert C Davis
Mr. Troy Lynn Muse  
Mrs. Julie Renee Crowder Nance  
Mr. Ralph Leonard Nance  
Mr. Ray V Neely  
Sally Neely  
Mr. Chesley E Nell  
Mr. George Septer Neubauer  
Mr. Darwin L Newton  
Mr. Ryan Raymond Niemeier  
North Wayne Animal Hospital  
Mr. Kevin Gene Onken  
Mr. Travis Craig Page  
Mr. Rodney Keith Parmley  
Mr. John David Parish  
Mr. Donald Glenn Patton  
Mr. Garrett Payne  
Ms. Lisabeth Sue Pennington  
Mrs. Pamela Appollock  
Mr. Gregory Wayne Powell  
Mr. Rankin Powell  
Mr. Jason Ray P'pool  
Mr. Jodie P'pool  
Carol Jean Price  
Mr. Michael Howard Price  
Mr. Thomas J Price  
Mr. Ryan Edgar Priest  
Mr. Danny L Prope  
Mrs. Paula Prope  
Mr. Barry Dean Rager  
Mrs. Leslie Marie Rager  
Mr. Bobby E Rakestraw  
Ms. Katrina Ramey  
Mr. Mark Alan Ramey  
Mr. James A Ray  
Ms. Nadine Ray  
Mr. Maitland R Remington  
Dr. Kitty Remington  
Mr. Robert R Rich  
Mr. Tony Ray Rickard  
Mr. Brian R. Roberts  
Mr. William Lee Robertson  
Mr. Mancil D Robinson  
Mr. Jonathan Lee Rogers  
Mrs. Pennye Steele Rogers  
Dr. Sheryl Ann Rogers  
Mr. Ronnie Marrs Rush  
Mr. David Lee Russell  
Mrs. Deborah E. Sailors  
Mr. Christopher Sailors  
Mr. Harold B Salmon  
Mr. Tennyson C Sanderfur  
Mr. Louis Miller Scheidt  
Mrs. Deborah Lynn Scheidt  
Dr. Robert M. Schneider  
Mr. Gregory Edward Schneider  
Mrs. Virginia Schneider  
Ms. Diane M. Schnoes  
Mr. Matthew Kent Schreiber  
Mrs. Catharine Owens Schriver  
Mr. Joseph M Schureck  
Mr. Jay C Scott  
Mr. Robert Franklin Scott  
Mr. Robert D Searcy  
Mr. Edward L Seaton  
Mr. Lance Allen Sennett  
Dr. Deborah Carol Seymour  
Mr. Charles E Shackelford  
Mr. Perry L Sharer  
Mr. Eddie T Sharer  
Ms. Juanita Sharer  
Mr. Daniel Scott Shehan  
Mrs. Donna Michele Shelton  
Mr. Michael T. Shelton  
Mr. John Alexander Shields  
Mr. Robert Todd Shilts  
Dr. John Shirley  
Mrs. Lula Shirley  
Mr. Jeffrey Douglas Shull  
Mrs. Janice Simmons  
Mr. Terry Michael Simon  
Mr. Kenneth Carlos Sims  
Mr. Scott Brian Singleton  
Mr. Richard Landis Skees  
Mr. Michael Smith  
Mr. Morris L Smith  
Mrs. Sandra Kay Smith  
Hon. William Ray Smith  
Dr. David Mitchell Sneed  
Mrs. Susan H Sneed  
Mr. Toby J Southard  
Mr. Joseph Kent Sower  
Mr. David Cleo Sparrow  
Mr. Jerry W Stahl  
Mr. Kenneth Joseph Stalder  
Mrs. Margaret R Stevens Sennett  
Mr. Donald W Stevens  
Ms. Pamela J Stevens  
Mrs. Greta Lynn Stevenson  
Mr. Bart C Stinson  
Mrs. Lorie Lawrence Stinson  
Mr. Gary Frank Stone  
Mr. Wilson L Stone  
Mr. William W Sugg  
Mrs. Ruby Faye Summerhill  
Dr. William Summerhill  
Mrs. Margaret M Sutton  
Dr. Ronnie Sutton  
Mr. Charles Brandon Tarvin  
Mr. Danny Ray Taylor  
Mrs. Sharon Kay Taylor  
Mrs. Mary Jean Tingler  
Mr. Randall Lewis Tingler  
Ms. Letha Jane Tomes  
Mr. Darrell Wayne Towe  
Mrs. Patricia Sue Tucker  
Mr. William Allen Tucker  
Ms. Sherri Lee Ulber  
Mr. Kyle Dudley Vandenbrink  
Mr. John Russell Vickers  
Mr. William Thomas Vincent  
Mr. Shirley D Wagoner  
Mr. Gregory Dale Walker  
Mrs. Susan Walter  
Mr. John H Wells  
Mr. William Shane Wells  
Ms. Ann Westfield  
Mr. Dale A. Westfield  
Elizabeth Westfield  
Mr. Larry C Westfield  
Mrs. Teresa G Westfield  
Mr. Walter R Whitley  
Mr. Ronald Ray Willingham  
Dr. Gregory Lewis Willoughby  
Mrs. Patti Wimsatt  
Mr. Tom Wimsatt  
Mr. David Clark Winchell  
Mr. James Reid Woosley  
Dr. Dennis J Wright  
Dr. Anthony Lee Yates  
Mr. Ernest W Yates  
Mrs. Tina Marie Yates  
Mr. Beverly G Yeiser  
Mr. Joseph Wayne Zoglmann  
Mrs. Susan G Zoglmann  

Donations to the College Heights Foundation (7/1/98-6/30/99)  
Don Adams and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. David Beckner  
Annabel J. Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Brown  
Helen Brown  
Maurice Cole  
KABA Select Sires  
Mark J. McCaulley  
R.K. McGuflrey  
Mid-America Equipment  
Leta K. Perkins  
Ethel Gipson Rector  
Barbara Stroube  
U.S. Tobacco Company  
Leight M. Wilson
Keep us Informed:

We want to hear from you and to share your news with other alumni. Send us your news on this form to the address below. Enclose another sheet if you have additional information.

AGRICULTURE ALUMNI

Name _____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________

Home Phone __________________ Work Phone ________________
Class _______ Degree(s) __________________
Your Employer _______________________________________
Address ___________________________________________

Job Title ___________________________________________
Achievements and Events ________________________________
Comments ___________________________________________

Department of Agriculture
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

Address Correction Requested