



New Ground

The College of Agriculture and Technology Newsletter



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Inside This Issue

Contact Information

Dean's Office (870) 972-2802
Dean

Tim Burcham..... turcham@astate.edu

Ag Studies Office..... (870) 972-3704
Associate Dean

Donald Kennedy..... dkennedy@astate.edu

Agricultural Business

Paul Armah parmah@astate.edu

Bert Greenwalt..... bergt@astate.edu

Mark Jordan..... mjordan@astate.edu

Agricultural Education

David Agnew dagnew@astate.edu

Kevin Humphrey jhumphre@astate.edu

Agricultural Systems Technology

Peter Larbi..... plarbi@astate.edu

Keith Morris..... kmorris@astate.edu

Animal Science

Donald Kennedy..... dkennedy@astate.edu

David Newman..... dneuman@astate.edu

Nathan Wells nswells@astate.edu

Plant & Soil Science

Steve Green sgreen@astate.edu

Keith Morris kmorris@astate.edu

Greg Phillips gphillips@astate.edu

Kim Pittcock kpittcoc@astate.edu

Cal Shumway..... cshumway@astate.edu

Tina Teague..... tteague@astate.edu

Technology

Yi Feng Ren..... yren@astate.edu

Rajesh Sharma..... rsharma@astate.edu

Rick White..... rwhite@astate.edu

Arkansas Biosciences

Carol Cramer..... ccramer@astate.edu

Elizabeth Hood..... ehoo@astate.edu

Brett Savary..... bsavary@astate.edu

Jian Feng (Jay) Xu..... jxu@astate.edu

Agricultural Research (870) 972-2043

U of A Extension

Scott Stilessstiles@astate.edu

From the Desk of the Dean

This fall was filled with many activities and achievements for our college. At the beginning of the semester, the college celebrated the ASU Regional Farmer's Market 10 year anniversary. Our local farmers work so hard to provide fresh produce and crafts for the people of Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas, and they are ambassadors for agriculture as they interact with the thousands of partisans that visit the market! The College of Agriculture and Technology was honored to receive the "2016 Best Market Partner" award from the Arkansas Farmers' Market Association. My congratulations and thanks to all who contribute to the ASU Regional Farmers Market!



The college held the 2nd Annual Ag Fest benefitting Ag for Autism organization this past September. My thanks to the wonderful group of College of Agriculture and Technology students that planned and executed this year's event! It was a rousing success! The college also hosted the 25th Annual Student Leadership Conference at A-State in September.

The college Agriculture & Technology demonstrated its "Pack Pride" by hosting a tailgate social at the 2016 A-State Homecoming game in October. Our new animal science professor, Dr. David Newman, and a group of our college students showcased their cooking skills by roasting a whole pig for the event! The presentation and flavor were simply spectacular!

The Bill and Alice Nix petting zoo continues to provide a wonderful opportunity for children and their parents to get close to tradition farm animals and a number of exotic animal species. In November, the college welcomed Mrs. Kim Bremmer, a nationally recognized motivational speaker to share "The Real Story of Farming" with our students and the general public.

Dr. Bert Greenwalt, Professor of Agricultural Economics was honored as the "Alumnus of the Year" by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas this fall. It was an exciting and memorable fall for our college!

Go Red Wolves!
Dr. Tim Burcham, Dean

ASU Graduate Wins Farm Bureau's Outstanding Educator Award

The Arkansas Farm Bureau recognized Mrs. Leanna Britton of Star City High School as the state's Outstanding Ag Educator. Mrs. Britton was recognized at Farm Bureau's 82nd annual convention held December 1st at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The Outstanding Agricultural Educator Award recognizes a high school agriculture education instructor for efforts in teaching young people about agriculture, leadership and involvement in FFA. The Star City program includes almost 100 students in agricultural education and FFA. Leanna is a 2005 graduate of our college, and her husband John teaches agriculture at Rison and is also a 2005 graduate of the college.



College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology welcomes new faculty member



David Newman is our new Associate Professor of Animal Science. Originally from Myrtle, Mo., Dr. Newman grew up on a diversified livestock operation. Later he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and received his B.S. in Animal Science with a minor in International Agriculture. He then moved on to North Dakota State University earning a Ph.D. in Meat Science and Muscle Physiology.

Dr. Newman currently teaches multiple classes in the field of animal science and conducts research in the area of meat science and muscle biology. Specifically, he has conducted research surrounding meat quality with pork, poultry, beef and lamb. He and his wife, Kristin, son, Cody (4) and daughter Ava (18 months) live on his family farm. Dr. Newman farms with his brother, Chris Newman of Jonesboro, and his mother, Rita Newman, of Myrtle. They own and operate a specialty meat business, Newman Farm Heritage Berkshire Pork, which focuses on marketing premium quality pork to restaurants and other customers throughout the United States.

Arkansas Eastern District FFA Vice President receives scholarship from College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology

Dr. Tim Burcham and Dr. David Agnew with Landon Scott, the newly elected Eastern District VP for the Arkansas FFA Association visited A-State and the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology to receive a scholarship awarded to incoming Arkansas State FFA Officers. Landon is enrolled this fall at A-State.



A-State Graduate in Agricultural Education Selected for National Award



Mr. Robert Bollier, agricultural educator at Lexington Technology Center in Lexington, S.C., is one of six teachers selected nationwide to receive the National Association of Agricultural Educators Ideas Unlimited Award at the NAAE annual convention in Las Vegas on December 3rd. Mr. Bollier is a 1992 graduate of our college with a degree in Agricultural Education.

Mr. Bollier received his award based upon the development of a series of laboratory exercises all centered on an egg. These experiments allow him to incorporate math, science and critical thinking skills into his agriscience classroom. Each of the experiments reviews a different attribute of an ordinary egg and is designed for students to understand more about that attribute. One experiment focusses on the mass of an egg and how the different parts of the egg contribute to that mass.

Another experiment looks at the porosity and permeability of the egg shell, and whether or not it allows the passage of liquid through it. Most of the experiments can be done using eggs from a grocery store, but some do require fertilized chicken eggs.

Each of the six regional Ideas Unlimited winners was recognized at the NAAE convention in Las Vegas. National Geographic Learning | Cengage Learning sponsors the Ideas Unlimited Award. NAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators. Its mission is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service." The NAAE office is located in Lexington, Ky.

(Adapted from an NAAE News Release)

25th Annual Leadership Conference



On September 30, the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology held its annual Leadership Conference at the Convocation Center. This year's Leadership Conference celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Dr. David Agnew, Agricultural Education, and Dr. Bert Greenwalt, Agricultural Economics, recognized a need for student leadership development in our college. Since Dr. Agnew, and his wife, Nelvia, held similar leadership events at a previous university (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), the College of Agriculture experimented with its first Leadership Conference in 1992 at Park Inn in Jonesboro (with 3 students in attendance). This year's attendance increased to over 70 students!



The two student facilitators this year were Mr. Ferrell Wiggins, Alpha Tau Alpha President, and Mr. Samuel King, Agribusiness Club President. They, along with other College club officers, discussed leadership opportunities in which students could become involved. Mrs. Spack, Office of Greek Life at ASU, also spoke about other leadership opportunities across the university.

The second session covered parliamentary procedure. Ms. Haylee Russaw, a senior in the college and accredited Parliamentarian by the Society of Agriculture Education Parliamentarians, lead a session discussing Robert's Rules of Order. Later, the students divided into groups, held their own mini meeting and followed Robert's Rules of Order.

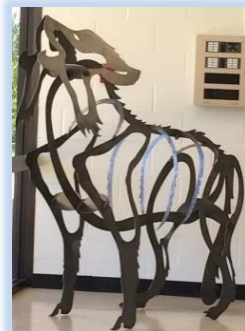


The next session was a lecture about Conflict Management by Mr. Jock Boles, Newton County Farm Bureau President and Retired Extension Agent. The lecture included information about strategies for student leaders.

This year's Alumni Luncheon Speaker was Mr. Tom Baker, Director of the Agriculture Program and Career Pathways at Black River Tech. Mr. Baker was also the Alumni Luncheon Speaker at the first Leadership Conference in 1992. At that time, he was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. This year he spoke about the rise of the world population, the need for greater agricultural output, and how the US farmer was meeting that demand.

New Addition to the Lobby

If you have recently visited the College you may have noticed a new addition to the Lobby. "Wolf," a metal art replica of a wolf was built by the Cross County Agriculture Department. Pictured here are some of the students from the program and Mr. Henry Laxeton (in the back), the Agriculture Teacher who designed "Wolf."





Fifth Annual Renewable Energy Conference

On October 14, the College of Agriculture hosted the Fifth Annual Renewable Energy Conference at the Arkansas State University Carl R. Reng Student Union. The Conference featured invited speakers from industry, research, outreach and education sectors. In addition, several A-State students gave research poster presentations.

“Presentations focused on the emerging areas of renewable energy, energy policy, energy conservation and energy efficiency,” commented Dr. Rajesh Sharma, assistant professor of renewable energy technology and organizer of the conference. “Experts provided overviews of current efforts and challenges in various areas of renewable energy. This conference provided an opportunity for researchers in different sectors of renewable energy to present their work.”

BILL & ALICE NIX PETTING ZOO Celebrates 10 years



In Fall 2006, the College of Agriculture began a free petting zoo on our farm at our beef barn facility. What began as a once per year event has now become a seasonal attraction (fall and spring) for our community.

Prior to the official petting zoo's opening, schools randomly contacted the farm and were given tours primarily of the swine and sheep areas. The petting zoo was created to allow for more interaction between our small visitors and a larger assortment of animals.

A GROWING ENDEAVOR

The petting zoo is now open twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. Animals on display in the zoo have been sheep, miniature donkeys, miniature horses, deer, ducks, chickens, pigs, llamas, bottle fed calves, turkeys, cats, dogs, goats, and rabbits, just to name a few. We try to have as many young offspring of the animals as we can, so children can pet both the adult and baby animals. A hayride throughout the farm is available on zoo weekdays. Long lines also wait outside the chick, duckling, and baby bunny petting areas.



A NEW NAME

In the spring of 2008, the name was officially changed to the Bill and Alice Nix Petting Zoo. The Nix's children have created an endowment to assist in supporting this endeavor. Their generosity has helped raise funds for general improvement of the facilities and expanded public relations for the petting zoo.

This semester the Bill & Alice Nix Petting Zoo was held on October 20 -23, 2016. Faculty, students and other volunteers made the petting zoo a big success.

89th National FFA Convention & ATA Conclave

Several students and Dr. David Agnew from ASU College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology went to the 89th National FFA Convention and ATA Conclave in October in Indianapolis, IN. Students participated in several competitions and lectures while attending the convention. Also, while they were there students manned a both circulating information about A-State and the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology. This year 3 students from A-State, Tylor Moody, Tabitha Hudspeth, and Brett Hale, received their American Farmer Degrees.



Equine Center Hosts Dressage Clinic

The Jonesboro Dressage Club hosted Melissa Jackson in September for a 2-day clinic at the A-State Equine Center. The event was well attended both with riders and auditors, so they decided to host Melissa again in January. Despite bitter cold temperatures and icy roads everyone made it to the clinic and again had a wonderful time. The Equine Center hoped to bring Melissa back in March, but dates are on hold until her mare foals. If there is no March clinic, we will wait until July 2017.

Jayne Ryan, one of our adjunct instructors, said "for information on the clinics, events and other information pertaining to dressage in Arkansas, people can go to the Facebook page *Jonesboro Dressage Club* and keep up with our activities."



Melissa Jackson is a Grand Prix 5* rider and trainer based in Florida. She has trained with many top professionals in this sport, both in the US and in Europe, and brings intelligent, compassionate and friendly experience to our lucky riders in NE Arkansas.

"With a group of students who are highly successful themselves, Melissa does not have to travel a great deal to teach clinics so we are very lucky to have her come to us on a regular basis," say Jayne.

Kim Bremmer shares "The Real Story of Agriculture"

A prominent voice in the national farm women's movement, Kim Brenner, addressed audiences at Arkansas State University on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. She was brought here through a grant received by the Delta Economic Development Center.

Mrs. Bremmer, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, focused on telling what she calls "the real story of agriculture." She uses wit, humor and practical knowledge of agriculture in her presentation, "Celebrating American Agriculture: The Talk Versus the Truth."

Earlier that day, Mrs. Bremmer addressed the Next Gen Ag Career Summit for high school students interested in agriculture.



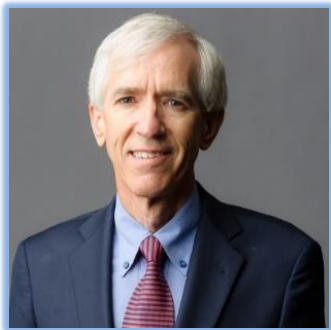


A-State Agribusiness Club Visits Rabo AgriFinance

Twelve members of the A-State Agribusiness club visited the Jonesboro field office of Rabo AgriFinance on November 10. Senior relationship manager, Chris Penn, made a presentation about Rabo's agricultural lending programs and the company's plans for growth. Several A-State agribusiness alumni are employed by Rabo AgriFinance.

Dr. Kevin Humphrey Featured in the Delta Farm Press

The article "ASU biodiesel lab helps power, feed university farm," written by David Bennett, was published in the Delta Farm Press on June 6, 2016. The article discussed the process Dr. Humphrey and his students use to produce the biofuels, and how they use by-products to feed livestock at the A-State farm. <http://www.deltafarmpress.com/soybeans/asu-biodiesel-lab-helps-feed-power-feed-university-farm>



Dr. Bert Greenwalt Receives Alumni Award from University of Arkansas

Dr. Bert Greenwalt was named the 2016-17 Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness in the University of Arkansas' Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at a ceremony on November 4th. Dr. Greenwalt received his M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas.

Michael Van Winkle Visits A-State

Mr. Van Winkle was a judge this week at one of the Eastern District FFA Leadership Development Events held on the A-State campus. Mr. Van Winkle was the national winner of the 1999 Creed Speaking FFA LDE competition while a student at Nettleton High School. Later, he completed a bachelor's degree at A-State in Agricultural Education. He is currently teaching agriculture at Osceola. (left to right, Michael Van Winkle, and Dr. David Agnew).



Eastern District FFA LDE's held at ASU

The Arkansas FFA Eastern District Leadership Development Event (LDE) was held on December 6, 2016, at A-State. The event brought in students from all over the Eastern District of Arkansas who competed in individual and team leadership events. Pictured to the right is the winner, Libby Thornhill, of the annual CDE/LDE scholarship to be awarded by Dr. Burcham. Libby is from Wynne, and her mother is an Animal Science graduate of our college.



Interim Chancellor Tours Meats Lab

Pictured here are Dr. Donald "Bud" Kennedy, Dr. David Newman, Mr. Mark Jordan and Mr. Corey Readnour with Interim Chancellor Whitlock holding a rib roast that was processed by our Meat Science and Processing class. The AG Meats Lab has been operating at full capacity this year with Dr. David Newman, our new Animal Science faculty. Dr. Newman's specialty is meat science. He is making great progress in updating and improving the Meats Lab so students get practical experience in this very "hands-on" course.

Aaron King Holds Welding Workshop for Teachers

In summer 2016, Aaron King, an ATA member and A-State Agricultural Education graduate, held a two-day workshop for teachers. Since he left teaching, Aaron has been to welding school, worked as a welder, and is now teaching welding for Black River Tech on the Paragould campus. The emphasis of the workshop was TIG welding. About 18 agriculture teachers from the region participated.



William "Ferrell" Wiggins Receives Scholarship

Agricultural Education major and ATA President, Ferrell Wiggins was presented a \$1,000 A-State Chancellor's Cabinet Scholarship on November 26th. Mr. Ferrel, his wife and two youngest children are pictured here with Scarlett and How.

Have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received? Please send it to our newsletter! Email us at agri@astate.edu. Please send us your email address so that we may send this newsletter by email in the future. You can send it to the same email address as above.

OTHER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS DURING THE FALL SEMESTER

DR. BERT GREENWALT AND A-STATE AGRIBUSINESS STUDENTS HUNTER BIRAM, AVERY BISE AND GRANT WILSON ATTENDED THE MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN STARKVILLE, MS, ON OCTOBER 28, 2016.

OCTOBER 22, 2016, ANNALISA MARIAH MEREDITH WAS CROWNED 80TH INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN IN CROWLEY, LOUISIANA. SHE CURRENTLY ATTENDS ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY WHERE SHE IS MAJORING IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND PLANS TO GRADUATE IN 2017.

THIRTY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS, DR. BERT GREENWALT, DR. YAMADA MASARU, AND OTHER A-STATE FACULTY AND FRIENDS TOURED THE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS UNION (STFU) MUSEUM IN TYRONZA ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016, THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY HELD THEIR ANNUAL AG FEST CELEBRATION. THERE WAS FOOD AND FUN AND RAFFLE PRIZES. THE PROCEEDS OF AG FEST WENT TO THE LOCAL AG FOR AUTISM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRANT WILSON ON RECEIVING AN INTERNSHIP WITH SENATOR JOHN BOOZMAN IN THE JONESBORO OFFICE. GRANT HAS ALSO BEEN AWARDED A \$500 MARION AND CAROLYN BERRY SCHOLARSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE IN RECOGNITION OF THIS INTERNSHIP. GRANT IS THE FIFTH COAT STUDENT TO SERVE IN SENATOR BOOZMAN'S JONESBORO OFFICE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. ALLYSON BAUGH FOR RECEIVING AN INTERNSHIP WITH REPRESENTATIVE RICK CRAWFORD'S JONESBORO OFFICE. ALLYSON IS A SOPHOMORE AGRIBUSINESS MAJOR.

A-STATE AGRIBUSINESS STUDENTS HUNTER BIRAM, GRANT WILSON, AND AVERY BISE REPRESENTED THE COAT IN THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (AAEA) AG ECON QUIZ BOWL IN BOSTON, MA, ON AUGUST 1.



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
College of
Agriculture & Technology
P.O. Box 1080
State University, AR 72467

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JONESBORO
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