

AgriNaturalist

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Spring 2010 Volume 116



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year's events

As one of the oldest student publications in the United States, the *AgriNaturalist* has a rich history that goes back almost as far as that of The Ohio State University itself. Originally founded in 1870, the university has come a long way since its first class, comprised of just 24 students, and the *AgriNaturalist* has evolved along with it, with the 116th volume being the largest ever printed. This year's installment is a tribute to the storied past of the great Ohio State, as well as its present and future. Within these pages you will read about the history of Neil Farm and Mirror Lake (pg 33), the newly constructed Ohio Union (pg 16) and the transition from quarters to semesters (pg 30).

The College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) has been part of Ohio State since the very beginning, when the Morrill Act of 1862 called for land-grant universities to be established in every state. Originally named the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, Ohio State is no longer just an agricultural institution, but a place where all types of higher education are encouraged. Nonetheless, the roots of this university remain deeply planted in agriculture, with CFAES firmly established as the cornerstone. Top strategic planning analysts agree and have suggested moving the college across the river (pg 28) to become the literal center of Ohio State.

As students during this time of change, the staff of this year's *AgriNaturalist* is proud to be part of the planning process on so many projects. We are excited to leave our own mark on Ohio State and help shape the experiences of future Buckeyes. While change is always difficult, as there are bound to be hiccups along the way, we are also proud to be part of Ohio State tradition. With such big changes happening, it is hard to discern the future of this hallowed university. However, if it has already survived 140 years, I'm positive it will be around for another hundred more, and the students will continue to write about it here in the *AgriNaturalist*.

Tracy Bidwell



2010 AgriNaturalist Staff



From top, left to right: Amy Wensink, Danielle Poland, Tracy Bidwell, Justin Stiers, Ryan Aills, Brutus Buckeye, Heather Kocher, Lyndsey Murphy, Hannah Thompson, Emily Rhoades, Kelsey Holter and Juli Lacumsky. Not pictured: Andy Vance.

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AgriNaturalist is the official publication of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Its purpose is to give practical journalism experience to students and provide faculty, staff and students with a source of information about college issues and current events.

On the Cover: This issue celebrates the history, present and past of The Ohio State University. From horse and buggy to smart technology, our university has come a long way. Cover artwork compiled by Ryan Aills.

CF AES Club Spotlight

By Heather Kocher



Alpha Sigma Upsilon
 To develop a group of women with an interest in Ag and mold them professionally and socially.
 Activities: Relay for Life
 Greek Week Activities
 Ag-Lympics

Clubs holding Regional Conferences at Ohio State next year:
 Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow
 Collegiate 4-H
 FarmHouse - ATZ
 MANRRS
 Sigma Alpha

Norton, Scott, Archer Community Council
 To connect Norton House to CFAES
 Activities: Hog Roast
 Valentine's Party for NSA
 North Campus Winter Dance
 Mario Kan tournaments in Norton
 Recycling Program

Food Science Club
 Activities: Group Ski Trip
 Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House & Habitat for Humanity
 Clothing Drive in the Spring
 Wine Tasting Tuesday
 Next year: Spring Luau
 Work at Farm Science Review

Alpha Gamma Rho
 To make better men and through them a better and broader agriculture.
 Activities: Greek Week Activities
 Mud Tug
 ATI Recruitment
 17th Avenue Clean-up

Delta Theta Sigma
 To promote agriculture and increase Ag Literacy
 Activities: Fire Safety
 Wifflefest
 FSR Recycling Team
 Relay for Life



Western Equestrian Team



OSU Equine Program



OSU Horsemen's Association

The Ohio State Western Equestrian Team is a club sport that provides interested students with the ability to ride and compete in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. Lessons are taught at Autumn Rose Farm, which is located about 20 minutes from campus. A car is not necessary; members often carpool together, and horses and equipment are provided for all lessons. Members have the opportunity to learn Western Horsemanship and Reining with instruction for all levels, no experience or tryouts required! It's an opportunity to make new friends and compete across the country with the 9-time IHSA National Champions.

The Ohio State University Equine Program offers a variety of equine-related courses including: Introduction to Equine Studies, Equine Behavior & Training, Equine Selection & Evaluation, Equine Feeds & Feeding, Equine Facilities, Marketing & Management, and Equine Production. The program hosts internships in the areas of Equine behavior and training, equine reproduction, stable management, and the Ohio 4-H horse program, as well as research opportunities in equine nutrition, behavior/welfare, and reproductive physiology. Students are able to help coordinate the annual student-produced Buckeye Bonanza Horse Sale and Silent Auction, as well as the facility open house.

The Horsemen's Association strives to educate both members and the community about the horse industry through service, social, and educational events. The organization has been active on campus since 1995, and hosts an annual Mid-Winter Clinic that draws in both professional and amateur equestrians from across the Midwest. The association works in conjunction with the 4-H program and outside equine affiliations to carry out equine related service projects, both on and off campus. Members have the opportunity to travel to events such as Rolex Three Day Event in Kentucky and ride in scenic southern Ohio on an annual fall trail ride.

For more information, please contact:
 Debbie Griffith (614)-764-1881

For more information, please refer to:
equine.osu.edu

For more information, please refer to:
horsemens.org.ohio-state.edu

BUCKEYES ARE ALWAYS BETTER THAN AVERAGE

A New Center of Excellence in Ag

Story by Andy Vance



By all accounts, Jim Tressel is a pretty good football coach. A few sports writers, coaches, fans and awards committees thought Evan Turner was a decent basketball player this season.

Calling Jim Tressel a “pretty good football coach” is not the most accurate description of his record of achievement. Likewise, winning every conceivable “Player of the Year” award in NCAA basketball probably qualifies as better than “decent.”

Ohio State abounds with examples of individuals, teams and organizations that perform with excellence. The College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at Ohio State, long outstanding in its areas of expertise, is now officially the state’s “Center of Excellence in Agriculture, Food Production and Bioproducts.”

Outstanding In Its Field

The designation as a “Center of Excellence” is an effort by state leaders to propel Ohio’s institutes of higher learning into national prominence. “We want the University System of Ohio, our major universities, branch campuses, community colleges (and) technical schools ... to be the strongest system in America,” said Gov. Ted Strickland when announcing the new program.

Strickland and Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut named six centers in specialties including, Aerospace and Advanced Travel, Biomedical Healthcare and Advanced Energy. “Designating these centers of excellence will be a major step forward in helping these institutions become not among the best, but the best, in the entire nation,” Strickland said.

“We can’t exist without Ohio State.”

Ohio Director of Agriculture Robert Boggs says synergy between his department and Ohio State is stronger than ever. “The point is we can’t exist without Ohio State. We can’t do our job protecting the food supply without Ohio State. So we ... find creative ways that we can work together.” Boggs says the department and the university work together literally every day: “I think we’re the only place in the country where you have university researchers and professors working side by side with state regulators.”

Lynn Wischmeyer, a junior in food science, says studying at a Center of Excellence is a source of Buckeye pride: “Learning and working in an institution recognized in this manner by the state of Ohio is an honor,” she said. The Ohio State marketing campaign slogan is “Do Something Great.” The students of Ohio’s new Center of Excellence in Agriculture, Food Production and Bioproducts may never coach a team to a national title game or score a triple-double, but in CFAES they will know they are truly excellent. 📍

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Critique Contest - Networking - Conferences - Industry - Tours - Internships



An Unlikely superhero

By Lyndsey Murphy

In the summer of 2002 a problem arose so great and so unpredictable that even Superman, Batman and Captain America couldn't handle it. A felon was terrorizing huge areas of Canada and the United States, sweeping through so fast that no one knew how to control it. But instead of leaping over buildings and crashing through walls to stop this felon, the hero of our story used another super talent to understand the criminal of these crimes, his brain.

Our hero is none other than Dan Herms, Ph. D., and our felon is a small, metallic green insect named the Emerald Ash Borer. When this exotic green beetle was found in southeastern Michigan in 2002,

no one was aware that the near extinction of ash trees in eastern Canada and the Midwest was already beginning. This small green insect, which can fly for only five months out of the year, managed to decimate 99.99 percent of Ohio's ash tree population in only seven years. It is estimated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that this small green insect has laid waste to 10 percent of Ohio's total forest population and cost citizens and the government more than \$3 million dollars trying to stop the spread of this microscopic villain.

Herms is one of the United States' foremost researchers on this devastating insect and his research at The Ohio State University is currently focused on figuring out ways to repopulate Ohio's forest and understanding how the demolished ash tree forests are reacting now. "I focus on the ecology and management of insects that colonize trees, shrubs, forests, landscapes, Christmas tree farms, parks and urban forests," Herms said.

As of 2003 Herms' job description also includes leading a team of graduate students and industry professionals, that at times can be up to 12 people, studying the environmental impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer. His research includes trying to find a resistant ash tree and developing an insecticide for legacy trees, which are trees that are part of a resident's backyard and have importance to families.

"Dan is an internationally known researcher in his field," said Steve Slack, Ph. D., associate vice president of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and associate dean of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. "Dan is one of the few real experts in the country addressing this problem."

Herms' inquiring mind has gotten him recognition from prestigious academic sources including the American Society for Horticultural Sciences, the North Central

Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Herms received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State, double

majoring in landscape horticulture and entomology for his master's degree. After receiving his doctorate from Michigan State University he spent five years as an assistant professor, all the while working at the Dow Botanic Gardens in Midland, Michigan. In 1996, he came back to Ohio State to become an assistant professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology.

The Investigation

"There is so much more to study than just the death of the trees," Herms said. "We have studied the rate of ash mortality, if all forests are equally susceptible and how the forest reacts when so many trees die." The last prong of this research is particularly important, as everyone turns to research to determine how to move on and help repopulate decimated forests all over the U.S. and Canada.

"When ash trees die, they create an opening in the canopy, allowing more light than normal to get in; we are studying

what plants are going to replace the ash trees," Herms said. "We are also studying if these plants are invasive, are they going to squeeze out the native plants, and how does that change the forest?" There are also concerns if the species that rely on the ash tree to live will become extinct, and how will this devastation change the habitat for all forest wildlife.

The Backup

All of this amazing research can't be done without labs, technicians and other tools. "Ohio State provides an incredible infrastructure. The university creates the capacity at OARDC (the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center), resources, equipment and support units, the library and then the professor generates the operating funds," Herms said. Fellow Ohio State researcher Casey Hoy, Ph. D., said the equipment provided by the university, as well as the people who use it, are absolutely essential.

"Herms is just really good at what he does."

— Casey Hoy, Ph. D


Administrators also play a large role by helping to share research with the community and show the public that what is happening on campus is helping them in their day-to-day lives. "We want to make sure we are supporting all research, whether it is occurring in Columbus, Wooster, Piketon or anywhere else," Slack said.

This knowledge can help people who are not directly affiliated with a university and its research to understand how agriculture affects the economy, our environment and many other wide-ranging areas, Herms said.

Slack said that Ohio State "offers students the opportunity to work with some of the best research scientists in the world and be exposed to the problem-solving process." This process will make students better citizens who can contribute to solving problems in the future.

Superfans

While Superman may be adored from afar by many, Herms has something much better, the respect of his co-workers and peers. "Dan Herms is a jewel to the Ohio State community and a great scientist," Slack said. "He is a great person and we are fortunate to have him on the faculty." Many of his co-workers agree, "Dan is great to work with and is very well respected," Hoy said.

Herms continues to use his 'super powers' to research ways to replenish devastated ash forests, understanding the new habitat left behind, and protecting the very few trees left from Emerald Ash Borer infestation. "He is building a better understanding with the trees he studies and the experiments he conducts," Hoy said. According to Hoy, just like Batman, Superman and Captain America, "Herms is just really good at what he does." 



The mission of Alpha Zeta Partners is to develop premier leaders for the future of Agriculture and Natural Resources through leadership, scholarship, fellowship and experience.

NORTON HOUSE

Growing Ag Students From Uncertain Seeds

Living in Norton House, the Agricultural Learning Community

Story and Photos by Ryan Aills

You are a freshman living in a sea of new faces. The room you live in, number nine, is a small cramped area shared with three unknown roommates, and you can't help but feel all alone. Mom and Dad left a few hours ago; you just put the finishing touches on your new room and you're anxious as to what comes next. What do I do now? Where do I go? Who can I talk to?

Knowing of no other alternatives, you take a walk to get acquainted with your 'home' for the next year. As you exit the front door a sign catches your eye and you slowly read ... Norton House, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Living-Learning Program.

Here's where I stopped in my tracks. Agricultural Learning Community? This can't be. Yeah, I come from a small city, but I'm no farmer! How could I have not researched campus housing beforehand? And just what the devil is a learning community? Little did I know this apparent mistake would change my college career, indeed my entire life.

When I entered college I was the average undecided college student. There were vague dreams of being a high-salaried engineer, but my meager math abilities had no chance at standing up to the immense challenge that is known as The Ohio State University Math Department. Being a senior now in agricultural communication, I decided to retrace my path back to my old Norton House stomping grounds and give this great dorm the respect it really deserves.

Back to Basics

Norton House is the agricultural dorm at Ohio State, but just what all does that entail? Well that means it's the center for most, if not all, incoming freshmen living on campus who are affiliated with the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at our beloved Ohio State. Being a learning community for CFAES students, this dorm gives them a hand up by being able to live with classmates, work on projects, homework or even tackle that tricky biology final, with a partner rather than on your own. It even has its own college academic counselor, Paul Heimberger. Paul does this by, "helping to coordinate discipline-specific education opportunities outside the classroom."

Norton House was one of the first living-learning communities that Ohio State incorporated into the college lifestyle, implementing the idea of a learning community before it was even developed as a program. Having this style of setting up dorms is a way to make Ohio State very small, very quickly, Heimberger said. Earlier in its existence, faculty members actually lived in the dormitory with the students. While professors don't live there today, faculty still have interaction with the students through the Faculty Friends Program, where each floor is assigned a faculty member with a resident advisor who plans events throughout the quarter.

Also, being the CFAES living-learning community, a specific study-abroad program was set up within Norton

where students travel to other countries and learn about specific agricultural techniques. There has been an almost yearly trip to Costa Rica, developed in 2007, which allows Norton residents to travel to a local plantation and see the cultural differences, ranging from the plants grown to harvesting techniques.

Location, Location, Location

Living in Norton House has quite a few advantages compared to living in other dorms. It's air-conditioned, has its own bathrooms in every room and is fairly small, almost eliminating the hassle of using elevators. However, the location it resides in is one of the greatest factors of all.

"My dad is in the food science industry and I always thought it was interesting, so since I was a senior in high school I knew that's what I wanted to do," said Mike Cocco, a senior majoring in food science. "I lived in Norton because of the agricultural living-learning community and its proximity to all of the classrooms on North Campus," Cocco said. "Which is especially good since that's where you spend most of your first year."

With the bulk of classes being located within five to six blocks from the north dorms, I don't know why students aren't waitlisted to get into Norton. South campus dorms are closer to both Ovals, but in my opinion, the majority of students' time is spent in school is those horrid months of rain and snow where being outside is a rarity. Not to mention the fact that when you look at off-campus housing, students tend to flock north of campus.

However, the biggest factor in placement when considering Norton House is that it is the closest dorm to CFAES, and it's only going to get closer. With plans in place to move the entirety of agriculture campus over the river closer to main campus, Norton House will only be a scant two blocks from these classrooms within the next decade.

Scenery Change

The best thing about dorm life in general is all the people around, meaning there's always something to do and always someone to hang out with, said Nate Garrett, a senior in golf management. Much like me, Garrett went into college without an idea of what he wanted to go into. The only reason he decided to live in Norton House is because of its close association with a residence hall where one of his friends from home lived. Yet, by the end of the year, I believe he had fully embraced the culture of the dorm in which he resided. "I didn't know what I wanted

to do in college," Garrett said. "(I was) debating between two or three different things and couldn't decide on one. I ended up going into something I didn't think about before."

Norton House seemed intimidating at first glance, but if you're a city kid like me, I challenge you to take a closer inspection. If you look deeper, you are sure to find that Norton House, or any other circumstance that you may not seek out, may turn out for the best. Take it from me, or

Nate Garrett, who never would be where we are today without the counsel and advice received from our freshman community. 🙌

"I didn't know what I wanted to do in college ... I ended up going into something I didn't think about before."

— Nate Garrett



View of Norton House when pulling in from Neil Ave.

A Union with Agriculture

Story by Justin Stiers



Photo by Ryan Aills

The Ohio State University has everything to offer students: a huge variety of majors, more than 800 student organizations and some would say the prettiest campus in the nation. Ohio State features the Oval, Ohio Stadium, Fred Beakman Park, the Schottenstein Center and so many other aspects that students enjoy. Anytime of the year, an Ohio State student can find something to do. Buckeyes have great places to study and areas to hang out with friends; there have always been places to live the college life. As a matter of fact, there are very few students who would argue that Ohio State does not have everything imaginable to offer students, and for the most part of Ohio State's existence, that has been true.

However, the past few years something has been missing. But wait a minute, that can't be true! Let's

**"It is a centralized place for everything and we haven't had that for awhile."
— Shana Beppler**

compare it to other campuses. We have dorms and classes; we have nationally ranked sports;

we have the 'Shoe and we have libraries galore. What could we be missing? That's everything, right? What do other universities have that we don't?

For the past few years, we have not had one of the largest aspects of any campus. We have been missing our Student Union. "It is a centralized place for everything and we haven't had that for awhile," said Shana Beppler, a sophomore majoring in food, agricultural and biological engineering.



Ohio State has been without a formal Union for the past three years. Instead, the Ohio Union has been operating out of Ohio Stadium, in a little place that students termed "the Shoeunion." However with the grand opening of the new Ohio Union, we are back on track.

Influence of Agriculture

According to Tracy Stuck, assistant vice president of student life and director of the Ohio Union, there have been many influences on the new Union. These influences range from requests by students and alumni, to recycled wood and stone from the previous Ohio Union. One thing that had an especially strong influence on the development of the Ohio Union though, is agriculture and the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Before even entering the front of the building, students walk past landscaping that is water efficient, limiting water waste and helping to preserve natural resources. Once inside the building, the influence of agriculture can be seen almost everywhere you look. "We have a Maudine-the-cow room downstairs and the purpose of that room is to talk about the land-grant mission of The Ohio State University," Stuck said. "Obviously, we started out as Ohio A&M which definitely (CFAES) would have been here at that point. The room tells the whole land-grant mission, and then we also tied in Maudine the cow." Maudine was

Ohio State's homecoming queen in 1926, and was nominated out of the then College of Agriculture. "We are also really lucky we are getting ready to inherit the original trophy from Maudine," Stuck said. "An alumnus is going to donate that back to us." On the same floor as Maudine's room is a demonstration kitchen. In the back of the room, and off in its own designated area is the 'Butter Brutus' standing alongside a shelf displaying all of the Ohio-grown or produced food products that are used in the Ohio Union's dining facilities. According to Roger Garland, the executive chef of the Ohio Union, 30-35 percent of the food products used in the Union are from Ohio. "Some are Ohio-made products and some are companies that are from Ohio," Garland said. "We try to get as much as we can from Ohio, so if we can't find the item out of season, like vegetables that we can't get in Ohio during the season, we try to buy them from companies that are based in Ohio."

Recycled back to Agriculture

Garland is in charge of the two restaurants and the student dining offered at the Ohio Union. One of the largest agricultural impacts on the food aspects of the Ohio Union is the waste. "We have a device called a pulper," Garland said, "and we have one of them in every one of our facilities." The pulper is used as a means to make food waste into a compost material that is then used as fertilizer. Any food material that has waste left over, whether from the initial cooking process or after a student is done eating, is put through the pulper and eventually returned back to the field in the form of organic fertilizer, according to Garland. "All of the food waste, even biodegradable, compostable cups can all go into the pulper," Garland said. After the organic material is gathered, it is shipped to Kurtz Brothers Inc., located in Cleveland and Columbus, where it is used as fertilizer.

In addition to food waste, the Ohio Union is researching the process needed to use meat from our very own CFAES meat lab. "We are trying to do as much as we can to make it (meat from the CFAES lab) a consistent product," said Garland, "but that is the goal at one point to be able to do that."

One of the biggest advantages of the Union is having a place to take a break, and enjoy being around all of the people, Beppler said. "(The Union) is a good place to spend time because there is a little bit of everything, the food in the Union offers a lot of options, such as gelato in the coffee shop, or the variety in the cafeteria-style dining," Beppler said.

The Ohio Union makes Ohio State complete. Now not only are there football games and classes, but a social and professional area that brings us all back together. The Ohio Union is one of the most prideful possessions that Ohio State has, and agriculture is a large part of that.



Showcase displaying Ohio Products used in the Ohio Union. Photo by Justin Stiers

Collegiate Young Farmers

Farm Bureau Council

Meeting on Tuesdays at 7pm

For information email President Charlie Maag.49

WANTED: BY THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

Andrea Eilenfeld



For: Animal Sciences
In: Lucas, OH

Advice for Freshmen: "Whatever you do, do not lose sight of your goals!"

Jillian Beachler



For: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
In: Westerville, OH

Place on Campus: "Knowlton Hall."

Timothy Wyszynski



For: Animal Sciences
In: Diamond, OH

Place on Campus: "Beekman Park and Lincoln Fields."

Craig Miller



For: Agricultural Engineering
In: Delphos, OH

Place on Campus: "Mirror Lake, because it is peaceful and reminds me of home."

Amanda Paulhamus



For: Animal Sciences
In: Linden, PA

Post Graduation Plans: "Attend The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine."

Katie King



For: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
In: Rockford, OH

Post Graduation Plans: "I will start working for CGB Enterprises, Inc. as a commodity merchandiser."

Joshua Lorbach



For: Animal Sciences
In: Elyria, OH

Favorite Memory: "When the power all over campus went out... (we) stayed up all night in the Ag Engineering library like good students studying and joking around."

Christine Noyes



For: Animal Sciences & Nutrition
In: Findlay, OH

Food on Campus: "Buffalo Wings and Rings ... they have the best garlic parmesan wings and who can resist their fried pickles?"

Whitney Smith



For: Agricultural Communication
In: Lucasville, OH

Favorite Quote: "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on." -Robert Frost

Kathleen Secor



For: Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
In: Huber Heights, OH

Regret Not Doing: "I regret not doing more random activities as they would come up."

Christopher Guy



For: Fisheries and Wildlife Management
In: Kent, OH

Favorite Memory: "My Environment and Natural Resource 662 weekend trip to Winous Point."

Ryan Conklin



For: Agribusiness and Applied Economics & Animal Science
In: Plain City, OH

Advice for Freshmen: "Find balance between clubs, grades, work, family and friends."

Carolyn Doering



For: Animal Sciences
In: Middletown, OH

Favorite Class: "Animal Science 541 Equine Reproduction, taught by Dr. Cole."

Callie Wells



For: Animal Sciences & Agricultural Education
In: Hamilton, OH

Valuable Knowledge: "One of the most important things in life is to simply do what you said you would do."

JoAnne Snider



For: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
In: Sunbury, OH

Favorite Memory: "Anything at Farmhouse, and of course, Mirror Lake and football games"

Mallory Yake



For: Animal Sciences
In: Cardington, OH

Valuable Knowledge: "Learning not to sweat the small stuff."

Meredith Gilbert



For: Agricultural Education
In: Curtice, OH

Regret Not Doing: "I don't regret taking opportunities ... I got to do so many once-in-a-lifetime things in college."

Victoria Chu



For: Animal Sciences
In: Hackensack NJ

Food on Campus: "Saturday or Sunday brunch at North Commons."

Christina Egner



For: Animal Sciences
In: Shelby, OH

Valuable Knowledge: "Never say no to a course offered ... you never know if you will be working in that field after college."

Bethany Stammen



For: Animal Sciences
In: New Weston, OH

Advice for Freshmen: "Take advantage of all the opportunities that being a student at Ohio State has to offer."

A new kind of tool box



Using Social Media tools in the workplace
By Lyndsey Murphy



Productive procrastination, could there be such a thing? Could spending hours Tweeting about your lunch, becoming a fan of thunderstorms on Facebook, or playing Farmville actually be productive? Could taking your computer to class to find out who is dating the sister of a friend of that girl you know from down the hall actually be worth the half hour it takes to unearth that information? Is it possible that the three hours you spent on YouTube last night watching cats make funny faces was not a colossal waste of time?

While it is unlikely these topics can help anyone, over 60 million Americans are using social media tools, according to American University and these tools have revolutionized the way we share our feelings, spread news and build relationships. One of the arenas most affected by this major shift of how we communicate is the professional workplace.

On-The-Go Communication

"Give me my phone and a good 3G signal and I can communicate with the world," said Chuck Zimmerman of ZimmComm New Media. With today's social media tools that can be accessed from any cell phone or laptop, in any coffee shop or parking garage, people are no longer tethered to the walls of a cubicle or an office.

The wide availability of wireless Internet makes today's college student able to be mobile, yet still accomplish tasks and stay in touch. These social media tools cater to "a generation that doesn't want to be in an office 50 hours a week, they want to be able to work from anywhere," said Emily Rhoades, Ph. D., an assistant professor of agricultural communication at The Ohio State University.

When students enter the workplace this instant communication and gratification of information will be a key part to their success in their job, Rhoades said. Instant communication can also allow organizations to more actively listen and quickly respond, to any feedback from their customers, members and employees. "This is a

fundamental shift in the way we communicate and it is only going to continue to grow with mobile usage. It is so much quicker than e-mail, but it is also a two-way conversation, allowing transparency in any workplace and really taking the logo off to humanize a brand," said Dan Toland, communications specialist at the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

"There are more connections and less boundaries between co-workers," Rhoades said. "It has opened up the workplace so that people can get to know co-workers and others in the field better, and they can know more about what others are doing and build more collaboration." Many students and professionals are using social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to learn more about co-workers than ever before, keep in touch with people halfway around the world and receive news the second it happens. Though students should be aware, "employers know ways around being blocked," Rhoades said. "Everything I post I think, 'is this what I want students or alumni or other people in the industry to see?'"

"These tools have also changed the way people look at the job hunt, how you go about finding a job and branding yourself," Rhoades said. More caution is needed now than ever before in how people express their passions, hobbies and lifestyle on the Internet. While these sites are a great way to share things with friends and express changing moods, employers can access this information easily.

A Personal Brand

"You can really make a name for yourself even before you graduate college by sharing what you are doing through these tools," Toland said. The best way to begin to build a personal brand is by commenting and sharing blogs, photos, websites and comments that are of interest to you and the organizations you are affiliated with. These social media tools can be used as a real-time resume, being constantly updated to showcase how your skills and

passions are growing and how informed you are on the industry you want to enter.

This personal brand is a great way to introduce yourself positively to an employer before they even interview you. "Don't underestimate how useful these can be to landing you a job," Toland said. "It is a great way to publicize yourself." Toland recommends, "stop talking about parties and genuinely connect with things that interest you. Read blogs and comment, share your ideas. The more you can be prepared now, the better."

Good personal representation is also great practice for how you will be representing the company you are hired into, Zimmerman said. "Businesses are utilizing these mechanisms to interact with and engage with customers or members. When students graduate they will be called upon to manage these networks, something you just didn't see five years ago," Zimmerman said.

"Employers are looking for grads who know what they are doing," Toland said. "Be more up-to-date with this media, not as a toy, but as a tool. It can still be fun, but it will help you get things done too." The best way to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing elements of social media is to have a few core places that you share your information. Keep these core profiles updated so that they are a good reflection of you. By updating these core profiles frequently and linking with other people who have the same interests as you, these profiles can represent you well.

Social Media in the World of Agriculture

Social media is now being looked at as a way for farmers, gardeners and other agriculturalists to share their experiences with the rest of the population. "What a great way to bring the farm to the consumer, farmers Tweeting from combines and updates on everyday situations. Just

sharing the experience that is their farm is very interesting to the everyday consumer," Toland said. This revolutionary way of communicating is allowing farmers to tell their own story instead of others telling it for them. Consumers want to hear about how food makes it to their table, and when farmers share their experiences honestly and transparently about how they run their farming operations, they can provide that information.

"This (social media) is really good for everyone," Rhoades said. "Small businesses can get brands out to audiences they can't usually reach, and large business can reach consumers they might have lost touch with. It is also a great way for two-way communication between the two." This instant two-way communication provided by common chat functions on Facebook or e-mail hosts allows for immediate gratification which today's consumer and co-workers seek.

These mobile tools haven't just changed the way people talk to each other though. "Where people get most of their news is not from the 6 o'clock news broadcast anymore, it is from social networking elements. Traditional media has also moved there to continue to give the news in a format that the consumer wants," Zimmerman said. By using these social media elements anyone can get immediate information about breaking news all over the world, and professionals can constantly keep up with worldwide factors that influence their workplace.

So while procrastinating to update your Facebook status might not be productive, taking a break from homework to build your personal brand through social media tools is worth the time. Above all Toland said, "provide value and quality, and if you are truly connecting with other people and other consumers' social media can be an amazingly powerful tool." 

COULD A PICKLE BE YOUR ONLY VEGETABLE TODAY?

Governor and OSU Team up Against Malnutrition

Story By Danielle Poland

When Buckeyes graduate and go back home to rural Ohio, they are losing more than their fraternity house or favorite nightspot; they are also losing the selection of fresh produce they have become accustomed to having around the corner. Most small towns do not have places where they have a variety of fresh food. However, an initiative, Ohio Neighborhood Harvest, is hoping to change this. Neighborhood Harvest will "improve access to Ohio-grown products, ensure access to affordable and healthy food for all Ohioans and boost rural Ohio economies," said Amalie Lipstreu, the Ohio Department of Agriculture's senior program manager for sustainable agriculture. Neighborhood Harvest is using research on "food deserts" being conducted at The Ohio State University. A "food desert" is an area with limited access to a fresh selection of affordable, nutritious food, according to the 2008 Farm Bill.

Getting Out of a Pickle

Neighborhood Harvest will directly benefit citizens and farmers. For citizens, it will promote healthy food consumption. Currently, Ohio is the 13th fattest state and is in desperate need of a wider food selection. For farmers, the initiative could increase importance and income. Right now, only three percent of the final costs of food products go back to the farmer, and most food products travel 1,500 miles before being consumed.

Neighborhood Harvest will increase the amount of money farmers receive and significantly reduce the food's travel time.

Neighborhood Harvest will list locations of

community gardens and farmers' markets into a database.

To achieve this, the state is working with community groups that have already started their own programs.

Overall, the Neighborhood Harvest initiative hopes to eliminate food deserts by beginning statewide programs such as Local-Matters (an education program about food sources), websites such as Ohio Farmers' Markets (ohiofarmersmarkets.osu.edu) and Community Supported Agriculture programs. This will require communication and cooperation from multiple agencies to ensure its success, but everyone involved feels it is worth the effort.

The push to identify food deserts across America is steadily increasing and is growing at a rapid pace, especially in Ohio. "There is a need to provide increased healthy food choices to Ohio communities with limited options. In some areas of the state, the only food outlet may be a convenience store that does not sell a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. As the governor stated in his 2010 State of the State address, 'for some, the closest thing to fresh fruit or vegetables is the



"For some, the closest thing to fresh fruit or vegetables is the pickle on a hamburger bun."

— Gov. Ted Strickland

pickle on a hamburger bun," said Lipstreu.

In Ohio, most food deserts are found in urban areas because until recently, there has not been any extensive food desert research conducted in rural Ohio said Jill Clark, Ph.D., director of Ohio State's Center for Farmland Policy Innovation in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. She is leading the quest to map Ohio's rural food access gaps, which is a daunting task, as nearly 43 percent of Ohio households are rural.

Particulars of the Pickle


Clark and her team, which includes Francis Muamba and Nathaniel Betz, analyze food access three ways: physical access, economic access and healthy access. In other words, can you get to food, can you afford to purchase food, and finally, do you have healthy options.

Clark said her research suggests 75 percent of Ohioans living in rural areas do not live within a one-mile walk to a grocery store and that 24 percent do not even live within a 10-minute drive to one. Additionally, more than 70 percent of rural Ohioans live outside an area with multiple grocery stores, which is important because competition drives down prices. Clark said

supermarkets have been moving out of economically depressed neighborhoods in favor of newly built suburban developments. This process is known as 'redlining' (Eisenhour, 2001). "Although redlining is a more recent issue in urban areas, to a certain extent, rural areas have historically been deprived of adequate access to nutritious

food outlets," Clark said.

However, the most staggering fact that Clark has found is that one fourth of rural Ohioans live closer to a fast food restaurant than a supermarket. This information has become a driving force behind the Neighborhood Harvest initiative. Clark's research, specifically her findings on locations of food deserts, are being used by county health departments to inform communities of the issue and to build a database with local food markets, resources and technical assistance.

This research is also helping Gov. Strickland and the Ohio Department of Agriculture determine where they need to focus on providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. "Ohio is generally considered metropolitan, with more metro areas than any other state," Clark said. "Yet much of Ohio's land area is still rural, and many of these areas suffer from limited food accessibility. The governor's initiative is an exciting and innovative approach to start addressing this problem." 

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VOTED  PASSED  APPOINTED 

NOW WHAT



Ohio's Livestock Care Standards Board gets up and running Story and Photo by Kelsey Holter

It is a sunny day on the farm; the milking is done, the calves are fed and the cows are grazing in the pasture. The farmer is inside, showered, dressed and eating breakfast. His wife has done the same, and is now patiently waiting. Outside, down the lane, a yellow bus pulls in the drive. The farmer and his wife go outside to greet the fifth grade passengers, and a tour of the dairy farm begins.

A few counties north, a professor is standing in front of a class full of students with dreams of becoming veterinarians. Slides full of information on acidosis in sheep are shown to the class. She asks a question, waits for an answer, and continues her lecture on the digestive system.

A little farther west, a local grocery has just set out pork chops labeled with a nearby farm's logo. A consumer picks it up to read the contents. Seeing it is from Ohio, the consumer puts it in the shopping cart, wondering just where the farm is located and just how the meat got from

farm to plate. The consumer then heads to the cereal aisle to continue shopping.

These three scenes have something in common. It isn't just that they are all related to agriculture, although they are. It is something bigger, something that is changing the way Ohioans think about their food, something that is going to help those in agriculture better their operations and practices, along with educating the public. That something is the newly appointed Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

The Appointed

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board (OLCSB) was voted on in November 2009 and passed with a 2/3 majority vote by Ohioans. Six months later, the 13 board members have finally been appointed; 10 by Gov. Ted Strickland, one by the House speaker, one by the Senate president, and the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will always be the chairman. The goal of OLCSB is to set standards to govern the well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio, maintain food safety and protect Ohio farms and families. The standards are expected to be in place by December of 2010.

"I like how it involves everyday people on the board to help make decisions," said Dusty Wachenschwanz, a senior majoring in animal science. "I hope that they come up with ideas and make decisions that will benefit us all fairly so we can take that information and gain back our trust with the consumer."

In a conference room surrounded by blue walls, with a large wooden oval table placed in the center, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director and Chairman of the OCSLB Robert Boggs lounges in a chair, clad in suit

and tie. In the chair next to him is the State Veterinarian and fellow member of the OLCSB, Dr. Tony Forshey. "The most important job is protecting the food supply of the state and preventing animal and human disease," Boggs said. "The best way to protect the food and prevent disease is to have healthy animals, and we are the fox guarding the hen house."

The Facts

The animals Boggs refers to are, according to ODA, the 30 million livestock and poultry animals that are living on the 40,000 farms that are in Ohio. Easy to keep track of, right? When they are in one place they are, but the trouble is the animals that will be traveling in and around the state in trailers. "Our (Ohio) livestock has a reputation for being healthy in the states around us," Forshey said. "So we want to know exactly what animals are coming in to the state, and exactly where they are coming from, in case they bring in a disease, we can track it down."

This all stems from the United State's Department of Agriculture's (USDA) enforcement already in place for the transportation of animals. Each state has the right to supersede the USDA's requirements, and the OLCSB's standards will be doing just that. Inspections will be required, permits will be issued and requirements for animals coming in to the state will be enforced, all for the safety of Ohio's food supply.

The implications for those who fail to comply with the standards set by the OLCSB are going to be handled in the same fashion as a speeding ticket would; the first time, a violator can get off with a warning. The "warning" however, is not just a pass to continue the violation. The board will work with those who do violate the standards, and if the standards are not met within a specific amount of time, the violator then pays a fine. "We are not asking for criminal penalties, just civil penalties," Boggs said. "We don't want to play 'gotcha', we want this to be educational, we want to help them (violators) come to compliance."

The Gist

How do the violators get violations? They get "caught" by everyday people. Anyone can call in to the OLCSB and report a violation of the standards. It could be a veterinarian, it could be a hoof trimmer and it could even be an employee. After the call, the OLCSB sends out a livestock inspector to investigate. The livestock inspectors are already in place in certain areas around the state, working for the ODA. The OLCSB would, however, be the initial contact for investigations.

Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and OLCSB member, Bobby Moser, Ph.D., thinks OLCSB is a great addition to

the state, amplifying its impact on Ohio's agricultural education. "Here at Ohio State, we have always been an advocate for animal welfare," Moser said. "As the board makes its decisions, we (Ohio State) can provide the latest research and information that is happening right

here on our campus." Moser said that the board's standards, based off of the university's research, will be implemented back into the classrooms and taught to students.

The Public

In the midst of the standards being put in place, the OLCSB will be regularly informing the public by website, Twitter and even Facebook. But something they are going to do regularly that will be of interest to consumers and producers around the state is public hearings. The board will advertise when the hearings will be, and they are hoping that the public will come and share their concerns and ideas with the board. Boggs said he wants to assure everyone that the members of the OLCSB will listen. "We have made it very clear to people (on the board) we don't want them making up their minds now on livestock standards," Boggs said. "We want to go out and listen, and we want to read what other communities, provinces, countries and even groups, like the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, have to say."

The funding for OLCSB will be coming from the state, but the amount cannot be fully determined yet, Boggs said. The board is expecting the costs for the first two years to be low because of the standards not being in place as of yet. The costs, in the meantime, will be absorbed within the ODA, from funds put back by positions that have not been refilled within the department. Boggs also said he expects the expenses to be slim, even after the inspectors are hired.

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board has a lot of work on their hands, regulating standards that the dairy farmer must follow, the professor must teach and the consumer will learn. But one thing is for certain, from plows to tractors, hands to machinery and now, personal preference to statewide standards, change is among the agricultural community, and will continue to affect the way everyone lives. 🐾

**"... we are the fox guarding the hen house."
— Robert Boggs**



On Nov. 2, 2009, 2/3 of Ohioans voted yes on Issue 2, which created Ohio's Livestock Care Standards Board.

Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board members:

- Robert Boggs - Chairman
- Stacy Atherton
- Robert Cole
- Harold Dates
- Dr. Tony Forshey
- Lisa M. Hamler-Fugitt
- Dr. Jerry Lahmers
- Jeffrey LeJeune Ph.D.
- Dominic Marchese
- Bill Moody
- Bobby Moser Ph.D.
- Dr. Leon Weaver
- Jeff Wuebker

Williams Farm Partnership

United Producers Inc.'s Convenience, Stability and Credibility help Fifth-Generation Thrive



L-R: Brent, Logan, Gene, Darrell, Kolton, Jeff and Kathy, Lori and Kayla Williams (not pictured)

The Williams Farm Partnership, a fifth-generation farm, understands the value of belonging to a cooperative like United Producers, Inc. "It's more stable in the market," said Darrell Williams.

"We value the on-the-farm service," said Darrell. "United Producers has great service – we wouldn't have time to do everything we need to do if it weren't for them."

The farm uses United Producers Inc.'s livestock marketing and financing services. "They have different markets available to us – and they have a long-standing credibility for quality animals. The financing is very convenient too – we just give them a call when we need it, and they are there for us."

Jeff's proudest accomplishment is that the farm supports four different families. "We all work together – it includes the whole family," he said. "Even the people who work for us are like a part of our family."

While Brent gets frustrated with the weather at times because "there's nothing you can do about it," when asked why he farms, he said "I couldn't imagine doing anything else. It's what we know. What we were raised doing."

And, with United Producers by their side, the Williams Farm Partnership hopes to be farming for at least another five generations.

Location:
Germantown, KY (Bracken County)

Type of operation:
Grain, tobacco, alfalfa and beef cattle

Farm Size:
2,800 acres, 225 head cow/calf and feed about 400 head of cattle a year

Years/generations as a producer:
The original farm started in 1928, and the 5th generation is working on the farm.

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- Manage animals to optimize animal production.
- Promote environmental stewardship by adding value to byproducts of animal production.
- Optimize animal welfare.
- Learn how to create higher-quality end products.



We desire to develop and implement quality educational and extension programs and opportunities not only for our students, but for Ohio adults, our 4-H youth, animal producers and other allied industries.

Our extension programs allow us to help people improve their lives through an educational process using scientific knowledge.

We're not just about animals. We're about providing a science-based education backed by research. We bring science to life.



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Succession Success

Story by Justin Stiers

We all wanted to be many different things when we were little. We wanted to be a heroic fireman or a famous country music singer. Then we grow older and dreams change. Maybe now it is a police officer, an accountant or a veterinarian. Later, goals might change again to a lawyer, pharmacist or possibly a mechanic. As one ages, dreams change and different goals develop.

But what about those people who throughout their whole lives have known exactly what they want to be? They have a passion for the land and can only see themselves surrounded by fields full of wheat swaying in the wind or with baby calves dotting the pasture. These individuals have known their whole lives that they wanted to go back to the family farm.

"I have wanted to go back to the farm ever since my only job was picking up rocks," said Zach Sollars, a freshmen majoring in agricultural business and applied economics. Sollars comes from a fourth-generation grain farm, and eventually wants to farm full time with his father and two uncles. The obstacles that many individuals, such as Sollars, face is that it is hard to go back to the family farm and make a living, and even harder to eventually take over and continue this tradition.



Succession success takes careful planning to implement.

Photo by Amy Wensink

back to the farm and have that conversation."

Jason Hartschuh, a sophomore in animal sciences and agricultural and extension education, has already taken this step in succession. "It is important to start discussing that early," Hartschuh said. "It can be a slow process."

Farm Journal, along with Spafford, has been working to make that process quicken into a reality. The two organizations offer succession-planning workshops and informational material to farmers who wish to take over the family operation, or who want to leave something behind for a future generation to operate. "This is not just information," Spafford said, "the *Farm Journal* really, really sincerely wants to help the farm industry."

Family Decisions

Another problem that many farms face is when the entire family does not plan on going back to farm. "You have to plan it out if everyone is not going back to the farm," Hartschuh said. "You have to plan and deal with it so there are not hardships later on." Spafford and the *Farm Journal* work to help succession planning in these cases as well, offering material and advice on how to work it out with the whole family to make succession possible. Sollars' family dealt with this issue when the farm was passed from his grandfather to his father's generation. "The transition from my grandfather to my aunt and uncles was all equal shares," Sollars said. "The sister was bought out, and rent is paid to one of my uncles."

Spafford says that one of the greatest opportunities available today is for the younger generations to go to college, learn as much as they can about agriculture and running a business. Sollars said that one of the advantages of going to college is that he will always have a degree to rely on if he needs it.

While many students go to college to figure out what they want to do for the rest of their lives, there are those who already know they will be going back to the family farm. Whether they have just realized this, or known it all their lives, it is important to plan for the future. Preparation is the key to success, especially in the case of the family farm. 🐾

Design a Plan

Kevin Spafford, founder of Legacy by Design, a company that has paired with the *Farm Journal* to help family farms make succession a success for all farmers, has dedicated his life to helping all generations of family farmers be able to continue farming. Spafford said that one of the hardest parts of going back to the farm is being able to plan out succession. In many cases, succession planning is something that is put off until there is more time.

The problem is that life on the farm does not always give you that extra time. "The most important decision to make is to take action," Spafford said. Spafford's biggest advice to college students who plan on going back to the farm is, "go

OHIO STATE'S OWN

West Side Story

One University Framework Proposes Moving CFAES

Story by Andy Vance

In the truest sense, a river runs through it. For the film buff among us, the phrase might conjure up images of Brad Pitt with a fly rod and reel, casting for trout on the banks of Montana's Blackfoot River in the iconic Robert Redford film. For the student of literature among us, it might hearken to the Norman Maclean novella that inspired the Oscar-winning production, a story of coming of age and stumbling into manhood in the late 1930s. In reality, it describes one of the nation's largest universities.

Photo by Jessica Wasserman

The origins of The Ohio State University tell of the founding of the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, of students meeting on the Neil Farm near present-day Mirror Lake, with an agricultural tie so strong that a Holstein cow was elected Homecoming Queen in 1926. Over the nearly 140-year history of the university, agriculture remained a touchstone of Ohio State's heritage, its mission and increasingly, its future. "Our college is the main center for dealing with (global) issues such as food, environment and energy," said Bobby Moser, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). "Our college is a main part of the future in developing the research for those ... problems and solutions."

With a keen understanding of both the university's heritage and the college's vision for the future, a group of Boston architects, planners and consultants suggest the college simply has to go. Across the river, that is. Because in the case of Ohio State's Columbus campus, a river quite literally runs through it, with the university's agricultural backbone physically on the opposite bank from the rest of its academic universe. If university leaders and the Board of Trustees agree, the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences might be packing its bags and moving back east.

Agriculture: Cornerstone of Ohio State

With the expansion of the university's mission in the early decades of its growth, the campus expanded from the original Neil Farm until it met the east bank of the Olentangy River. Over time, agricultural facilities moved west of the river, evolving into present-day "ag campus." As those facilities on West Campus age and deteriorate, it's not a given that CFAES will maintain its current footprint. "We've got some pretty old buildings needing replaced, but the question is, where do you replace them? Do you replace them where we are now, or do you place them in different locations?" Moser said. "The proposal is to take our college over time, and move us across the river ... and become the cornerstone of campus."

Becoming the somewhat literal cornerstone seems fitting for a college that is in many ways the figurative cornerstone of Ohio State. Moser described the proposal to physically move the college across the river as a way to make CFAES "an anchor for the science and technology part of campus, because of all of our interactions with the other science and technology colleges." He went on to explain, "It makes a lot of sense ... because it really adds to what we're doing here in Food, (Agricultural) and Environmental Sciences."

Adding to the dialogue, University Trustee Jack Fisher said, "one of the things that I'm aware of (is) all of us need to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about our customers and to learn about the disciplines on the east side of the river." Examining the current issues in agriculture, Fisher said, "today's customer, today's agriculture, today's food industry ... it's all integrated. Here's an opportunity for

the future vision of Ohio agriculture and the food industry to be fuller in our appreciation and actually be engaged in the Ohio State University in a collaborative way."

One University, One Campus

In Fisher's role on the Board of Trustees, he is one of the key leaders who will evaluate the recommendations of Boston-based Sasaki and Associates, developers of the "One University Framework." Borrowing from University President E. Gordon Gee's mission of "One Ohio State," the architects and long-range planners at Sasaki delved deeply into the relationships within and among the various academic units at Ohio State. "Part of the role of the Board of Trustees ... is to do strategic planning, to have a vision for the future," Fisher said. "We're paying a lot of attention to the fact that our college is involved in collaboration with all academic disciplines." It's that very collaboration that caught the attention of the Sasaki team.

"It's been amazing. They came in from Boston ... and learned about all the colleges and what they're doing, and looked at our strategic plan and our college," Moser said. "They realized the connections that we have, and the things that we're doing in our strategic plan" in the context of current global issues, he said. The "One University Framework" calls for moving CFAES across the river, potentially in the location currently occupied by St. John Arena. Questions remain about the effects of the plan on the ROTC facilities at Converse Hall, or the recently renovated French Field House.

There are no questions, however, about the intentions for one key agricultural facility on the west side of the Olentangy. "Their conclusion was, one thing for sure, that Waterman Farm should stay as Waterman Farm," Moser said. "They said you are the roots of this university and you've got an important part to play in the future." With that recognition, Moser said the Sasaki proposal calls for Waterman to be "maintained as a working laboratory, a teaching and research laboratory." As if to underscore Moser's excitement, Fisher added, "there's a strong commitment to keep our laboratories as we know them in agriculture, and that includes the Waterman Farm. Certainly the importance and the benefit of having research plots and educational opportunities right on campus is well understood."

Dissent Among the Ranks?

Not every Buckeye is enthusiastic about the proposal. Dustin Homan, newly elected senator representing CFAES in the Undergraduate Student Government, says his concern with the proposal is the potential loss of community. "Being from a small town, coming to this university was overwhelming, but that's what drew me here, was the fact that our campus was

across the river," Homan said. "When I'm giving tours as an (agricultural) ambassador, the number one question students and parents ask is not 'how am I going to afford this university,' (but) 'is this way too big for me?'" He answers by focusing on the community created from the agriculture campus' location.

While he's concerned with the consequences of the move, Homan says the attitude on campus is changing. "Over time, I think it's starting to become a more accepted fact: yeah, it's probably going to happen, but it's not going to happen while we're here, so it's not that big of a deal." He pointed out that within four years of a move, the student body would no longer have the memory of "ag campus."

From Clever Concept to Viable Vision

Students and faculty alike recognize that the proposal to move the college is very much in the future. While much of the Sasaki plan is still a work in progress, university leaders are already evaluating and studying the opportunities and implications of such a bold move. With many questions yet unanswered, the attitude regarding the concept of moving seems positive among key decision makers like Moser. "We've worked hard to build these partnerships and relationships with the other colleges, so to enhance that is exactly where we want to be in terms of the future. Agriculture is the roots of this university, and we think it also has a great role to play in the future of this university."

Like the Maclean story or the Redford motion picture, the concept of moving agriculture back to "main campus" is about coming of age, and about coming home. Maclean's stories of bygone days fly-fishing were not about the story's namesake river itself, but about what happened in and around the gently rushing waters. Likewise, the "One University Framework" isn't about the Olentangy River itself, but about enhancing and incorporating what happens along her banks. 🌱



Bobby Moser, CFAES Dean, discusses proposed plans for moving ag campus east of the Olentangy River

Photo by Andy Vance



Surging Ahead To Semesters

Story by Tracy Bidwell

Congratulations
Top 20 Seniors

Christine Noyes-
Animal Sciences & Nutrition

Whitney Smith-
Agricultural Communication

JoAnne Snider-
Agribusiness & Applied Economics

We are proud
to have you
among our
graduates.



Agricultural Technical Institute
Wooster, Ohio



The sun shines brightly, beating down on hundreds of students who flock to the Oval everyday during spring quarter. A warm breeze blows, rustling pages from books that students have open as finals approach. While many are concerned about their final grades, many more are excited for the start of summer. Thoughts of class schedules and buying books drift far from their minds, replaced by tanning and hanging out with friends, and sometimes that pesky part-time job.

While so many students are concerned only for the near future, university faculty and staff are working hard to accomplish a goal that extends far beyond this summer. On April 3, 2009, The Ohio State University Board of Trustees approved a resolution to adopt a semester calendar beginning in Autumn 2012, and with that announcement faculty and staff geared up while the student body erupted into an endless sea of questions. How will this work? Will I graduate later than I thought? What about football tickets?

Now, more than a year later, the change to semesters is in full swing: departments and colleges across the university are working hard to implement a plan. So what is the plan? How, exactly, will such a drastic change work, and most importantly for West Campus, how is the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) managing the move from quarters to semesters?

Time for a Change

The Ohio State Calendar Conversion Committee has created a timeline for when each college must submit their proposed semester curriculum. CFAES is due to present its semester curriculum to the committee in Autumn 2010. To get ready for this, the college has been hosting bi-weekly meetings made up of representatives from each department to discuss proposed changes, said Ann Christy, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Christy also has been appointed Provost Faculty Fellow for the Office of Academic Affairs, and is spearheading the curriculum subcommittee for the change to semesters. "We are way ahead of other colleges," Christy said. "This college is being held up as an example."

While CFAES is well on the way to completing a semester curriculum, there are some unique challenges faculty will face in the months to come. One challenge is the college's commitment to being hand-and-hand with The Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute

(ATI). Many students transfer from the regional campus in Wooster, Ohio, and this adds another level of planning, Christy said. However, since ATI is also transitioning to semesters, CFAES has been partnering with them. "As students move from ATI to Columbus, the transition is seamless," said Linda Martin, associate dean and director for CFAES. "It's all part of a well-thought-out process."

Another challenge stems from the timeline for when different colleges must submit their curriculum proposals. Many CFAES students take general education curriculum (GEC) courses in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, and their deadline occurs after that of CFAES.

"There are several waves," Martin said. "We are in the second, and Arts and Sciences is last. Once Arts and Sciences has finished, some things may need to be adjusted." However, Martin has been doing her best to keep the lines of communication open amongst the different colleges. Not only is she bringing in resource people to attend the college's bi-weekly meetings, she is dedicated to keeping the college as integrated as possible. "Everything has to happen in concert," Martin said. "We don't want to wait until the end; we want to remain proactive so we all move forward at the same pace."

Facing the Change

Being proactive is also important for the students, both undergraduate and graduate, who will be going through this



Under a pile of papers, Christy diligently reviews proposed curriculum changes. Photo by Tracy Bidwell.

process. "Don't panic" is some advice from Christy, and it is well founded. Ohio State has been dealing with students who transfer from semester colleges for a long time, according to Martin. Converting transcripts is not a new deal.

Additionally, the university has pledged that the transition to semesters will not delay graduation for any student, Martin said. However, Martin also stressed that it is important for students to rely heavily on their academic advisers to develop a plan for a timely graduation. "This is not a one size fits all," Martin said. "We will look at students on a case-by-case basis and ask 'How can we meet the learning outcomes of the degree without delaying graduation?'"

While student concerns about delayed graduation may be laid to rest, other concerns still abound. Elizabeth Heitkamp, a sophomore majoring in agricultural communication, is considering Ohio State for graduate school, and while she says the change to semesters will not affect her decision to apply, she is concerned about the tempo courses will develop. "I've gotten used to the quarter system," Heitkamp said. "I'm worried I won't know how to pace myself."

However, Heitkamp also realizes the advantage to a semester system. Spending 14 weeks, rather than 10, on a subject will allow one to delve deeper into the material, she said. Students are also excited about the opportunity to get into the job market at the same time as graduates from other universities. "I'll be the first class to have the opportunity to get into the job market earlier," said Martin Overholt, a freshman majoring in food science.

Remodeling the System

Faculty members are also using the change to semesters as an opportunity. They are not taking three quarters and trying to fit that coursework into two semesters, Martin said. Instead, they are starting over. "We are approaching this as an opportunity to wipe the slate clean, start from the beginning," Martin said. "There has been no other time in the history of Ohio State that we will take a more thoughtful approach to curriculum."

In the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), several new minors are in the works, including a minor in Construction Systems Management, to compliment the CSM major. Additionally, a master's in International Ecological Engineering is in the process of being developed, Christy said. FABE isn't the only department adding new majors and minors, the entire college is thinking in new ways.

While a change as large as this one is a monstrous undertaking for faculty, they have really embraced the challenge, Martin said. "I cannot re-emphasize enough how great the faculty have been in embracing this," Martin said. "Students would be delighted if they heard their enthusiasm."

As you finish your finals and leave campus to enjoy your summer, whether you are tanning on the beach or just hanging out with friends, the staff and faculty at Ohio State will continue working hard to make the transition from quarters to semesters as easy and seamless as possible. Rest assured that while you might not be thinking about Autumn 2012, CFAES is, and when the time comes, students will be amazed at the changes that have been made. ☺



What app are you?

9:42 AM

- Agricultural Business
- Agricultural Communication
- Ag & Extension Education
- Agricultural Systems Mgmt
- Animal Sciences
- Construction Systems Mgmt
- Crop Science
- Entomology
- Environmental Policy & Mgmt
- Environmental Science
- Food, Ag, & Biological Eng
- Food Business Management
- Food Science
- Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife
- Landscape Horticulture
- Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Plant Health Management
- Professional Golf Mgmt
- Turfgrass Science

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www.cfaes.osu.edu/majors



Wherewewalktoday

Story and Photo by Juli Lacumsky

As you walk across campus on your way to a 9 a.m. class, it is hard not to notice all that encompasses the beautiful land, the busy hustle and bustle of cars on the streets, the steady pace of students on their way to class, even the trees and flowers in full bloom. It is difficult to think of the thriving Columbus metropolitan area as what it once was, farmland. There was a time where the skyline and freeways didn't exist, but were fields of corn, beans, cows and sheep grazing in the pasture. The "University District," as it is known today, has a rich history, one that is held proud in the hearts of many Buckeyes.

Who is Neil Avenue Named for?

William Neil played a large role in the creation of The Ohio State University. Born in Virginia in 1788, Neil moved to Ohio shortly after the formation of Columbus, where he purchased land from Joseph Vance, who would eventually become the 13th governor of Ohio. Ohio State sits upon what was known in the early 1800s as the Neil Farm. The Neil Farm stretched from as far south as First Avenue to Lane Avenue in the north and from as far east as High Street to the Olentangy River in the west. This plot of land was sold in 1865 to build the newly chartered, then known as, Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College after the Morrill Act of 1862, which set up land-grant colleges in each state. "The College should educate our farmers as farmers, and mechanics as mechanics," said Norton Townshend, member of the first board of directors. In September of 1873, the new agricultural college opened its doors to 24 students. Daniel Keller, member of the first Board of Trustees, stated his principal motivation for

favoring this location was that it was "so far removed from the city of Columbus that the contact with city life would not interfere with the studious habits of the young men."

So Refreshing

When The Ohio State University opened its doors, students did not have many of the features that we enjoy today, like Mirror Lake. The lake was not even in existence, but rather a natural spring. The Board of Trustees favored this spring and when it came to vote, the majority chose the Neil Farm for the location of our university.

"Actually, there is a story, perhaps anecdotal, that the first Trustees, in looking for a site, tasted the water of Neil Run and found it so pleasurable that the decision was made to locate the campus on the Neil Farm," said Raimund E. Goerler, Ph.D., director of university archives. "Whether that story is true or not, it is a fact that in the 1890s the university built a grotto and had public dippers where people could taste the water. Too bad the concept of bottling and selling the water did not arise at that time."

In 1895, the lake (spring) was enlarged and was considered a feature of the campus. Then known as University Lake, it led the way for many rich traditions at Ohio State.

More than 50,000 students call Ohio State home and hundreds of thousands call Ohio State their alma mater. Both the Neil Farm and Mirror Lake play a vital role in the history and traditions of Ohio State. So next time you are on your way to class, think about how the land you are walking on was once grazed by cattle and home to rich fields of corn and beans. 🌾

A Department No Longer Divided

Department of Entomology Joins the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Story by Hannah Thompson

Yellow crime scene tape surrounds a field warning the onlookers to keep their distance. The forensic team scours the area for evidence, looking for any clue of what harm may have befallen the victim. One looks for blood, another for fingerprints, another for pieces of clothing ... but one isn't searching for clues about the dead, but rather for living things.

Forensic entomology is a growing field, and one that The Ohio State University's Department of Entomology intends to capitalize on as the department reorganizes and moves exclusively to the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). The department has held a presence within CFAES for 42 years, but was shared with the College of Biological Sciences, with faculty members holding joint appointments. Now, the department will be completely housed within CFAES. The change has been years in the making, and both CFAES and the Department of Entomology are excited for the reorganization to be complete.

"We welcomed the opportunity to bring the students back to this college, and now the department is in the college in its entirety, and that's a real positive because so much of what we do in this college interfaces with entomology," said Linda Martin, Ph. D., associate dean and director of academic affairs for CFAES. "It was important that we bring them back to the college and feel like we can fully integrate it into the undergraduate and graduate curriculum." The Extension and research

portions of the department have always been supported by the college, while the academic programming side was outside of the college, Martin said.

"We're just being treated very well, they're taking great care of us, and we are intent upon justifying Bobby Moser's (dean of CFAES) faith in us," said Susan Fisher, Ph. D., entomology department chair. "We're working very hard to make this happen and to put all of the pieces in place so that the students will be very well served in their new home in FAES." Serving students more effectively was a main reason for the move, as the department struggled for visibility and funding within the College of Biological Sciences. "With the new budget system that the university has adopted, it became very clear that we were not going to be getting any resources from biological sciences," Fisher

"We welcomed the opportunity to bring the students back to this college, and now the department is in the college in its entirety, and that's a real positive because so much of what we do in this college interfaces with entomology."

- Linda Martin, Ph.D.

said. "On the other hand, CFAES just authorized us to hire three people within the last two years, so clearly we were going to be better served as a discipline by going into FAES."

Making Life Easier

In addition to affording the department more financial resources, coming to CFAES will also simplify the work of Fisher and other faculty members. "It gives me one person to answer to, one set of goals and objectives to meet, and it really is a lot more sane," Fisher said. The reorganization will relocate several

of the faculty members who formerly were split between the colleges, bringing some to CFAES, while some will retain their appointment in the College of Biological Sciences. This reorganization was a two-year process, and the deans of both colleges, along with the university's Board of Trustees, had to agree to the logistics of the arrangement.

The department is taking full advantage of the move, along with the upcoming switch to semesters, to make some changes in order to be more viable. Many courses are being rewritten to broaden their appeal to a wider range of students, and concentration tracks are being implemented to allow students to be more specific in their studies. Fisher also sees the use of technology as a major factor in increasing enrollment in the department, which currently has only 14 undergraduate students. The major has 60 formal courses, but they are rarely taught because few students enroll, she said. One of the changes the department is making is restructuring the coursework so that the courses that are common to all concentrations can be taken online, allowing more students to enroll and the department to focus its resources on the specialized courses. Online courses will also be accessible to students at regional campuses, allowing them to explore an interest in entomology before coming to the Columbus campus.

"Entomology is really a very happening field."
- Susan Fisher, Ph.D.

changes as well. "It's a chance to redo the whole entomology program and possibly institute some new courses, and with the requirements that (CFAES) has it may definitely bring some positive changes," said Ben Diehl, a senior

majoring in entomology. "I know it's in agriculture in a lot of other schools, and it seems like with a lot of the applied entomology part, like pesticides, I think that's a really good fit there."

With students, faculty and administrators excited about the upcoming changes and revisions, entomology's transition is sure to benefit the department, the college and the students. Enrollment in the department will undoubtedly rise, and who knows, that forensic entomologist, feverishly scouring the area for a mosquito that may have bitten the perpetrator and gotten a blood sample, could have gotten his education right here in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State. 🦋

Building the Department

Fisher hopes that these changes will increase enrollment in the department, especially in General Education Curriculum courses that she feels should be of interest to CFAES students. "One of the mind-boggling facts of our university is that although we offer Entomology 101 and 102 as an alternative to Biology 101 and 102, almost no students in FAES take it, which is of course the natural population that should be enrolling for it," Fisher said.

This flexibility and willingness to adapt their courses and their department to meet the needs of students has not gone unnoticed by CFAES administrators, and it is part of the reason why they are thrilled to bring the department onboard. "They've gone to every department; they've asked what their needs are, how might they be able to serve those and they're even developing specialty courses for some majors so they can address the needs of those majors," Martin said. Along with coursework, the advising system of the department will change, as CFAES utilizes faculty advisors, while other colleges in the university rely on central advising. "The faculty in entomology has embraced the opportunity. They are so on fire and so excited about advising students," Martin said.

All of these changes will breathe life into a department that is increasingly important in today's world. "Entomology is really a very happening field," Fisher said. The new specialization tracks will make students even more



Ben Diehl, senior in entomology, feels that CFAES is a good home for the department. Photo by Ryan Aills.

Mud & Weeds

Ohio State's Dirty Judging Teams

Story and Photos by Amy Wensink

When most people think of judging something, they think of livestock and food. But have you ever thought of judging something that was a nuisance, something you wanted to kill as soon as it broke through the ground? What about judging the basis upon which all things are built? The place where our food and plants are grown?

"Judging teams are not just about judging something, it's about challenging yourself to grow academically, personally and professionally,"

said Linda Martin, Ph. D., associate dean for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

At The Ohio State University, two intercollegiate judging teams are doing what most students would never think to do. Students are going below the surface to judge dirt and the weeds that grow in it. The soils judging and weed-judging teams are just a couple of the judging teams that you don't always hear about in CFAES.

The Dirt on Soil

You might be asking yourself, "How can someone judge dirt?" but there is a lot more to soil than what meets the eye. In order to really evaluate the ground, one must dig

a little deeper, literally. Judging soil consists of digging an approximately 7-foot deep pit, in which contestants evaluate everything from texture and color to the structure of the soil. Team members also do a profile assessment of the soil, which consists of determining the soil's water retention and drainage.

Not only do team members evaluate the soil, but they also must identify the characteristics of the soils. These characteristics include where the soil is located, parent material of the soil and slope. "Determining the slope and surface runoff rate is also an important step in the site characteristics," said Brian Slater, Ph.D., who is in his fourth year of coaching the

team. Slater has been an associate professor at Ohio State for 13 years in the area of soil science.

The classification of soil places it into an order and suborder, which is similar to how animals are classified into genus and species. Soil is also categorized by particle size, which ranges from sandy to very fine. "This is one thing that is easier to practice for the team," Slater said. "We can do this in the lab setting with different soils samples we have."

One thing that makes preparation for the soil team so much different is that most of it comes the week of

competition. A Northeast Regional Contest is held each fall in a different location around the region. Top teams from the regional contests then move onto the national competition. Since soil can vary greatly from state to state, the easiest way to practice is when the team arrives for the competition. "We get a few days in practice pits to prepare for the competition. It's a very intense couple days," said Jeff Rice, a team member in his junior year, majoring in environmental sciences.

"Judging the different soils gives us an opportunity to learn about them before we get into the industry," Rice said. Other things students can do before a contest include studying the climate, geological history and general characteristics of the land where the contest is held. "For example, Washington will have rainy climates with volcanic matter in the soils, and Louisiana will have warmer climates with sediments from the Mississippi River," Slater said.

Like any judging team, it is important to be able to translate the judging experience into real-world skills. Not only is the soil team atmosphere conducive to group work, it can also turn into a job. Many past team members are now working for the United States Department of Agriculture as soil scientists or working for their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Slater said.

Judging the Unwanted

While few people pay attention to dirt, even fewer have a fondness for weeds. Most people see a weed and pull it out of the ground, trying to get rid of it forever, but not for a few individuals who are actually purposely growing weeds in a Kottman Hall greenhouse. These weeds are what the weed judging team uses to prepare for their contest held each summer.

During the competition, there are three members on each scored team. Team members take an independent study course in the spring to help prepare them for the contest. Each contest is broken down into four major sections: weed identification, herbicide identification, sprayer calibration and solving a real-life problem.

Weed identification is the first part in which team members must individually identify weeds with their scientific and common name. They must also identify the growth habits of the weed and then answer one final question about the weed.

After students have identified the weeds, they must also be able to identify different herbicides. Team members identify the herbicide used and when it was applied based

on the visible damage. "For this part of the contest, weeds are planted in one direction, with herbicides being sprayed the opposite way, so teams can properly see the damage," said Nate Miller, graduate student and four-year weed team member at Ohio State.

Sprayer calibration is the third part of the weed competition and it involves putting together, as well as calibrating, a sprayer. These sprayers are put together based on the specifics of the problem at hand. A team member must then walk with the sprayer at three mph to complete the practicum.

A written test is also given during the sprayer calibration. It is a five-to-six page test with questions about sprayers. "The test is very hard and made so you don't finish. It's a good test to separate the boys from the men," Miller said.

The last part of the competition deals with a real-life situation. Each member is given a practical problem and must consult with a farmer about what to do. The members are given a plot, which has the date the weed was planted, and a problem that has arisen. After looking it over, members meet with the farmer and give a plan for the current year and years to come. According to Miller, this is a good test of skills and is something that prepares students for the real world. "Anyone can know 1,000 weeds or identify herbicides, but it's working with the farmer and helping them through the problem that is important," Miller said.

More than a Competition

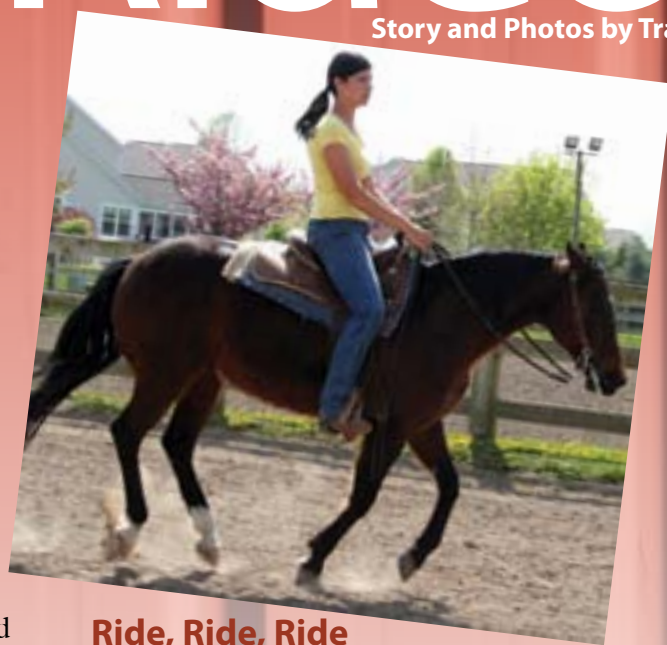
Being a member of a collegiate judging team offers students great opportunities that they might not otherwise experience in the classroom. "Being on the soils team will hopefully help me make connections to others in the industry for my future career goals," Rice said.

With so many opportunities available in college, many students may ask themselves, "why should I be on the judging team?" For Martin, there is no regret for taking the extra time to compete. "The two years I judged were the best parts of my college career. It wasn't just about placing stock or judging carcasses; it was about becoming a close-knit team, a family," she said. Miller mentioned that being on the team helped him solidify his goals for his graduate degree, offering great skills and knowledge to take back to his family farm.

While soil and weeds might not be the first thing people consider judging, they have their place nonetheless. The experience students gain from participating in these judging teams is invaluable to their future careers in so many ways. So next time you see a weed growing along the side of the road, think twice about pulling it, and when you see a farmer working the ground, consider all the elements of the soil. 🌱

Take a Ride on the Wild Side

Story and Photos by Tracy Bidwell



From early September to early January fans around the country start up the grill, grab a drink and turn on the television to watch the Ohio State Buckeyes play football. They cheer as the running back punches into the end zone for a touchdown, and they groan as the quarterback throws an interception. When football season ends, fans and alumni turn to Coach Thad Matta and the basketball team for their athletic fix. They shout their excitement as the point guard cuts through the lane for a layup and they fall silent when the shooting guard air balls a three-pointer.

Just a short drive north of Value City Arena and Ohio Stadium, fans are cheering for yet another group of Buckeyes continuing the tradition of athletic victory. The Ohio State University Western Equestrian Team, a club sports team that competes January through May, recently earned a major victory when they won the Western Semifinals in Pomona, Calif.

Success Out West

"Semifinals were hard fought this year," said Head Coach Ollie Griffith. "We were tied going into the last class. We earned everything we got."

The tie at the beginning of the last class, open reining, was with West Texas A&M University (WTAMU). When the placings were announced, Ohio State came out on top, securing their win at semifinals, while WTAMU finished second. "Our biggest rival is West Texas A&M," said Team President Danielle Nichter, a senior majoring in animal science. "It was a really good feeling to beat them."

Of the eight teams that showed at the Pomona Fairplex, the top three advance to compete at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championship. At the 2010 National Championship show, Ohio State will compete for its 10th national title. "We're the most successful team in the U.S.," Griffith said. "We've won nine National Championships." The team has also won four Reserve National Championships and they have not lost a Regional Championship since before 1997.

Ride, Ride, Ride

Part of this success can be attributed to the team's dedication to practice. While members are only required to ride once a week, many ride three or four times a week, Griffith said. Part of the challenge of training the Ohio State Equestrian Team is that riders must be able to compete on a horse they have never ridden before. Outside of IHSA shows, riders usually train and compete on the same horse for several years. However, on the collegiate circuit, riders randomly draw a horse to ride that is owned by the host university. They do not get any chance to ride the horse before competition. "My hardest job is introducing riders to IHSA because it is so different from what they've done in the past," Griffith said. "It's a unique type of riding."

Another difference between riding in the IHSA system and showing on breed or open circuits is the concept of riding as a team. Before joining the Ohio State team, many riders competed as individuals, but success in IHSA requires a team effort. "My biggest obstacle has been getting people involved beyond just competing and to provide support to one another," Nichter said.

Taking on the Challenge

Often with challenges there are opportunities. This has been the case for Ohio State as they have changed team riding from an obstacle, to a catalyst for success. "We work together as a team," said Team Secretary Lauren Smanik. "We want everyone on our team to succeed as much as ourselves."

Funding has also been an obstacle to success for the Buckeyes. While the team is given some support from Ohio State's Sport Club program, it simply isn't enough to provide for everything. The Equestrian Team does not receive any other funding because the university does not consider it a spectator sport. Thus, the team spends a lot of time and effort fundraising every year. However, the cost of riding on the Equestrian Team at Ohio State is low compared to riding individually, according to Nichter.

Griffith also shares this sentiment, "riding on the team is the cheapest way to show horses," Griffith said. "You don't have to own a horse or anything. All you need is the attire."

The biggest challenge they have overcome, however, is the long road to the IHSA National Championships. They first had to win the Regional Championship, which is done by accumulating the most points throughout the year at their regional shows. This year, Ohio State's margin of victory was 83 points over second place finisher University of Akron, according to Campus Equestrian's website. The team then had to place in the top three at Semifinals to advance to the IHSA National Championship show, which they did by beating WTAMU by three points. "It's similar to March Madness," Griffith said, referring to the rigorous

path the team must take to Nationals.

When March Madness ends and National Champions are crowned, both in horseback riding and basketball, the team's season officially comes to a close. But every end is a new beginning; equestrians mark the end of the collegiate circuit by gearing up for the summer show season on their own horses back home. The experience they gain in the months between classes will only strengthen next year's team, as they will surely compete for another National Championship.

"No matter how long you've ridden or how many lessons you've taken, there are always still things to learn," Smanik said.

Right before deadline the team placed second at Nationals.



Rachel Willson, Kayla Feltz, Amanda Heim, Courtney Noonan and Ollie Griffith do O-H-I-O on horseback. Pictured above from left to right, Ollie Griffith and Sarah Phillips, Kayla Feltz, Christine Noonan and Sarah Phillips riding in a lesson.

A Dairy Good Service



Story by Heather Kocher

Imagine sitting on the South Oval, relaxing on a bench and watching the people walk by. It's a sunny day and people are everywhere. The sun is warming your legs and the sound of the Mirror Lake fountain is in the background. Then, to your surprise, as you glance to the end of the Oval, you see a big brown cow and hear a loud "Mooooooooooooooooooooo."

What on earth is a cow doing on the South Oval? You think, "I hope cows aren't running loose on campus!" Well, last May there was a cow brought to the Oval by members of The Buckeye Dairy Club. Her name was Buckeye Bessie, and she was the star of the Oval that day.

The first annual "Milk a Cow on the Oval" event was held with hundreds of people from all around campus taking a glance at the brown cow on the South Oval. Buckeye Dairy Club community service committee came up with the idea last spring quarter to raise money for Heifer International, as well as interact with people from main campus and educate them about the dairy industry. "We bridged the gap between the river and reached people from all over campus," said Ryan Langenkamp, a fourth-year animal sciences major.

South Oval

The event lasted four hours on the South Oval with Bessie standing in a Scarlet- and Gray- painted stanchion, which is a support to keep the cow restrained while being milked, and the letters "OSU" were placed proudly above the holder. "Many people got to see the event and just stopped by for a bit to see what was happening. There was a lot of great questions and positive feedback from students and faculty," said Stephanie Adams, a fourth-year animal sciences major and the Buckeye Dairy Club president. Students sat on a bale of straw and paid \$1 to milk the Jersey cow. As students walked from class to class, they saw the brown cow standing patiently in the middle of the Oval

and a huge banner hanging over the South Oval stating "Come Try Your Hand, MILK A COW."

Supporting Heifer International

Heifer International is an organization that helps people obtain a sustainable source of food and income for generations to come. Clubs can buy animals for families stricken with poverty. The animals are then raised by the family and later marketed for meat, milk or eggs. The offspring of the animal is a gift to the family, in the hope that they will use it to support others.

"We bridged the gap between the river and reached people from all over campus."
— Ryan Langenkamp

From the money raised at the Milk a Cow on the Oval event, and a matching contribution from the club itself, Buckeye Dairy Club purchased a pregnant heifer from Heifer International for \$500. The

donation is a lasting gift with many rewards. In 1987, the club received the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science's (CFAES) New Activity Award for purchasing a heifer through Heifer International and sending her to Jordan.

Agricultural Education

"The main purpose of the event was to raise awareness to where our food comes from, since people these days are generations removed from the farm," said Maurice Eastridge, Ph.D., professor in the animal sciences department and advisor for Buckeye Dairy Club. "It's through events like this where we as professors can see students work together to assist others in need." Eastridge works with members to organize events like this to help better the university and its surroundings.

Buckeye Dairy Club is planning to continue Milk a Cow on the Oval and make it an annual philanthropy project. Next time you walk through the Oval, you might just see a cow amidst the crowd of students. If you do, make sure to stop and say hi, and maybe even try your hand at milking a cow. 🐄



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ASABE raises funds at Farm Science Review for chapter activities such as cookouts, a Trip to Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Industry and faculty speakers, Concerts, Rodeo and food at all meetings.



ASABE donates funds to the Quarter Scale Tractor Design Team (QST) which competes annually, the first week in June, in Peoria, Illinois against 30 other universities. A-team placed 11th and X-team placed 3rd last year.



Dan Brown, ASABE Student Branch President
brown.3067@buckeyemail.osu.edu

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<http://cfaes.osu.edu/studentcouncil>



The CFAES Student Council serves to represent the interest of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. It projects a professional image of modern agriculture and natural resources and encourages involvement and rapport among students.

Clubs and Organizations

- | | |
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| <i>Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow</i> | <i>Forestry Forum</i> |
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| <i>Alpha Gamma Rho</i> | <i>MANRRS</i> |
| <i>Alpha Gamma Sigma</i> | <i>Norton Scott Archer Hall Council</i> |
| <i>Alpha Sigma Upsilon</i> | <i>Poultry Science Club</i> |
| <i>Alpha Tau Zeta</i> | <i>Pre-Veterinary Club</i> |
| <i>Alpha Zeta Partners</i> | <i>Professional Golf Management</i> |
| <i>The American Society of Agricultural Engineers</i> | <i>Plant Health and Resource Management Club</i> |
| <i>Buckeye Dairy Club</i> | <i>Roots and Shoots</i> |
| <i>Collegiate 4-H</i> | <i>Saddles and Sirloin</i> |
| <i>Collegiate Young Farmers</i> | <i>SHADES of Animal Sciences</i> |
| <i>Crops and Soils Club</i> | <i>Sigma Alpha</i> |
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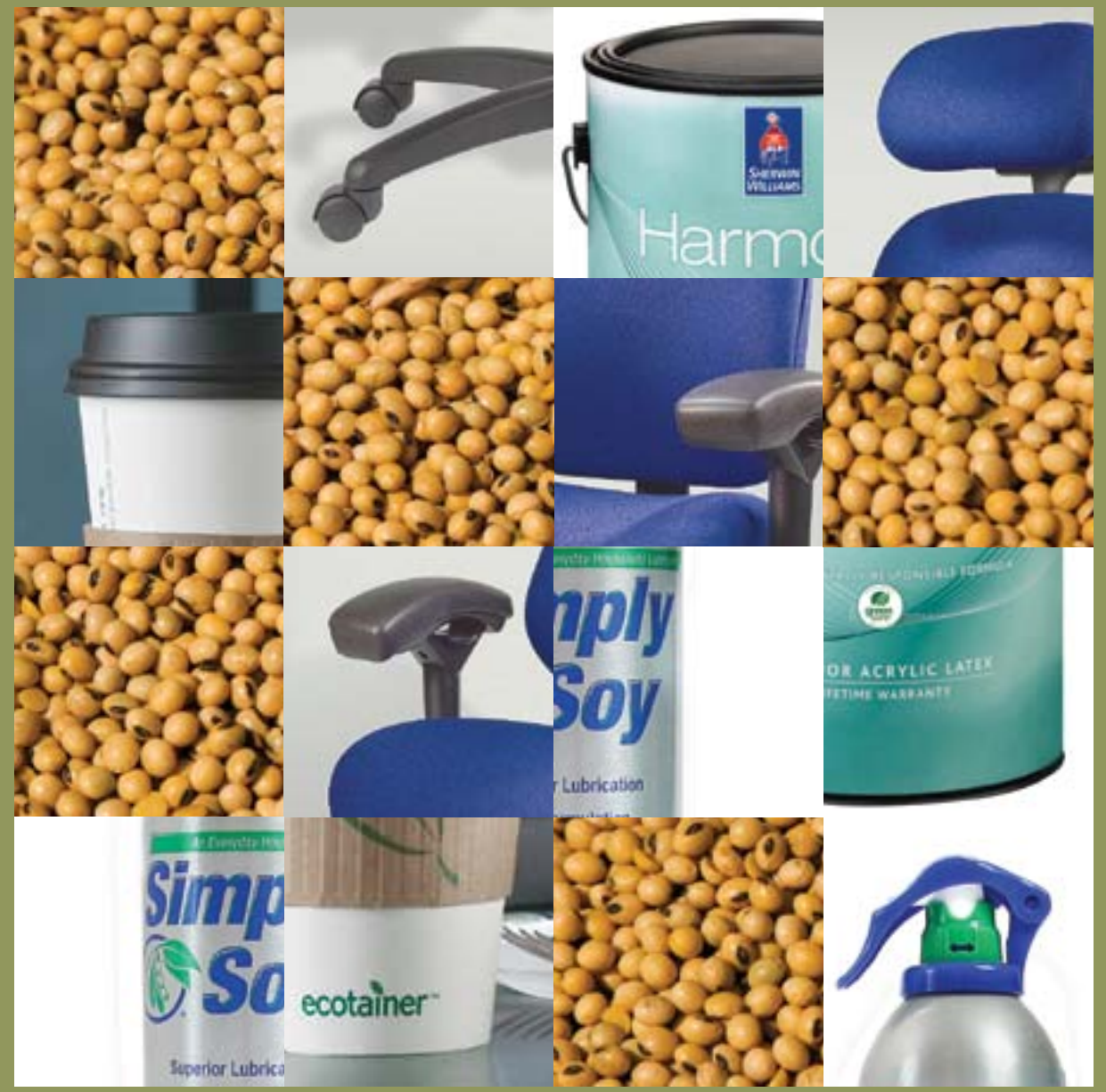
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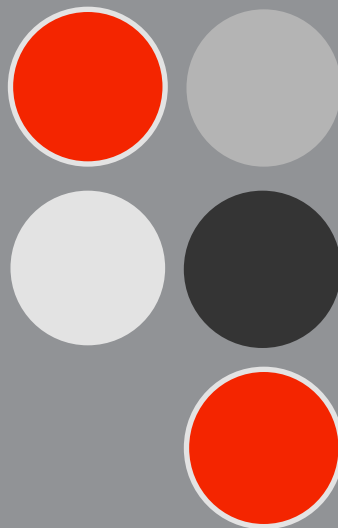
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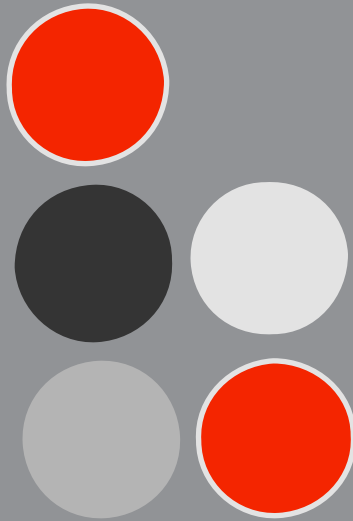


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Topix Agriculture News
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Senate & House Agriculture Committees on Agriculture
www.ag.senate.gov
www.agriculture.house.gov
Be sure to keep an eye on these sites, which contain a ton of information on past and present legislation. You can also watch live streaming video of committee hearings and proceedings to stay on the cutting edge.

National Agricultural Library
www.nal.usda.gov
The United States Department of Agriculture is a great resource for information in agriculture, especially the National Agricultural Library (NAL). This site includes an agricultural thesaurus/glossary and many other resources.

Agricultural Network Information Center
www.agnic.org
This network is made up of an alliance of partner institutions (including Ohio State!) who work together to post the latest information about agricultural events and research.

11 Sites to Surf

By Hannah Thompson

Just for fun, stop by...

Chances are you spend a good deal of your time online, checking out your friend's status updates or reading the latest on textsfromlastnight.com. Next time you're on the computer, check out these agriculture-focused websites. Some are excellent for staying informed and involved, but others are just for fun. You might just replace your Facebook habit.

Proud to Dairy
www.proudtodairy.ning.com
Proud to Dairy is a network created by Progressive Dairyman. It allows users to create a profile, post blogs and communicate with other members about current events and issues within the dairy industry.

Farm Based Education
www.farmbasededucation.org
Calling all agricultural educators...this site allows users to share content such as events, jobs and course materials.

Barn Mice
www.barnmice.ning.com
Horse lovers could spend hours perusing this site, checking out informative videos, live foal births or silly home videos.

Farmers Only
www.farmersonly.com
Need a date to the Saddle and Sirloin formal or your next trip to Nyoh's? Farmers Only is an "online dating and friendship finder" meant solely for those with an interest in agriculture or a rural lifestyle. The site boasts more than 100 marriages!

Landscape Juice Network
www.landscapejuicenet.com
This site allows those in the landscape and horticulture field to share the latest "juicy" news about the industry. Users can be seen blogging about anything from new and emerging species of plants to the merits of different types of gardening gloves.

Farmers for the Future
www.farmersforthefuture.ning.com
All young agricultural professionals and farmers should look into this network, where users share blogs about everything from frustrations with the portrayal of agriculture to spring planting.



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