



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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Truman Student Wins Missouri Farm Bureau Discussion Meet

The Truman State chapter of the Collegiate Farm Bureau held its annual discussion meet this past month. Participants in the meet were Andrew Green, Brandon Hall, Catie Burke, and Matt Craig. The topic discussed was how the aging infrastructure of the United States should change to support the transportation of agricultural commodities. All participants were given one minute to explain their views of how best to transport agricultural commodities. After the introduction, the candidates proceeded

to answer the question by having a round table discussion for fifteen minutes. During this time everyone was able to share their opinions in depth on what they thought was the best infrastructure to transport agricultural commodities. The candidates also threw around ideas on how to change the current infrastructure to make it better. To conclude the meet, each candidate received one minute to sum up their thoughts for the audience. There was a panel of three judges who scored the participants on

knowledge of the subject, communication ability with the other discussers, and ability to move other discussers to come to a uniform decision about the topic at hand. The winner was Andrew Green and he represented Truman in the Missouri Farm Bureau Discussion Meet on December 7 at Lake of the Ozarks where he competed against other winners from colleges around the state. Green won the state meet and he received a cash prize. He will continue on to compete in the Collegiate Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau meeting in Sacramento, CA in February, 2009.

Thanks, Kaitlyn!

Kaitlyn Sullivan has been author, editor, and layout designer of the Agriculture Newsletter since its inception one and one-half years ago. We appreciate all her efforts and wish her the best in Alberta and beyond. Publication of the newsletter will resume next semester with new talent at the helm! Stay tuned!

Final examinations for Fall 2008 are concluding as we send this newsletter. We wish all our students a pleasant break and everyone else a happy holiday season!

~ Michael Seipel

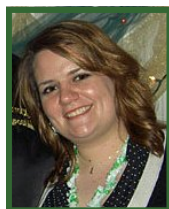
AGSC Dept. Chair

December 2008 Graduates

Brandon Hall (B.S. Agricultural Science)—After leaving the wonderful city of Kirksville, Brandon will start as a temporary employee with Pioneer in western Illinois on January 1, 2009. However, he hopes to get a position with Tractor Supply Company working at their new Jefferson City, MO store. Later on down the road, Brandon would like to own and operate his own horse farm where he can have a family and raise 6 kids.



Kalin McClure (B.S. Agricultural Business)—After graduating from Truman, Kalin will move back home to Eureka, IL to join her dad's business, McClure Financial Planning, where she will become a certified financial planner. Eventually, Kalin hopes to go back to school and get her Masters in Business Administration.



Kaitlyn Sullivan (B.S. Agricultural Science)—Beginning in January 2009, Kaitlyn will serve as a missionary for 2 years through the North American Mission Board in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. After that she hopes to go back to school to get a teaching certificate to be a high school ag teacher and FFA advisor.



Upcoming Events

- *Final Exams: December 8-12*
- *Winter Break: December 15-January 9*
- *First day of spring semester: Monday, January 12*



FFA American Degree Earned by Truman Ag Student

On Saturday November 25th, 2008 Leann Botkin received the American FFA Degree at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis Indiana with over 3,000 other FFA members from across the nation. The American FFA Degree is the highest level of membership that can be achieved as an FFA member. The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members ever earn the degree (the greatest percentage of members ever to receive the degree in one year was less

than one half of one percent.) Leann is a member of the Salisbury FFA chapter. Her FFA project included raising steers and Boer goats. She and her younger sisters currently operate a truck garden and vegetable stand at the local farmers market each summer. While in high school Leann participated in several state FFA events including public speaking events, entomology, agronomy and soil judging contests. She served as secretary and vice president of her high school chapter. Other awards Leann has earned include the Mis-

souri State FFA degree which she received in 2006.



Leann Botkin in FFA dress.

A-Maze-ing Success!

On October 29- November 1 the women of Sigma Alpha, the professional agriculture sorority, held their annual haunted corn maze at the University Farm. The theme for this year's maze was: Are you afraid of zombies? Over 1,508 people came out to answer that question. Other organizations that helped with the corn maze this year included Alpha Gamma Rho, Delta Tau Alpha, Phi Delta along with several other agriculture student volunteers. Farm Manager Bill Kuntz helped out by

driving the tractor for the hayride for every night of the corn maze. Tractor Supply Company also contributed to the maze success with donations of supplies. Sunday November 1st was Kids Day. Kids from the community came out to play games, get some candy, go on a hayride and walk through the maze. All in all, this year's corn maze was the most successful haunted maze in the Omicron Chapter's history!



Kalin McClure (left) and Amanda Miller (right) dress up as zombies.

Farm Bureau Canned Food Collection

On Halloween night, not only were there elementary kids out trick-or-treating the streets of Kirksville, there were college kids riding the streets in a tractor. Catie Burke, Marie Zumalt, Andrew Green, Calvin Van O'Linda, Kelsey Witte and Adam Reynolds went door-to-door to collect canned goods, instead

of candy. Each year, the Truman Collegiate Farm Bureau collects donations for the local food bank, Christian Community Food Depot, in hopes of helping out families in need right here in Adair County. The community of Kirksville was fairly receptive and generous. The chapter was able to collect

enough food to fill a 55 gallon drum, one of the largest collections in the chapter's history. For more information on activities of Collegiate Farm Bureau or on becoming a member, please contact chapter president Calvin Van O'Linda (ctv865@truman.edu).



Swine Research

Dr. Mark Campbell and Dr. Tom Marshall are currently working on a swine research. The purpose of the study was to see if inclusion of high amylose corn in pig diets affects growth rate, feed efficiency, and odor. The hypothesis was that feeding high amylose starch will decrease the level of the compound skatol which is associated with odor. However, amylose may also decrease growth rate and decrease feed efficiency. Twenty pigs were donated by the Missouri Pork Producers Association and were randomly assigned by weight and sex to the control group and experimental group. Blood samples and fecal samples were taken and growth rate and feed efficiency were measured. Analysis of growth rate data shows no difference between the control and experimental groups. If no difference is found with feed efficiency as well, this study would show that a farmer can feed the high amylose corn without reducing the productivity of the pigs.

Next semester, blood and fecal samples will be analyzed to determine the effects of amylose on the odor compound skatol.

The Truman State University Cattle Show Team spent the weekend of November 7 at a cattle show in Springfield, MO. Team members who went included: Catie Burke, Patrick Delaney, Kelsey Witte, Marie Zumalt, Kevin Carter, Emily Mach, Gina Thurmon, Heidi Schill, and Cassie Robertson, along with the team advisor, Dr. Glenn Wehner. The team took six heifers to the sale and all six were sold. It was a good experience for the students to go down and see

how the Heartland American Gelbvieh Association runs a sale. A couple of students were able to help clerk and got hands-on experience in learning what all goes into having a cattle sale. The next sale for the team is the Iowa Beef Expo in February, to which Truman will take two Gelbvieh heifers.



Truman Aggie T-shirts

Grey shirts with "TRUMAN AGGIES" in green lettering are available for \$10. Please contact Dr. Wehner (gwehner@truman.edu) to purchase one.

From everyone in the Truman State University Ag Department, we hope that your and your family have a wonderful holiday season!

Student Profile: Kelsey Witte

This month's student profile features Kelsey Witte, a junior Animal Science/Pre-Vet major from Williamsburg, IA. Kelsey is a very active member in the ag department. She is the newly-elected President of the Sigma Alpha professional sorority, treasurer of Pre-Vet Club, treasurer of Collegiate Farm Bureau, treasurer of DTA, Cattle Show Team, National Society of

Collegiate Scholars, as well as a member of the club basketball team. This year, Kelsey helped organize the Bioenergy Conference held at Truman's campus on December 5. Currently, Kelsey also works at Lindquist Veterinary Clinic as a vet tech. After Truman, Kelsey plans to attend veterinary school, hopefully at Iowa State University.

