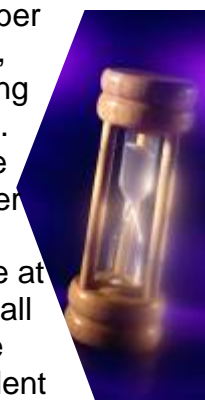




Time for Nationals!

It's that time of year again to start thinking about the annual meeting for SASES! This year the SASES and ASA, CSSA, SSSA international meetings will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. SASES will meet on November 11th through the 13th. Meeting registration is scheduled from 8:00-9:30 am, Saturday, Nov. 11. The student tour is scheduled for Saturday, mid morning to mid afternoon. Monday will be devoted to career development activities. And the last business meeting, awards programs and student elections are scheduled for early Monday evening. The SASES program will adjourn after the Monday evening social.

Want to get more involved at nationals? Check out the Contests web page at <http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/students/contests.html>. This page provides all the information needed to enter your contest of choice. Participating in the Club Poster Presentation, Student Research Symposium, Speech, or Student Manuscript contests are a great way to get involved. The Poster contest is next to none in getting your club recognized for work in club activities and



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gives club recognition for promoting agronomy, crop, soil and environmental sciences on campus or in the local community. Student Symposiums are an excellent approach to research and learning, while the speech contest is impeccable to understanding the importance of public speaking. The speaking contest is extemporaneous and previous year's topics can be found on the contests website noted above. Also, be thinking about the National soils and crop judging contest. These contests, as well, are an excellent opportunity that should be taken advantage of. Contest deadlines are coming up fast to sign up and get involved!



Yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. ~unknown





Club News

Kansas State University

Members of the Wheat State Agronomy Club have been very busy this spring with several volunteer and educational opportunities.

In March the national recording secretary Cammie Feldt traveled with advisor Dana Minihan to Minnesota for the SASES Northern Regional's. In April Cammie, along with 13 other club members traveled to Virginia to attend the Southern Regionals.

A major spring event at Kansas State University is Telefund, which is a campus wide fundraiser where students contact alumni for donations to their prospective major. The College of Ag had an exceptionally good year and the funds raised will go towards student scholarships. This is an excellent way for students to give their time to help raise scholarship contributions.

The Agronomy Club has many opportunities to give back to the community starting with Emeritus Cleanup. Emeritus Cleanup involves the club members cleaning up the yards of former Agronomy professors and staff. This gives us the opportunity to give back to these individuals, but also to reminisce about the time they spent at K-State. Another activity is the Student Learning Day and Kiddie Barnyard. The Learning Day is sponsored by the Wheat State Agronomy Club and allows local 4-Hers to visit the Agronomy department and learn about soil texturing, crops judging, as well as, visiting the insect zoo. Kiddie Barnyard, a college wide activity, allows school aged children the opportunity to discover diversity in agriculture by allowing them to visit a station sponsored by each department highlighting an Ag activity.

Other activities WSAC members stay busy with are the Steak Fry, which is held in honor of graduating seniors and their families. "Trip Across Kansas" gives members the opportunity to spend time together while learning about Kansas agriculture.

With so much activity, members take a moment to kick back and have fun on the "Dirt Stirrers" co-ed softball team.

North Carolina State University

The onset of spring brings about many seasonal changes. In spirit of March Madness, the Food Bank of North Carolina held its annual Big Four ACC canned food drive. The Big Four ACC canned food drive is designed as a competition to challenge students to raise funds and collect canned food. The competing schools were NC State, UNC, Wake Forest, and Duke.

The North Carolina State Agronomy Club participated in the effort to help collect canned foods. Each club member was challenged to bring ten cans to one of the club's biweekly meetings. A goal was set to collect 300 pounds. Members of the club took it upon themselves to not only reach this goal but to far exceed it. Club members asked local supermarkets for support while others received support from members in their home town communities. Collecting 700 pounds of food and 80 dollars in donations, the NC State Agronomy Club contributed more cans than any other club in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

University of Florida

The University of Florida's Agronomy and Soils Club has been working on creating an agriculture sustainability booth. The booth will be presented to local high schools to teach students the importance of agricultural sustainability. The importance is highlighted in the areas of plants, animals, and soils, and their effects on economics, social aspects, as well as the environment. Dr. John Ikerd, who wrote *Sustainable Capitalism*, and who is one of the leading professors on sustainability, will be coming to speak with the club at the last meeting of the year. The club will also have a chance to show Dr. Ikerd the sustainability booth.

The person who gets the farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The sure-thing boat never gets far from shore.
~Dale Carnegie



Club News continued

Purdue

This semester has proven to be a busy, fun-filled semester for the members of the Purdue Agronomy Club. The semester started out with our call out meeting where we had a record number of students in attendance. Our club has grown this semester and it has been exciting to have many members at each meeting.

Members have had the opportunity to listen and talk to various guest speakers. Our guest speakers have ranged from individuals working in seed companies, extension education, and other various areas of the industry. We also had the opportunity to tour the National Soils Erosion Lab here at Purdue.

Not only did members have fun listening to guest speakers and taking tours, we also had fun during our work sessions. While work can be a chore, members of our club always turn work into a good time. Our work sessions are always filled with laughter and whether we are making soil color cards, filling bags with popcorn, or making plant mounts and seed vials, a fun time is enjoyed by all.

Also during the spring semester, we prepare for the annual Spring Fest event, which is held every year by Purdue. Spring Fest is a two day event where various schools and clubs can set up displays and members from the community and schools across the state are invited to come and attend. Each year the Agronomy Club sets up a large display in the tent on campus. This year our display will include soil paintings, a maze "The Plant Path" with different facts and information related to crops, a plant growth wall, dig sites, and other various activities.

We had six members attend the North Central Regional Meeting in Minnesota bringing back great information from the tour. The same weekend five members of our soils judging team had the opportunity to compete in the National Contest which was held in San Louis Obispo, California.

This semester has brought many fun experiences and memories that the members of the Purdue Agronomy Club will not soon forget. We look forward to seeing you all next fall at the National meetings in Indianapolis!

Illinois University

The Field and Furrow Club at the University of Illinois are having a spring semester full of exciting activities, fundraisers, and opportunities. Most recently, we had sixteen active members attend the

Purdue Agronomy Club
hard at work!



regional meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Members experienced agriculture in a different part of the country and had a great time. Earlier this semester, a recruiter for FS Growmark came to our monthly meeting and discussed internship opportunities, interviewing skills, and resume preparation. We also held our local speech contest and crops contest, and the winners of these contests will be recognized at our club banquet later this month. For fundraising this semester, we packaged seed sets to be sold to Illinois FFA chapters and also hosted a lunch for those in attendance at the State FFA Awards Day held at our university. Later this semester, members can enjoy a barbeque and softball game held at our south farms just before finals start. Please visit our website for more information at <http://fandf.crops.uiuc.edu>.

University of Nebraska Lincoln

The UNL Agronomy Club has been bursting with activity this semester! The semester was off to a great start with a tour taken to the CASE IH plant located in Grand Island Nebraska. Here members were able to tour the plant as well as explore one of the newest combine models. Club meetings have been stimulated with guest speakers from within the university as well as world traveler, Dean Jacobs, and a representative from the Aura Coop.

Recently 12 members made their way to Minnesota for the Northern Regional SASES conference. Here members engaged in tours and brought back a great deal of useful information.

As a fundraiser, our club teamed up with the graduate club and put together a lawn mower clinic. Members volunteered their time to help service lawn mowers for customers. Later this month members will be looking forward to a vineyard tour and the banquet.



Virginia Tech hosts Southern Region SASES Annual Meeting April 7-8, 2006 Blacksburg, Virginia



“The face of Agriculture is changing world-wide” said Dr. David Kohl. Dr. Kohl’s inspiring words sprung up throughout the entire meeting as students from North Carolina State, the University of Kentucky, Kansas State, and Virginia Tech met and realized the changing phases in the industry that has shaped each of our lives. Friday evening, students arrived to the Virginia Tech campus ready to learn, discover and further develop their sense of Agriculture and Agronomy in Virginia. The meeting was kicked off with a welcoming BBQ picnic, complete with all of the fixings. Special guests Dr. Steve Hodges and Dr. Mark Alley were some of the first to greet students and promote high education in Agronomy and Soils related fields. After spending time in fellowship, we dispersed and met early Saturday morning. Despite the stormy weather, over 51 students and advisors departed the campus grounds ready to meet and learn about the changing face of Agriculture.



We began our tour by meeting Mrs. Jan Politis, of Brush Creek Farm and Buffalo Store; who proved that if you have a passion for Agriculture, you can prevail despite the odds against small business owners. Her family moved to rural Floyd County after inheriting agricultural land and began to raise buffalo. “At the time we did not realize we were entering a niche market, luckily it didn’t take us very long to realize” said Mrs. Politis. She clearly highlighted the importance of firm and strategic marketing practices in order to stay on top of the game. The next stop on our tour was at the Riverbend nursery. Riverbend nursery started off with a

few small greenhouses and rapidly expanded to be one of the area’s largest and most technologically advanced wholesale nurseries. “In the horticulture industry, and in the entire Agricultural Industry, there is a small margin. As a producer, I stay within that margin and always look for technology that has a quick turn around” said the owner. He made sure that as young agriculturalists we realized the importance of actively planning our operations and being ready to expand and adapt to the market when the opportunity arises.

Afterwards, we drove along the Blue Ridge Parkway and briefly stopped for lunch at Mabry Mill, a 100 year old, operational and functional corn grist mill. We then concluded our tour by stopping at the World Famous Château Morrisette Winery. Ms. Abernethy led us through the entire wine making process, from picking the grape to tasting and evaluating the wine. She made clear that it was competitive as a niche agricultural business and that it was important to find a market and heavily cater to them. Progressive agriculturalists are the future for American farmers. Each person who attended the meeting quickly realized how important our industry is and that we should not give up when we feel that our back is to the wall. Dr. Kohl’s brief message that concluded the conference seemed to tie everything together; “Marketing makes a business. As agricultural producers we must never forget that we are serving the public interest.” The Virginia Tech Agronomy Club would like to thank the following sponsors for making the meeting possible; Quantico Creek Sod Farms, Inc., Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Corn Growers Association, Virginia Soybean Association, Barts’ Insurance, Inc., Virginia Small Grains Association and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation.



Steve Barts and Libby Yarber are meeting with Dr. David Kohl. He is a retired Agricultural Economics professor. He spoke to us about niche markets and the importance of marketing our Agricultural harvests. He challenged each of us to work hard at what we do and to always be aware of the other cultures around us.



North Central Regional SASES Meeting Hosted by the University of Minnesota March 24th-26th



This year was definitely filled with excitement and learning at the North Central Regional SASES meeting in Minnesota. The weekend was off to an excellent start on Friday afternoon when students arrived at the optional Bushel Boy Farms tour in Owatonna Minnesota. Students were able to observe the behind the scene actions taken to make a successful hydroponic tomato plant work. This included viewing the Broiler room where the greenhouse is powered, the area of fertilizer mixing and distribution, packing rooms, and of course, the greenhouses where the tomatoes are grown. Before we entered the greenhouses we were warned that if we used floral scented shampoo, we may have little

visitors swarming around. This is because Bushel Boy uses bees as a way to pollinate their tomatoes. With their 16.5 acres of Greenhouses, Bushel Boy Farms produces over 8 million pounds of tomatoes a year. After the tour each school was given a box of their yummy tomatoes! This tour was a fabulous introduction to the weekend. We were now close and on our way to the University of Minnesota!

After arriving at the University of Minnesota Friday evening, Registration and a delicious BBQ supper awaited us. After the president's Meeting, fun was had by all who attended the Goofy Bowling Contests at the Coffman Memorial Union of the Minneapolis Campus. For those who had long drives, or flights, this was an enjoyable and entertaining (in some cases) way to get out and stretch our legs before settling into our hotels for the night.

The next morning we met at the Radisson hotel for breakfast and guest speaker, Jamie Williamson from golden Harvest. Williamson started our day off with an interesting talk on Soybean seed applied insecticide, also called the "Proximity study." After breakfast everyone split onto three buses according to which tour we were most interested in. Tour bus one was off to Sysco and Brooks wholesale fruit and vegetable warehouses, Rahr Malting, and Summit Brewery. A good report of taste testing was reported back from the Brewery tour! The second tour bus loaded up students to head off to Syngenta research center, O Meal and the John Deere-Training Center. Here students excitedly received cereal from Malt O Meal and souvenirs from John Deere. Finally, the third bus was off to and early start leaving to Davisco Cheese Operation and Northern Plains Dairy, ADM soy processing plant and ended at Pioneer Hybrid Research Station. All of the three tours had very positive feedback from those who attended.

Regionals were ended that night with a Banquet and dance. The dance, once again this year was fun filled and of course provided entertainment from those of us who dance like no one is watching!

Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough. ~ Unknown

Tour at Bushel Boy Farms





Important Dates:

- 🕒 **May 1**, Deadline to submit entries for Club Poster Presentation Contest
- 🕒 **May 9**, Deadline to submit abstracts and certification sheets for Student Research Symposium Contest
- 🕒 **June 15**, Deadline to submit entries for the Student Manuscript contest
- 🕒 **September 1**, Article deadline for SASES Newsletter, emerald8631@hotmail.com
- 🕒 **October 2**, Deadline to submit entries for the National Visual Presentation Contest
- 🕒 **October 27**, Deadline to submit certification sheets for the National Student Speech contest
- 🕒 **November 11-13**, National meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana
- 🕒 **November 18**, Chicago Collegiate Crops Contest
- 🕒 **November 21**, Kansas City Board of Trade Collegiate Crops Contest

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