

AgriNaturalist

Ohio State University College of Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences



Rural vs. Urban:
Water under the bridge

26
One-Hour
Getaways

Harvest for the
Homeless

Buzz on Bees

BUSTED!
The *real* scoop on
Greek life

Human and Community Resource Development

Leadership for the Human Dimension

Teaching Research Extension

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Our Ohio highlights the best the Buckeye State has to offer by featuring stories about how Ohio's agricultural heritage is woven into our lives through our people, products, values and culture. Exploring Ohio through the faces and places that have influenced who we are is the focus of *Our Ohio* magazine, Web site and TV series.

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WVIZ Cleveland
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tomorrow
turn for rural
news.



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Farm broadcasters Andy Vance and Lindsay Hill



Cover: This group of students represents the changing face of the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences. Photographed by Jill Mantey.

Golf Photo Courtesy of Lizzy Waidelich
Honey Bee Photo Courtesy of Karen Goodell

AgriNaturalist

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

This issue of the AgriNaturalist celebrates the diverse experiences to be had here at The Ohio State University, but its heart lies in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Founded as an agricultural school, Ohio State needs to recognize its rural roots rather than marginalize CFAES. Now, more than ever, fostering an understanding and mutual respect "on both sides of the river" should be a high priority here at Ohio State.

As an agricultural communication and English major, I am proud to call both CFAES and main campus home, but I feel an especially close tie to West Campus. Within that cluster of brick buildings, one can find world-class faculty and staff dedicated to research, outreach and—most of all—their students. Often disregarded as somehow less important than the rest of the university, the CFAES family is tight-knit and empowering, full of students with an abiding love for scholarship, Ohio State and perhaps the occasional pair of Wranglers.

Rumors about the fate of West Campus fly like perfectly spiraled footballs around Ohio State, and for that reason I believe that the university must recognize the amazing contributions that CFAES makes to all Buckeyes. Unique study-abroad programs, innovative new majors, fun and fascinating elective options and a wealth of diverse organizations make the college a great place for students to not only find an outstanding education, but also discover themselves.

Students across colleges may dress a little differently, speak a little differently and spend their time participating in different activities, but those details are trivial in the grand Ohio State scheme of things. This university prides itself on its multi-cultural student body and ability to offer a unique learning experience to each student, regardless of which point on the campus compass one identifies with. Does it matter which side of the Olentangy we spend most of our time on? No, because we are all Buckeyes.

Annie



Left to Right: Dr. Emily Rhoades, Cassandra Hupp, Morgan Hoover, Annie Specht, Erica Maxson, Bobbi Jo Parmiter, Jackie Lennartz, Jill Mantey, Elizabeth Custer, Jennifer Reed, Heather Stoodt, Kim Gardner, Christy Clary, Angela Gudorf

Organization Spotlights

By Morgan Hoover

Meeting @ 7pm

Saddle and Sirloin
Activities: Farm Science Review, livestock shows, Little International, catering, BASE Luncheon, garbage pick-ups, soldier care packages
This Year: S&S started a new philanthropy project: helping at the Ohio Wheelchair Games. "We're open to any new ideas and are really looking forward to next year!" said Lindsey Regula, president.

Agri Business/NAMA
Activities: Farm Science Review, Resume Clinic, NAMA marketing competitions
Next Year: They plan to develop a second fundraiser, a staff/faculty luncheon for the AEDE Department and a philanthropy event for a non-profit organization. "Our recruitment efforts are going to undergo massive revisions in the next year," said Ryan Conklin, president.

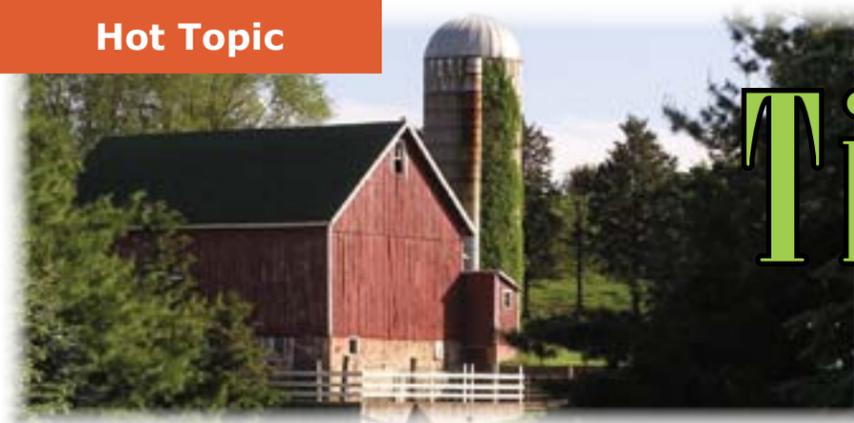
ACT
Activities: Earl McMunn Contemporary Issues in Agriculture Forum, Ag Comm CDE, Relay For Life, Children's Hospital donations, CFAES portfolio fundraiser
This Year: ACT put on an FFA clinic called the CDE Boot Camp. "I hope that we continue raising the bar for ourselves and our club's future," said Sara Camacho, the 2007-08 ACT president.

MANRRS
Activities: Welcome Reception, development workshops, International Festival, high school mentoring
What we stand for: "To promote advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences." "MANRRS is not just for minorities. We welcome students of all ethnic backgrounds," said Yolanda Moser, president.

Sigma Alpha
Activities: Ag In The Classroom, Promising Young Women Conference, crop walks, Relay For Life, Founder's Day banquet, Special Olympics
Next Year: They are pairing with ACT to host a charity date auction. "Sigma Alpha began at Ohio State," said Jess Smith, first vice president. "It is awesome to be part of a great tradition."

AGS
Activities: Homecoming hog roast, Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown, Spring Quarter Luau Party and various philanthropy and Greek events.
Next Year: AGS will focus on new recruiting events and hopes to establish a permanent philanthropy.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 am					
8:00 am					
9:00 am					
10:00 am	COMM 2214 PHYS 103 0835A-1118		COMM 2214 PHYS 103 0835A-1118		
11:00 am					
12:00 pm		AGR EDUC SPT AED100 11200N-0148	PHYSICS 103 0835C 11200N-0218	AGR EDUC SPT AED100 11200N-0148	
1:00 pm					
2:00 pm					
3:00 pm			AGR EDUC SPT HT6072 0330P-0548		AGR COMM 800 FS0114 0330P-0548
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm					
6:00 pm					
7:00 pm		PHYSICS 103 801 11			
8:00 pm					



Tick Tock

Time is Running Out on Farm Bill

By Kim Gardner

As farmers prepare for planting season, the roar of a tractor may not be the only sound they hear. The faint sound of ticking may also be reminding them that the 2003 Farm Bill is near its end, and a decision must be made on a replacement.

Many Americans are anticipating the completion of the 2007 Farm Bill, while many others wonder what effects, if any, a seven-month delay may have on the industry. Although there are only a few issues that remain to be decided, there has been a lengthy hold-up in the legislative process.

Background of Farm Bill

The farm bill is a piece of legislation passed every five to six years to set up farm and nutrition policies. It is made up of at least 10 sections that cover everything from traditional commodity support programs and rural development programs to food stamps and school lunch programs. The first farm bill was introduced in 1933, and it has been continually revised since.

The current bill on the books was first passed in May 2002, and was set to expire in September 2007. With a seven-month delay in the revised bill, many speculate how it will affect agriculture as a whole. However, many do not know that a delay of

this nature is very common with a bill of this size and importance, said Carl Zulauf, professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at The Ohio State University. Fortunately, the only real negative effect seen from this particular delay is in the area of nutrition, which has caused a lack of funding for food banks and donation centers. Other effects are yet to be seen, but the delay has frustrated many. Adam Sharp, senior director of national and regulatory affairs public policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, said, "One of the main frustrations with the delay in the bill is that farmers are now back in the fields. With spring already here and summer approaching, it is harder for farmers to go into their local farm service agency to learn and enroll in the new programs."

Factors of Delay

There are several factors that are to blame for the delay of the farm bill, including payment limitations and

reforms of the various commodity programs. However, the main setback to the farm bill is the budget. The farm bill being debated has around \$10 billion of new spending above what has been budgeted, and the majority of that \$10 billion is going to food and nutrition programs, not commodity programs.

With a big budget at stake, the last few farm bills have drawn increasing amounts of outside interest. Various commodity groups have become much more vocal in the bill's development. Before, talk only involved those groups focused on nutrition and traditional farming. "In order to pass the farm bill, a compromise must be struck between all interested parties. This means that the urban congressmen want to see something from the farm bill that benefits them, which accounts for all of the nutrition and food stamp spending," Sharp said.

Farm Bill Benefits

Commodity programs are at the heart of the farm bill, but there are many other programs in the bill that will benefit the people of Ohio. Some of these issues include

water quality, conservation and renewable energy, to name only a few. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown represents the state on the Agriculture Committee, which is responsible for the writing and organization of

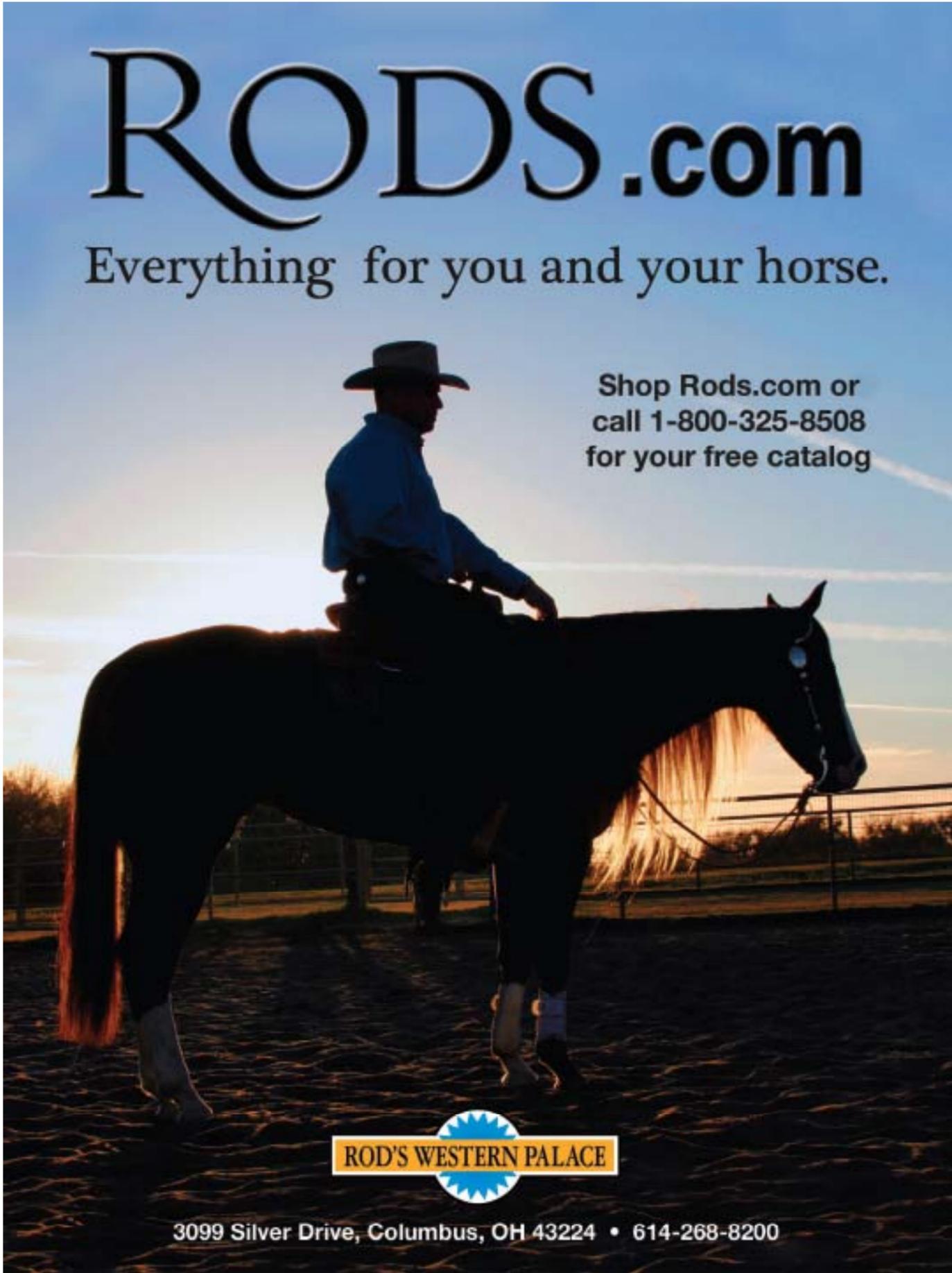
the farm bill. He is the first senator to represent Ohio on this committee in over 40 years. With this type of representation present, Ohio has a real voice in the creation of the bill.

Decision To Come Soon

There are four possible outcomes in the bill's future: A short-term extension of the current bill, a passage of a long-term extension of the current bill, a compromise and passage of the current bill or a complete expiration of the current bill. If the bill expired, agricultural policy would regress to the 1949 Farm Bill, which is the country's last permanent standing farm legislation.

As anxiety about getting a farm bill signed grows, legislators must realize that more important than getting the bill signed is getting the bill done right. □

***As of press day, no decision has been made regarding the farm bill, however two, one-week extensions have been made in recent weeks. A decision is reportedly close to being made.*



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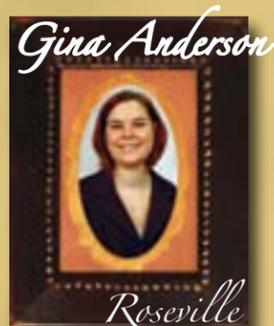
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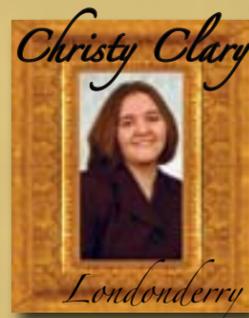
Top 20 Seniors

By Jill Mantey



Gina Anderson
Roseville

Ag and Extension Education
Favorite quote:
"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember amateurs built the ark and professionals built the Titanic." Anonymous



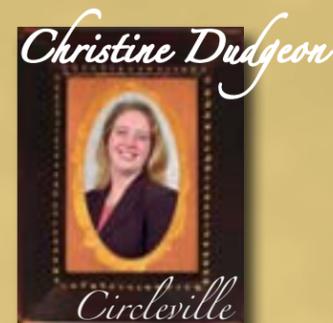
Christy Clary
Loudonerry

Ag Communication
Life lesson learned in college:
"Stuff happens, life goes on and tomorrow is another day."



Sara Camacha

Byron Center, NJ
Ag Communication
Favorite quote:
"If he brings you to it, he will bring you through it"



Christine Dudgeon
Circleville

Landscape Horticulture
Plans after graduation:
"To work at Fox Acres, LLC and spend time with my two children."



Elizabeth Duncan
Leesburg

Ag and Extension Education
Favorite class:
"Ag Comm 390. Tom Stewart is an excellent teacher with real-world experience who can relate to students."



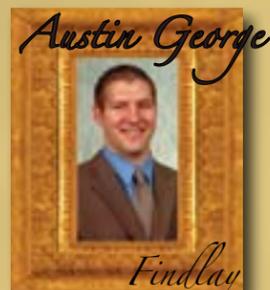
Jenna Genson
Farmersville

Ag and Extension Education
Life lesson learned in college:
"Have patience with those less patient than yourself."



Rose Dudgeon
Bladensburg

Ag and Extension Education
Favorite class:
"Social Dance. Even if you do not have rhythm, like me, you can still learn some good moves."



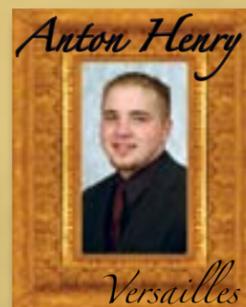
Austin George
Findlay

Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Plans after graduation: "I will be working as a commodity trader trainee for ADM Grain Company."



Abby Yochum
Sardinia

Ag and Extension Education
Life lesson learned in college:
"People generally want to help others, so do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it."



Anton Henry
Versailles

Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Plans after graduation: "Return home to the family dairy farm and apply... what I have learned from my four years at Ohio State."



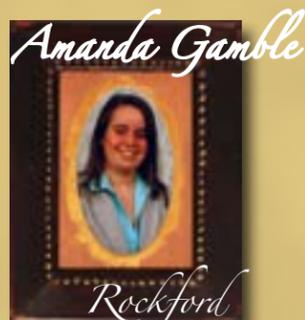
Katelyn McKnight
Waverly

Agribusiness and Applied Economics, Animal Sciences
Best place to eat on campus:
"Mirror Lake because it reminds me of the good food I got while living in the dorms."



Jackie Lennartz
Fort Recovery

Ag Communication
Favorite quote:
"Life should not be a journey to arrive at the pearly gates in a healthy, well-preserved pristine body. Instead you should slide in sideways, glass of wine in one hand and chocolate in the other hand, screaming 'What a ride!!!'" Unknown



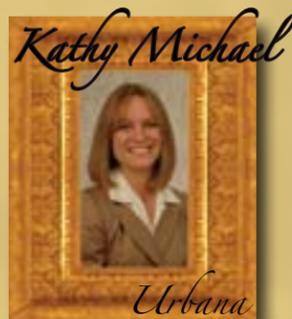
Amanda Gamble
Rockford

Ag and Extension Education
Best place to eat on campus: "Applebee's or Damon's for half-price appetizers with a big group of friends sharing the food family style."



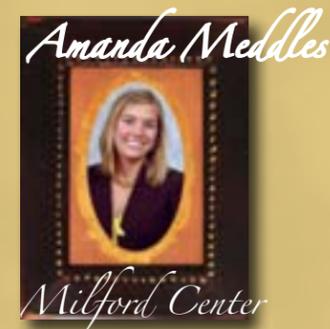
Jody Poth
Pickerington

Ag and Extension Education
Favorite place on campus:
"The Oval. No matter what your major, background or position, it is a common ground where everybody meets."



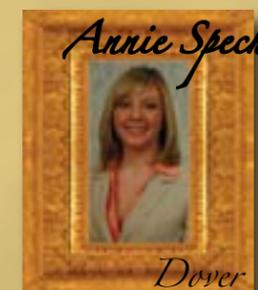
Kathy Michael
Urbana

Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Life lesson learned in college:
"It is the small daily happenings that make life spectacular."



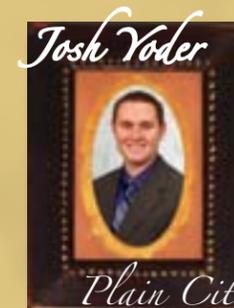
Amanda Meddles
Milford Center

Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Favorite class:
"Native American Powwow studies course. I learned a lot about the culture and attended a powwow on campus."



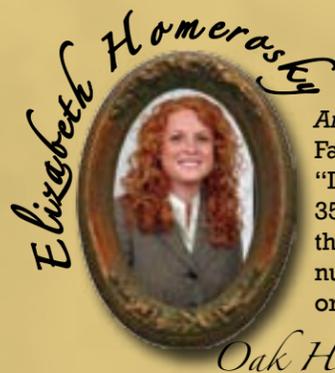
Annie Specht
Dover

Ag Communication, English
Favorite place on campus:
"Orton Hall. The library is a really great place to study. I love the geological sciences museum and, of course, the bell tower."



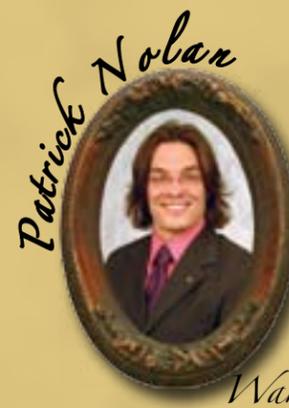
Josh Yoder
Plain City

Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Favorite place on campus:
"The AGR house. It represents... the friendships and memories I have had with professors and students alike."



Elizabeth Homersky
Oak Hill

Animal Sciences
Favorite class:
"Dr. Zerby's Principles of Meat Science 355.01. It is an interactive and tasty class that helped me understand how animal nutrition, genetics, microbiology and organic chemistry are interrelated."



Patrick Nolan
Wakeman

Ag and Extension Education
Best place to eat on campus:
"It is hard to pick just one place to dine. My top three are PJ's, Mama's Pasta and Brew and Flying Pizza."

We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny.

But what we put into it is ours. Dag Hammarskjöld

SERVICE with a SMILE

Story and Photo by Angela Gudorf

A perfect picture of strength, confidence and success... a teacher at heart and a leader by nature. This describes Linda C. Martin, PhD, to a tee. She captures students with her smile and then makes them feel at ease with her words.

With her extensive education and positive upbringing, it is no wonder Martin made it to where she is now. Growing up in Uniontown, Maryland, her father commuted 60 miles to work every day so that his family could live in a rural community. "He thought it was a positive environment in which to raise children," Martin said. Her mother stayed at home raising her and her two younger sisters. Martin was involved in FFA and 4-H, where she showed sheep and ultimately developed her love for animals.

She was encouraged to attend The Ohio State University by Herb Barnes and Dick Smith, state extension specialists. Martin received her bachelor's degree in animal science from Ohio State in 1982, and then pursued a master's in animal breeding and cattle genetics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1985. She finally earned her doctorate from Colorado State University in 1988.

After graduating, Martin was a faculty member at Kansas State University and Oklahoma State University before returning to Ohio State. This past October, Martin was named the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. "This place just gets a hold of you," Martin said. "It was just a real honor to come back."

A Helping Hand

She did not make it this far on her own, however. Martin has had many great teachers and mentors, but one in particular left a lasting impression. She bought her first lamb from Jack Price, and later worked for him, fitting and showing sheep. Over time, Price pushed her to strive for excellence. For years, Martin kept in contact with Price, keeping all the notes he wrote her. Unfortunately, Price has passed away.

"He is not here anymore, but he will always be here," Martin said, putting her hand on her heart and fighting back tears. "That is the kind of person I want to be. I want to be the kind of person that can touch lives in a positive way."

And that is just what Martin is doing here at Ohio State. She is not only helping with the college's new strategic plan, but she is also starting to look at programs that grab prospective students' attention. In addition, Martin wants to be sure that the college stays connected with graduates and keeps them involved. She also wants to focus on career development and innovative majors.

Students – The Bright Spot

While trying to promote CFAES, Martin refuses to lose sight of the true reason for this university - the students. "As a teacher and administrator, if we never forget what it is like to be a student, then the more effective we will be," Martin said. When asked what she loves about her job, she does not even hesitate in answering. "Ah, the students," she said with her trademark smile. "That's the bright spot. The students are inspiring, talented, articulate, caring, service-oriented and respectful. Our students are extraordinary students."

Debra Van Camp, a dual major in food science and nutrition and agribusiness and applied economics, was amazed by Martin's dedication from the start. "I was very impressed by her open door policy with students," said Van Camp. "She was very eager to listen and get involved from her first day on campus." Martin helped Van Camp apply for the Truman Scholarship, which is a \$30,000 scholarship for graduate students pursuing a career in public service.

"Dr. Martin helped me to prepare for the Truman interview process, and really challenged me to dream big," Van Camp said. "I think we all limit ourselves sometimes because we think an opportunity, for whatever reason, is out of reach. Dr. Martin helped me to overcome this thinking."

Martin is so truly dedicated to students that she even had a tough time naming her biggest accomplishment. In the end, her answer came from her student-oriented attitude. "If I have accomplished anything, hopefully it has been about touching the lives of students," Martin said.

"I admire her enthusiasm for her work and her transparent leadership style," Van Camp said.

In just a few short months, Martin has touched the lives of many students and faculty. With her confidence in CFAES, and its students, shining in everything she does, Martin will surely bring nothing but success and positive change to Ohio State. □

Associate Dean Linda Martin discusses Debra Van Camp's future plans.



Getting Into the *Swing* of Things

By Jackie Lennartz

Ohio State's new Professional Golf Management major flourishes in its first three years.

At first, fresh air, lush green grass, one of America's pastimes and approximately four years of exuberant learning do not seem to go together. But for Ohio State students who have discovered the Professional Golf Management (PGM) major, these items go together perfectly.

With approval from the university, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) added this major to its curriculum in the fall of 2005. PGM immediately began to flourish, and has been growing ever since. In the program's third year, there are already 75 students enrolled. Ohio State's PGM program is the first to be approved in Ohio and only the third in the Midwest. Similar programs have been implemented at Penn State University in Pennsylvania and Ferris State University in Michigan.

The PGM program incorporates an extensive list of courses from CFAES, Fisher College of Business, College of Education and Human Ecology and Ohio State's Department of Athletics. "The curriculum is a combination of business, turfgrass science, hospitality management and coaching," said Ray Miller, director of PGM. Some courses are also part of a sequence the Professional Golf Association of America (PGA) provides to the university.

Building the Program

"The program is in its infancy," said Anthony Roth, a senior in PGM. "There needs to be more structure in the program, but it has already come a long way."

The program is currently undergoing the process of becoming PGA-accredited. Only a few steps remain before the goal is achieved. "We do want each and every person who graduates from the program to become a PGA professional," said Mary Rose Molinaro, PGM recruitment officer. "We are

looking to recruit our first official class with regard to PGA accreditation in the fall of 2009." Being PGA-accredited will allow students to be certified PGA Class A professionals by the time they graduate. This will give Ohio State students an advantage, because they will not have to become PGA members in order to obtain top positions in the golf career field.

Qualified candidates for recruitment must meet the admission requirements of Ohio State and carry a United States Golf Association (USGA) 18-hole handicap of 10 or better. This is required because PGM students must pass the PGA Playing Ability Test (PAT) to graduate. "In

"We see in our students this passion. Why not make your passion your life and a lucrative career?"
-Mary Rose Molinaro

addition to passing the PAT, the PGA also requires students to pass a series of tests that cover everything that relates to the game of golf," said Miller. "How to run a tournament, how to repair golf clubs, how to give a lesson, how to run a pro-shop ... anything

that pertains to the game of golf, the PGA will test them on." Passing these tests allows students to enroll in their final internship. Compared to the one to two internship requirement for most majors, PGM students must intern for a minimum of 16 months. Each internship is a paid position that allows the students to learn from their supervisors and utilizes skills acquired in the classroom. The internships' purpose is to prepare students to take the PGA tests.

"I started golfing in high school, so I was not good enough to play on the [high school] team, but I loved the game," said Roth. Upon finding his niche in the PGM program in college, he must pass the tests and the PAT. Now he is getting ready to begin his final 6-month internship with Westfield Country Club in Medina, Ohio. After serving four years as a lieutenant in the Air Force, Roth hopes to obtain a high-level assistant position within the golf industry while finishing his studies to become a certified PGA Class A Professional. Ultimately, he would like to become a head professional or a general manager.

Continued on next page



PGM Club students pose with Morty's Kids participants at the OSU Golf Club. Photo courtesy of Carla R. Miller

No "Fores" About It

The program has come a long way since fall of 2005. A club-repair lab, located on the third floor of Howlett Hall, has already been built for students to learn how to repair and customize golf clubs. "I am proud to say the students mostly built the lab themselves," Molinaro said. "They had some instruction from golf professionals, and now it is in use!" In addition, a student lounge has recently been completed for studying, watching tournaments to improve skills and to accommodate the new PGM club.

The PGM club is comprised of students who are either in the major or for those who have a strong interest in golf. The club members are very active in campus and community-wide events. To spread their talents and skills to the community, members take part in Morty's

Kids through the Morton Foundation.

They teach inner-city and underprivileged children "the game of life through the game of golf," said Molinaro, by teaching moral values, social values and ethics while serving as college mentors to these children. "The PGM members also work with a group called 'Fore Hope,' which uses golf as a means of physical and psychological therapy for disabled individuals," said Miller.

The PGM club would also like to begin collaborating with other organizations at Ohio State to trade their golfing skills with other students' expertise. This would allow students to be more active within the college and become well-rounded businessmen and women.

The Future

Goals for the PGM program are being met each year with the students helping along the way. The program has



PGA Pro Chris Walsh looks on while Denny Weber instructs the Morty's Kids students at the OSU Golf Club. Photo courtesy of Carla R. Miller

already attracted top-notch faculty, staff and instructors to further enhance it. The department even has its own internship coordinator, Tom Shockey, who makes contacts with head professionals and general managers to acquire internships for students. The PGM program director and assistant director also have credible golf backgrounds and interact with students in class as well as on the range. The assistant director for student development, Chris Walsh, is a long-time Class A member of the PGA and was the Head Professional at the Ohio State Golf Club for 15 years. These individuals are also in charge of obtaining and dispersing scholarships for those in PGM, especially to women and minorities.

When the PGM program expands to its limit of 400 students, it will outgrow its existing space. Already planned is a new facility to occupy the club repair lab, an indoor practice facility, offices and a student lounge with state-of-the-art equipment.

For now, the PGM program is still standing on the ground floor with the sky as the limit. With accreditation from the PGA, the PGM major hopes to expand to being the best and largest of its kind in the United States. Upon graduation, students will have the upper hand in the job market because they will be Class A members of the PGA of America. These students will "immediately go out and find positions as head professionals, directors of golf, directors of instruction, resort managers, club managers, golf journalists, equipment testers and sales managers," said Miller. "There are a lot of different areas that they can go into."

"We see in our students this passion," Molinaro said. "Why not make your passion your life and a lucrative career?"

Story by Erica Maxson
Photos by Jill Mantey



Spring has sprung and the flowers are blooming. Students are sitting in their classes daydreaming about enjoying the nice weather outside. Instead, they are stuck inside taking time-consuming classes and listening to boring lectures. Oh, if they had only scheduled one of the many fun elective courses offered in CFAES!

Most classes are intense and require a lot of study time. However, there are several fun electives offered within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences that can ease studying and demolish daydreams. Two of these classes are Animal Sciences 245: Companion Animal Fundamentals and Food Science and Technology 170: Wine and Beer Western Culture.

Pets 101

Companion Animal Fundamentals 245 is a course meant to spark a student's interest in companion animals. In addition, this class is a stepping stone for what veterinary medicine students may choose to pursue in the future. Unlike traditional animal science courses, livestock is not the main focus. All animals are discussed, including common household pets. Class materials cover basic nutrition, physiology, and behavior, along with discussion on how students can be responsible pet owners.

Taught by Dr. Ana Hill, Animal Science 245 reinforces an interest in animals. The students enjoy lectures in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. The class also sets the stage for talking about "things that are not pleasant, nothing is sacred," said Hill. Because the class is more of a discussion laboratory, students learn valuable critical thinking skills that can be used in the future. Students are also given the opportunity to talk with other classmates about their opinions on a variety of issues.

There are approximately 15 different topics covered including dogs, cats, hamsters, rats, pet birds and reptiles. Communication skills are also utilized in the class through oral presentations and group work. With that said, this class is commonly misinterpreted for being much harder than it is.

Staff Favorites

A few other courses to check out:

- Agricultural Communication 350: Advanced Ag Communication Technology
- Animal Sciences: Animal Evaluation Classes
- Animal Science 250: Animal Products
- Animal Science 341: Equine Farm Operation and Marketing
- Food Science & Technology 101: Chocolate Science
- Food Science & Technology H208: Food: Fact and Fiction
- Rural Sociology 622: Amish Society

Entertain your brain

Testing Taste Buds

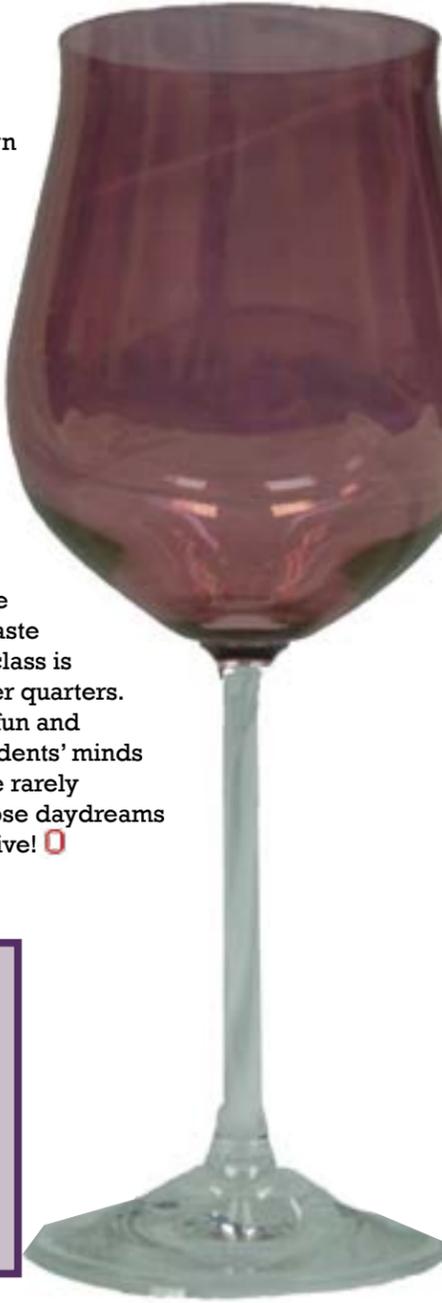
Food Science and Technology 170: Wine and Beer Western Culture is taught by Jeff Culbertson. "I enjoy teaching about fermentations like those used in wine and beer processing," said Culbertson.

This class teaches students about how wine and beer are manufactured, along with the different types that exist. "There are lots of cultures which use alcoholic beverages, and it is interesting to learn about them... there is a lot of cultural influence on the different types," Culbertson said.

Students also learn about the history of fermentation and the traditions of modern techniques that are used to make wine and beer. Beyond lectures, there are field trips to breweries and vineyards to see how these products are made. By the end of this course, students will not only know how to taste the difference between a dry and sweet wine, but they will also know about the largest wine and beer making regions.

For those students that are interested in testing their taste buds, this western culture class is offered in autumn and winter quarters.

Both of these classes are fun and educational. They open students' minds to something that they have rarely experienced. So banish those daydreams and take a fun CFAES elective!



A Little Bit of France at Ohio State

By Kim Gardner

While most students and professors were here on campus buried in their studies, and the December snow, 12 members of The Ohio State University community and individuals from various groups and organizations throughout the area traveled to the beautiful country of France. Not only were they there to take in the sights and sounds of the country, they were also there to learn the various meat-cutting techniques utilized by the French.

Locally Grown Inspiration

This trip was developed after a retired chef from the Cleveland area, Parker Bosley, contacted former Ohio State President, Karen Holbrook. He was looking for courses at the university related to meat cutting and direct marketing due to his interest in locally grown products. Paul Kuber, assistant professor of animal science said that as a chef, Bosley would only purchase Ohio-raised products grown within a certain radius of his restaurant. He would then alter his menus depending

on what products were on hand and in season at that particular time. Over time, Bosley realized that the agricultural industry was lacking consumer and producer relationships, and he made it his goal to find a solution to the problem.

After much discussion with the sources he found at Ohio State and a little grant writing, the group of 12 made the trip to France. The diverse group of individuals, which included faculty from the university, Ohio State Extension staff members and members of the Small Farm Institute set out on this trip to increase their knowledge on the French techniques of meat cutting. Also along for the trip were meat and dairy cattle producers as well as grazers from around the state interested in learning how to make the most out of their products.

Bonjour to France

The group set their sights on Southern France, which includes the cities of Paris and Rodez. Rodez, which is located in the Aveyron region, is home to one of eight institutes located across France that specialize in meat processing. Students attending the institute learn a particular trade while earning high school, and possibly undergraduate, degrees from the institute. The group spent the majority of their weeklong trip at the institute.

While in Rodez, the group learned about the French methods of meat cutting, which differ from the United States' because of the different meat-processing techniques used. Here in the United States, meat-processing methods are very industrialized. Some believe "the faster the better." However, the French style is made up of more whole-muscle cuts. "These types of cuts demand different culinary procedures, which means longer preparation time on the consumer end," Kuber said. With the differences in consumer culture between the two countries, the group knew that it would do no good trying to copy the French styles. Instead, bits and pieces that would best complement personal lifestyles here in the United States were the most important lessons learned.

Although the meat processing techniques of the countries are very different, the one thing that could be utilized here in the United States to make small farms once again profitable is direct marketing of specialized meat products. French producers, packers and consumers have a very close-knit relationship, which supports a strong respect for one another in the marketplace. "With a direct market like this in place, consumers are able to be more involved in the process as well as embrace producers to get involved in that end of the process," said Kuber. Direct marketing has a huge impact on French farming and has allowed for it to remain profitable. Seeing this has "reinforced my belief in small farms," said Leah Miller of the Small Farm Institute.

Implementation of Knowledge

With all of the information gained on the production and marketing side of the process, the group needed to figure out how it should be implemented. They realized that there is a great opportunity for small producers

and processors within the United States, as well as right here in Ohio. With a little added creativity in cutting and marketing, a higher price can be demanded. With an increase in demand, profit possibilities are endless.

With all of the knowledge that was gained from the trip, members of the group are excited about sharing with students at Ohio State as well as farmers across the state. Kuber is hoping to implement his findings into the niche marketing class that is taught every other year here in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The findings from this trip will enhance this class's main focus, which includes current market opportunities. Miller, on the other hand, is hoping to implement her new knowledge while working with small farmers across Ohio. The Small Farm Institute will be holding at least five sessions over the next year focused on training farmers in direct marketing and how to get the most out of their specific commodity, whether that be a closer producer-consumer relationship or specialized meat cutting.

As the weather begins to warm and summer approaches, group members look back on their adventure and knowledge learned. Miller said it was wonderful to learn the meat-cutting and direct-marketing processes in France. She enjoyed the opportunity to spend a week with a great group of people who would not normally work together. Kuber and Miller are ready to finally implement their findings and improve Ohio's agricultural industry. 



Members of the tour group look on as they learn French methods of cutting meat. Photo courtesy of Paul Kuber.



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Bridging

the GAP

Story and Photos by Jill Mantey

These boots are made for walking and that's just what they'll do..."

It is common to hear the stomp of cowboy boots pounding the pavement as students trek across the Woody Hayes bridge toward the west to the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). The bridge is the path agricultural students take to enter the comfortable west campus scene.

However this familiar stomp of cowboy boots is now being accompanied by the flip-flop of sandals as non-traditional students become involved in the college. For years the invisible barrier at the edge of the bridge has kept non-agricultural students from venturing to the uncharted territory of CFAES. This barrier may come down as students realize the college has more to offer than cows, plows, crops and manure. These days more

students in CFAES are gripping golf clubs in a professional golf management (PGM) class, making tasty kitchen creations as food science and nutrition majors and debating animal welfare in an animal sciences class. The rising awareness of new classes and programs has caused an increase in the number of urban students enrolled in CFAES, and those numbers are likely to rise.

Merge Ahead

There has always been a mix of rural and urban students enrolled in the CFAES, but there used to be more rural students than urban, said Jill Pfister, CFAES assistant dean of academic affairs. "Now there tends to be more urban students and they do not have the first-hand ag experience."

Experience in agriculture was something Renee Starkey lacked before coming to Columbus from Spokane, Washington. In high school, Starkey could be found rousing up fans as a cheerleader or selling merchandise at Nordstrom's. She was never involved in 4-H or FFA, but still felt working with animals was her calling. "I always knew I wanted to work with animals and coming from a non-ag background I thought all I could do was pre-vet," Starkey said. Starkey, a third year animal sciences major, applied to all the universities with veterinary schools

(which, by default, meant applying for the corresponding undergraduate agriculture schools). After being accepted at Ohio State, Starkey made the cross-country journey to begin a pre-veterinary degree in CFAES. But her goals were quickly rerouted. "After my first quarter or two I knew that pre-vet was not for me because there was so much else in the college to do," Starkey said. She is now involved in Buckeye Dairy Club and CFAES student council. She is also a CFAES ambassador and this summer she will intern at Cargill as a dairy nutrition consultant.

Starkey shows that students in CFAES do not need to be able to drive a tractor, milk a cow or know the FFA motto to blend in. In fact, results from a survey given to freshmen show a decrease in new students from areas of "town and country," or a municipality with 25,000 or fewer residents. In 2004, 71 percent of new CFAES

freshmen fell into the "town and country" category, and over the last three years that percentage has declined to 66 percent.

As the number of rural students decline, the amount of urban students is on the rise. The

same survey shows the number of freshmen enrolled in CFAES who come from suburban and urban populations has increased 6 percent from 2004 to 2007. On top of that, "the actual statistics are definitely higher urban percentage than the freshmen mix shows," Pfister said. This is because no background information is obtained from transfer students, such as those from the Fisher College of Business, who decide to become agribusiness and applied economics majors or those who come from one of Ohio State's regional campuses.

While it may seem the college is starting to actively pursue students from skyscrapers and sub-divisions, the CFAES admissions office opens its doors for students interested in agriculture, regardless of their background. The increase in non-traditional students is actually a result of 10 years of recruiting strong science-based students into the majors in the college that are strong in agricultural science.

The recruitment of science-minded students, along with the fact that fewer farmers are producing the goods needed to feed the world, means the college has to

become attractive to students in new ways, said Pfister. As fewer students cruise around campus in pick-up trucks, new classes and diverse majors such as Food Science and Technology 101 Chocolate Science and the parks, recreation and tourism major are drawing in students from across the river.

Two-Way Road

While innovative ideas and courses are bringing students in, CFAES sometimes sends students out. It is quite a change for Dave Mezger to be surrounded by so many buildings when his true place is chugging along in the tractor as he plows the fields of his family farm in Brown County. Mezger is a third-year food, agricultural and biological engineering major and has spent the majority of his time at Ohio State on main campus in engineering classes. "It is kind of lonely because everyone else I live with is on ag campus, and I feel a little less involved," Mezger said. There is also the downfall that main campus professors are not as willing to let students take off to go farm. Mezger is looking forward to his senior year when more of his classes are on West campus.

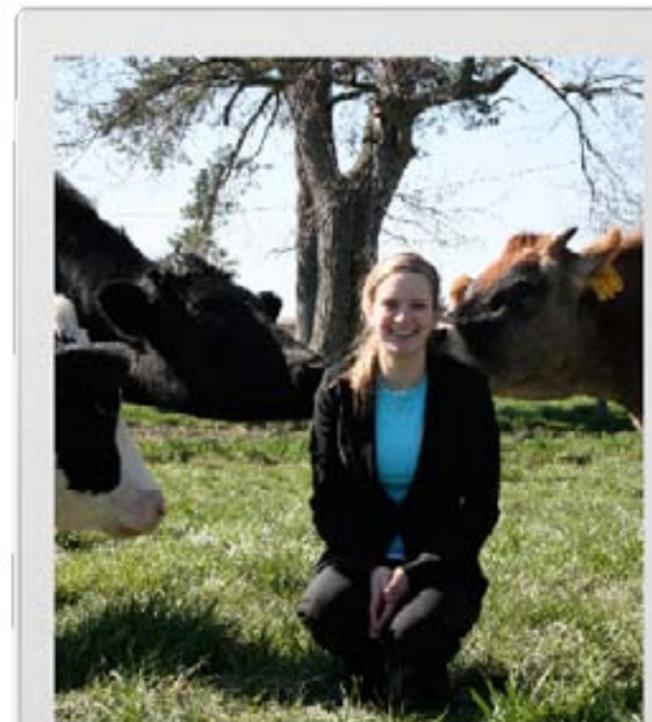
Even with students such as Mezger taking classes on main campus and the new science-based recruits coming in, the traditional agriculture programs of the college will always serve as the foundation for a CFAES education. "Has our education moved away from traditional agriculture? No. We have just expanded to include emerging areas of environment and natural resources, and that is the key part of our future," said Linda C. Martin, CFAES associate dean and director for academic affairs.

The "emerging" programs, as Martin prefers to call them, are "bringing together students with similar interests from different backgrounds which provides an opportunity to get a meaningful, cutting-edge education that cannot happen in places that do not offer this broad spectrum of academic programs." Essential improvements are happening in the college whether people realize it or not. Crop science and animal science, which are considered by many to be traditional classes, are ever changing. If these classes were still teaching the same content they did 10 years ago, they would be out of date, Martin said.

It is exciting to see the scope of agriculture as compared to 10 years ago, said Martin. As the college strives to advance with the changing times, the bridge will guide the way for students as they venture over to CFAES. Soon the sound of flip-flops and cowboy boots will echo loudly as they hit the pavement in unison. "These shoes are made for walking and that's just what they'll do." □

"After my first quarter or two I knew that pre-vet was not for me because there was so much else in the college to do."

-Renee Starkey



Before making the move to Ohio State, the closest Renee Starkey, an animal sciences major, had been to agriculture was visiting her county fair.

SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES

By Christy Clary

Jacob Dyer's father is in the Ohio Army National Guard. When Jacob found out his dad was going to be deployed, he locked himself in his room for three days. He only came out when his dad came to get him. Not all military children react the same way when finding out their parent is being deployed, but for all of them it is an emotional upheaval that sits heavy on their hearts. Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is trying to help military children with this struggle.

OMK started in 2005, in order to provide a lifeline for youth affected by deployment. OMK is a national partnership between Army Child and Youth Services, National 4-H Headquarters and other organizations. The Ohio OMK program is run by The Ohio State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development.

Andrew Seward, a senior in agricultural and extension education and a student assistant to the OMK program, said, "The purpose of OMK is to connect youth and families that are in the National Guard and Reserves and do not fall under the same support system of a military family located near military installation."

Filling a Need

Since August 2007, the Ohio National Guard has deployed more than 2,500 soldiers and airmen. This is the largest deployment since World War II. "We estimate about 2,200 kids were affected by this deployment," said Sue Ann Carroll, Ohio National Guard state youth coordinator. The United States Army felt a program needed to be implemented to help these children adjust to such a big change.

With the recent deployment of Ohio soldiers, OMK worked with Ohio National Guard Family Readiness to develop a youth program for the Family Mobilization Brief (FMB). Every soldier attends this brief prior to his or her deployment. With the help of OMK, youth like Jacob attend a program that runs parallel to the adult program, but with more kid-friendly activities. "The purpose of the Family Mobilization Brief is to connect kids who are experiencing a similar situation," said Carroll. "We hope they will make and keep the connection with the kids they meet." Activities at a FMB include crafts, parachute games and marble tube games. A short discussion on

deployment is also conducted by a service member who has been deployed to help answer any questions the kids may have. "The deployment talk we do with the kids is an effort to make them realize it is not as scary as it may seem."

With the recent mass deployment, there have been 24 FMBs with approximately 400 youth in attendance, Carroll said. Parents are very appreciative of the program. One parent contacted the OMK team after a FMB and said: "I wanted to thank you for such a wonderful program that you put on for the children at our military family briefing... Our children made great crafts and all of the staff working with you was so warm and friendly. The fabric pillows that our kids made are very special to them. They sleep with them each night, and for that reason they decided that as a surprise we are going to

pack them in with their dad's things when he deploys so he can sleep with them while he is away from home... The donating of your time to offer encouragement and kindness to our children is beyond

deserving of mere words of 'thank you'."

Carroll keeps comments like this in her "warm and fuzzy" folder. "That is why we do this. It verifies the time and work we put into it is impacting the kids and it is worth it."

Connecting Youth

While FMB's are a big part of the project, the largest event the program hosts is a five-day residential camp. This summer marks the fourth-annual camp. Held August 11-15, at the Erie County 4-H Camp on Kelleys Island, this year's camp will have a theme of Olympics, capitalizing on the fact that it falls during the Beijing Olympics.

Children and siblings between the ages of 9 and 14 can attend, said Carroll. Because all branches are represented, OMK camp is considered a purple camp because purple is the military term for all branches represented. Youth who have a parent currently deployed have first priority on attending camp.

Matt Baker, 15, has been a camper since the beginning and has participated in other OMK programs. As part of a Speak Out For Military Kids program, Baker told others about how he felt when he first found out his parent was

going to be deployed. "I was devastated. I did not really know what to do, where to go... and then I found this camp," said Baker. "It is really cool to be able to come here and have kids who have the same situation as you."

Seward said the number one thing campers like about the residential camp is making new friends. "We provide a situation for them to create social connections. They make new friends and pen pals that they can talk to, and [they] share their feelings about being a military child."

Parents also appreciate the camp. One parent said, "Wonderful is not a big enough word to describe [my children's] enjoyment [at camp]. This was their second year attending. Last year their father was activated and away for nearly seven months... your camp was the sole highlight of his absence, and I truly mean that."

The OMK camp schedule includes team challenges, archery and crafts like traditional camp. However, 4-H camps do not have Coast Guard boats and Blackhawk helicopters. "At camp last year the campers got to see a search-and-rescue demonstration and then go on swift patrol boats with the Coast Guard based on Lake Erie," said Seward. "We also had a one-star general land a Blackhawk helicopter on the field, and the kids got to explore it and ask the crew questions."

Another unique aspect of the camp is the integration of military values. "We try to incorporate military values, such as loyalty and respect, into our programming and discuss their importance with the youth."

Developing Leadership

Counselors for the camp are recruited from a variety of resources. "Our counselors from the past have traditionally come from 4-H camp," said Seward. In 2007, five counselors were from military families and three had previously been campers of the OMK camp. "We are always trying to interest military youth who have gone through the program to become camp counselors so they can connect with and be positive role models to the youth currently in the programming we are doing," said Seward. Counselors are expected to lead workshops, work in groups, interact with the youth and be responsible young adults. All applicants go through extensive training prior to camp and build valuable leadership skills throughout the process.

Building Resilience

New in 2008 for the OMK program are one-day regional "Hero Camps." Six of these camps will be held throughout the state over the next year, one in each of

the National Guard's regions. "The governor's office's faith-based initiative is paying for the camps. OMK is supporting the Ohio National Guard in the effort," said Carroll. Hero Camps are available to all military youth between the ages of six and 18.

"It is a lot like a FMB, but it is at a camp environment," said Carroll. "The kids can expect a full day of camp fun, but they will also have a small amount of time in the schedule where they will talk about deployment." Youth will be split into groups depending on what stage of the deployment process they are in: pre-deployment, current-deployment and post-deployment.

4-H and the Military

The military and 4-H have partnered to make a difference in the lives of military children. The question this raises is 'why did the military partner with 4-H?' "The partnership between 4-H and the military started because the Army recognized the strength that 4-H brought in the way of youth programming," said

Seward. "This partnership continues to work because it is a 'give and take' relationship and allows everyone to benefit. It helps to increase membership in 4-H and provides better programming for military youth, with more meaningful content than what was there previously."

"The Ohio National Guard originally partnered with 4-H because of the OMK," said Carroll. "After we started working together we realized what a valuable resource they are. The positive impact they have on all kids. And we have latched on to them."

OMK, 4-H, the military and other partners definitely have a winning team, serving a group of America's heroes that needs the attention. As troops are being deployed, it is important to remember the families and children they leave behind. These youth are heroes whose lives are changed, and they need support. Operation: Military Kids works to connect these youth with others in the same situation, and it is an invaluable service. A thank-you letter written by a camper at the 2007 OMK Camp says it best: "Thank you for sending me to Kelleys Island 4-H Camp. I am glad to find other kids who understand my situation."

Jacob Dyer may have locked himself in his room for three days when he found out his dad was being deployed, but now Dyer is out enjoying OMK events where he continues to make friends who share the bond of being a military kid. 



Matt Baker sits in a Blackhawk helicopter during the 2007 OMK Camp. Photo courtesy of OMK.

PHASE ONE OF ...

By Bobbi Jo Parmiter

Upon his return, President E. Gordon Gee has proposed that The Ohio State University make it mandatory for sophomores to live on campus. The following are the phases that will have to happen for this to be possible.

Imagine the following: It is the end of freshman year. After almost nine months of bad roommates and cramped living quarters, it is finally time to move out. At this point, all freshmen students can think is, "Next year things will be different." They will be living off-campus with whomever they choose in a spacious apartment that fits their every need. So how will they react when they find out that the university has made a different choice for their future?

With the current proposal for a second year mandatory living policy, this scenario is not far off. However, it may come as a surprise to many people that the university housing policy has stated that it is mandatory for both freshmen and sophomores to live on campus since 1965. With the return of President E. Gordon Gee, Ohio State looks to enforce this policy.

While most students see the disadvantages of living in the residence halls for two years, there are actually quite a few benefits for students. One advantage of living on campus as a sophomore is that it gives students an extra year of university support and structured living. By having this extra year of support, the students will be better prepared to live on their own. The university plans to also help students prepare for the apartment search during their second year, so they know what to expect when living off-campus.

Living in the residence halls for a second year also appears to improve students' future success. "As a sophomore in the dorm, I was able to advise underclassmen, take a leadership role in the complex and just become a more rounded and confident person," said Luke Morrow, a sophomore in animal sciences who currently lives in Norton House.

Since Gee's proposal, university officials have examined all aspects to ensure the policy's feasibility. To implement this program, the university would need to gain approximately 3,000 new beds. Officials arrived at this number by looking at current statistics on the percentage of freshmen and

sophomores living in the residence halls. According to William Schwartz, vice president of student affairs, about 94 percent of freshmen live on-campus while 30 percent return sophomore year. For the 2007-2008 school year, approximately 3,000 sophomores lived off-campus, not including commuter students living with parents.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the project considers the fact that many of the residence halls on campus are over 50 years old and in desperate need of renovation. The first step is updating these residence halls to meet modern standards and to make them more comfortable. By updating residence halls, university officials hope that students will view staying on campus in a more positive light.

The first scheduled renovation will turn floors one through 15 of Lincoln Tower into student rooms. The current offices located on floors four through 14 in Lincoln are all scheduled to move into other areas of campus by winter 2009. Primary "swing space," or temporary locations for this move includes the Fawcett Center, Drake Union and other Student Affairs facilities. This will create the needed space for 560 new beds.

In addition, the university needs another 750 beds to have enough "swing space" to renovate the "high rises" around campus. This bed space will either have to be built or leased from current apartments close to campus.

After enough swing space is created, renovation of Jones Tower, Park Hall, Smith Hall, Stradley Hall, Steeb Hall and Siebert Hall will begin. These buildings will be taken offline three buildings at a time beginning in July 2010. The renovations in these buildings include adding air conditioning, updating bathrooms and improving overall aesthetics. They are scheduled to finish these improvements by August 2012.

Along with improving current residence halls, the university has plans to add an additional 1,160 beds. This will include

building the William H. Hall Student Residential Complex (location still being considered) and using another new or leased building. These beds will be used to decrease population density within current rooms and will provide future swing space for further renovation. The goal is to turn the majority of current quads and triples into doubles in all residence halls.

Phase 2

Phase 1 is scheduled for completion by 2012, after which the university will look into establishing additional beds for sophomore living. The current goal is to have all sophomores living on campus by 2015. However, this can only happen if the land is found to build the additional space and if enough money is secured to do so.

According to Schwartz, it will cost approximately \$100,000 to build one additional bed space. The cost of each bed space includes the cost of building that room and furnishing it. Therefore, in order to build the needed 3,000 to house sophomores alone, the university must secure \$300 million. Since there is currently a push to keep tuition affordable, raising this money without raising student fees becomes a real challenge. Ohio State must look into fundraising in order to acquire the needed funds. However, Schwartz said, "If somebody comes in tomorrow, willing to give us \$300 million, then we will start building."

In addition, the need for 3,000 beds relies heavily on the number of admissions. Each freshman class is supposed to consist of 6,000 students, but recently classes have fluctuated between 5,700 – 6,300 incoming freshmen. This may not seem like a major issue, but in terms of beds it means the number of students housed ranges from 5,350 to 5,920. Therefore, if a larger class is admitted, more than 3,300 beds will be needed.

Are You Up to Par

Along with trying to find space to build additional university housing, officials are looking into alternative housing for sophomores. They have studied other universities, such as the University of Cincinnati and the University of Illinois, who already implement a mandatory sophomore living policy with a few exceptions. These exceptions include Greek living and certified landlords. Students' ages and parental housing are also considered.

For a sophomore to live in a Greek house or certified landlord home, the organization and structure must meet all university housing requirements.

"Personally, I think landlords around campus take advantage of the fact that students living in the off-campus area do not really know their rights when it comes to renting. In my experiences landlords charge high rents and do not fix problems correctly simply because they can get away with it," said Kate Jewell, a senior in marketing currently living off-campus.

Ohio State already has plans to begin surveying off-campus landlords to look into price, conditions and locations. The goal is to "certify" certain landlords if they meet university standards. These certified landlords will then be used to house some sophomores or will be recommended by the

university for off-campus living. The university hopes that off-campus housing standards will improve with this certification because of landlord incentives, such as recommending students rent from them.

Phase 3

Off-campus realtors are concerned about finding tenants for their apartments and houses when sophomores remain on campus. On the other hand, university officials have found that there are many students who currently live further off-campus in areas like the surrounding Columbus suburbs instead of near the High Street area. The hope is that when sophomores move on campus, students living further away will move closer to campus to fill the vacant locations.

"Sophomores living on campus is not an end, but rather a means to an end," said Schwartz. If Ohio State can successfully move sophomores onto campus and get more students to live nearby, they will integrate the on-campus living-learning communities into off-campus life. This simply means that when students do move off-campus they will move into a certain location (similar to law students living in the Gateway apartments or MBA students living in the Fisher apartments).

This goal is set to make the transition from the tight-knit residence hall community to apartment life easier. These goals may be vast and take years to achieve, but the university hopes the end result will be worth the time and money spent. 

The south campus high rises are scheduled for renovation beginning July 2010. The buildings will receive air conditioning, updated bathrooms and over-all aesthetic improvements.

Mythbusters

GGreek

By Elizabeth Custer

With comedic classics like “Animal House” and “Old School” serving as the stars of college movie nights, it is easy to view the life of the “frat boy” and the “sorority girl” as one full of secrets, rituals, hazing and ceremonies. All men in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences have the option to join one of four agriculturally rooted fraternities: Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR), Alpha Tau Zeta (ATZ) and Delta Tau Sigma (DTS). Women also have the option of joining one of two agriculture sororities: Sigma Alpha (SA) and Alpha Sigma Upsilon (ASU). But those who choose not to join are left to wonder what life is like inside Greek walls. Is the ATZ house a replica of “Animal House”? Does DTS hold “Old School” style wrestling matches? Where does AGR keep the hooded capes like the ones in “The Skulls”? Do SA and ASU members take part in “Animal House” rival sorority pillow fights? These are just some of the questions considered when trying to bust the myths—and uncover the facts—of ag Greek life.

Myth: Greek initiation includes hazing rituals like paddling, capes and embarrassing stunts.

All students have seen the rituals portrayed by Hollywood pictures. In these films, candlelit ceremonies or embarrassing stunts are used to turn anxious pledges into full-time fraternity and sorority members.

However, federal law de-myths this belief. It is illegal for any organization, team, group, sorority or fraternity to haze. If hazing occurs, both members and the organization face criminal charges. Kip Shoemaker recently went through initiation with the

Alpha Tau Zeta fraternity. “Hazing is not allowed, so it does not happen,” said Shoemaker. The activities that occurred during Shoemaker’s initiation process were meant to bond the entire house together and to teach new members to rely on one another. It is something that all members experience, and it taught him life lessons about himself and all the members of the house. However, some believe that secret hazing still occurs.

Gina Ginn, organizational development Ph.D. student and past sorority member herself, had a different perspective on hazing in Greek organizations. “You would be naive to think that it does not happen,” Ginn said. “But studies have proven that it does nothing to enhance an organization. Those who haze and who were hazed the most adamantly become disconnected to the organization as their time progresses. You lose the meaning of the organization.”

Myth: Within the walls of houses adorned with Greek letters, excessive drinking is a daily recreational activity.

Though John Belushi’s character in “Animal House” will not be found walking in between the Agricultural Administration and Agricultural Engineering buildings, some believe a whole population of Greek animal house members are on campus. The stigma of heavy and forced drinking rituals follows Greek organizations everywhere.

In reality, four of the six agricultural fraternities and sororities are dry houses, meaning they do not allow drinking in the home. This practice cuts down drinking and allows the house to be a study environment for the members, no matter what day of the week it is.

In AGS and DTS, drinking is allowed, but it is not a forced activity. “I have never once encountered anything like that,” said Mathew Weeman, new member of DTS. “Alcohol is present in the same amount that is normal throughout campus, but it is not excessive and definitely not forced.” Animal houses may exist elsewhere, but not in the CFAES Greek organizations.

Myth: Joining a Greek organization takes up so much time and energy that grades will certainly suffer.

College students are very busy. Balancing classes, working one or more jobs and attempting to maintain a social life often takes up more time than a 24-hour

day is willing to give. It is easy to assume that the extra meetings, mandatory gatherings and other fraternity and sorority events are too much to handle, so staying caught up in class falls to the wayside.

Stewart Kitchen is more than the average college student. Not only is he a member of the ATZ fraternity, but he has also spent two years serving as the drum major for The Ohio State University’s marching band. If anyone plays a balancing act with time, it is Stew. “My grades have actually improved since joining ATZ,” Kitchen said. “I work to meet the standards of the house, and the guys push me to do better in school.”

Kitchen is not the only fraternity member who pushes to do well in school. According to the Ohio State Interfraternity Council Web site, men in fraternities actually have a higher grade point average than the male average across the university. Sororities also offer a great environment that encourages scholastic achievement. SA encourages members to attend study tables and ASU awards members for high grade point averages. In addition, they both have minimum grade requirements for their sisters.

All Greek organizations are held to high standards and are expected to maintain high grade point averages within their houses.

Myth: Fraternities and sororities are elitist and want to keep their organizations secret and segregated.

Television and movies portray the college freshman trying to pledge a Greek house as an individual facing an uphill battle. First, the “pledges” have to be cool enough for the current members to like them. Then, they have to go through the trials of initiation. Only after the individual subscribes to the Greek ideology will they be welcomed with open arms. Yet, the opposite is actually true.

“The most important thing is that a potential member feels comfortable with us,” said Lucas Dicke, senior in the School of Natural Resources and member of AGS. “It is not about secluding people, it is about a group of men that mesh well together and get along.” By spending time in Greek houses, a person will find men and women of all backgrounds, colors, shapes and sizes. This mixture creates a unique environment that fosters a brotherhood or sisterhood.

Myth: Being in a Greek organization means that you pay for friends.

Friendship is an important aspect of the total college experience. Living away from one’s family for the first time creates an environment that lends itself to creating a small family of friends. In the eyes of some, a fraternity or sorority can easily be seen as a group of people that resorted to paying for friendship. But can friendship really be bought for the price of “Greek”? “It is easy to look in on a sorority or a fraternity without really seeing what goes on,” said Jenna Genson, member of Sigma Alpha sorority. “The activities that take place create tight-knit relationships, not the money that was paid to be a part of the sorority.”

Genson believes the relationships that are formed through Greek life are special. “Of course everyone has close friends, but for me, my best friends are part of Sigma Alpha because we have had experiences that have drawn us closer than members of non-Greek organizations.”

With all of these myths busted, students are left to wonder whether the shroud that hides fraternity “super-secret man stuff” and sorority “sisterhood secrets” has been dropped. Upstanding men and women, as well as college leaders, are making the choice to pledge themselves to organizations that create an atmosphere for scholarship, fellowship and service. Greek organizations are not for every student, and many opportunities provide similar experiences. The choice to join a fraternity or sorority is up to the individual, but it is possible that the stereotypical “ag frat boy” is really a business man and the “sorority girl” a strong and successful woman. 

Social Activities - Service Projects

Professional Development - Trips



Networking - Internships - Guest Speakers - Leadership - Critique Contest - Industry Tours



Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow



President: Morgan Hoover, hoover.219@osu.edu - Advisor: Dr. Emily Rhoades, rhoades.100@osu.edu, Room 206 Ag Admin

Honey Bees Strike? Or Strike Out?

Photo Courtesy
of: Karen Goodell



By Jennifer Reed

As the honey bee populations dwindle, some researchers are looking toward accommodating other native pollinators.

Take a stroll down memory lane. Remember being five years old and playfully running through a field, until...Ouch a bee! Sound familiar? The chances of this scenario playing out have decreased in recent years, causing researchers to ask: are the honey bee colonies bouncing back, or are they teetering on extinction?

According to Jim Tew, Extension honey bee specialist at The Ohio State University, in 2006, 50 to 72 percent of Ohio's honey bee colonies died, while in 2007, only 25 percent of Ohio's colonies died. Normal colony loss rates range between 10 to 12 percent. "Honey bees do not seem to have the vitality that they had 20 years ago. Nutrition, genetics, pesticides and pests are the common suspects, but we don't know why bees are, in general, not as healthy as they once were," said Tew.

Honey bees play a vital role with nation's crops, but the odds are currently stacked against these pollinating machines. Honey bees do not stand a chance against competition from Africanized honey bees and the varroa and tracheal mites that they have no resistance to. Both types of mites can weaken and shorten the life span of bees and possibly kill entire colonies if not treated. Another threat is the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

The unpredictability and drastic decline of honey bee populations has caused researchers to turn to other species of native bees for the pollination of our food crops. Native bee colonies offer an alternative because they are resistant to both types of mites, do not live in hives and are not at risk of being overrun by Africanized bees.

Native Nurturers

For the past three years, Karen Goodell, assistant professor in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State, has been trying to answer the question: "What is the contribution of unmanaged (native) bees?"

Goodell explains there are around 3,500 species of native bees in North America. Unlike honey bees, most native bees are solitary, ground-nesting and do not produce honey. They tend to stay in a single crop rather than fly between crops, providing more efficient pollination. Because they fly rapidly, native bees can pollinate more plants. The males also contribute, resulting in more crops being pollinated.

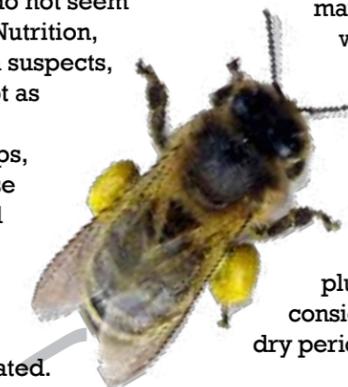
"Native bees are major contributors to our pollination needs, and they do not always get the credit they deserve," said Tew. Growers tend to not realize the amount of

pollination that native bees perform in their fields and gardens. In order for researchers to measure the native bees' contributions, growers must provide nesting habitats and refrain from using harmful pesticides.

Provide and Bee Provided

The best way to preserve bees and benefit from their pollination services, Goodell explains, is for farmers and gardeners to accommodate the bees in their area. For ground-dwelling bees, they should set aside an untilled margin of land on the perimeter of their fields where the bees can make nests in the soil.

For wood- and stem-nesting bees, they should gather piles of branches, hollow reeds or nesting blocks made out of untreated wood and place them by their garden or field. Some wood-nesting bees, like the Mason bee, need sources of water or mud in order to create mud plugs that seal their nests, so farmers might consider watering a portion of the field during dry periods.



Pesticide Abuse

Pesticides are just as big of a problem for honey bees as they are native bees. Some farmers are not aware of their plant's biology and abuse the use of pesticides, said Goodell. The overuse of pesticides has contributed to the loss of many bees. Even natural herbicides and botanical insecticides can harm bees. "Any kind of pesticide should be applied in the evening when bees are in their nest," said Goodell.

The relationship between bees and flowers has never failed. "We expect plants to bloom, we expect bees to pollinate those blooms and we fully expect food to develop from that bee/flower relationship," said Tew. "That relationship has never failed us, but with an 87 percent decline in Ohio beehive numbers in the past 50 years, how long can we expect fewer and fewer bees to do more and more pollination work?" he added.

The future of pollination relies heavily on the cooperation of human beings. As Goodell said, "Pollination is a free ecosystem service that is worth taking care of so it will persist into the future."

Until the honey bees develop the strength they had 20 years ago, farmers and gardeners should take steps to accommodate the bees. And for those out there who do not appreciate the sting of a honey bee, do not take it for granted. 

Goodwill Hunting

By Morgan Hoover

More and more hunters cannot fill all of their tags because of limited freezer space and excessive processing costs. They run into the same situation every fall after harvesting one or two deer. The freezer is full and funds are exhausted, so they must stop hunting. But there must be a better way. The deer population has boomed in the last 40 years, resulting in millions of dollars in damage. Deer permits have increased, and now it is time for deer harvesting to increase. One way this can be done is through goodwill hunting.

Farmers and Hunters Unite

Ohio has several organizations that allow hunters to donate their harvested meat to help the less fortunate. One organization is the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). It is a 100 percent volunteer, non-profit Christian organization that pays for processing fees and then gives the meat from the donated deer to various homeless shelters.

Dave King is the coordinator for the Central Ohio chapter of FHFH. In the last four years, his chapter has provided more than 10 tons of processed venison to homeless shelters, food banks, neighborhood pantries and other missionaries.

"Farmers can get damage control permits. A lot of times the farmer will just shoot the deer and let them run into the woods and die, and that meat gets wasted. So we have been working with the state so that the farmer or hunter can just drop off the deer at one of our processors," said King. "We pay for it to get processed, and then we get into the mission of feeding the hungry."

FHFH also works closely with county game wardens to ensure that the harvested meat gets put to good use. According to King, preventing the meat from going to waste is just a matter of educating the farmers and hunters. "Say they have 20 harvest permits, if they give us a call the day before they harvest, we will go out and pick the deer up and get it back to our processor," said King. "They do not even have to bring it in."

The central Ohio contracted processor for FHFH is Thurn's Specialty Meats at 530 Greenlawn Ave. in Columbus. Thurn's abides by the state-recognized wildlife laws that deer must be signed over to FHFH with a legitimate tag number, and they will only accept legally harvested deer.

To participate, hunters can take their deer directly to Thurn's. Out of season, Thurn's asks that the donor call ahead, but in season they are open seven days a week. Other select processors are listed on the FHFH web site, www.fhfh.org. FHFH also welcomes monetary and time donations. "We are always looking for volunteers and coordinators, not only in Franklin County, but throughout the state," said King. "It only takes as much time as you put into it."

A letter King read aloud makes it apparent that the community appreciates FHFH's support:

A heartfelt thanks to you and your members for your continuous support and donation of the ground venison meat. Clients were so excited to see the meat in the freezer. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated by our clients as the meat provided them with a bowl of chili on a cold day.

"It was a way for me to give back something I have enjoyed all my life," said King.

"There is one family with 12 kids that I love donating to. The mother of the children said that I was the answer to her prayers."

-Gabe Coleman

Personal Touch

Gabe Coleman, an alumnus of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, has hunted since he was in sixth grade. He donates his venison in a different way. Through word-of-mouth, Coleman located several families who were in need of help.

"I donate to several families and through the Salvation Army," said Coleman. "There is one family with 12 kids that I love donating to. The mother of the children said that I was the answer to her prayers."

Coleman harvests all of the deer himself. However, he will not harvest an animal unless he is sure that it will "have a good home." Although he has heard of organizations like FHFH, he would

rather donate directly to families. "I like giving to the people that need it; to me, it is more personal."

Take Control

As the deer population has increased nearly 4,000 percent in the past 40 years, it is important for hunters, farmers and even car owners to weigh their options. According to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, deer cause \$2 billion in damage nationwide, excluding vehicle accidents. This includes \$100 million in agricultural crop damage.

Donating allows one to inexpensively help control the deer population and give back to the community at the same time. Currently the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio Division of Wildlife are working together to make it easier to obtain more permits and to add incentives to fill more tags. More tags must be filled, or the deer population will continue to grow and cause future problems for Ohio. Now when hunters have reached maximum capacity, they can fill the freezers of the less fortunate. 



Ohio's deer population allows for philanthropy of a different flavor.
Photos courtesy of Gabe Coleman



all eyes on livestock welfare

Ohio State takes a hands-on approach to a hands-off issue.

Story and Photo by Annie Specht

The haunting images of sick and injured dairy cattle being violently mistreated in a Chino, California, slaughterhouse were splashed across newspapers and magazines and streamed on YouTube and other web sites. The so-called “downer cow” videos, released by the Humane Society of the United States to the *Washington Post* on January 30, 2008, contained graphic scenes of cattle being run over with forklifts and incurring other abuse. The resulting outrage led to the largest meat recall in the history of the United States’ packing industry – and cast a dark cloud over American agriculture.

The recent Westland/Hallmark scandal is the latest black mark against livestock producers in a society increasingly concerned about food safety and animal welfare. Researchers in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University are working to educate farmers on the importance of proper animal care while gauging public opinion on the subject through ground-breaking state- and nationwide surveys concerning farm animal welfare.

Ohio State Extension Steps In

Naomi Botheras, an Ohio State Extension programming specialist, believes that producer education is key to bridging the gap between agriculture and American consumers in the wake of the California meat recall. “This kind of thing should not have been going on, least of all because it is damaging to the dairy industry,” she said. “I hope the industry does not cover it up, but takes advantage of the current focus on handling.”

Her bubbling energy barely contained in a small office in Room 221 of Ohio State’s Animal Science Building, Botheras, a native of Australia, assists with a livestock-handler training program called ProHand, which she describes as “not just a lecture.” “It is more than just sitting [producers] down and trying to impart some bit of information,” she said. “It is a process of change.”

Botheras said that ProHand is based on “cognizant

behavior intervention that targets negative behaviors” in human-animal interactions. “It is about changing attitudes and beliefs about and toward livestock.” According to Botheras, studies show that reducing handling stress benefits both the animals and the producer’s bottom line, and she reports that the program has been successfully implemented by two large Ohio hog farms with “nothing but positive feedback.” She is especially proud of her work with Cooper Farms, a poultry and swine operation in Ft. Recovery. “The top levels of management were very proactive, and that feeds right down through to employees,” she said.

Botheras also noted that programs like ProHand have been in use for years in Australia, thanks in large part to the Animal Welfare Science Center (AWSC), a partner organization of the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Department of Primary Industries. Botheras earned her Ph.D. from Melbourne while working with AWSC. “The U.S. is far behind Europe, Australia and New Zealand in terms of welfare research,” she said.

An Academic Approach

Across the street in the Agricultural Administration building, members of CFAES’s Human and Community Resource Development (HCRD) department have teamed with their Animal Science counterparts to discover just how far behind the global learning curve American producers and consumers really are.

In 2006, the group proposed an interdisciplinary research study to evaluate the American public’s concern regarding the animal welfare issue. According to Linda Lobao, a rural sociology professor in HCRD, the project consists of two surveys. The first is a national and statewide census relating to consumer concerns about livestock treatment, and the second is an appraisal of agricultural producers’ attitudes and opinions toward livestock welfare. So far, said Lobao, about one-third of the 3,000 consumer surveys sent to Ohioans have been returned, with similar returns reported for the nationwide survey.

“We never knew what Ohioans’ feelings on animal welfare were. There was no Ohio- or nationally-specific data,” Lobao said. Because the survey is one of the first of its kind, “when I work with the data, it’s like opening up a Christmas present.” The team members from HCRD, including Lobao and Jeff Sharp, an associate professor in rural sociology, are interested in discovering what makes American consumers tick – and how the livestock welfare issue influences their habits.

When the survey was first proposed, the researchers wanted to know “What does the population think? What forms their attitudes?” Lobao noted. “Sociologists take a practical view: Let’s scientifically understand how they come to these attitudes.” When the data already collected has been analyzed, she expects to see strong disparities among the respondents. “The American consumer is very polarized. Some people are very concerned, but there are others who don’t care,” said Lobao. “There are gender differences, rural and urban differences.”

The animal scientists, on the other hand, are more interested in measuring the public’s knowledge of its food and how it reaches the nation’s tables. Part of the consumer survey is devoted to scientific questions aimed at testing respondents’ familiarity with agriculture and some of the most controversial husbandry practices, including tail docking, beak trimming and the use of gestation crates and electric prods.

“We are and continue to be concerned about the well-being of the animals raised for food,” said Maurice Eastridge, an animal science professor and member of the research team. “The livestock industry’s focus must be on health and housing for the well-being of the animals and communicating to the public how these needs are being addressed, not with the old verbiage of ‘We can’t afford to not take good care of the animals, else their performance will be affected and our businesses will be less profitable.’”

To round out the project, this summer the team plans to collect information from the food industry to determine

how public and organizational pressures impact its practices, according to their research proposal. They will also survey livestock farmers to “track changes in response to consumers’ concerns,” Lobao said.

Satisfying Both Sides

Though their approaches to the welfare question seem vastly different, both Botheras and Lobao cite the same reason for the immediate necessity of their programs and research: educating farmers about the public they feed. “People certainly do not like to be told that they are not doing the best they could be,” Botheras said. “But producers need to start understanding consumers rather than burying their heads in the sand.”

Lobao concurs. “The bias is that the consumer needs to be educated. But their attitudes are already formed,

“Producers need to start understanding consumers rather than burying their heads in the sand.”
- Naomi Botheras

and producers need to work within that paradigm,” she said. “We may dismiss consumers, but they are a market that has to be satisfied. ‘The customer is always right,’ right? So let us give the consumer what the

consumer wants.”

A strong fear of animal-rights backlash taints many farmers’ opinions on the subject of livestock care, Botheras said. “Producers are really terrified of the animal welfare movement, and their reaction is to get on the defensive. The traditional views are changing; the broad general public has a right to say how their products are produced.” What she does “is not activism,” she said, “but simply trying to be proactive.”

The livestock welfare issue concerns both producers and consumers, and crises like the slaughterhouse scandal in California highlight the economic and social toll that it can take on agriculture. “This is an issue that is not going to go away, and there is so much we do not know,” said Botheras. Programs like ProHand and pioneering academic studies strive to break down the barriers separating farmers from society at large, and Botheras welcomes the prospect. “This is a new area of science, and I think it is exciting and rewarding.”

New Rec Facilities

WORKIN' OUT

Story and Photo
by Cassandra Hupp

For most people, pleasing a diverse population of more than 60,000 students would be a daunting, unpleasant and maybe even impossible task. But for the leaders of The Ohio State University's Department of Recreational Sports, developing a community that accommodates students of different races, ethnic backgrounds, desires and physical abilities is a work in progress. With the opening of the Recreational and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), the Adventure Recreation Center (ARC) and the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) in 2005, the recreational sports staff is already seeing improvements in how the facilities provide for the diverse residency here on campus.

Compared to Larkins Hall, the building that previously housed the main fitness center, the RPAC, ARC and OAC are a major hit. Studies show that 53 percent of the student body regularly visited the university's workout facilities before construction of the RPAC began, while 92 percent utilize the facilities today. Recreational sports staff and directors believe the significant increase in attendance is not just caused by the "fitness craze" of the 21st century, but because the new buildings are more compatible with the needs of members.

RPACked with Fun

With over 25,000 square feet of recreational space, the RPAC has basketball, squash and racquetball courts, a fitness floor, a cardio loft, golf-hitting stations, a game room and an indoor track and aquatic center. The RPAC also houses the Department of Intramural Sports, which provides students with the opportunity to engage in competitive, yet fun, team sports, such as soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, cricket, dodgeball and ultimate disc. However, the central campus recreational center does not just provide students with sport and exercise opportunities. Architecturally, the building's layout was designed to better serve the diverse student population as well.

"The RPAC is more open, making it easier to supervise because every area is visible. It is safer for the students. It also offers passive space for students who do not

necessarily want to exercise, like the studying and meeting rooms, and the dining and lounge areas," said Jimmy Francis, assistant director for the ARC and Outdoor Facilities.

The functional layout has also improved air quality and lighting, something important to students who work out in the facility. Kelsey Hall, a graduate student in agricultural and extension education who has spent time in both Larkins Hall and the RPAC, agrees that the change from old to new is tremendous. "Since Larkins Hall was a square-shaped, brick building, I felt like I was wondering in a maze of corridors with dim, florescent lighting to find the needed recreation area," she said. "But the RPAC offers better natural lighting and more locations for students to relax or work."

Smaller Facilities More Student Specific

Staff at the ARC and the OAC are also seeing how their facilities adapt to diverse but student-specific needs. With two indoor turf fields, four basketball courts, a fitness floor, and a cardio loft, the ARC appears to be a smaller version of the RPAC. For this reason,

the ARC is a perfect workout location for students who enjoy a more personal "fitness club" environment. The ARC also appeals to the international population at Ohio State.

"Nationally, Ohio State is one of the few schools to have a building such as the ARC with the indoor turf fields. With soccer being such a huge international sport, we get a diverse member population here because they want to use the turf fields. It is great for breaking down language barriers," said Francis.

The OAC, which includes the Tom W. Davis Climbing Center and outdoor trip services, caters to adventurous students. Lauren Thompson, a recreational sports employee, has seen first-hand how exciting the OAC excursions can be for students who relish in the outdoors. "Trips offered include sea kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rock climbing and camping trips. These adventure trips give students a chance to experience something they

have not experienced before. It gives students a chance to connect with their fellow classmates and have a fun weekend getaway," said Thompson. The facility also offers rental programs, where students can rent anything from scuba gear to camping and fishing supplies for a small fee. The OAC team also works hard to make the outdoor recreational facilities, such as Fred Beekman Park and the Disc Golf Course, places where students can go to hang out and relax. Their goal is to provide students with parks instead of sports fields.

Giving a Helping Hand

To a certain population of students, these new facilities provide for them in immeasurable amounts. Lindsay Meyer, coordinator of Adapted Recreational Sports, has personally seen the improvements the new facilities have made in terms of accommodating members with disabilities. At the old Larkins Hall, some disabled students had to cross the roof to access certain parts of the building. Elevators and lifts in the building functioned inconsistently. But at the RPAC, ARC and OAC, almost everything is accessible to the disabled. The fitness floors include machines that can be adapted to those in wheelchairs or with limb prostheses. The aquatic center offers pool lifts, along with swimming classes that help socialize the mentally disabled and provide exercise for those with mobile disabilities. In addition, the OAC's climbing wall has the equipment to accommodate disabled students. The Adapted Recreational Sports department also offers other personal accommodations including personal workout assistants, disability-specific equipment, assistance in accessing the building from parking lots and visual impairment aides.

"The new facilities are more welcoming than Larkins. The number of people in the Adapted Recreational Sports programs has almost tripled since the opening of

the RPAC. The facilities also provide in terms of teaching services, because professors will bring their classes over to see how these accommodations are made in rec sports," said Meyer.

Still Work to be Done

There is no doubt that these new facilities are making great strides in satisfying OSU's diverse student body. Not only do the new buildings provide for students through their equipment, program opportunities and passive activity space, but also through the different special events hosted in the facilities each school year. The National Intramural Basketball Championships and the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament were both held in the buildings this past year. The RPAC also hosts a Thanksgiving Dinner, a Times Square New Year's Eve program, Late Night at the RPAC events, Global Fest and A Taste of OSU (an international food-tasting program). During football games, the RPAC maintains "Plaza Gate," a non-alcoholic, family-friendly tailgate party, and the RPAC's special events gym will also house the Denman Research Forum this May.

"Larkins Hall served its purpose at the time of its existence, but with such a big university and diverse student population, OSU outgrew the facility. We have seen these new facilities create positive behavior changes with student members and employees," said Michael Dunn, director of recreational sports. "The RPAC, the ARC, the OAC, all the Jesse Owens buildings and the outdoor facilities provide something for any and every student here on campus. We will continue to target this diverse student population and study them until we reach our goal of meeting the needs of every individual. These are first-class facilities, and they should be, when they are being used by first-class students and first-class faculty." 



Staying with Strangers

Story and Photo
by Heather Stoodt

Halfway around the world, the bell rang for the start of the International Studies 356 class at The Ohio State University, but animal sciences major Jen Lynch was not present. In fact, she had not even planned on trudging through the knee-deep Ohio snow to get there. Lynch had a good reason for why she skipped class. She was 10,000 miles away from the United States, wading in the warm waters of the Bass Strait.

Lynch was a 15-hour plane ride away from Columbus, soaking up the sun in Melbourne, Australia, for six weeks. There she learned firsthand what the culture was like through a study abroad program and returned to Ohio State with a different perspective on the world. Ironically, her courses were not where she received the majority of her knowledge. For five days, she lived with new friends, whom she would soon call family. These inviting strangers showed her the Australian way of life.

So Many Options, So Little Time

Australia is only one of 18 different study-abroad programs offered through The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The programs, ranging from Australia to Iceland, are designed to fit the needs of students in the college. Experiences can last eight days to six weeks, but only four of the programs offer students the chance to stay with a host family for a portion of their visit. The programs that offer host stays include the Australia and Brazil tours during winter quarter, the Czech Republic in the summer and Mexico in the fall.

"The home stays give students a more realistic understanding of the culture of a country. Students who

only experience the academic setting are missing out on the diversity of a country," said Kelly Koren, CFAES study abroad coordinator.

Living in the Outback

While she attended daily animal production classes at Melbourne University, Lynch was able to kick back in her private bedroom at the home of Australian couple Geoff and Jenny King. The goal of the visit was to introduce her to Australian culture outside of the classroom. The couple, along with their two daughters, Jessica and Belinda, showed her what a typical day was like in Australia from a native perspective.

Lynch's five-day home stay in the city of Wagga Wagga was not all about relaxation. Before she knew it, she was diving deep into a culture she had never experienced before. First on the King's agenda was showing Lynch the city. After a car ride experience on the opposite side of the road, Lynch and the Kings arrived at a local art gallery to browse. Then they were off to take part in nature, hiking through Australia's rolling hills. However, for Lynch the most intriguing part of the stay took place inside the home. There she enjoyed sitting down with the family to talk about the country's religion, holidays and language. "Australians shorten a lot of their words; breakfast soon became brekky," said Lynch.

The home stay also allowed Lynch to smell the sweet aroma of various traditional homemade dishes. Lynch said that it was typical to find hamburgers loaded with bacon and eggs and sandwiches topped with beets. "They spoiled me rotten and even baked me cookies. It was an awesome experience," she said.

Buckeyes Invade Europe

Like Lynch, animal science major Callie Wells was across the Atlantic Ocean, learning from a native family. Wells, however, experienced quite a different culture during her study abroad in the Czech Republic. For eight hours, Wells sat in a spacious, high-speed passenger train with Czech student Marko Nguyen. The two were on a journey to meet Nguyen's family, who live in Slovakia. As Wells stepped off the train, she was greeted by the vast mountainous landscape of the Slovakian countryside, as well her host family. The family consisted of Marko's sister, grandmother, Slovakian mother and Vietnamese father. Only Marko and his sister spoke fluent English. "Although the parents did not speak English, I felt that I could almost carry on a conversation through intuition," said Wells.

As part of her four-day adventure, Wells interacted with the locals in an authentic setting, miles away from tourist towns. Wells took a tour through the Nguyen family's small town, participated in church services, took a hike through a Slovakian mountain range and even shopped for traditional food at the local supermarket.

Beyond the picturesque scenery and the historic castles, Wells' conversations with the Nguyens allowed her to pick up the Eastern European perspective of life after the fall of communism. "I was surprised about how much the Czech's knew about the history of their culture and even ours," said Wells. "It seemed as though they were more socially responsible because of their past."

What was even more satisfying for Wells were the friendships that she developed while abroad. Wells says that she still stays in touch periodically with her host family through e-mails, catching up on the latest news.

Are You There Yet?

No matter what the destination, a study abroad experience offers a chance to see a culture in living color, not just from a textbook. Family stays further develop the knowledge learned abroad by building close relationships with the natives. Like Lynch and Wells, other students may find themselves longing to bask in the sun or become caught in the middle of a mountain range. Instead of waiting for the next ring of a bell to call it a day, discover the options abroad. 

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EAT BETTER, \$PEND LE\$\$

By Christy Clary

The dreaded "freshman 15." All incoming students hear about those mythical 15 pounds they will gain during their first year of college, and all claim they will stay active to combat the predatory pounds. Across campus, students of all ages want to maintain a healthy weight without draining their bank account.

A balanced diet and exercise are two great ways to avoid weight gain. The Ohio State University offers multiple options to work out, including the Recreation and Physical Activity Center, Adventure Recreation Center and the Jesse Owens Recreation Centers. The large Ohio State campus also provides miles of outdoor space to walk, run or bike. However, exercising is not always the difficult part. Eating healthy on a budget can be difficult - unless a person plans.

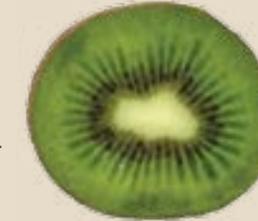
Plan It Out

A. Janele Bayless, wellness coordinator with the Student Wellness Center, said the number one thing a student can do to eat healthy on a budget is to plan meals. "Plan what you want for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the week," Bayless said. "This forms your grocery list. Stick to the list."

Juan Blanks, a fourth-year food science and nutrition major, sits down on Sunday to plan out all of her meals for the week. "I know then what I need to pick up or pull out of the freezer. I do not randomly shop. I go in, get what I need and get out." Blanks also said planning out her meals helps her to make healthier choices. "I think more about what I am going to fix. I do not necessarily cook what is easiest; I cook what is going to be the best for me."

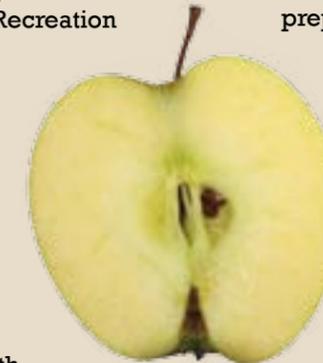
Having a list is the first step to shopping; the second step is looking for deals. Do not be afraid of buying generics. "They taste just the same," said Bayless. "Sometimes it is the same product with a different label." Bayless also said to look at the top and bottom of the shelves, because food at eye level is often more expensive. Bayless also recommends buying food in bulk. "You just have to check the price per unit to see if you are actually getting a deal."

Cooking meals at home also saves money when compared to eating out. Bayless said, "When you cook at home you can include multiple food groups and have multiple meals." An example of a money saver for Bayless is a tuna noodle casserole. "I use a can of [Campbell's



Healthy Request] cream of mushroom soup, peas, tuna and whole wheat noodles." Not only is it a healthy meal, but when the math is figured, Bayless eats the casserole for about a dollar per meal.

College students have busy schedules, but Blanks said planning ahead also helps with this. "Having my meals planned out, I know ahead of time what I need. Most of my meals take about 15 to 20 minutes of cook time with five minutes of prep," said Blanks.



Snacks Attack

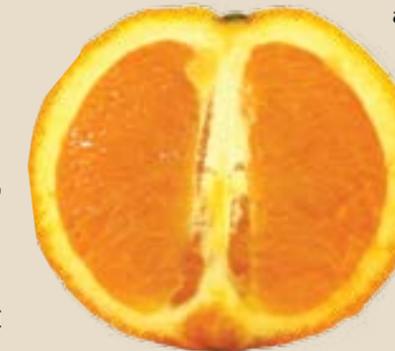
Keeping healthy snacks around is also important. "Peanut butter is a great thing to keep around," said Bayless. "It gives you a lot of protein and healthy fats." Other snacks to keep around include fruits, vegetables, popcorn and trail mix. By combining dried fruit, nuts and whole wheat crackers, one can have a great homemade snack. Another good choice of a snack is instant pudding. "It is a great source of dairy," said Bayless.

Pre-portioning meals and snacks is also important to eating healthy and keeping to a budget. "You are less likely to eat as much if you pre-portion your food," said Bayless. This will make food last longer and help one eat healthier.

Avoiding the "freshman 15" is important to many college students. Doing it on a budget is even more important and is not impossible.

If students plan ahead and select good nutritious foods, eating healthy on a budget becomes second nature.

Just remember: The Snickers bar at the checkout line may not be the best choice. 





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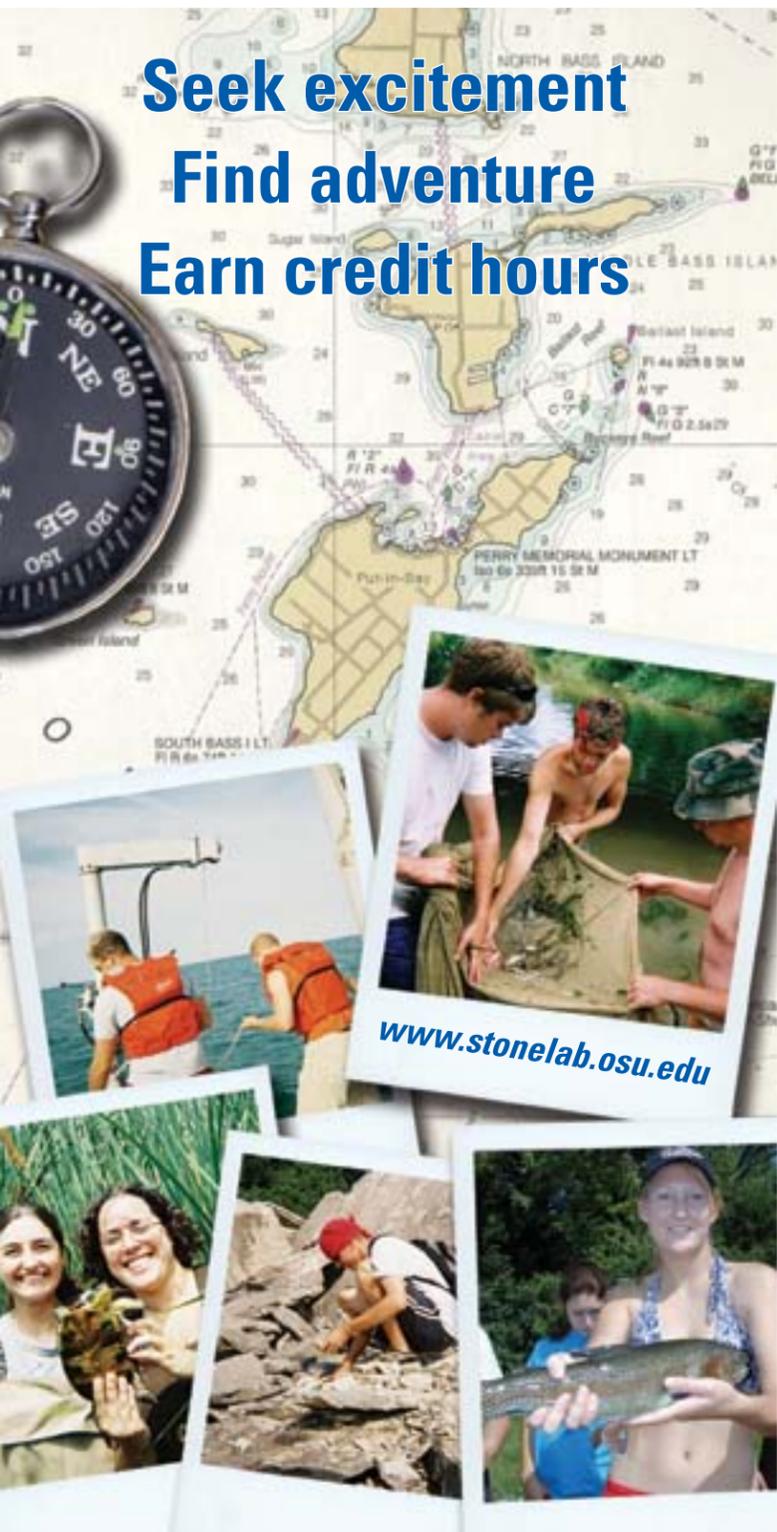
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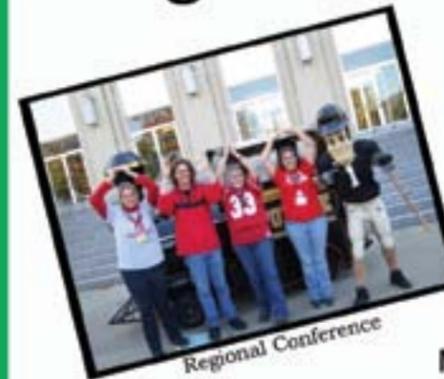
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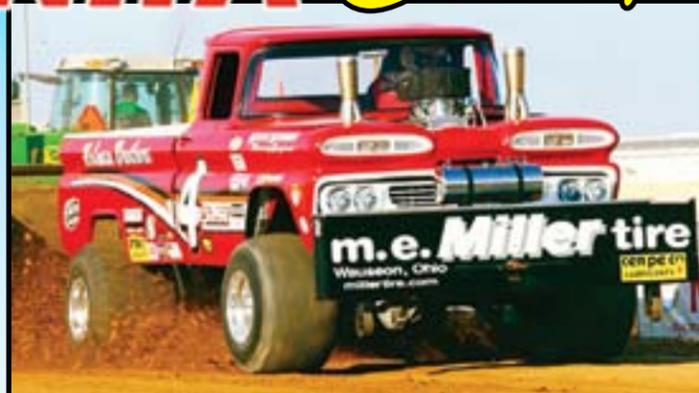
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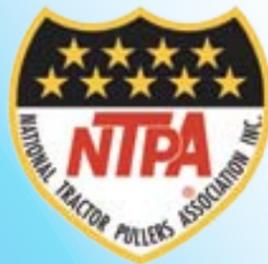
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