



Alumni:

Greetings Agriculture Alumni & Friends!

Hope that October finds everyone in good health and COVID-19 free. We have had a busy year, so very excited to share this year's newsletter. You will not want to miss our upcoming Agriculture Alumni Homecoming Celebration at the WKU L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center, Saturday, October 29th, 2022 (registration 9:30 am, brunch/meeting 10:00 am). Last year, we formally recognized 2021 Awardees Alumnus Ruthi Pike, Agriculture & Food Science Alumnus of the Year; Alumnus Dr. Debbie Shoulders, Agriculture & Food Science Friend of the Year; and Alumnus Jim Koos-tra, Agriculture & Food Science Spirit of the Year. We will announce the new 2022 Awardees at this year's Homecoming Celebration.

A deep and heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Cris Scudder for his years of service to the Department. Cris will be retiring from WKU at the end of the year to focus on the family enterprise. He has worked endlessly and selflessly for the benefit of our students and programs. Thank you Cris, we wish you all the best going forward!

I am pleased to announce three new additions to our program. Nikki Roof is our new artisan cheesemaker. I suggest that you do yourself a favor and check out some of her awesome new Hilltopper Creamery award winning cheeses, more on this later in the newsletter. Madelyne Taylor is our new Horticulture Technician. Madelyne will be heading up an exciting new initiative for the Department, again more on this later. Dr. Navdeep Singh is so new to the Department that he will not arrive until next January. He will be joining our faculty to provide additional depth to our ongoing efforts to promote agricultural sustainability. In other news, our new Floristry Certificate Program is now up and running. Please see Roger Dennis for additional details.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Charles Anderson. Dr. Anderson had tremendous passion for our students and WKU in general. He was especially passionate about our Equine Program and literally built the program up from bare earth. I find great consolation in the fact that Dr. Anderson was able to witness our Equine Program reach new heights under his protégés Creste Jean and Paige Smith. His legacy lives on.

We are most fortunate to have you all as part of the WKU Agriculture & Food Science family. Thank you for all you do and hope to see you at our Agriculture Alumni Homecoming Celebration on October 29!

Best wishes,

Fred DeGraves

Chair, Agriculture & Food Science

2021-22 Outstanding Students



Hunter Groves, Outstanding
Agriculture Business Student and
Outstanding Senior



Susan Spinks, Outstanding
Agricultural Education Student



Laney Newton, Outstanding
Agronomy Plant Science Student



Andrew Haycraft, Outstanding
Agronomy Soil Science Student



Emily Wheeler, Outstanding
Animal Science Student



Micah Treves, Outstanding
Horticulture Student



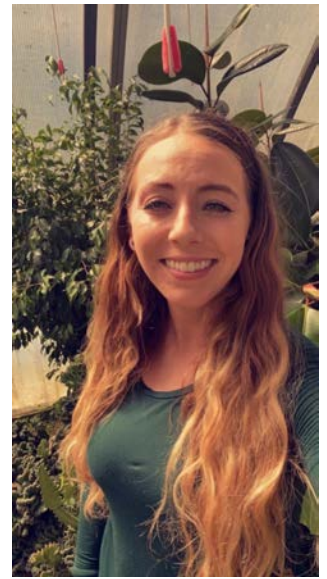
Michael Netherton, Outstanding
Turfgrass Management Student

New Faculty/Staff



WKU AREC is happy to welcome Nikki Roof to our AREC Staff. Nikki started with us in November of 2021 serving in the role of Creamery Technician. Originally a Floridian, her family moved to Edmonson County, KY when she was a teenager. She attended WKU where she received a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Agriculture in 2013. She later completed an M.S. in Organizational Leadership at WKU in 2021. Prior to this position, Nikki worked as a specialist with WKU Academic Outreach. She also raised goats on her farm and dabbled in making goat cheese. Her science background with Biology and Agriculture, marketing and student engagement experience with WKU Academic Outreach, and practical experience on the farm made her an excellent choice for this position. She has already achieved success in her brief time at Hilltopper Creamery as you will learn more about in this newsletter.

We are happy to announce a new addition to our AREC team. Madelyne Taylor is our new Horticulture Technician. She joined our team this past summer. She will have oversight of the horticulture areas at the University Farm including the greenhouses and horticulture student workers. Her main responsibility will be overseeing the vegetable production for the Farm to Campus program. She will also work with students to grow bedding plants in greenhouses to be used for on-campus landscaping. Madelyne Taylor is a 2021 WKU Agriculture and Food Science graduate. She is an Edmonson County native. She completed internships with Baker Arboretum and the University Farm while a student. Additionally, her family owns Tayvin Gardens in Smiths Grove, KY. Tayvin Gardens is an event venue with extensive European-style gardens. She assisted with the establishment and care of these gardens. We are excited about having Madelyne with us and looking forward to reaping the benefits of her efforts with our gardens, greenhouses, Farm Market, and Farm to Campus program.



Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient

Hello, my name is Lillie Wood. I am senior here at Western Kentucky University and will be graduating in December 2022. I am from Shelbyville, Kentucky where I live on my family farm. On the farm we raise hay and our Holstein dairy show cattle. I have been involved with 4-H and FFA my whole life through showing dairy cattle. Raising and showing my cattle made me fall in love with agriculture and has allowed me to major in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science. With my major I hope to work with cattle or become an A.I. Technician. Thank you so much for supporting me with your generous scholarship. I hope to be able to visit with you in person at Homecoming.



Agricultural Education News

What a great year to be a Hilltopper in Agricultural Education! The Agricultural Education program continues to make strides in developing some of the best agricultural teachers to meet the needs of today's modern schools. We have had another great year in the Department of Agriculture & Food Science. Students celebrated National TEACH AG day by handing out popsicles on campus and taking pictures with the TEACH AG photo frame. They also watched the NAAE videos on promoting agricultural education. Madison Bodine began her student teaching semester at Nelson County high school. She completed her semester very successfully and received her teaching license. Members also participated in the AES Halloween meeting with many members in costume. The fall also brings about the Barren River Regional contests with students serving as judges and leaders in Ag.



AES Members and Dr. Kingery at the Halloween meeting

AES banquet that was held in April at the Faculty House. Top individuals were rewarded for their academic and their AES efforts. Leadership awards were presented to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors and the senior future teachers were recognized. Retiring officer awards were presented to: President – Chassity Warner, Vice-President - Hailee Risen, Treasurer - Tristann Burks, Secretary - Macie White, Newsletter Editor - Jaycie Barger & Makayla Bizzell, and Social Media - Katie Hickerson. Leadership awards for each class were: Freshman - Tori Langman, Sophomore - Layne Blankenship, Junior - Katie Hickerson.

The Rising Sun Award for teaching zero to five years was awarded to Alumnus Mattie Minks (B.S. AgEd, 2021). Susan Spinks and Aaron Decker were the graduating Seniors and completed all the requirements for teacher certification. Chassity Warner received the Outstanding Senior Undergraduate Student Award. Susan Spinks received the Ogden College Agricultural Education Award.



The 2022-23 AES Officer Team. Pictured left to right; Macie White, Katie Hickerson, Dr. Thomas Kingery, Tristann Burks, Jaycie Barger. Bottom left to right; Makayla Bizzell and Tori Langman.

Sales, AIC, Junior Parli, Job Interview, Small Engines, and Welding. The apparel sale was a success as new items were added to the sale. Finishing off the fall semester was the AES annual Thanksgiving meeting with excellent food and the Christmas meeting with a gift exchange.

The spring semester saw the agricultural education students blooming as they planned for the Agriscience Field Day and served as judges for the Barren River Speaking contests. It was also time for our spring student teachers to go to work. Susan Spinks was placed at Taylor County High School and Aaron Decker was placed at Greenwood High School. Both had great experiences and received their teaching license. AES members also participated as judges in the Barren River Spring Leadership contests. Students helped assess FFA members in public speaking and team contest events. The final event for the school year was the



Leadership award recipients. Pictured left to right; Tori Langman, Layne Blankenship, Katie Hickerson, Chassity Warner.

Agricultural Education News

The new AES officer team also hosted the first TEACH AG Day. High schools students from Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee enrolled for the event. The AES officers provided meals and training for attendees in courses they may take to become an Ag. teacher. They rotated through laboratory classes being taught by WKU Alumni Ag. Education graduates and current students.



Susan Spinks and Chassity Warner attended National

Our graduates continue to be in high demand and are easily finding their place in public schools in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana.

The AES scholarship Fund is still open for donations. The money raised in this fund will be given to AgEd students. It cannot be awarded until we meet the \$10,000 minimum. All donations are accepted.

If you know of any student that would like to be an Agricultural Teacher, please forward their information to Dr. Kingery so he may invite them to campus for a visit.

Convention with Dr. Kingery.

For further correspondence please contact Dr. Kingery at thomas.kingery@wku.edu or 270-745-3152.



AES Members at the Christmas Party

Submitted by Dr. Thomas Kingery

WKU Agricultural T.E.A.C.H. Day

The WKU Agriculture Education Society hosted the first T.E.A.C.H. (Today's Educators in Agriculture Cultivating their Horizons) Day open to middle and high school students. This day was planned around the idea of our love for Ag Ed and WKU. We are passionate about helping our program grow to its potential and we believe hosting this day helped with that. The officer team went through the process of getting approved, first by department head, Dr. Fred DeGraves, then by the dean of Ogden College, Dean Brown. We also asked for donations so we could provide students with transportation (to and

from farm to campus), two meals, materials for the workshops, and a free t-shirt. We were blessed to receive 10 \$50 donations along with donations from Ogden and the Department to make this day possible!

We had 20 students sign up to attend, 13 of which participated the day of. We had students from Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee in attendance. We focused our workshops on what it takes to become an ag teacher and what it's like to be a college student. There were workshops taught by Ag Ed students, WKU Ag Ed Alumni (Harley Hawkins, Catherine Poole and Thomas Poole), and Dr. Kingery. We also played barnyard Olympics. We received great feedback from this event and we plan to host another in the future.



and Thomas Poole), and Dr. Kingery. We also played barnyard Olympics. We received great feedback from this event and we plan to host another in the future.



Attendees with their t-shirts.



Dairy News

The WKU Dairy continues to improve daily from its partnership with the National Holstein Association and the WKU Smart Holstein Lab. This partnership was made possible by grants received from the National Holstein Association and the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board. The grant will help place new technologies at the Dairy for demonstration and educational purposes. The WKU dairy farm is set up to milk 56 cows and raise associated replacement heifers. The long-term goal is to develop a 100% A2, polled herd of cows in the top 20% of the breed for TPI with additional emphasis on health, reproduction, and fitness traits.



In the past year, the dairy has installed new cow misters, calf barn ventilation, feed pusher, milk monitoring system, headlock monitoring system, vaginal calving and temperature device, cow locator system, neck tag health monitoring system, milk pulsation monitoring, and new waterers, rubber mats, and fans in the freestall barn. The Lely calf feeder should be installed soon with new companies looking to join the team.



The Dairy has recently completed its second successful corn silage harvest. Adding an additional silage wagon to the fleet this year and rebuilding the chopper allowed more acres to be harvested in fewer days this season. In April, we were able to chop wheat silage to utilize in the ration. We have seen a great increase in milk production and cow health from the quality forages. We strive to harvest the best quality corn, wheat, alfalfa, and hay possible.

Dairy News

The genetics of the herd are moving forward fast. The dairy has two heifers that will be used as embryo donors. One has a Total Performance Index of +2990, Dairy Wellness Profit of +1017, Net Merit of +1026, with +1047 pounds of milk. The other has a Total Performance Index of +3023, Dairy Wellness Profit of +1092, Net Merit of +938, with +1422 pounds of milk. Seeing the genetic growth of the herd has been an eye-opening experience and I look forward to seeing what we can continue to do in the future. The top genetic animals in the herd are being bred to female sexed semen to continue improving genetics. The lower end animals will either be used as embryo recipients or bred by artificial insemination to Angus or Sim/Angus bulls. These beef cross calves will not only give us more marketing options, but will create better quality beef products than traditional Holstein beef.

A highlight of this past year was a visit last fall from Governor Beshear. Provost Fischer and Dean Brown were also able to tour the SmartHolstein Lab. I want to give a special Thank You to all the generous donors thus far. The WKU Dairy currently has over 20 industry partners working with us on this project. There have also been 22 do-



Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear with WKU Ogden College of Science and Engineering Dean David Brown on a tour of the WKU SmartHolstein Lab at WKU AREC

nated milk cows and heifers through the Send a Holstein to College program.

Collaborations and partnerships from established and startup dairy technology and data providers are welcomed and essential for the success of this project. Many industry partners have already donated technologies to this endeavor.



The WKU SmartHolstein Lab is a place where partners can come to explore new opportunities with an experienced team of dairy analytics leaders. Industry partnerships may come in the form of donation of expertise, technologies, or graduate student stipends. Mutually beneficial collaborations with other university faculty members, international visitors and scientists, and non-profits are also welcome. Please contact us at wkudairy@smartholstein.com with questions or expressions of interest. You can learn more about the WKU SmartHolstein Lab at www.smartholstein.com or by following SmartHolstein on Facebook or Instagram.

Submitted by Dr. Paul Woosley

Hilltopper Creamery

The Hilltopper Creamery made our first batch of cheese alongside WKU students in April of 2017. Reflecting on the last five and a half years is a humbling reminder of the many triumphs and hardships which led us to where we are today. It has also shaped our goals for the future. The monumental loss of Gary Beu, our Artisan Cheese Maker, in January 2021 weighs greatly on us as we strive to assume the mantle and make Gary proud. He was instrumental in the process of becoming a licensed and operational facility, meeting and exceeding innumerable goals, and maturing into a pivotal resource for cheese making in Kentucky. In many ways we have revisited paths well-travelled by Gary and are delighted to share we are once again actively permitted and back in production!



In addition to re-opening operations, our major goals for the year are to raise the creamery profile both on campus and within our community and increase awareness of our amazing products, facility, department, and university. To meet this goal, we have increased our digital and in-person efforts by hosting or participating in many campus and community events. The Taylor Center, home to both the Hilltopper Creamery and WKU Farm Market, has welcomed over 450 visitors in the last year for more than 45 tours and 15 special events. Highlights include:

- Group Tour & Charcuterie Board Grazing Events for:
- New York 4-H Chapter
- 2 Corvette Cruise Caravans
- Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) State Outreach Counselors touring WKU
- Dozens of future & current WKU Students
- Recruitment Tours for Potential Students and their families.
- Students enrolled in HMD 151-Hospitality Management Dietetics “Food Science”, AD 310-Advertising “Visual Concepts in Advertising”, and ENG 200 & 300-English “Intro to Literature” & “Writing in the Disciplines”

You might have spotted the Hilltopper Creamery out in the community at more than 15 off-farm events such as:

- NAFDMA International Agritourism Association Conference
- WKU Earth Day Festival
- SoKY Farmers Market
- Hobson’s Grove Bourbon & Bowties
- The Railway Museum BG Wine Fest
- Traveler’s Cellar Winery Sip & Stroll
- Lost River Cave Cocktails & Trails
- Topper Fest



Visit us at these upcoming events!

- WKU Parent & Family Weekend
- Women in Agriculture Conference “Taste of Kentucky”
- Downtown Bowling Green “Harvest Festival”
- WKU Homecoming “Farm to Table Celebration”
- The Shaker Museum “Holiday Market”

Hilltopper Creamery

Alongside the Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (SDBII) Program and the Dairy Product Association of Kentucky (DPAK), we co-hosted 2 community workshops that welcomed dairy farmers and cheese makers from across the state! The workshops were extremely well attended with more than 50 participants and covered topics including foodborne illness, food safety hazards (biological, chemical, physical), pasteurization, plant cleanliness, and a hands-on day of cheese making. The DPAK conference was even featured on View from the Hill <https://fb.watch/frlHHYM9CE/>!



In addition to events, we submitted entries in the Kentucky State Fair dairy competition for the first time since our inaugural visit in 2019. In 2019 the Hilltopper Creamery earned a ribbon in every class entered and brought home 6 Blue Ribbons and 1 Gold Medal Award. We are proud to announce the foundation of excellence continues because in 2022 we added 4 Blue Ribbons and 4 Gold Medal Awards to the collection! This year's winning cheese varieties include our Fresh Cheese Curds, Colby, Mild Cheddar, and Jalapeno Pepper Jack.



Try our award winning cheeses, freezer beef, and farm fresh produce today at the WKU Farm Market, Saturdays at the SoKY Marketplace, or order online at <https://hilltopper-creamery.myshopify.com>! The WKU Farm Market is open M-F from 9-5 and conveniently located off Nashville Rd at the WKU Farm in the Charles Taylor Center. Free Local Delivery is available every Friday for those who live in the Bowling Green area and Nationwide shipping is available from November-April. Our cheeses can also be found with our community

partners SoKY Crop Shop, Providence Coffee House & Market Place, Hampton's Premium Meats, TRU by Hilton, Embassy Suites, Delafield Co-Op, and Mission Catering.



If you would like to join our community partners, schedule an event, or inquire about purchasing cheese feel free to reach out to us at 270-535-7608 or hilltopper.creamery@wku.edu. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for the latest information about our exciting new ventures and upcoming events. Facebook [@WKUFarmMarketandHilltopperCreamery](https://www.facebook.com/WKUFarmMarketandHilltopperCreamery) Instagram [@wkufarmmarketandcreamery](https://www.instagram.com/wkufarmmarketandcreamery)

Submitted by Nikki Roof

Crop Production/Research

It has been a tale of two seasons at AREC when it comes to crop production and associated research. At the beginning of June, we received a 4-inch rainfall event followed by five weeks without rain. Like many farmers around the area, this drought will affect our corn yield. We are fortunate that we do have corn to harvest but do expect around a 15% reduction in yield. Since mid-July, we have had timely rains and expect an above average yield with our soybeans. We also are not immune to inflation and saw fertilizer and chemical expenses skyrocket. Luckily, higher grain prices help offset some of these



BASF Field Day, individuals standing are WKU Ag. Alumni .

added costs. We continue our research efforts with our industry partners. An extremely conservative estimate is that there are over 300 individual research plots within all the agronomic trials at AREC. Additionally, we held eight different field days this past summer to showcase this research. These field days are almost like



BASF Field Day at AREC.

homecoming. It is truly amazing to see how many alumni we have employed in the agronomy field. We want to thank our industry partners: BASF/Xitavo, Bayer/Dekalb/Asgrow, GenX, LG, Pioneer/Corteva/Brevant, Pivot Bio, Syngenta/NK, T.A. Hayden Ag. Research & Consulting, University of Kentucky, and Wheat Tech. We are also looking forward to the arrival of our new planter this coming year. Its arrival should help us become more efficient in establishing field trials.

Submitted by Dr. Paul Woosley

Growing Vegetables is a Growing Affair at the University Farm

Exciting new changes have been happening in AREC's horticulture unit this year. Our "Farm to Campus" program has gone from first piloting in 2020 to full production mode in 2022, even still as we are now nearing the end of summer. A big contributing factor to the program's progress was made possible by the horticulture unit receiving a generous donation of two new greenhouses from an anonymous donor. One of these will be utilized as a heated high tunnel for vegetable production, allowing students to grow produce year-round, regardless of the season. This program and the partnership between WKU's food groups, WKU Research Foundation, and AREC has resulted in students now having more access to local produce on campus and we could not be happier about that! Look for more exciting announcements concerning our "Farm to Campus" program coming this October. Not only will you be seeing more of our produce on campus, but be on the lookout for our stunning ornamental plants as well. Along with produce, AREC's horticulture unit will now be producing a variety of bedding plants for the grounds on campus such as: Snapdragons, Begonias, Pansies, and Caladiums. Students will get to see the production side of growing ornamentals from beginning to end at AREC, and ultimately able to display their hard work to everyone on campus.



Submitted by Madelyn Taylor



Agronomy Update

Student and Staff News

Jasmine Benningfield, Warren Bray, Andrew Haycraft, Justin Holbrook, Luke Jacobs, Chloe Mattingly, Laney Newton, Katie VanHoose and Shelby Winchell were the WKU Soil Judging Team for the 2021 season. We chose not to attend the Southeast Region Contest held at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville due to the pandemic, but we were able to see lots of great soil in Warren, Edmonson & Muhlenberg Counties (thanks Joey Reynolds & Paul Woosley)! We also congratulate our Graduates of the team, which include Jasmine Benningfield, Warren Bray, Justin Holbrook, Luke Jacobs, Chloe Mattingly, Katie VanHoose and Shelby Winchell.



Congratulations to the 2022 winner of the Outstanding Agronomy Soil Science and Plant Science Students. This year's winners were

Andrew Haycraft, a senior from Clarkson, KY and Laney Newton a senior from Caneyville, KY. Andrew and Laney have both been members of the WKU Soil Judging Team for the past two years and Laney is active in our department, including a term as a faculty-elected Agricultural Ambassador & student office assistant.

Research



Dr. Dan Strunk continues to lead our research efforts on industrial hemp. His research focuses on CBD production, fertility, and harvest timing on multiple cultivars of hemp. This research is supported by EarthScout and Kanna BioScience. Agronomy faculty are also continuing an experiment examining long-term effects (>15 years) of poultry litter and tillage vs. no-till effects on soil used for corn/soybean production.

Hemp Research Plot at WKU AREC

USDA- WKU Agriculture Cooperative Research

Drs. Paul Woosley, Annesly Netthisinghe, and Dan Strunk began their first year of a five-year study looking at how bio-char additions to manure and leaves affect the composting process. Jim Parris is a graduate student working with the study. He graduated with a biology degree from WKU but found his passion for agriculture working at the University Farm as a student worker. Jim is a Rineyville, KY native.

Submitted by: Drs. Gilfillen, Woosley, Strunk, and Willian

Equine Update

The WKU Equine program has grown to new heights this past year with several new additions. The IHSA Hunt Seat Team was added to our existing IHSA Western Team, offering the competitive hunt seat riding discipline to our students for the first time in over 20 years. Riders on the Hunt Seat team will ride against Maryville College, Middle Tennessee State University, Murray State, Rhodes College, Tennessee Tech, University of the South, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and Vanderbilt. We also added the WKU Stock Seat Team, welcoming riders in the ranch and stock horse disciplines to show



Brooke Sullivan jumps a course at a IHSA Hunt Seat competition at Sewanee, University of the South

competitively in reining, cow horse, trail, and ranch pleasure at ASHA and ARHA recognized shows. WKU now has the first NIRSHA Stock Seat team in the state of Kentucky! Students on the stock seat team have had several opportunities to hone their skills at clinics with equine professionals Josh Thomas of Sliding T Quarter Horses and Mark Lyon of Lyon Horses. We also celebrated our first Collegiate Novice Champion rider, Hannah Doyel, as she swept the completion in all four events at the Herriman, TN stock horse show. Our horse herd has grown to accommodate these new teams and classes with the addition of several hunt seat and stock seat show horses from our generous donors. Thank you for your continued support!



There are also new course offerings in the equine science concentration. Equine Breeding and Reproduction, Equine Facilities Management, Equine Event Management, Equine Career Opportunities, and Advanced Riding Maneuvers have been added to the curriculum, preparing students for careers in the industry. Recruitment efforts have introduced the equine program to many prospective students. Our Saddle Up Seniors event gave high school juniors and seniors an inside look at our facilities, curriculum, faculty and staff, and extracurricular activities. Two open horse shows, dubbed The Summer Stampede show series, welcomed both youth and



Hannah Doyel slides into the Champion Collegiate Novice spot on Whiztastic during a TNSHA show.

community members to several days of fun competition and gave our students a chance to put on a professional horse show. We look forward to future events to engage with our equine community and future Hilltoppers.

Over the next year, we look forward to educating our students and producing the best horsemen in the industry, growing our relationships with our equine community, welcoming more equine and agriculture students into the Department, and riding against stiff competition. For more information on how you can get involved in the WKU Equine program, please contact Creste Jean at creste.jean@wku.edu or Paige Smith at paige.smith@wku.edu.

Submitted by Creste Jean



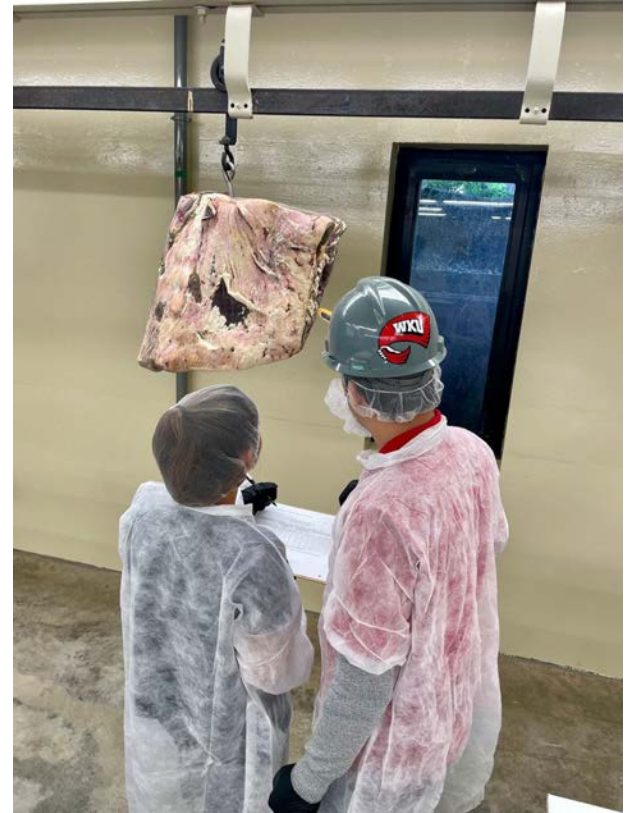
Macie White wins first place at IHSA Western Regionals, securing a spot at the Semi-Final competition in Illinois.

WKU Meat Science Laboratory

The meat processing room of the Meat Science Laboratory is back in operation under federal inspection (Establishment Number 48305). The Meat Science Laboratory is in rooms G8 and G9 of the Environmental Sciences and Technology Building on the main campus. This laboratory serves the purpose of educating students and local meat stakeholders in the aspects of meat processing, food safety, and meat quality. After visiting the facility and reviewing the documentation, the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service approved the re-establishment of the beef processing operation. We would like to thank Dr. Chuck Zickus, Dr. Joel Dooley, and inspector Shaunte Boarman for their guidance, and also Chris Milam for providing technical support.

The first carcasses we received are from two heifers finished at the Agriculture Research and Education Complex (AREC). Dr. Silva has been processing these carcasses with the help of students, including Aurélie Lumaret a French student that is doing a short-term internship at AREC. The retail cuts are being vacuum-packed and sold at the AREC Farm Market. The group of 34 students that are enrolled in the Meat and Meat Products course (ANSC 340) this fall will take part in multiple labs including carcass evaluation, beef fabrication, pork fabrication, and meat packaging. The resumption of the WKU Meat Science Laboratory activities reinforces our mission of providing hands-on experience in meat processing to our students and community.

To better support the research in the meat science field, we have purchased new equipment including a set of micropipettes, a tissue homogenizer, and a texture analyzer. The texture analyzer should be installed in the next couple of weeks, and it has been acquired via an approved USDA grant led by Dr. John Khouryieh.



Submitted by Dr. Luiz Silva



A Sad Loss for the Hilltopper Family

Charles "Dr. A" Anderson passed away at his home in Bowling Green, KY on May 11, 2022 after a long battle with heart issues and side effects of Type 1 Diabetes.

Dr. A dedicated his career to the Animal Science Program at WKU and coached hundreds of students on the Equestrian Teams during his 38 year tenure. He poured passion, dedication, and love into his roles of professor, mentor, husband, and father. He retired in 2016 after the completion of his dream project of a state of the art equestrian training facility at the WKU farm. This is an integral piece of the program now run by Paige Smith, one of his most accomplished students and an honorary member of the Anderson Family.

His wife Cheryl, and daughters Laura and Leigh, were "in absolute awe" at the turnout at his funeral in Bowling Green on May 16th. It was truly a celebration of life where we shed both tears of sadness and of joy in the exchange of memories and stories. Students from as far back as his very first year were in attendance and told of their love of Dr. A and the effect he had on their lives.

"Dr. A" will be greatly missed by many, and remembered as a man who changed lives by how much he believed in you and pushed you to do better.

Submitted by Laura Shonk



Where Are They Now?

Justin Duckworth

Justin Duckworth is a 2013 and 2018 graduate of WKU earning both a B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture. He is a native of Slaughters, KY. During his M.S. studies, Justin felt a calling to serve his country and enlisted in the United States' Navy. After he could no longer pursue his passion in becoming a Navy SEAL due to injury, Justin landed a position with the NSA. While rewarding, Justin decided to leave his position with the NSA and enter the Navy's flight school. Today he is a real Top Gun where he serves as a Lieutenant piloting the Navy's Boeing P-8 Poseidon. He has completed deployments in Italy and Greece and currently is stationed on Whidbey Island in Washington.



Where Are They Now?



Kaidy Sullivan

WKU Student who transferred to Auburn University after meeting Pre-Vet Requirements

Growing up as a farm kid, I always knew I wanted to be a veterinarian. I had a passion for agriculture and the farming lifestyle, but I also had a passion for caring for livestock. As I got older, I began participating in 4H events, many of which brought me to the WKU farm. It was these trips to the WKU farm that led me to an early love of WKU. Long before it was time for me to make a decision on what college I would attend, I already knew I was going to be a Hilltopper!

After being officially accepted to WKU's Agriculture Department, I started the fast track to vet school. With the guidance of Dr. Gordon Jones, I was able to obtain all the prerequisites for Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in my first 3 years at WKU, all while

remaining active as an Agriculture Ambassador, ASSET counselor, and Block and Bridle member and officer. These activities grew my love and appreciation for agriculture and introduced me to lifelong friends, and my husband. I truly believe that my experience in the agriculture department and the guidance that I was given in my undergraduate career gave me the edge that I needed in order to be accepted to AUCVM after only 3 years of undergraduate work.

Once accepted to AUCVM, I remained active in agriculture-based activities, such as the American Association of Bovine Practitioners student chapter and took all of the production animal electives that I could. My time at veterinary school consisted primarily of class time and studying, but I did find time to make it to food animal rounds and various farm tours to keep a little bit of ag in my life.

After graduating from AUCVM in 2017, I immediately began the search for a mixed animal practice position. I quickly landed as an associate at a very busy, 4 doctor, mixed animal practice in Glasgow, KY. During my time at this practice, I gained a ton of experience and received some great mentorship. It was after about 3.5 years at this practice, and a new baby girl, that my husband and I decided it was time for something different. After much discussion, thought, and prayer, we chose to open up a mixed animal practice in my hometown; Monticello, KY. Having grown up in this area, I knew their need for a veterinarian; especially one that would serve large animals. In December 2020, in the middle of a global pandemic, we purchased what had years ago been my grandfather's convenience store and the work began. We remodeled the building while I began doing farm and house calls out of my truck. On May 15th, 2021, we hosted our grand opening celebration at Twin Lakes Veterinary Services, and we never looked back. We started our business with myself, a licensed vet tech, and a receptionist that day. Since then, we have hired two more full time employees and just recently purchased an additional location which we will work into a haul-in facility for our large animal clients.

We have been infinitely blessed in our journey to say the least. I am quite-literally living my dream, and find more exciting opportunities every day.



Submitted by Kaidy Sullivan

Where Are They Now?

Whitney Monin

National Agronomy Manager AgriGold

2012 WKU Graduate: BS Agriculture, BA Communication Studies, Minor Sales

2014 University of Kentucky Graduate: MS Integrated Plant and Soil Science

When you grow up on the farm you ‘hear’ a lot of words of wisdom. “Always close the gate.” “Don’t start something you are not prepared to finish.” “If you fall off, get back on.”

One of my favorite life mantras comes from my dad. I can still hear the grit in his words when he told me, “Life is just a series of **decisions**.” Going to WKU was one of the best decisions I ever made.

My time at WKU was marked by opportunities to lead, whether through Agriculture Ambassadors, Collegiate FFA, or my sorority Omega Phi Alpha. WKU helped me expand my horizons by traveling on study away and study abroad trips with other agriculture students. WKU challenged me to identify my strengths; turns out this ‘animal girl’ is good at ‘plants’. WKU offered me agriculture professors and staff that truly cared about me as an individual and supported my growth as true mentors and sponsors. WKU helped me build my external network through internships.

My time at WKU laid a strong foundation for my future successes and opened avenues for Graduate school, and later industry leading agronomy experiences with Monsanto, Bayer and now AgReliant.

Today I am the National Agronomy Manager for AgriGold Hybrids. AgriGold is a national corn and soybean company with an 85-year history of supporting farmers and is supported by the parent company AgReliant. AgReliant is one of only four corn companies in the US that create corn hybrids. I manage a team of



agronomists stretching from North Dakota to New York to Florida and everything in between. I actively work to build supply plans, manage budgets, advance new corn, and soybean hybrids; all to help my team achieve high-level business targets. Each day I get to watch plants and people grow, that is the best part about being an agronomist. I have cultivated a passion for training and educating farmers, embracing new innovations in the field of agronomy, and I work daily to cultivate opportunities for others.

When I am not doing agronomy, I enjoy spending time with my husband Josh and our son Bennet (2) on our farm in Caneyville, KY. We enjoy hunting, fishing, and growing giant pumpkins.

WKU provided me a platform to change my life. When other students ask me if they should go to WKU I tell them decisively... the **decision** is YES.



Submitted by Whitney Monin



We hope that you have enjoyed our Newsletter this year. Please make a gift today to support the Department of Agriculture and Food Science. Your financial support will help with student learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

Agriculture Alumni Homecoming Celebration:

Saturday, October 29, 2021

9:30 AM

WKU L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cris Scudder and I am an instructor in the Agriculture Department at Western Kentucky University. Each February, our department attends and furnishes a booth at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY. We use this time as a significant recruitment tool for our department and our school. Students and teachers attend from many different states and many different high schools where they can fill out a form to gain more information on what our department has to offer. We are looking for sponsors for this event to help fund our travel, stay, and recruitment materials with a goal of \$2500. Your business name will be placed on a sign on our booth stating you have sponsored the WKU Ag. and Food Science Department booth. We appreciate any and all sponsorship dollar amounts. Please send sponsorship to:

Dept. of Agriculture and Food Science
Machinery Show Sponsorship
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. 41066
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066

You can also email me at Cris.scudder@wku.edu or text me (270) 303-0237.

Thank you,

Cris Scudder
WKU Dept. of Ag and Food Science

Please make checks payable to the
"WKU Foundation"
Donations can be mailed to:

Department of Agriculture and Food Science
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd #41066
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Or Visit:
www.wku.edu/makeagift
Under Designations type Agriculture

www.wku.edu/agriculture

Follow us on our social media pages:



facebook.com/wku.agriculture



twitter.com/wkuagriculture



[@wkuagricultureandfoodscience](https://www.instagram.com/wkuagricultureandfoodscience)