October 2026



WKU AGRICULTURE ALUMNI

Newsletter

From the Chair



Dear Alumni,

It is hard to believe that Homecoming 2026 is quickly approaching! I hope to see you at our Homecoming Brunch on November 14th at 10:00 AM CST. Brunch will be served at the L.D. Brown Agriculture Exposition Center. Registration information for this event can be found in this newsletter. I can't wait to visit with you and catch up on events from this past year. I would also love to reconnect with alumni. If you haven't ever attended homecoming or it has been several years, I challenge you to return to the Hill this year.

Please check out a few of the highlights from this past year in our newsletter. Our faculty, staff, and students continue to accomplish amazing things! This year we received recognition both on the state and national levels. Our research portfolio continues to grow while still maintaining our tradition of providing quality student engagement in and outside the classroom. We also welcomed some new faces to our team while wishing others great things in their retirement. Finally, I want to thank you for your support this past year. Whether you gave a financial gift, spoke to a classroom, attended career day, served as a contest judge, brought animals to field day, donated equipment, or referred a potential student to the program, you were instrumental in our success.

GO TOPS!

Paul B Woosley

Floral Design Training Center



The WKU Chapter of Student Chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers has had a successful and busy 2026! WKU SAIFD has demonstrated excellence and been active on campus and around the country.

To ring in the new year, WKU students Mattalyn Johnson and Joe Taylor, along with advisor and instructor Mr. Roger Dennis, traveled to Pasadena, California to assist in building Rose Bowl Parade floats. Our students worked with California Polytechnic State University students to develop and design their Rose Bowl Parade float. The float "Jungle Jumpstart" was covered fully in natural materials. Their hard work and expertise was awarded with the parade's top prize, Sweepstakes Award Winner.

In addition to travel opportunities, WKU SAIFD plays a major part in events happening on campus. Students assist in creating floral arrangements for events including dinners, Homecoming, and Commencement. Key designs for campus events include round centerpieces and the iconic WKU Big Red made of carnations. Students also assist in delivering arrangements and placing them at events. WKU SAIFD members also get the opportunity to teach others floral design. Prior to the Gatton Academy prom, Gatton students were able to come to the Floral Design Training Center to learn how to create their own corsages and/or boutonnieres for prom.

SAIFD members led and assisted with these workshops, showcasing their knowledge base and the benefits of Floral Design classes at WKU.

From March 6th-8th, nine students attended Gather, the annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers in Covington, Georgia. Upon arrival, students participated in a four-design competition that challenged their creativity and technique. Students were asked to create designs inspired by local celebrities and pop culture. Students then participated in practical workshops with professional designers and attended "main stage" presentations highlighting industry tips and tricks. On the final night, students received their results and placements. WKU students earned the top three placements for each design category and overall award.

The top five students at Gather were given the tremendous opportunity to attend the AIFD National Symposium in Orlando, Florida in July. These student designers competed against twenty-two of the top student designers in the nation in a competition structured like that of Gather. In the days following the competition, students met with and learned from internationally recognized floral designers, gaining knowledge and valuable skills they can utilize to better their design skills. To complete a monumental 2025-26 season, WKU SAIFD dominated the competition, securing individual victories in separate categories as follows:

- Madelynn Gripp CFD: 1st place Overall Student Winner, 1st place Floral Arrangement, 2nd place Fashion Flowers to Wear, 3rd place Interpretive Floral Design, Certified Floral Designer accreditation
- Joe Taylor CFD: Certified Floral Designer accreditation
- Brianna Stewart: 1st place Wedding Bouquet, 3rd place Fashion Flowers to Wear
- Daisy Machado-Sanchez: 2nd place Wedding Bouquet
- Ariel Wolfe: 3rd place Wedding Bouquet

Two students (Madelynn Gripp and Joe Taylor) were recognized for earning their Certified Floral Designer accreditation through AIFD and placing students from WKU were given the opportunity to take the CFD accreditation exam. These placements granted WKU its first National title at the AIFD National Symposium, receiving the Highest Scoring School Award.

Agribusiness

The WKU Agribusiness Program is thankful to all our students, alumni, friends, and stakeholders who have helped created another successful year. Our agribusiness students competed and did well in the annual Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Quiz Bowl Competition, which was held in Louisville January 31-Febrary 3, 2026. For this academic year, the competition will be held in Oklahoma City, February 6-9, 2027. We are hoping to take another group of students to this year's competition.

We were also fortunate to have many excellent guest speakers, some of whom were alumni, such as John Shirley (2025 graduate) of Edmonton State Bank, Spencer Langford (2020 graduate) of ProFarmer, Brilee Tucker (2021 graduate) of CPC Commodities, Gregg Reynolds of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, and Preston Vincent VP of Sales for Valey Agricultural Software. If you would like to be a guest speaker for a course or at an Agribusiness Club meeting, please contact Dr. King or Dr. Gumirakiza.

Dr. Gumirakiza and Dr. King have completed the writing of their textbook, which will be published by the Taylor & Francis Group with an expected early 2027 release. The textbook provides a comprehensive foundation in agribusiness and entrepreneurship. Dr. Gumirakiza and Dr. King will be utilizing it in the introductory agribusiness course, AGEC 160, offered within the department and hope that it will be adopted at other colleges and universities.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us with another successful year. If you know of any students interested in our program, please let us know. Also, if you would like to be involved by being a guest speaker, hosting us for a field trip, or supporting the Agribusiness Club, please contact Dr. King (Stephen.King2@wku) or Dr. Gumirakiza (dominique.gumirakiza@wku.edu).



Left to Right: Dr. Gumirakiza, Kenzie Keyser, Margeaux Stewart, Dr. King, and Patrick Kimball at the SAEA annual conference and quiz bowl competition, February 2026.

Equine News

- The WKU IHSA Equestrian Team finished out the 2025-2026 season with five riders qualified for regionals in six different events. Paige Burkhard qualified in Open Horsemanship and Reining and ended up Reserve High Point rider for the season! Sophia Patino-Ruiz and Avery Cole qualified in Level 1 Horsemanship, Stella Davis and Madyson Richey qualified in Rookie B. We are extremely proud of all the riders on the team!

- The team also had a great year winning multiple High Point and Reserve High Point team wins, with several Individual High Point and Reserve High Point riders.

- WKU was able to supply horses to be used at the IHSA Semi-Finals, several of which won their classes.

- The WKU Stock Horse team had an outstanding year with Evelyn Scheel earning Reserve High Point year end with Dreaming of Sparkles, AKA Annie. Sophia Patino-Ruiz earned High Point overall at the show held at the L.D. Brown Expo. These riders are improving and having so much fun doing it.

- We were awarded funds through the WKU Sisterhood Account, which went towards decaling trailers.

- WKU hosted our fourth IHSA show in November 2025. It went off without a hitch and we were able to showcase our wonderful facilities and horses.

- Equine Reproduction was able to foal out one horse in class (Yay! for mares foaling at 7pm!) and get one mare bred in class (also Yay! for timeline on FedEx arriving and the mare ovulating during class time).





- We welcomed three new additional horses to our herd, Pollywog, Todd and Major. These horses will help us with out riding classes and teams!

- Spring 2026 Graduate Julia Weaver showcased a research project at the Student Scholar Showcase where she looked at horses being used in IHSA and their TMJ sensitivity. We had two other Agriculture students who also participated in research using the WKU herd.

- Thank you to our local and regional equine professionals and friends for your continued support of our program. You provide us with horses, dentals, volunteerism at our events, and guest lecturers to further enrich our program.



Equine News



Equine Dental

On August 20 and 21, the Western Kentucky University Equine Unit partnered with the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Equine Dentistry (IAED) to host a successful continuing education workshop on campus.

The two-day event brought 10 equine dental providers to WKU's Agriculture Research and Education Center to fulfill continuing education credits. Participants collaborated to master technical skills, refine traditional practices, and ensure the highest standards of veterinary dental care under the guidance of certified association instructors.

The workshop yielded substantial mutual benefits by combining professional training while providing comprehensive, routine dental procedures for 36 university horses performed entirely free of charge.

"WKU is pleased to provide these vital professional development opportunities," said Dr. Debra Shoulders. "By supporting the continuing education of recognized equine dental providers, we not only contribute to the advancement of the industry but also directly enhance the health, comfort, and overall well-being of our own campus herd."



Block and Bridle

WKU Block and Bridle Marks 50 Years of Little North American





Western Kentucky University's Block and Bridle Club celebrated a milestone this spring with the 50th Anniversary of its Little North American livestock showmanship event, held March 28 at the L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center.

Thirteen students exhibited animals across sheep, pigs, goats, beef cattle, and dairy cattle. Emma Davidson was named Grand Champion and CJ Johnston was Reserve Grand Champion.

Alumni turned out in force for the Oldie but Goodie contest. Mr. Warren Beeler won the contest, bringing former members back into the ring alongside current students. The club thanks alumni who served as judges and financially supported the event.

The show remains one of the club's signature ways for members to work livestock, learn industry skills, and compete in a student run setting that has defined the chapter for half a century. Little North American has long been a place where current students and graduates share the same arena and the same club tradition.

Make plans to attend LNA 2027 on April 3rd.



Animal Science

12th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming

In September 2026, WKU graduate student, Jadyn Sanchez, attended the 12th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming in Valencia, Spain.

Jadyn attended presentations on animal identification, automated milking, health alert detection, computer vision applications for cattle, and more.









Agronomy

Student Activities

The NACTA Soil Judging Contest Team hosted by ISU in April of 2026. Team members Mary Niblett, Drew Perdue, Myrrisa Johnson, and Stone Copas.We graduated four students between the fall and spring: Myrrisa Johnson, Mary Niblett, Justin Norris and Nate Woodall. Both teams were coached by Darwin Newton and Dr. Gilfillen.





The 2025 WKU Soil Judging Team comprised of Myrrisa Johnson, Mary Niblett, Justin Norris, Nate Woodall, and Drew Perdue. The Southern Regional Contest was hosted by NCSU and held around Raleigh, NC.



Students from the AGRI 493/493G (Sustainable Agriculture) class instructed by Dr. Navdeep Singh (left) visited local producer Mr. Mark Chapman's farm at Bowling Green, KY in Spring 2026. Mr. Chapman is pictured fifth from the left. Students learned about precision agricultural equipment and no till management for advancing sustainable agriculture. Morgan Mairs (right) and Darby Aubin from Warren County Conservation District also joined the farm tour.



Students from the AGRI 315 (Water in Food Production) class instructed by Dr. Navdeep Singh are pictured participating in a hands-on class activity at the WKU farm, gaining practical experience and applying concepts learned in the classroom to real-world agricultural settings.

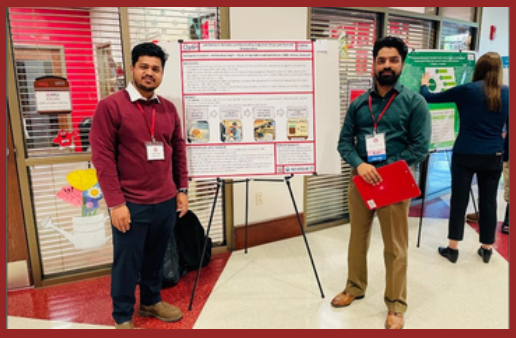


Students from the AGRO 454/554 (Soil Management and Conservation) class instructed by Dr. Navdeep Singh are pictured engaging in a hands-on class activity, working together to apply course concepts and share their ideas.

Research Presentations

Graduate student, Md Jiad Ur Rahaman (right) advised by Dr. Navdeep Singh (left), presenting research poster at EPSCoR Annual Summit, New Orleans, Louisiana (5/21/2026). The research is sponsored by a research grant awarded to Dr. Navdeep Singh from KY NSF EPSCoR.

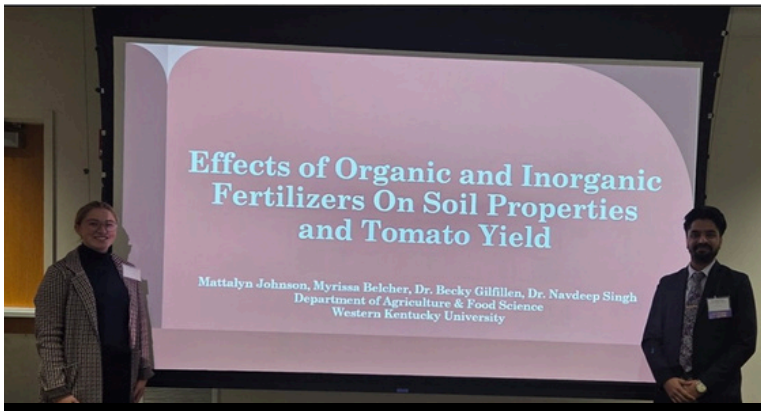




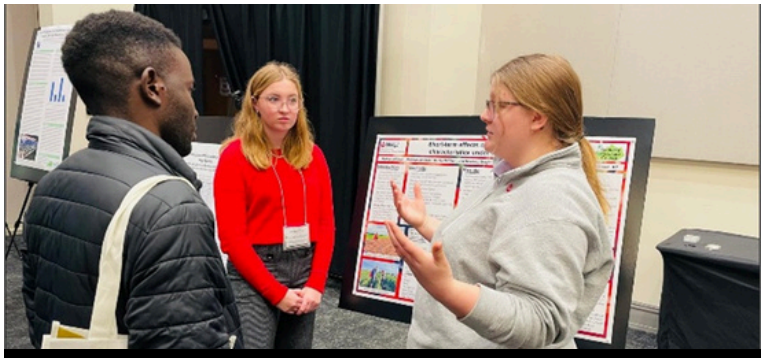
Graduate student, Md Jiad Ur Rahaman (left) advised by Dr. Navdeep Singh (right), presenting research poster at Student Scholar Showcase, WKU (4/11/2026)



Graduate student, Sandesh Kumar advised by Dr. Navdeep Singh, presenting research findings at Student Scholar Showcase, WKU (4/11/2026)



Undergraduate student, Mattalyn Johnson (left) received research mentorship from Dr. Navdeep Singh (right), and presented her oral research presentation at Kentucky Academy of Science annual meeting at Louisville, KY (11/22/2025).



Undergraduate students, Mattalyn Johnson (middle) and Myrrisa Johnson (right), received research mentorship from Dr. Navdeep Singh and Dr. Becky Gilfillen, and presented a research poster at KY Fruit and Vegetable Conference at Bowling Green, KY (1/13/2026)

Research Activities

Dr. Navdeep Singh is advancing his research on cover cropping and their impacts on soil hydro-physical attributes. This research aims to uncover sustainable agricultural practices that enhance productivity while preserving soil quality.

Along with assistance from Drs. Navdeep Singh & Todd Willian, Dr. Becky Gilfillen is continuing the research on carbon storage in a crop rotational system using animal manure and inorganic fertilizers. This research is in its 21st year.



Graduate students, Md Jiad Ur Rahaman (left) and Sandesh Kumar (right), both advised by Dr. Navdeep Singh, performing field research at WKU farm.



Graduate students, Md Jiad Ur Rahaman (middle) and Sandesh Kumar (right), both advised by Dr. Navdeep Singh (left), performing field research at WKU farm.



Ashten Tignor, an undergraduate student, received WKU FUSE grant under the mentorship of Dr. Navdeep Singh. Ashten is pictured taking soil core samples from research plots at WKU farm. She will present her research findings at ASA-SSSA-CSSA (CANVAS) Annual Meeting, a national level agricultural science conference, to be held in Portland, Oregon, in November 2026.



Grafting Tomatoes and a Wonderful Experience

Dr. Martin Stone

Brooks Dorman was an outstanding student in our department who recently graduated. However, before he left the department he left his mark on it. Brooks had taken a little time between graduating high school and entering WKU to travel the world and decide what he wanted to study. Fortunately, he chose to study in our department.

Brooks and his research mentor, Dr. Martin Stone, successfully wrote and were awarded a grant that involved studying the chlorophyll content of commercially grown cultivars of tomato leaves before, during, and after they were grafted onto high-performance rootstocks. The chlorophyll content is a very good predictor of graft success and likely future yield. Chlorophyll is the green molecule in the leaf that performs photosynthesis and is not only important for plant growth and crop yield but is also the source of life on our planet.

The study was conducted in the greenhouse behind EST on campus. The researchers created a dark and high humidity chamber inside the greenhouse to facilitate the grafts by lowering stress levels on the plants immediately after grafting for several days.



To keep the chamber from heating up during warm growing months they placed a reflective space blanket over the chamber to reflect incoming light and thus heat. It worked. The chamber was used during the entire study successfully.

As you might imagine, there is much finesse and technique that had to be learned in addition to classroom application of principles of the plants' physiological processes. The research showed that it was possible to measure leaf chlorophyll content and that high-performance rootstocks were able to maintain higher levels during the perilous process thus confirming what growers were observing.

Brooks won a travel scholarship from the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) to present his research at their meeting in Louisville, KY, in fall 2025. It was very well received, and he was able to successfully network his time there to receive several job offers from each coast of the USA. Also, while he was there he met up with departmental supporters, Mike and Chris Summers from Summers Nursery who assist in our tree woody grafting workshop each spring and have done so for the past 23 years. He was also able to meet Dr. Chris Ferguson, departmental graduate, who is with Ball Seed and located strategically in central Kentucky. Dr. Ferguson received his doctorate at the University of Florida after graduating from WKU and is a specialist in the company.



Agricultural Education



Please help us welcome Dr. Thomas Poole to the Hilltopper family! Dr. Thomas Poole has joined the Department of Agriculture & Food Science as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education. Dr. Poole will primarily teach Agricultural Education and Agricultural Systems Technology courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Poole spent many years as a High School Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor in Kentucky, where he specialized in the Agricultural Power, Structural, and Technical Systems Pathway. He has previously taught as an adjunct instructor at WKU, where he delivered introductory courses in Agricultural Mechanics.

Dr. Poole received his Doctorate in Agricultural Education from Murray State University where his Dissertation was titled Identifying the Agricultural Mechanics Knowledge and Skills Needed by Kentucky Agriculture Teachers. He also serves as President of his local Farm Bureau board and sits on several professional boards and committees, including the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education and the Kentucky Association of Agricultural Educators.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Poole to WKU!

The Student Teacher Summit was held at Hardin County Extension Office in Elizabethtown for a full day of workshops and hands-on learning. Dr. Kingery, Kendall Berry, Alena Jordan, Alicia Konichek, and Reagan Geary were in attendance. Twenty-six student teachers enjoyed the day with one another and the educational sessions. Topics covered involved job search strategies, the three ring model for Agricultural Education, classroom inclusion, and effective teaching practices. The Summit was directed at equipping future agricultural educators for a successful student teaching experience. The skills and practices in the summit can also be utilized for careers in the classroom and beyond.





KAAE

Ky Association of Agricultural Education

The KY Association of Agricultural Educators (KAAE) recently named Western Kentucky University the Outstanding Post-Secondary Agriculture Education Program in the state. Dr. Kingery, who has led the program for 16 years, is pleased with the program's success.



AREC NEWS

It has been another busy and enriching year at AREC with lots of opportunities to share agriculture with our students, industrial partners, and the community. We have shared the good news of agriculture with numerous recruiting tours, several K-12 groups across the Commonwealth and beyond, as well as business leaders throughout Bowling Green. It's never a dull time at the farm! We were particularly happy to reminisce with the AGR alums that toured with us back in April, and I thoroughly enjoyed all the stories I heard from times past.

When you visit AREC next, you may notice some changes. First, Western Kentucky University and Operation Pride have partnered to create another Bowling Green gateway like those on interstates 65 and 165 and Louisville Road. A portion of a pasture located at the front of the farm between the fire station and Nashville Road has been transformed by adding a 165 feet tall flagpole and upgrading the fencing to four panel wood. A sign welcoming motorist to Bowling Green is expected to be added in the future.

We appreciate our continued partnerships with numerous entities that make what we do at AREC possible. For the second year in a row, Claas Farmpoint has provided a couple of tractors, silage harvester, and combine for us to use around the farm. Wright Implement has continued their longstanding support by once again providing utility vehicles and tractors to use at the L.D. Brown Ag Exposition Center and the farm. Special thanks also go to BASF, Corteva, Pioneer, Growmark, Bayer, Wheat Tech, LG, Becks, NK, FMC, and Dotson Farms for their support. The generous support from industry partners and alums is what makes the learning opportunities provided to students possible.





AREC NEWS

When you visit the WKU SmartHolstein Lab, you will see some new faces.

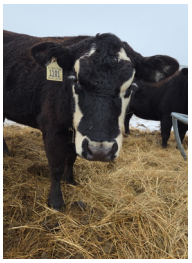
Jorge Hildebrand started at Dairy Manager on September 1, coming to us from Kenny's Farmhouse Cheese where he managed their dairy for the last seven years. Jorge has extensive dairy knowledge and holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Centro Universitario de Rio Preto in Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Brazil.

Julia Weaver has joined us as Dairy Specialist. Julia is a recent graduate from the Department of Agriculture and Food Science at WKU with concentrations in animal science and equine science. During her time as a student, Julia was an equine operations assistant at AREC caring for our many horses. Julia has some dairy experience working for Harris Farms.

We are glad to have Jorge and Julia managing the SmartHolstein Lab and excited to see how they continue the upward trajectory of the dairy at WKU!













AREC FACTS

L.D. Brown Ag Exposition Center:

- Over 25,000 visitors in past year
- Lots of new and exciting events booked for 2027

WKU SmartHolstein Lab:

- 115 Total dairy animals and milking 50-55 cows per day
- Average milk production per day is 88 lbs. with 4.3% butterfat and 3.2% protein
- New manure spreader, headlocks, and skid steer purchased in past year
- Harvested 60 acres of corn silage with Claas Jaguar 990

Crops at AREC:

- Past year crop acreage was 61 acres of corn silage, 114 acres of corn, 169 acres of soybeans, and 40.5 acres of wheat for haylage
- Total of 11 industry partner agronomic companies including BASF, Corteva, Pioneer, Growmark, Bayer, Wheat Tech, UK Plant Pathology, LG, Becks, NK, and FMC
- Hosted 15 field days
- Corn yield for 2025 averaged 222 bushels per acre
- Soybean yield was significantly affected by drought with the farm average being 35 bushels per acre

Livestock Unit at AREC:

- Purchased 9 Nigerian Dwarf Goats and a Donkey for use in classes and Block and Bridle events
- Beef herd has 63 cows with expectations to breed 12 additional heifers this year
- Beef herd is predominantly pure-bred Angus, but also includes two Herefords, two Holstein-Simmental crosses, and several Angus-Hereford crosses

Meat Science Club



Western Kentucky's Meat Science Club has started up for the 2026/2027 school year! The club had their first meeting of the year on September 9th. Members grilled hamburgers outside EST for a cookout, with many new students showing an interest in meat science!

The Meat Science Club has much to look forward to for the year, getting hands on experience processing and selling beef, speaking to industry professionals, and attending the 2027 American Meat Science Association Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin!





The Meat Science Club got to attend their first American Meat Science Association Meeting in Amarillo, Texas at the end of June. They raised money for the trip by selling beef out of the meat lab, and had help from the Agriculture Department.

The club participated in the Meat Quiz Bowl which included 40 teams. They learned a lot from listening to the talks with leaders and experts within the meat industry.

The Meat Science Club is very excited to attend the next meeting in Madison, Wisconsin!

2026 Student Awards

Department of
Agriculture & Food Science
Dr. Paul Woosley, Department Chair



Outstanding Agricultural Business Student

Kylie Ketcham



Outstanding Floriculture Student

Ariel Wolfe



Outstanding
International Student

Gabrielly Giraldi



Outstanding Animal
Science Student

William Maynard



Outstanding Agricultural
Education Student

Alicia Konichek

(not pictured: Outstanding Horse Science Student - Julia Schuurman and Elmer Gray Outstanding Graduate Student - Makayla Bizzell)



Outstanding Agronomy Student

Mary Niblett

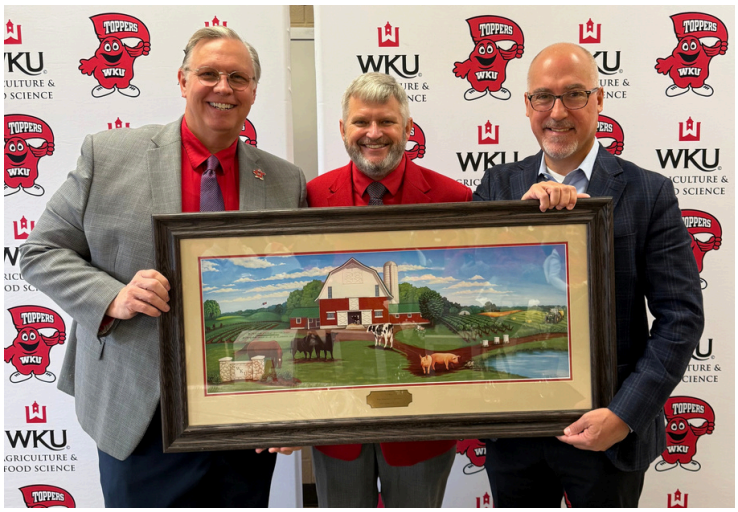


Outstanding Horticulture Student

Outstanding Senior in Agriculture

Mattalyn Johnson

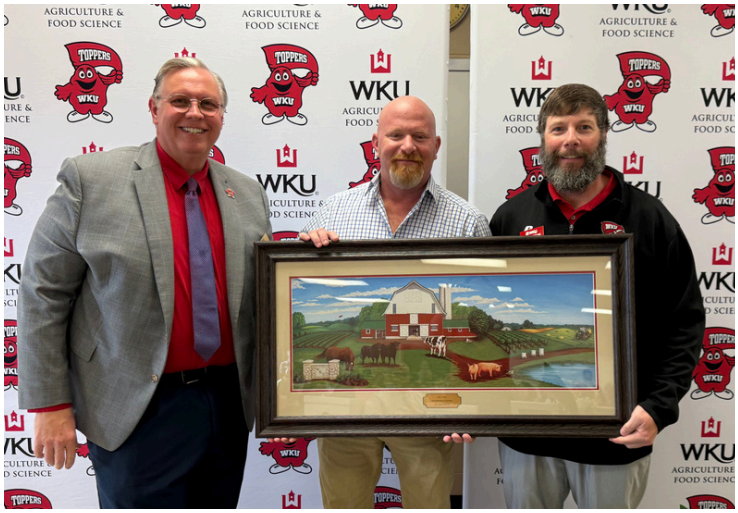
2025 Homecoming Awards



WKU Agriculture & Food Science Alumnus of the Year

Eric Raby

Senior Vice President of the American Region, Claas



WKU Agriculture & Food Science Friend of the Year

Joshua Bucher

Customer Account Manager Claas FarmPoint



WKU Agriculture & Food Science Spirit Award

Lorna Inglis

WKU Agriculture & Food Science Accounts Manager

Retirement



A native of Munfordville, Kentucky, Dr. Willian received a diploma from Hart County High School in 1983 and a B.A. in Biology from Berea College in 1988. He attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville for his graduate studies, earning an M.S. (1992) and Ph.D. (1995) in Plant and Soil Science with a focus on Weed Management. After a 2-year stint with DuPont Agricultural Products in northern Illinois, Dr. Willian joined WKU in January 1998. His primary teaching responsibilities have included pest management, field crop production, agricultural issues and career planning. Dr. Willian's research efforts focused upon weed management in corn, soybeans, tobacco, and industrial hemp. Dr. Willian served as co-advisor of the Agronomy Club since his hiring and is a former member of both the Kentucky Certified Crop Advisers Board of Directors and the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program Board. Following retirement Dr. Willian looks forward to pursuing several hobbies at his home in Munfordville.

Dr. Willian's retirement reception will be hosted at the Ag Expo Center on November 22, 2026 from 3pm-5pm. If you are not able to attend, please feel free to leave a note or video message on his guestbook. To access the guestbook, click https://guestbook.tv/user/?code=0bd4k4 or scan the QR code here:



The department would like to congratulate Lorna Inglis or her recent retirement from serving as Account Manager. Lorna worked 17 years for the department where she managed department budgets and research accounts, oversaw day-to-day activities of the office, and assisted students. During her time, she worked with nearly 30 different department faculty, four chairs, and numerous staff and students. We greatly appreciate her time with the department and wish her and husband, Roy, many sunny lake days in their retirement!

Scholarship



My name is Allie Judd and I am from Metcalfe County, Kentucky. As a Junior at Western Kentucky University, I am pursuing a degree in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science. From being the Metcalfe County FFA Chapter Secretary to working cattle with my family, agriculture has always been a passion of mine. While living on a beef cattle operation my entire life, I always dreamed of furthering my education and WKU has made that dream possible. After college, I would be ecstatic to get the opportunity to work for a governmental agency in animal nutrition. This would allow me to fulfil what I love doing most, supporting local farms and help make their operation go smoother. I am grateful to be chosen as the recipient of this scholarship out of the many outstanding students in the department. As a first-generation college student, studying at WKU is an experience that I will always appreciate. I am so thankful for the WKU Department of Agriculture and Food Science alumni that made this opportunity possible, and I can assure them they are investing in the future of agriculture.

HOMECOMING 2026

WKU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

AGRICULTURE ALUMNI CHAPTER

WKU Agriculture Alumni Brunch
Saturday, November 14, 2026
9:00 AM
L.D. Brown Agriculture Exposition Center

Join us for this annual event as the Ag Department engages alumni during homecoming. Our Guest Speaker, Bradon Burks, will be followed by brunch and a silent auction. Support the Agriculture Alumni Chapter by joining the WKU Alumni Association!

For more information please contact Paul Woosley at 270-745-3151
or paul.woosley@wku.edu

GUEST SPEAKER



Bradon Burks is the Director of Education for the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and serves as an advisor to the Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association (KJCA), overseeing statewide youth beef education and leadership programs. He is a 2021 graduate of WKU in Agricultural Education and has been with KCA since December 2021. Bradon's journey in agriculture started when he was growing up on his family's Angus and Hereford cattle operation in south central Kentucky. As he grew up, Bradon became involved in livestock exhibitions across the country and the state.

Bradon Burks is a key figure in Kentucky's youth cattleman program, guiding students through hands-on agricultural experiences, leadership training, and industry connections, while also serving as an educator and advisor for the KJCA.

Scan QR code to register for the Homecoming Brunch or click here