

# AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Truman State University Agriculture Department Newsletter

May 2015

## Ag Week Festivities

### Monday-Meet a Farmer

As junior Miranda Biddle states, "On Monday we set a table up on the quad where we had an ag trivia game set up with cookies to pass out. We paired up with local farmers so students could ask them any questions they might have. We also had a movie playing in the SUB for anyone who might have any other agriculture questions. The event was a huge success and we were able to reach out to a lot of non-ag majors."



### Tuesday-Farmland

The discussion panel of alumni and local farmers at Tuesday's showing of Farmland. We were excited to see over 50 people come out for this event!



Petting Zoo Fun!

### Wednesday-Farm Tours

We wanted an opportunity to showcase the farm and let non-ag majors know about the farm.

### Thursday and Friday-Petting Zoo, BBQ, and Trivia

Due to rain, the petting zoo that was originally intended for Thursday was moved to Friday. As usual, the zoo was a great success with so many students coming to see the lambs, goats, pigs, horses, chickens, bunnies, a cow, and puppies. Later, that night everyone headed to the farm for fried catfish and pulled pork and the hardest ag trivia anyone ever tried.



National Ag Week group photo on the mall.

Click for more about Ag week

- [The week recap](#)
- [The start of the week](#)



The Lambrats practicing their hand at lamb processing.

## Lambrats

Practicum brought four guys, Charlie Brynac, Tony Caldarella, Travis Helton, and Clark Wischmeier, together to produce and sell all natural lamb sausages. Wanting to enter into the food market, but in an uncommon way led the guys to lamb. It is a product uncommon to this part of the country that could be sourced locally. As Clark states, “[They] worked closely with local producers to come up with a healthy, affordable, food option that is not always accessible in this part of the country.” [Read more.](#)

## Practicum Projects

If you have not been through practicum yourself, the basic explanation is it is sort of a capstone project. It is designed to help us draw upon the knowledge we have gained during our study at Truman and apply it in a hands-on, real word experience. Each group of about four students begins the project by researching and designing a business plan. Once the plan is complete, groups work to make the business a reality and hopefully make a profit. Projects can range in variety from a biodiesel project to creating an earth lodge.

## Chubby Bunnies

For the Chubby Bunnies group, the project was to raise rabbits. The group of four, Melissa Colby, Maggie Perry, Kylee Short, and Shannon Heibeck, set out last fall to raise and breed rabbits for both pets and meat. Having these two market avenues was part of the appeal of the project, along with some of the group having prior experience with raising rabbits. The goal of the group was to not only have three litters, but also raise the bunnies in a healthy, safe environment where they received daily, individualized care and attention. The purpose of the individualized care was to ensure rabbits sold as pets would be well socialized and friendly.

Chubby Bunnies started with three mother rabbits, all New Zealand Whites....[Click to read on.](#)



One of the chubby bunnies.

## ACCR Aquaculture

ACCR Aquaculture, being a team, consists of four members, Aryn Hawkins, Clayton Morton, Colleen Hayes, and Robert Bateman. For their project, the four decided to create an aquaponics system—a system that combines both aquaculture with hydroponics.

Creation of the system has been quite an adventure for the group. Ideally, the way the aquaponics system will work is the group will have a large fish tank stocked with hybrid bluegill and then the waste water will go through a filtration system which will then be used to fertilize several hearty house plants growing on a platform above the tank. [Click to learn more about the project.](#)



ACCR with their aquaponics tank.

## Practicum Projects Continued



MaKayla, Christina, Mickyla, and Lizzie with all the pigs running away.

### Bacon Babes

The “babes” or more cordially the “lovely ladies,” Lizzie Evers, Christina Lacovino, Mickyla Mathews, and MaKayla Nadler, came together last spring with their dream to learn more about raising pigs. Friends before forming their practicum group, the idea of raising pigs for practicum had been thrown around for a while and even been on some minds since freshman year. With the idea solidified and the group formed, it wasn't long before the project was on its way.

The main goal of the project was just to learn more about the day to day of raising pigs. Additionally, for MaKayla, who is looking to do grad school research with pigs, the project gave her the opportunity to research the effects of vaccine on gut flora. [Read more about the ladies and the pigs here.](#)

### That's All Yolks

Rachel Craig, April Johnson, Jenna Monnig, and Carley Rettke make up That's All Yolks and have spent the past year raising up hens and selling their eggs. With a flock of 24 Hyline Browns, a cross between Rhode Island Reds and White Leghorns, and endless egg deliveries to meet, the Rachel, April, Jenna, and Carley have had quite a busy senior year. The group came upon the idea for eggs sales as they searched for something that would be hands-on, let them interact with customers, yet not be too time consuming during their senior year. With Rachel being the only one with experience raising chickens, an egg business seemed like a great learning opportunity and the perfect time commitment. Therefore, the four girls set out with the goal to provide quality fresh local eggs to customers they could develop relationships with over the course of the semester. [Read more here.](#)



Rachel, April, Jenna, and Carley with some of their hens.

# Congratulations to our Grads!

## Elizabeth Evers—Outstanding Student in Agricultural Science; Departmental Honors

Hometown: Elgin, IL

Major Specialization: Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary

Plans After Graduation: “ I am going to be attending Sam Houston State University for a Masters in Agriculture while receiving funding through a Graduate Research Assistant Position. “



## Maggie Perry

Hometown: Lawson, MO

Major Specialization: Agriculture Business

Plans After Graduation: “Plans after graduation are to get a job and live the American Dream.”

## Rachel Craig

Hometown: Columbia, MO

Major Specialization: Agriculture Business

Minor: Business Administration

Plans After Graduation: “To get a job in the Agricultural Business field “



## Mickyla Mathews

Hometown: Harrisburg, MO

Major Specialization: Animal Science

Minor: Biology

Plans After Graduation: "I will have a position with FCS Financial in Hannibal MO. "



## Christina Iacovino

Hometown: Naples, FL

Major Specialization: Agriculture Business

Plans After Graduation: "After graduation I am moving to Bentonville, AR with my fiancé. I am currently looking for a job in that area and will be getting married in July."

## Carley Rettke

Hometown: Saint Louis, MO

Major Specialization: Agriculture Science/Pre-Vet

Minor: Biology and Equine Studies

Plans After Graduation: "Pursue a career in large-animal veterinary medicine, but in the meantime, get a job and/or internship in an animal-related/ agricultural field. "



## Shannon Heibeck—Departmental Honors

Hometown: Cedar Hill, MO

Major Specialization: Animal Science

Minor: Equine Studies

Plans After Graduation: “I have accepted a year long internship at the William H. Miner Agriculture Institute as the Equine Intern. I will begin that internship in August! “



## MaKayla Nadler—Departmental Honors

Hometown: Centralia, MO

Major Specialization: Agriculture Science

Minor: Biology

Plans After Graduation: “Find a job in the swine industry! “

## Jenna Monnig—Departmental Honors

Hometown: Glasgow, MO

Major Specialization: Animal Science

Minor: Biology

Plans After Graduation: “Get my Masters in Animal Science specializing in Bovine Reproduction. “

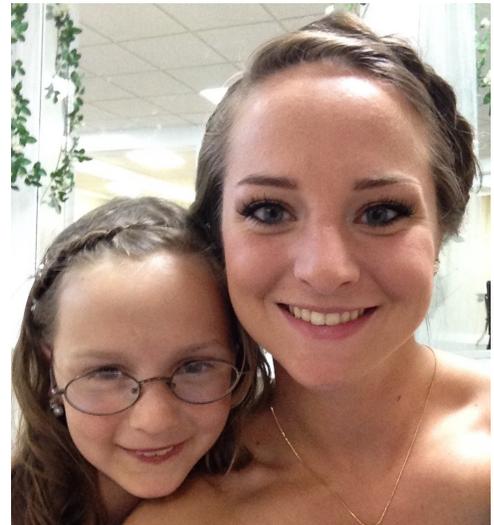


## Melissa Colby—Departmental Honors

Hometown: Palatine, IL

Major Specialization: Equine Science

Plans After Graduation: “Working for Melissa Mihalevich and traveling with her to Devon, Upperville, and Warrenton horse shows this summer. Possibly grad school in the future. “



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## Additional Graduates-May 2015

Aryn Hawkins

Kathryn Bruno

Clarkson Wischmeier

Keisha Rader

Travis Helton

Moree Rader

Danielle Lewellen

Colleen Hayes

## Additional Graduates-August/December 2015

Charles Brynac

Tanner Edwards

April Johnson

Clayton Morton

Anthony Caldarella

Kylee Short

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