

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2007-2008



“Excellence in Agriculture”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXCELLENCE

• Faculty Excellence	3
Development	
• New Scholarships	4
Instructional Improvement	
• CTLT Mini Grants	5
Student Excellence	
• Graduate Research	6
• Undergraduate Research	9
• Student Achievements	10

EXCELLENCE/OUTREACH/COMMUNITY

Breathitt Veterinary Center	11
Wm. Bill Cherry Expo Center	12
Events and Activities	
• Back to School Picnic	13
• Racer Roundup	13
• Fall on the Farm	14
• Ag Early Admission Day	15
• Alumni Banquet	15
• Excellence in Agriculture Luncheon	16
• Toys for Tots Toy Drive	16
• Soybean Promotion Day	17
• Career Fair	18
• Alpha Zeta Banquet	18
• FFA Field Day	19
• Twilight Tobacco Tour	19
• IFAL	20
International Involvement	
• Budapest, Hungary	21
• Student Teaching in Belize	21
Grants	22

STRATEGIC PLAN AND REPORT

Strategic Planning	23
Recruitment/Retention	
• Special Events	24
• School Visits	25
• Yearly Summary	26
• Retention Fact Sheet	27
Budget Update	28

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

- **Dr. Bill Payne**, professor of agribusiness, was selected as the recipient of the School of Agriculture's Board of regents Teaching Award. This award was presented at the MSU Faculty Awards Banquet held on April 24, 2008
- **Dr. James Rudolph**, was named as the 2007 Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus by the Murray State University Agriculture Alumni Association at the 45th Annual Agriculture Alumni Banquet held as part of the Homecoming activities on October 12, 2007. Rudolph has served as the coordinator of operations and development for the School of Agriculture since his retirement as Director of the School of Agriculture in 2004.
- **Dr. Jay Morgan**, professor of agriculture education, was awarded the 2007 Distinguished Active Teacher Educator Service Award at the state Career/Technical Teacher Educator's Conference held in January 2008. In addition, Morgan was elected as vice chair of the MSU Board of Regents where serves as faculty regent. He also received a promotion to the rank of full professor.
- **Dr. David Ferguson** was promoted to the rank of full professor.
- **Dr. Ryan Anderson**, assistant professor of agricultural systems technology, was named as a finalist for the Emerging Scholar Award given by the MSU Research Policy Committee. The award recognizes young faculty that demonstrate a potential for excellence in research. Anderson also received third place for Outstanding Poster at the Career and Technical Education Research and Professional Development Conference held in Las Vegas, NV in December 2007 with his poster titled *Dual Enrollment Horticulture Courses: An Articulation Agreement Between Virginia's High School Agriculture Education Programs and Community Colleges*.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, the School of Agriculture has received funding from three donors to establish several new scholarships and student funds

- ***Farm Credit Services of Mid-America***

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America established a scholarship fund in late summer of 2007 for full-time undergraduate students pursuing a degree in agribusiness, finance, accounting, or economics. Recipients must have a agricultural background and be a resident of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, or Tennessee. The company has pledged to donate \$2,500 each year toward the scholarship. The first scholarships from this fund were awarded in fall 2007.

Farm Credit Services has also agreed to sponsor the annual Dr. Ken Bowman Excellence in Agriculture Luncheon held each fall to honor students that excel in their areas of study.

- ***Hill Family Agriculture Scholarship/Hill Family Student Development Fund for Excellence***

Ms. Betty Hill of Murray, KY established the Hill Family Scholarship and the Hill Family Student Development Fund in memory of her late parents, Marvin H. and Louis Tidwell Hill, and her late brother, Frank M. Hill. Recipients of the Hill Family Agriculture Scholarship must be full-time students pursuing a degree in agriculture with preference given to students from Calloway County and Western Kentucky. The Hill Family Student Development Fund for Excellence will be used for various student travel experiences, conferences, and competitions that School of Agriculture students, clubs, and organizations participate in throughout the academic year.

- ***Tom and Theo Tuck Agriculture Scholarships***

Tom and Theo Tuck of Murray, KY have generously established several endowed scholarships and funds within the School of Agriculture designed to benefit equine and rodeo students. The Tuck's scholarship endowments include the Tom and Theo Tuck Agriculture Scholarship for full-time agriculture students, the Tom and Theo Tuck Equine Scholarship for full-time students involved in the equine program, and the Tom and Theo Tuck Rodeo Scholarship for full-time students involved with the MSU rodeo team. In addition, the couple established the Kentucky Rodeo & Horseman's Infrastructure Fund to benefit the School of Agriculture's rodeo and equine programs and the Equine Owners & Breeders Fund for Excellence to help offset the expenses of individual students, clubs, and equipment purchased for these programs. The Tuck family has also named the School of Agriculture the benefactor of a charitable remainder annuity trust, bringing the total of their contributions to agriculture to \$2.2 million.

- ***Derek Glisson Memorial Agriculture Scholarship***

Robert Swift of Murray, KY established the Derek Glisson Memorial Agriculture Scholarship in memory of his grandson. Derek Glisson, a junior agricultural science student from Murray, KY passed away on August 20, 2007 from injuries sustained in a tragic farm accident. At least one recipient per year of this scholarship must be a past or present Calloway County FFA member and at least one recipient must be an active and proven member of Block & Bridle.

CTLT MINI GRANTS

Spring 2008

- Dr. Dwayne Driskill was awarded \$1,000 to purchase a saw stop for the Ag Systems Technology shop.*
- Mr. Dale Barnett was awarded \$850 to purchase a Sony printer for the Equine department.
- Ms. Felicia West received \$500 to purchase an analyzer software package for the AHT/Pre-Vet program.**
- Ms. Dean Ann Provine received \$1,000 for the purchase of a Video Path Imaging System.

** Matching funds received from School of Agriculture and MSU Provost's Office*

*** Matching funds received from School of Agriculture*

GRADUATE RESEARCH

December 2007 and May 2008 Graduate Students participated in research projects as part of their Master's Degree program requirements.

December 2007

- April M. Braddy (Woodlawn, IL)
Advisor: Dr. Terry Canerdy, Animal Health Technology/
Pre-Veterinary Medicine Dept. Head
Thesis: *Carp Cakes: Another Fish Alternative*
- Deanna B. Brasher (Smithland, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Animal/Equine Science
Department Head
Thesis: *A Pilot Study in West Kentucky and West Tennessee to Analyze the Mineral Content of Warm and Cool Season Grasses*
- Anna M. Doom (Eddyville, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Animal/Equine Science
Department Head
Thesis: *Comparison of Feed Practices and Aeration Techniques in Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)*
- Mark A. Heimgartner (Benton, IL)
Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Animal/Equine Science
Department Head
Thesis: *Evaluation of Supplemental Dried Distillers Grain (DDG) for Steers Rotationally Grazing Spring and Summer Forages in Western Kentucky*
- Darrin L. Holder (Clinton, KY)
Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Associate Professor of
Agronomy
Thesis: *Evaluation and Comparison of Two Strobilurin Fungicides With and Without an Additional Insecticide Applied to a Late Group IV Soybean*

GRADUATE RESEARCH

- James Christopher Rodgers (Mayfield, KY)
Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Professor of Agronomy
Thesis: *Evaluation and Comparison of Topping Heights at Three Bloom Stages in Dark-Fired Tobacco*
- Hillary M. Spain (Hopkinsville, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Jay Morgan, Professor of Agriculture Education
Thesis: *An Assessment of Soybean Biodiesel Utilization in Western Kentucky by Agriculture Producers and General Industries*

May 2008

- Jason E. Arnold (Hopkinsville, KY)
Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Professor of Agronomy
Thesis: *Timing of Foliar Strobilurin Fungicide Applications on Soybean Plants and the Effects Upon Seed Infection Rates and Germination.*
- Bryan E. Bunting (Metropolis, IL)
Advisor: Dr. Bill Payne, Professor of Agribusiness
Thesis: *Comparison of Corn Treated with Capture LFR and a Non-Treated Check*
- Kammy L. Bushue (Effinham, IL)
Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Animal/Equine Science Department Head
Thesis: *Comparison of Cutting Patterns of Alamo Switchgrass for Forages and Biomass*
- Herbert E. Sharp (Smithland, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Ryan Anderson, Assistant Professor of Ag Systems Technology
Thesis: *Analysis of the Ratio Vegetation Index (RVI), the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), and the Infrared Percent Vegetation Index (IPVI) over the West Farm Complex of MSU*

GRADUATE RESEARCH

- Jacob M. Stinnett (Hardinsburg, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Animal/Equine Science
Department Head
Thesis: *Comparison of Brix Values to Weight Gains in Forage Grazing Finishing Beef Calves*
- Jared L. Tapp (, KY)
Advisor: Dr. Terry Canerdy, Animal Health Technology/
Pre-Veterinary Medicine Dept. Head
Thesis: *The Effects of Intra-Uterine Injections of Omega-3 Fatty Acids on the Length of Diestral Phase in the Equine Mare*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

12 School of Agriculture students prepared posters for Posters at the Capitol held on January 31, 2008 in Frankfort, KY.

- *The Effects of Different Fungicide Applications*
Bryan Craig (Hazel, KY), Kaleb Tapp (Sebree, KY), and Lauren Thompson (, KY)
Faculty Advisors: Dr. Tony Brannon and Dr. Whitney Peake
- *Dark Fired Tobacco Responses to Different Nitrogen Fertilizers*
Carrie Elliott (Fancy Farm, KY), David Crouch (Murray, KY), Daniel Hayden (Owensboro, KY), and Teresa Ferguson (Puryear, TN)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Iin Handayani
- *Comparison of Residual Herbicide Programs for Dark Tobacco 2007*
Justin Parrish (Murray, KY), Isaiah Story (Puryear, TN), and Robert Stuard (Trenton, TN)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson
- *Switchgrass: A Driving Force in Tomorrow's Fuel*
Kelly Brannon (Puryear, TN)
Faculty Advisors: Dr. Tony Brannon and Dr. David Ferguson
- *Stabilizing Greenhouse Temperature Fluctuations with the Implementation of a Below-Bench Baffle System*
Candace R. Smith
Faculty Advisors: Dr. Pat Williams and Ms. Kris-Ann Kaiser

David Crouch, Bryan Craig, Teresa Ferguson, Robert Stuard, Carrie Elliott, Daniel Hayden, Justin Parrish, and Dr. Tony Brannon are pictured with the combined tobacco research poster.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- MSU's **Collegiate FFA's** Debate Team placed second in the nation at the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, IN October 23-27, 2008. The group also took first place in the fundraising category in the Program of Excellence contest.
- The **MSU Rodeo Team** sent two contestants to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, WY June 15-21, 2008. Devin James (Sikeston, MO) finished second in the Ozark Region as a header in the team roping event, and Dillon Thweatt (Marion, KY) finished as third place heeler in the region.
- The **MSU Equestrian Teams** had very successful 2007-2008 season. The Hunt Team finished second in the region and had two riders finish in the top ten individually. The team also qualified ten riders to compete at the regional level this season. Seven of these went on to compete at Zones held at University of the South. Ashley Eggerdorfer (Carol Stream, IL) went on to finish first in her class and qualify for the national competition.

The Stock Team finished the season as High Point Team in the Region, and Morgan Roberts (East Waterboro, ME) was awarded High Point rider. Alyssa Vieth (DeCatur, IL) and Roberts represented the team at nationals in Burbank, CA,. Vieth placed fourth in the nation in Beginner Western Horsemanship.

- The MSU **Horticulture Club** traveled to the SAAS/Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science Conference in Dallas, TX. The organization received first place for Outstanding Horticulture Club. Steven Blanchette (St. Anne, IL) placed third in the undergraduate oral research category, Erin Cathcart (Oakdale, IL) placed first in Greenhouse Floral and Foliage Plants. The club also placed third in the Woody Ornamentals and Greenhouse Floral and Foliage judging categories.
- **Aaron Harned** (Paducah, KY) was presented the Outstanding Kentucky Farm Bureau Youth Award at the state Farm Bureau convention held in Louisville, KY December 5-6, 2007.
- **Kirby O'Donoghue** (Westview, KY) was crowned Miss Murray State on April 5, 2008. She was later elected Student Government Association Secretary.

BREATHITT VETERINARY CENTER

The Breathitt Veterinary Center (BVC) completed another successful year providing animal disease diagnostics for the veterinary profession, livestock commodity groups, and animal owners in Kentucky.

2007-2008 Caseload:

- Over 16,000 diagnostic cases processed
- 9.5% increase over 2006



Staff Updates:

- The Microbiology Section welcomed Jenna Barbee and Claire Warren to its staff.
- Kristie Rohde joined the Toxicology team.
- Virology welcomed Jami Carroll.
- Judy Craft, Serology, and Sharon Wright, Media announced their plans for retirement. These individuals have provided many years of service to the University and will be greatly missed.
- Dr. Ramesh Gupta, professor and head of toxicology, attended the 8th International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics Meeting in Sendai, Japan in October 2007. Dr. Gupta co-chaired a session of the conference and also presented a paper. Additionally, he is the co-author of *Intermediate Syndrome: Muscle Paralysis After Organophosphate Poisoning in Dogs and Cats* which was published in the South African Veterinary Association newsletter.

Advisory Council:

- BVC established an Advisory Council composed of representatives from veterinary practices, livestock owners and commodity groups, government agencies, and other interested parties.
- The council's purpose is to assess, advise, and advocate for the laboratory.
- The council held its first meeting May 1, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2008.

AAVLD Accreditation:

- BVC is currently focused on preparing for its AAVLD accreditation site visit in 2009.
- This review process involves both internal self-assessment and evaluation by an external review team.
- BVC was the first animal disease diagnostic laboratory to be accredited by the AAVLD and has held full accreditation for all species since 1969.

WM. BILL CHERRY EXPO CENTER



The West Kentucky Livestock and Exposition Center was dedicated on May 21, 1977. The 45,000 square foot arena includes a staging area, concession stands, classroom, offices, and seating for 2,748 spectators. Since the initial dedication, over 500,000 individuals have attended a wide array of events. The Expo was rededicated and named the William "Bill" Cherry Agricultural Exposition Center on April 21, 2006.

2007-2008 EXPO EVENTS

MSU College Rodeo: November 15-17, 2007

- 5 Regional Colleges Participating (300-400 students)
- 1,800 spectators
- Saddle Bronc/Bareback Riding, Calf Roping, Team Roping, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding



American Quarter Horse Association Shows

- 2007-2008 Show Dates: September 15-16, December 8-9, January 19-20, March 29-30

Tractor and Truck Pull: January 25-26, 2008

- Participants: 50 per night
- Spectators: 5,000
- Open 2 & 4-wheel drive trucks, Pro-stock 4-wheel drive trucks, Super-stock tractors



Bull Blowout

- October 12-13, 2007
- February 15-16, 2008
- Participants: 150 per night
- Spectators: 5,000

Arena Cross

- February 2 & 9, 2008
- Participants: 150 per night
- Spectators: 3,000



Kelso's Mule Sale: May 3, 2008

- Fifth Annual Sale
- Broadcast live on internet at www.dvauction.com

Lipizzaner Stallions

- April 24-25, 2008



BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

The School of Agriculture hosted its annual Back to School picnic on August 28, 2007 at the West Farm Complex. Over 400 agriculture students, faculty, and staff attended “A Taste of MSU Agriculture” and sampled a variety of agricultural products including fried catfish, pork chops, ribeyes, and chicken. This annual event is a great way to kick off the Fall semester and welcome our incoming freshmen.

Members of the Block and Bridle Club grilled steaks and pork chops at the annual Back to School picnic



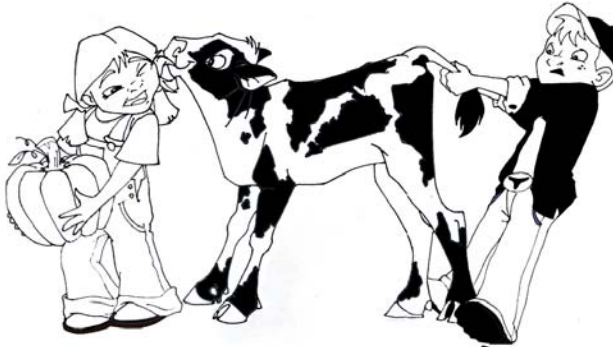
RACER ROUNDUP

The School of Agriculture and Collegiate FFA hosted Racer Roundup on September 21, 2007. Approximately 400 high school students from Kentucky and Illinois attended this year’s event, themed “Takin’ It To The Woodshed”. Collegiate FFA members hosted sessions designed to



strengthen leadership qualities and promote team building among high school freshman FFA members.

KY State FFA Treasurer Aaron Harned conducts a team building exercise during Racer Roundup 2007.



Fall on the Farm

Helping Young Minds Grow

The School of Agriculture and the Ag Leadership Council hosted the third annual "Fall on the Farm" October 17-20, 2007. Over 1,100 area elementary and pre-school students and more than 800 members of the community attended this event. Fall on the Farm strives to provide both an educational and entertaining agricultural experience to children and adults. Returning events included a corn maze, petting zoo, pony rides, pumpkin painting, slide, water balloon slingshot, pedal tractor races, and milk cow demonstrations as well as educational sessions presented by the Kentucky Soybean Association and MSU School of Agriculture organizations. New events for 2007 included rubber duck races, cornhole toss, and butter making. This event

continues to grow each year and is made possible thru the support of our faculty, staff, and students, as well as numerous corporate sponsors.



Local elementary school students enjoyed a day on the farm and participated in events including a slide, corn maze, and rubber duck races.



AG EARLY ADMISSION DAY

Ag Early Admission Day was held on November 10, 2007. Forty-one high school seniors and their families visited MSU during Early Admission Day this year. This event provides future students with an early admission decision to the university, and an opportunity to meet with faculty from each academic area in the School of Agriculture and tour the University's farm complexes. Participants also receive a refund for their admission application fee and are eligible to win one of three \$500 tuition vouchers. As of this report date, thirty-three of these students have enrolled for the Fall semester.

ALUMNI BANQUET

The 45th annual Agriculture Alumni Association Banquet was held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities on October 12, 2007. Special recognition were given to graduates from the classes of 1957 and 1981 to commemorate their 50th and 25th anniversaries. Awards were presented to Dr. James Rudolph (B.S. 1966), Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus; Cory Hicks (B.S.A. 2004), Outstanding Young Agriculture Alumnus; Arlie Scott, School of Agriculture Support Award; and Jack Vaughn (B.S. 1968, M.S. 1974), School of Agriculture Appreciation Award. School of Agriculture students Emily Harned (Paducah, KY), Danielle Stone (Corydon, KY), and Sarah Welch (Elizabeth, IN) were awarded Agriculture Alumni Association Scholarships.



Mr. Arlie Scott was presented the School of Agriculture Support Award by Dr. Tony Brannon and Dr. Dwayne Driskill.



Danielle Stone, Emily Harned, and Sarah Welch were awarded Alumni Scholarships.

EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE LUNCHEON

The annual “Excellence in Agriculture” luncheon was held November 29, 2007. This marked the third year for the event designed to recognize outstanding students in the School of Agriculture. Students in attendance were nominated by faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to both the university and the School of Agriculture. This year’s luncheon was sponsored by Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, and Mr. Phil Van Hooser, nationally recognized for his presentations on leadership and building professionalism, served as keynote speaker.

Dean, Dr. Tony Brannon and Agriculture Leadership Council President, Melissa Bramlet are pictured with representatives from Farm Credit Services of Mid-America.



TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE

The Murray State University School of Agriculture, Agribusiness Club, and Murray State Student Government Association joined forces to sponsor the second annual Toys for Tots toy drive this year in memory of Dr. Ken Bowman. This project supports the efforts of the Calloway County Family Resource Center Santa



Project and the Murray Family Resource Center Tiger Christmas. Approximately 400 toys and \$550 were collected for the cause and distributed to the organizations

Pictured from left are MSU School of Agriculture students Kelly Brannon, Ag Business Club Advisors Ryan Morrow and Whitney Peake, Anthony Jones, Katie Sanger, and Magen Roberts with the toys collected in the 2007 Toys for Tots Drive.

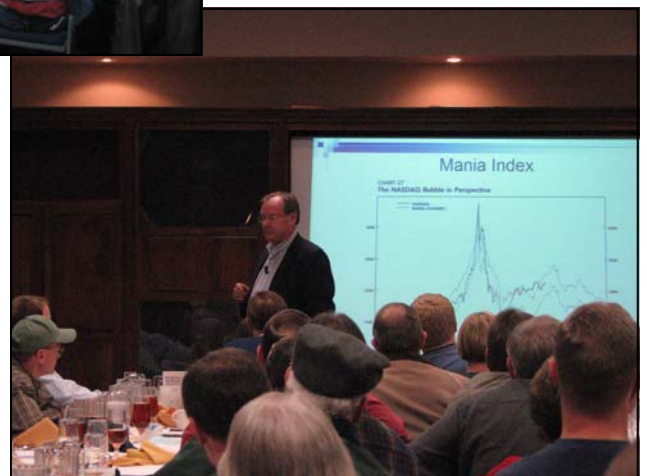
SOYBEAN PROMOTION DAY

The School of Agriculture and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board sponsored the fourth annual Soybean Promotion Day on January 22, 2008 at the Murray State University Regional Special Events Center. This event provides area farmers and agribusinesses with an opportunity to attend informational sessions focused on current trends and developments in agriculture as well as soybean production. Brothers Brian and Darren Hefty, co-hosts of the popular RFD-TV show AgPhD opened the evening's events with a presentation detailing production practices. Richard Brock, president of Brock Associates served as keynote speaker and discussed current market trends and outlooks for agriculture commodities.



Approximately 250 area farmers, agribusiness representatives, and School of Agriculture faculty, staff, and students attended Soybean Promotion Day.

Mr. Richard Brock, president of Brock Associates and author of "The Brock Report" served as this year's keynote speaker.



CAREER FAIR

The School of Agriculture and the Agriculture Leadership Council hosted the Agriculture Career Fair on February 27, 2008. Thirty-five companies were represented this year at the career fair, and over 300 agriculture students attended the event. In addition, the Agribusiness Club sponsored Professionals in Agriculture, a program designed to allow students to talk one-on-one to individuals involved in the agriculture industry.



The career fair provides students with an opportunity to speak to company representatives in the field of agriculture.

ALPHA ZETA AWARDS BANQUET

The annual awards banquet is held in conjunction with the School of Agriculture career fair. Approximately 475 students, parents, and MSU faculty, staff, and administration attended the banquet. Clubs and organizations take this opportunity each year to recognize their outstanding members. In addition, the School of Agriculture also recognized its

School of Agriculture Dean, Dr. Tony Brannon is pictured with Ms. Amanda Jenkins and Mr. Carl Ray Jenkins III, the 2007-2008 Senior Man and Woman in Agriculture.



Dr. Jim Davis presented Ms. Kammy Bushue with the award for the Outstanding Graduate Student in Agriculture.



FFA FIELD DAY

FFA Field Day was held April 16, 2008 at the Wm. Bill Cherry Expo Center. Over 1,200 high school students from Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois competed in events including livestock judging, tractor driving, tobacco judging, horticulture contests, goat tying, roping, and horsemanship.



Students participate in the Weed plant identification contest during 2008 FFA Field Day.



Judges watch with a keen eye as students participate in the tractor driving contest.

TWILIGHT TOBACCO TOUR

The Twilight Tobacco Tour was held August 13, 2007. This yearly event sponsored by the School of Agriculture and University of Kentucky Extension Service allows area tobacco producers to tour the University's West Farm complex and observe ongoing tobacco research plots. Research conducted during the 2007 growing season included fertilizer trials, herbicide trials, and experiments involving topping height.



Dr. Andy Bailey discusses the effects of nitrogen on dark tobacco during the Twilight Tobacco Tour.



IFAL participants in School of Agriculture student Justin Greer's group posed with MSU President, Dr. Randy Dunn outside Oakhurst during their photo scavenger hunt.

INSTITUTE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

The School of Agriculture hosted the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders (IFAL) June 15-19, 2008. IFAL is a five day leadership conference for high school seniors sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau. Thirty-eight students from across the state attended this year's IFAL, where they participated in team building and leadership development exercises. Participants had the opportunity to tour Fox Creek Cattle Company and Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville, and later traveled to Dawson Springs to take part in their Challenge Course. In addition, the group participated in a Congressional Insight game, hosted by Mr. Joe Cain (KFB) and designed to give students a behind the scenes look at the legislative election process. Students also researched current issues impacting agriculture and competed in IFAL's own version of the Kentucky Farm Bureau discussion meet. Other activities included a photo scavenger hunt, Barnyard Olympics, and an opportunity to meet with School of Agriculture faculty, staff, and students to get a first hand account of college life at MSU.



IFAL participants learned team building skills and stepped outside their comfort zones while participating in the high ropes course at Dawson Springs.

Colin Horwood (Calloway Co.) and Hannah England (Hart Co.) participate in wheelbarrow races during the Barnyard Olympics.



**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLASS VISITS
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
MAY 23-30, 2008**

Thirty MSU School of Agriculture faculty and students traveled to Budapest, Hungary May 23-30 2008. The group visited a grain farm, orchards, winery, vineyard, and a cattle farm. In addition, the group also visited Szent Istvan University in Budapest, and students from the University accompanied them throughout the week on their tours. MSU currently has a student/faculty exchange agreement with the University in Hungary.

Members of the International Studies in Agriculture class visited Szent Istvan University while visiting Budapest, Hungary.



**MSU AGRICULTURE STUDENTS STUDENT
TEACH IN BELIZE
APRIL 14-MAY 11, 2007**

Chris Nelson (Bardstown, KY), Ryan Burke (Paris, TN), and Lisa Harbison (Edwardsville, IL) spent four weeks participating in an international student teaching program in conjunction with the MSU Department of Education. Participants traveled to Corozal, Belize where they were involved in classroom teaching and also had the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of South America.

GRANTS

- The Murray State University Foundation, by way of application from the School of Agriculture was approved for \$75,000 in state funds, \$4,000 in Calloway County Development Board funds, and \$1,000 in Carlisle County Development funds to construct a regional arboretum on Murray State's Pullen Farm Complex. Work on the arboretum will begin during summer 2008, and the School of Agriculture hopes to complete the initial design phases and open the facility to the public in 2009. Initially, the arboretum will cover approximately 8 acres along the south and east borders of the Pullen Farm, and plans for the facility include a large welcome pavilion adjacent to the greenhouse complex, two smaller shelters, and walking trails.
- **Dr. Iin Handayani** was awarded several grants during the past academic year. She received grant funding from Forage Systems for Sustainable Agriculture Production in the Mid-South, Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute, Committee on Institutional Studies and Resources, and Kentucky American Association of University Women.
- The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board awarded **Dr. John Mikulcik, Dr. David Ferguson, and Dr. Iin Handayani**, agronomy faculty members, a grant to continue a long-term fertility experiment that has been ongoing since 1997. The research for the 2008 growing season hopes to further analyze results seen in previous years.
- The School of Agriculture received a grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to sponsor Fall on the Farm and other agriculture related Field Days.

Goal 1: "The University shall continue to provide greater educational access and academic outreach to Kentucky's population." (Institutional Goal 2.10)

- A Bachelor of Integrated Studies in Agriculture program was implemented in conjunction with MSU Continuing Education and Academic Outreach.
- Representatives from the School of Agriculture attended MSU Louisville and Lexington Dessert Receptions and gathered information on prospective students.
- Meetings were held and a grant was submitted to pursue a joint agriculture faculty position with Hopkinsville Community College
- Twenty-two MSU School of Agriculture faculty/staff participated in the Rhodes Scholars program.

Goal 2: "The University shall engage in public service programs with business, industry and labor, public and private schools, governmental agencies, and the general public." (Institutional Goal 4.6)

- The School of Agriculture hosted a Kentucky Agriculture Council Task Force strategic planning meeting. Dean, Dr. Tony Brannon served as chair of the Task Force for 2007-2008.
- Over 2,500 elementary and high school students participated in School of Agriculture sponsored events including Fall on the Farm, FFA Field Day, Racer Roundup, FFA Speaking Days, and the Western Rivers Junior Livestock Clinic.
- The Animal Health Technology/Pre-Veterinary Medicine program hosted six Doggie Day Spas and on Animal Health Technology Day in conjunction with the Calloway County Humane Society/Animal Shelter as a public service for the community.
- The School of Agriculture and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board partnered to host their fourth Soybean Promotion Day. Over 250 members of the community, faculty, staff, and students attended this year's event.
- School of Agriculture faculty and students participated in the tobacco research trials with the University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee. MSU also hosted the 2007-2008 Kentucky Soybean Variety Trials.
- The School of Agriculture partnered with Kentucky Farm Bureau to host the Institute for Future Agriculture Leaders in June 2008. Thirty-eight high school students attended this event.

Goal 3: "The University shall review institutional processes and procedures to encourage effective and efficient operations." (Institutional Goal 5.3)

- Task force reviews of the operational processes and procedures of Breathitt Veterinary Center, the William "Bill" Cherry Expo Center, and MSU Farm complexes were conducted, and recommendations were submitted to the Dean.

Goal 4: "The University shall conduct sustained recruitment operations in a five-state area and internationally to meet the enrollment goals established by the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Board of Regents." (School of Agriculture Goal 1)

- Faculty, staff and ambassadors made 33 high school/community colleges visits; attended 20 high school FFA banquets; collected over 2,500 student information cards at agricultural events; contacted 633 prospective students via email, mail and phone; and hosted 202 personalized student visits and over 100 students during campus visitation days.
- 140 students were enrolled in AGR 099 Freshmen Orientation.
- Faculty and staff visited Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences to recruit minority students.

Goal 5: "Students will indicate satisfaction with their educational experience in the School of Agriculture and what they learned in the Agricultural Science degree program." (School of Agriculture Goal 2)

- 100% of students rated the quality of instruction in agriculture as excellent or good.

**SPECIAL EVENTS
2007-2008**

Date	Event	Number of Students
8/28/2007	School of Agriculture Picnic (retention)	375
9/21/2007	Racer Roundup	341
9/25/2007	Regional College Fair	16
9/26-27/2007	Ag Safety Days	
9/21/2007	Purchase Area Soil Judging Contest	24
10/4/2007	Hickman County Creed Contest	15
10/8&12/2007	Mini Racer Day	3
10/12/2007	Homecoming Banquet	30
10/17-20/2007	Fall on the Farm (ALC Project)	1500
10/20/2007	Racer Day I	16
10/24-26/2007	National FFA Convention	102
11/4/2007	Lexington Reception	6
11/5/2007	Louisville Reception	4
11/10/2007	Racer Day II	18
11/10/2007	Agriculture Early Admission Day	41
12/4/2007	Ag Sales Contest	31
12/5-6/2007	Region I & II FFA Welding Contest	102
1/28/2008	West Tennessee Speaking Contest	69
2/12-16/2008	National Farm Machinery Show	24
2/15/2008	Mini Racer Day	2
2/16/2008	Presidential Scholars Interview Day	18
2/18/2008	Mini Racer Day	3
2/27/2008	Ag Day (Career Fair)	364
2/27/2008	Alpha Zeta Agriculture Awards Banquet	453
3/13/2008	Purchase Region FFA Speaking Day	105
3/12/2008	Pennyrile Region FFA Speaking Day	196
3/29/2008	Racer Day III	18
3/31-4/1/2008	Tennessee State FFA Convention	4
4/11/2008	FFA Regional/State Officer Training	28
4/16/2008	FFA Field Day	1250
4/19/2008	Summer Orientation I	35
6/12/2008	KY State FFA Convention Career Show	141
6/6-7/2008	Summer Orientation II	40
6/15-19/2008	Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders	38
6/17-18/2008	Summer Orientation III	38
6/26-27/2008	Western Rivers Livestock Clinic	150
7/12-13/2008	Summer Orientation IV	
7/22-23/2008	Summer Orientation V	
Total:		5600

**HIGH SCHOOL &
COMMUNITY COLLEGE VISITS**

Date	School	Number of Student Cards Collected
9/18/2007	Calloway County High School	40
9/21/2007	Marissa High School (IL)	29
9/21/2007	New Athens High School (IL)	28
9/28/2007	Henry County High School (TN)	36
9/28/2007	Hickman County Career Show	1
10/1/2007	Grove Junior High School (TN)	0
10/5/2007	Trigg County High School	47
10/8/2007	Gleason High School (TN)	16
10/19/2007	Caldwell County High School	19
10/22/2007	Lyon County High School	0
10/24/2007	Hopkinsville Community College	17
11/2/2007	Dresden High School (TN)	44
11/2/2007	Heath High School	28
11/2/2007	Lone Oak High School	7
11/8/2007	Graves County High School (visit to MSU)	44
11/20/2007	Barren County High School	28
11/28/2007	Livingston County High School	12
11/29/2007	Riverside High School (TN)	24
12/6/2007	Christian County High School	44
1/18/2008	Rend Lake Community College	9
3/13/2008	Apollo High School	7
3/17/2008	Beech High School (TN)	19
3/17/2008	Station Camp High School (TN)	43
3/17/2008	Nashville Community High School (IL)	56
3/19/2008	Floyd Central High School (IN)	15
3/27/2008	Crittenden County High School	54
4/11/2008	Station Camp High School (TN)	11
4/17/2008	Monroe County High School	2
5/9/2008	Hardin County High School (IL)	7
4/17/2008	Hopkins County Central	10
4/25/2008	Franklin-Simpson High School	36
5/13/2008	Hopkinsville High School	18
5/21/2008	Todd County High School	20
	Total	771

YEARLY SUMMARY

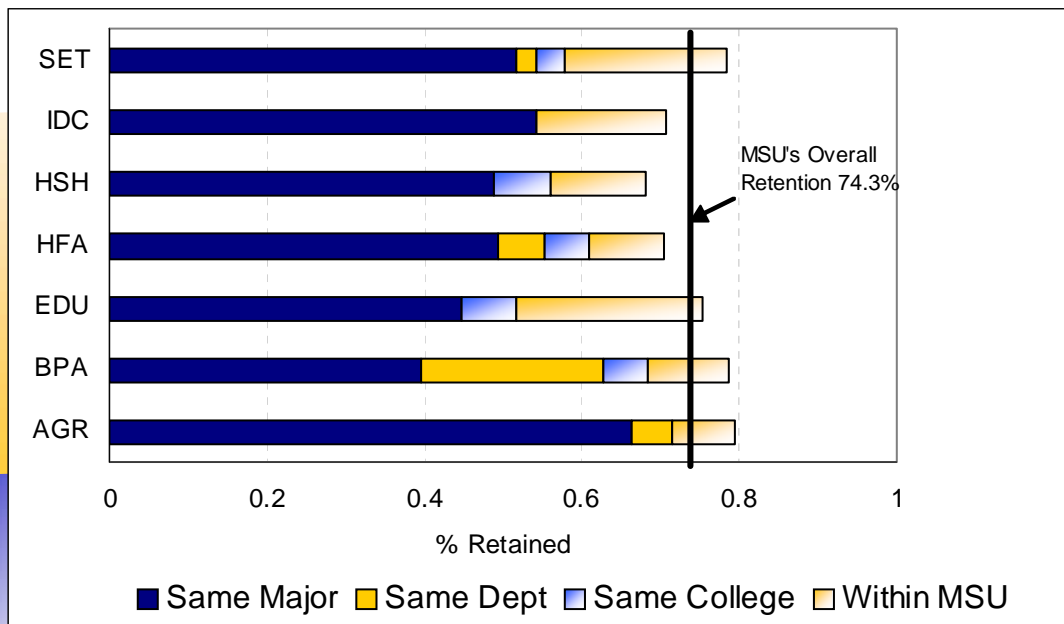
Prospective Student Visits 202 August 2007-June 2008	to Campus	
Information Request August 2007-June 2008		633
Special Christmas Mailing December 2007		772
FFA Banquets Attended		20

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE NEW FRESHMEN RETENTION

Begin Fall 2006 - Return Fall 2007

Academic Program	Initial Cohort	Returned to Same Major	Returned to Same Dept.	Returned to Same College	Returned to Any Program
<i>Agribusiness</i>	13	84.6%	92.3%	92.3%	92.3%
<i>Agriculture Education</i>	17	64.7%	64.7%	64.7%	64.7%
<i>Agricultural Science</i>	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Ag. Systems Technology</i>	3	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Agronomy</i>	2	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<i>Agriscience Technology</i>	5	40.0%	60.0%	60.0%	60.0%
<i>Animal Health Technology</i>	56	74.4%	71.4%	71.4%	83.9%
<i>Equine</i>	18	44.4%	61.1%	61.1%	72.2%
<i>Horticulture</i>	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
School of AgTotal	116	66.4%	71.6%	71.6%	79.3%
MSU Overall	1,373	50.1%	56.1%	60.0%	74.3%

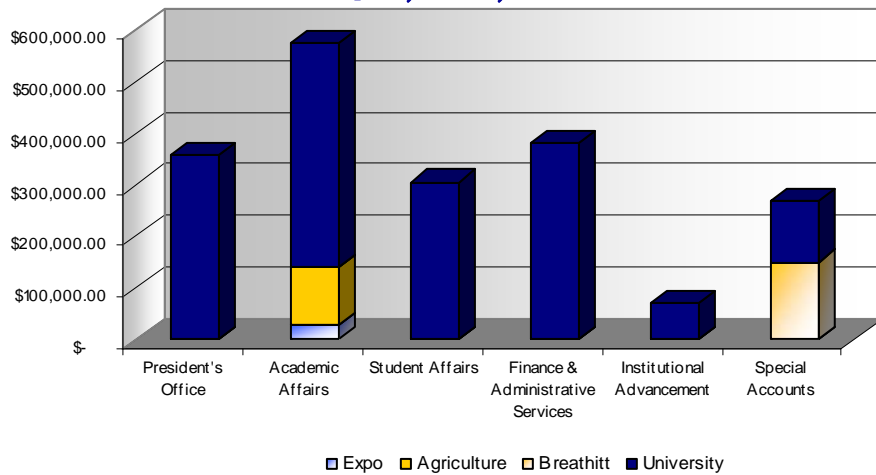
MSU FALL 2006 - FALL 2007 RETENTION BY ACADEMIC COLLEGE



BUDGET CUTS

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, and consequently Murray State University and the School of Agriculture experienced some recent bad news on the budget front. The state Higher Education budget received a 6% budget cut and even after a 6% increase in tuition was decided upon by the Board of Regents, we suffered several significant cuts to the School of Agriculture and Breathitt Veterinary Center. Direct cuts to the School of Agriculture total \$291,339, accounting for 13.6% of the total cuts. Following is a breakdown of the cuts.

TOTAL MSU BUDGET CUTS \$2,137,133



MSU BUDGET CUTS BY SCHOOL/COLLEGE

