

Field and Furrow

Spring 2006 Activities Newsletter
November, 2006



Annual Achievement Banquet

By Kate Legge

Each spring, Field and Furrow enjoys an annual Achievement Banquet to honor outstanding members and celebrate a year full of activities. This year the banquet was held in the Heritage Room of the ACES library, a pleasant change from off-campus locations. The club was pleased to host the department head Dr. Hoeft, our advisors Ms. Stoller, Mr. Dunker, and Dr. Pedersen, and several award sponsors for the event. Thanks to our club's many financial supporters for sponsoring plaques and trophies for the winners!

The evening began with a dinner catered by the Illini Union, followed by entertainment from the RipChords, presentations of awards, and a year-in-review slideshow. The slideshow was a highlight in the evening, reflecting back on the year and catching member's candid moments. The banquet was also a time to recognize Field and Furrow's graduating seniors T.J. Ruyle, Heather Clodfelter, Brandon Laue, and Matt Murray.

We are proud to announce that the 2005-2006 year marked the second year in a row that the Field and Furrow Club has been named the ACES Council Undergraduate Club of the Year. This award is given at the college-wide awards banquet each year, and Field and Furrow was honored to receive such an award.

The Field and Furrow Spring 2006 award recipients are as follows:

- Outstanding Agronomy Senior: **TJ Ruyle**
- Outstanding Agronomy Senior (ASA): **Heather Clodfelter**
- Outstanding Agronomy Junior: **Regan Joehl and Jared Walter**
- Outstanding New Member Award: **Caitlin Allen, Sydney Jarrett, and Andy Morehouse**
- Service Award: **Sean Breen, Kate Legge, and Nathan Karplus**
- Outstanding Instructor Award: **Don White**

As shown throughout the year, this club takes value in the support from faculty and friends we receive! Combining agronomy with enthusiasm, the Achievement Banquet is just one showcase of how the Field and Furrow Club helps members to grow professionally and socially.



ASA Regional Meetings in Minnesota

By Regan Joehl

While other students were basking in the Florida sun or enjoying some of mom's home cooking over spring break, select Field and Furrow Members traveled for a few days to the far north of Minnesota to attend the ASA Regional Meetings at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. At the meetings, members were able to interact with fellow students in agronomy through gatherings that included a business meeting, agricultural tours, a bowling night, and a dance social.

Recruiters from various companies were also present to lead discussions about students' future plans and offer opportunities for internships and full time employment. In addition, through the various tours, attendees were able to experience many aspects of Minnesota agriculture that included a 40 acre tomato production greenhouse and packing plant, a Malt-O-Meal factory, a John Deere parts distribution warehouse, a Pioneer Research center and a cheese factory, to name a few.

After the weekend meeting wrapped up, the group turned to Mr. Dunker and Ms. Stoller to ease their anguish of having to wait another year for the event. Rising to the occasion, they once again came through by taking the group to Cabella's, the Mall of America, and even the Wisconsin Dells on the way home. Whether a member of "Bodacious Van B" or the "Gunner of Tomatoes from the Turtletop," all students agreed the regional ASA meetings were a great way to sharpen their skills for agronomy, network within their field, and have a darn good time in the process.



IPM Contest

By Mike Meyer

Every year the Field and Furrow club has an IPM contest in the spring. The contest is put together with the help of a graduate student and is an excellent way for club members to apply the knowledge they have learned in their classes. Contestants must be able to visually identify several diseases of field crops, typical insect pests, and common weeds. A portion of the contest requires participants to evaluate and grade twelve grain samples of wheat, soybeans, and corn. The contest is always a fun and challenging experience. This year's contest winners were Mike Meyer (1st), Jared Walter and Andrew Bowman (tie 2nd), and Regan Joehl (3rd). Everybody is encouraged to participate in the 2007 IPM contest.



NACTA Crops Contest

By Jared Walter

On April 21, 2006 members of the Field and Furrow club were able to compete in the NACTA Crops Contest held at Western Illinois University in Monmouth. The team studied all semester to prepare for the national contest. Members of the team were: Tyler Postin, Nathan Karplus, Michael Ganschow, Jared Walter, Sydney Jarrett, AJ Woodyard, Krista Ubbenga, Brandon Laue, Blake Peterson, Craig Sondgeroth, and Daniel Lundeen. The contest consisted of four separate components: an Agronomic Quiz, a Math Quiz, a Plant/Seed ID, and the Practical Exam. Team "A" won 2nd place overall, 2nd place in the Lab Practical section, 2nd place in the Math Practical, and 1st place in the Agronomic Quiz. Individually, AJ Woodyard won 2nd place overall, 2nd place in the Math Practical, 3rd place in the Plant and Seed ID, and 3rd place in the Agronomic Quiz. Jared Walter won 2nd place in the Agronomic Quiz section.



ExplorACES

By Nathan Karplus

Each year, the College of ACES puts on ExploreACES, an event to recruit high school students to the school as well as exposing current students to the different opportunities in the College of ACES. This year the event took place on March 10th and 11th. The Field and Furrow Club was among the many educational displays that the Department of Crop Sciences had set up in Turner Hall. Our display included a plant identification quiz, as well as a poster informing people about our club. Many club members helped at our exhibit and encouraged people to join Crop Sciences as well as Field and Furrow.



Spring Meetings

By Nathan Karplus

The Field and Furrow Club had meetings in February, March, April, and May in the spring of 2006. During the February meeting we discussed many topics including the speech contest, the SASES regional meetings in Minnesota, the FFA awards lunch, ExploreACES, seed sets, the Awards Banquet and philanthropy events. After the meeting we had a quiz bowl where members of the club tested their agronomic knowledge.

At the March meeting we discussed the SASES regional meetings in Minnesota, Speech Contest, FFA Lunch, the Awards Banquet, Young Ag Leaders Meeting, revising our constitution, and philanthropy events. After the meeting John Holthaus from F/S gave a presentation on interviews, internships, and resumes.

At the April meeting we discussed the Awards Banquet, FFA lunch, Regan Joehl gave a presentation on the SASES meeting in Minnesota, Member Award Applications, Adopt a Campus Pathway and the Spring BBQ. After the meeting Dr. Hoefl gave a presentation on the Crop Sciences department and opportunities after graduation.

At the Spring BBQ meeting we discussed winning Outstanding ACES Club, the Visual Presentation Contest, Agronomy Day and Quad day. We played softball before the meeting at the South farm.



FFA Lunch

By Andrew Bowman

On April 1, 2006, Field and Furrow Club had its annual porkchop sale for the State FFA Proficiency Award Judging Contests. Members rallied together to make lunches and distribute them into Mumford Hall, Turner Hall, Bevier Hall, and the NSRC. It proved hectic, as demand was greater than the previous year. But our members kept up very well, and in total, Field and Furrow Club made \$849 in profits. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to present our club to the best of the FFA.



Speech Contest

By Sydney Jarrett

On March 30th, two of Field and Furrow's finest went head to head in competition for a paid trip to Indianapolis and the opportunity to represent the University of Illinois at the SASES National Meetings. Brian Fisher and Craig Sondgeroth picked up their topics in the morning and presented their speeches at 7 PM. Crop Science Department Head Dr. Hoeft graciously hosted the speakers and audience members at his house. After Brian and Craig gave their speeches about the most important technological advance for agriculture in the past 100 years, the judges took time to deliberate. During this time, club members sampled some of Dr. Hoeft's homemade ice cream. After much debate, Brian was declared the winner and will represent Field and Furrow at the SASES National Meetings in November.



Ag in the Classroom

By Krista Ubbenga

Members of the Field and Furrow Club volunteer each semester to help with Agriculture in the Classroom for a philanthropy activity. Ag in the Classroom is a program coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture with the intent to help students become more aware of the role of agriculture in the economy and in society. Each state manages their own program; in Illinois, Ag in the Classroom is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau. On May 1, 2006, five Field and Furrow Club members gave an interactive presentation on biotechnology to the fifth grade class at Carrie-Busey Elementary School in Champaign. To begin students were asked what they already knew about biotechnology. Field and Furrow members were impressed with some of the student's prior knowledge and their acceptance of and excitement for biotechnology. The students were educated on various foods that are a result of biotechnology efforts and they learned more about how it affects their daily lives. The students asked many questions and were very interested in what they learned. Overall the Field and Furrow members enjoyed the experience and will look forward to the opportunity to participate in Ag in the Classroom in the future.

