

WIU AGGIES

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS 1920-2020

The Western Illinois University School of Agriculture celebrated its 100th anniversary, and the annual, student-run Ag Mech Ag Expo celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020, highlighted by a dinner and ceremony Saturday, February 8, in the University Union Heritage Room.

"This year's show has extra meaning as it is not only the 50th Ag Mech Show, but the 100th anniversary of the WIU School of Agriculture," said Ag Mech Club Advisor Jana Knupp. "We saw many of our alumni come through the show to see some new additions to the show, as well as stay to attend our celebration dinner on Saturday evening. It was a great weekend to celebrate the long standing success of the WIU School of Agriculture."

This year's expo was fun for all ages. There was a "Kid's Corner," which had bouncy houses, face painting, balloon artists and caricatures, all which were also free.

A new addition to the Ag Expo this year was a "Grain to Glass" section featuring samples of products from local breweries and vineyards. Guests purchased sampling tickets or a full glass of their favorite beverage at the show.

"In 1920, the agriculture and biology curriculum at Western were split into two separate departments, which has led us to this event in celebrating the 100th year of the School of Agriculture. It is also the 50th year anniversary for the Ag Expo, which the 100th year event will coincide with this year's Ag Expo," said School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker. "We hope to attract as many alumni as possible to attend this very special event to help us celebrate 100 years of agriculture at Western Illinois University. We will be recognizing several distinguished alumni at this event, as well as raising funds to support several different projects within the department. Our strong alumni base has helped sustain the growth in our department and will be the foundation for the next 100 years of agriculture at Western Illinois University."



**50th Annual
FARM EXPO**
Western Hall | Macomb, IL

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2020
Saturday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Farm Tractors and Machinery • Ag Sales and Service
Ag Management • Emerging Ag Technology • Livestock Supplies
Crop Supplies • Conservation • Ag Structures
Farm Toy Show • Crafts • Displays • Kids Corner
Alpha Gamma Sigma Concession Stand
WIU faculty and student agricultural research

Free Parking and Admission
For more information, call (309) 298-1231.
Please follow show updates at: facebook.com/WIUAgMechFarmExpo/

If you require accommodations
in order to participate in the
activity, please contact the
School of Agriculture,
(309) 298-1231.



WIU School of Agriculture Honors 10 Alumni on Department's 100th Anniversary



*Mr. Philip E. Bradshaw
with Alicia Flowers*



*Dr. Jeff Galle
with Whitney Thomson*



*Mr. Terry Kestner
with Whitney Thomson*

As part of the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture's 100th anniversary celebration, 10 distinguished alumni were honored during a ceremony the same weekend as the 50th annual Farm Expo, February 8-9.

Each alumnus has a distinguished career in the agricultural career field.

"The 100th year anniversary event was a huge success," said School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker.

"The highlight of the evening was the recognition of our 10 distinguished alumni who were honored that night. All of these individuals have achieved remarkable feats in their careers and are huge supporters of the School of Agriculture. It was great to have our current students hear about their experiences at WIU, and how these experiences provided the foundation to advance their careers in agriculture. We hope to continue this event in the future, so we can honor more distinguished alumni deserving of this recognition."



*Mr. Monte Lowderman
with Alicia Flowers*



*Mr. Martin (Marty) E. O'Connor
with Claudia Bland*



*Dr. Gordon Roskamp
with Claudia Bland*



Mr. Gerry Salzman



*Mr. Taylor Steinberg
with Claudia Bland*



*Miss Chris (Moshier) Wilson
with Alicia Flowers*

(Not able to attend but who also received an award was Mr. Mark McCully)

WIU ANNOUNCES \$10 MILLION BIO-FUEL FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANT

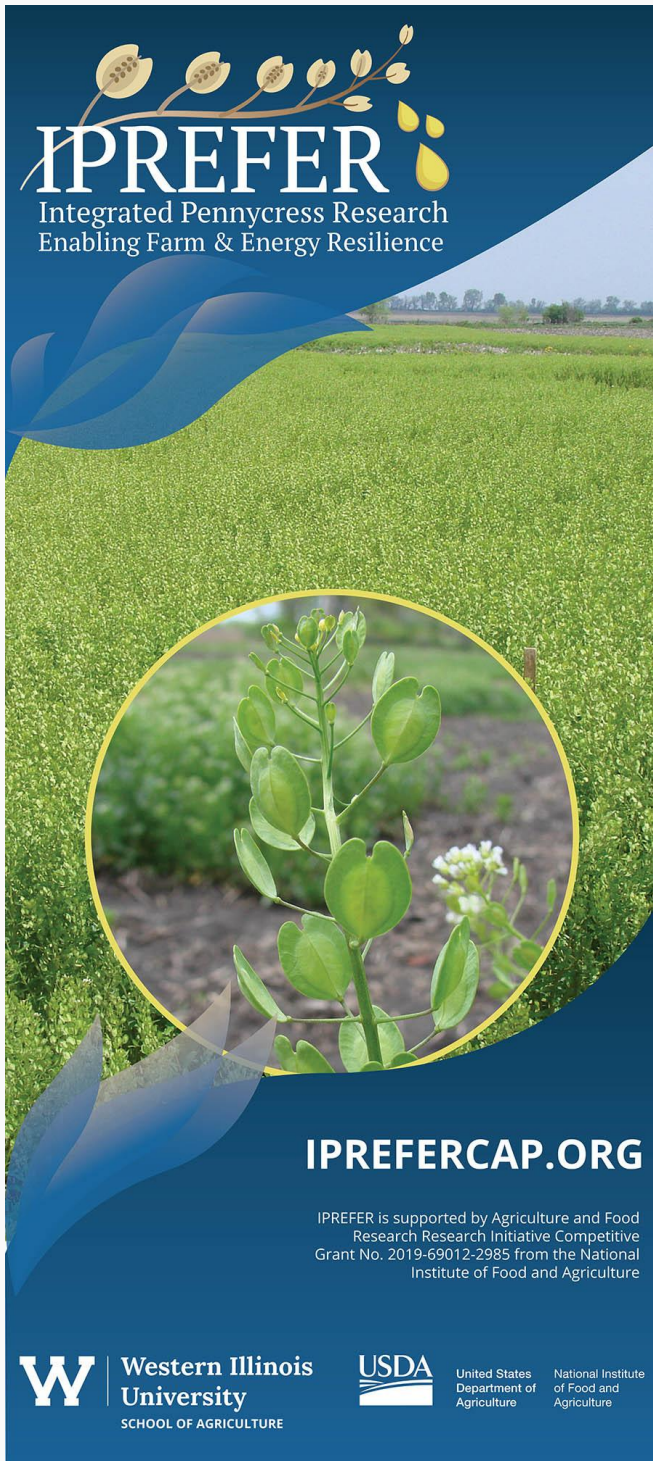
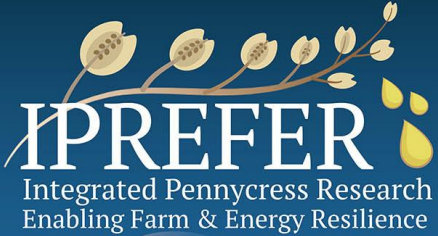
The Western Illinois University School of Agriculture has announced that Agriculture Professor Win Phippen is the recipient of a \$10 million federal grant to investigate the use of the alternative crop, Pennycress, as a new cash cover crop in the Midwest.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant will allow Phippen to further refine Pennycress as a new winter-annual cash cover crop for use by the biofuel industry. Researchers from Illinois State University, the Ohio State University, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and the University of Minnesota will join Phippen's team to refine this high-yield oilseed crop. Phippen, who has been with the School of Agriculture and the director of the School's Alternative Crops Program since 2000, has been growing Pennycress, and investigating its uses as a biofuel alternative, for 10 years.

"Pennycress is unique among cover crops as it can generate income, which incentivizes farmer participation. Integration of Pennycress into existing corn-soybean rotations extends the growing season on established cropland and avoids food crop displacement, all while yielding up to two billion gallons of oil annually," Phippen explained.

The goal is to produce 50 billion gallons of biofuel in the next 25 years. The integrated Pennycress crop program will work toward commercializing the crop within five years, according to Phippen. Research will focus on improving Pennycress genetics (germplasm) for plant breeding and preservation, agronomic management, ecosystems and supply chain management for post-harvest seed control.

"The integration of Pennycress as a cash cover crop will positively impact producers' profits, decrease soil erosion and nutrient runoff, which protects water systems, support pollinating species (bees and other pollinators), suppress weeds, diversify the nation's energy sources and contribute to rural economies," Phippen said. "We're very excited to further refine this powerhouse crop as an alternative for our Midwest farmers. I am most appreciative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's faith in my research, and I look forward to leading a team of researchers with a solid background in alternative crop research."



IPREFER
Integrated Pennycress Research
Enabling Farm & Energy Resilience

IPREFERCAP.ORG

IPREFER is supported by Agriculture and Food
Research Research Initiative Competitive
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Institute of Food and Agriculture

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SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

WIU ANNOUNCES \$10 MILLION BIO-FUEL FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANT

- continued -

Phippen's integrated program optimizes off-season Pennycress oilseed production by overcoming production and supply chain bottlenecks, with the goal of commercially launching Pennycress as a cash cover crop in 2021. CoverCress, Inc., of St. Louis, MO, is working closely with Phippen and his team for some of the breeding and post-production side of the research. Trial Pennycress planting in Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota will begin this month, with the first harvest anticipated in May 2020. The alternative crop is planted immediately following a corn harvest. After harvest, Pennycress storage will be tested, along with the quantity and quality of oil extracted, and the shelf life of Pennycress oil. The oil and meal will be further studied to determine uses for fuel, feed and food applications.



Agriculture Professor Win Phippen recently announced the \$10 million federal grant for Pennycress research at WIU.

"This grant is a phenomenal coup for Dr. Phippen and the School of Agriculture. We were lucky to hire Win 19 years ago to lead an alternative crops program, which at the time was still relatively new," said School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker. "His work and dedication to alternative crops is most deserving of this grant. Not only does this grant and research put our School and his program further on the map, it provides learning opportunities for our students that they will not find anywhere else."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Scott Hutchins said the \$77.8 million in NIFA research grants, which have been awarded to eight U.S. universities, are aimed at integrating sustainable agricultural approaches covering the entire food production system.

"Investing in high-value research that promotes sustainably intensified agricultural practices, while addressing climate adaptation and limited resources, ensures long-term agricultural productivity and profitability and provides unprecedented opportunities for American farmers and producers," said Hutchins, who leads USDA's Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area. "USDA continues to support our nation's farmers through investments that help strengthen our rural communities."

This research investment is part of a new program within NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems program, the nation's leading and largest competitive grants program for agricultural sciences.

Other researchers part of Phippen's team include John Sedbrook, Bill Perry, Rebekka Darner, William Hunter, Nicholas Heller and Rob Rhykerd (Illinois State University); Jim Anderson, Ratan Chopra, Katherine Frels, M. David Marks and M. Scott Wells (University of Minnesota); Alexander Lindsey (The Ohio State University); Pamela Tas (University of Wisconsin-Platteville); and Cristine Handel, CoverCress, Inc. Project advisory board members include Steve Csonka, executive director, CAAFI, Greg Haer, VP Sales and Marketing, Renewable Energy Group, Jerry Steiner, CEO, CoverCress, Inc. Anne Kinzel of I-Prefer is the project manager.

WIU LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM NAMED HIGH TEAM OVERALL IN NATIONAL BARROW SHOW

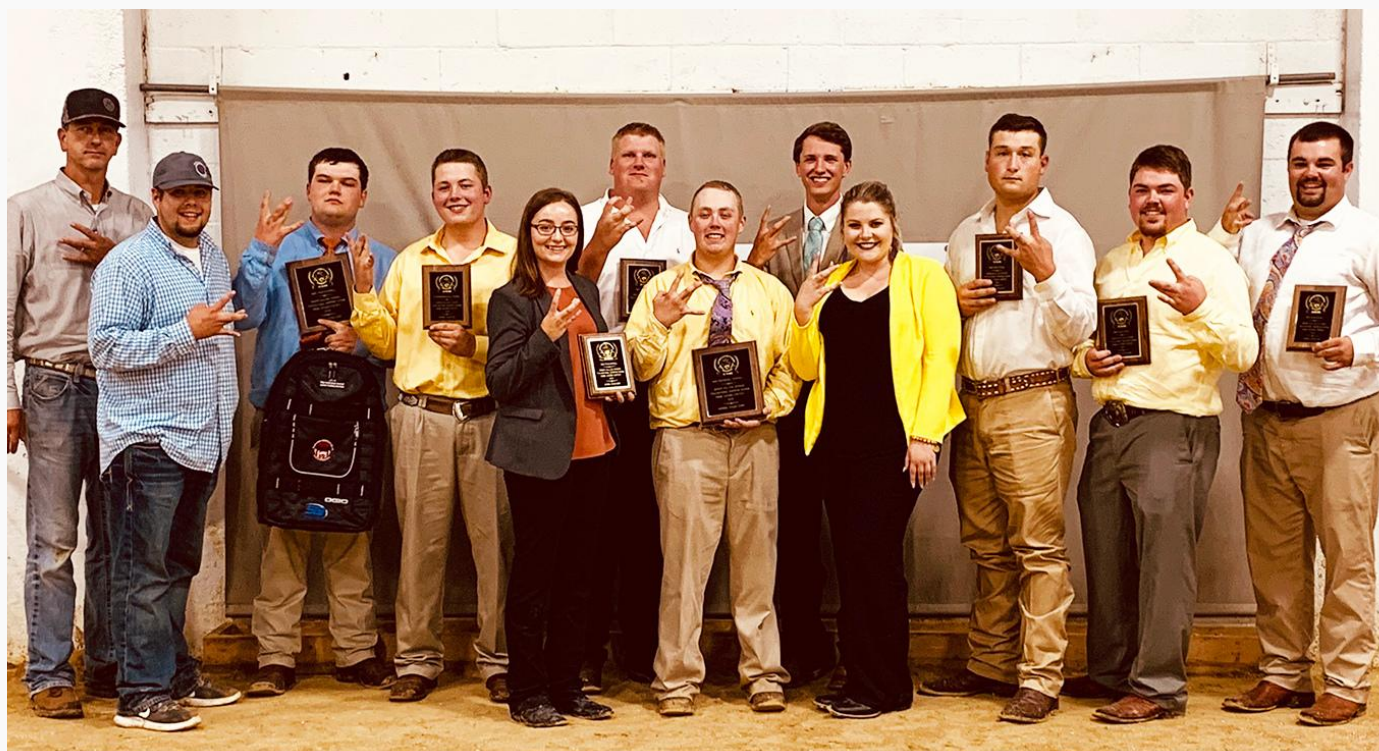
The Western Illinois University Livestock Judging Team was awarded the High Team overall at the National Barrow Show in Austin, MN.

The 73rd annual show was a competition between 18 universities from across the country. "Members of the WIU livestock judging team put in countless hours preparing for national competitions with practices most evenings and on weekends," said team coach and Associate Professor of Agriculture Mark Hoge. "It is great to see all of the hard work pay off for these talented undergraduate students. The WIU livestock judging team works very hard to represent WIU on a national level by fielding competitive teams each year and recruiting some of the best talent in the country."

Individual results among WIU students include:

- Logan Hebert, a senior agriculture major, of Mattoon, IL: 10th in Reasons
- Drew Lamle, a senior agriculture major, of Fort Wayne, IN: 6th in Reasons and 6th overall
- Adam Gradert, a senior agriculture major, of Geneseo, IL: 5th in Reasons and high individual overall
- Devon Boyer, a senior agriculture major, of Blandinsville, IL: 11th overall

The team will continue throughout the fall competing at other contests, ending with the national contest in Louisville, KY, in November.



WIU AGGIES WIN NATIONAL AGRICULTURE COMPETITION FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW



For a fifth year in a row, the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture "Aggies" have won the national College Aggies Online (CAO) competition and \$2,500 in scholarship money for the WIU Agriculture Club.

About 60 WIU agriculture students participated in the yearlong competition. Students took part in a variety of educational components on campus and around the region. The WIU club is comprised of students in the Communicating Agricultural Issues class at Western, taught by School of Agriculture Instructor Jana Knupp.

Projects completed as part of this year's competition included:

- Handing out chocolate milk at WIU's Homecoming 5K to promote chocolate milk as a refueling source.
- Teaching more than 10 ag lessons at Lincoln Elementary School
- Hosting several WIU groups for tours at the WIU farm
- Collecting more than 1,500 pounds of canned food goods for the WIU Food Pantry
- Handing out over 2,000 pieces of candy with food myths and the truths attached to them

In addition to the club win, two WIU students were singled out for recognition by the Animal Agriculture Alliance, which hosted the competition. WIU senior agriculture major Cassie Perrin, of Coopersville, MI, won a \$2,500 scholarship for capturing first place in the competition's individual category. WIU junior agriculture major Paige Skinner, of Berwick, IL, was named one of 11 winners of the CAO Excellence Award.

"Recently I observed a t-shirt in a store that read, 'Winners Win.' I believe this sums up our attitude within the School of Agriculture," said WIU School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker. "You can't become complacent in a tough, difficult environment. You have to possess the drive, dedication and passion to push through and succeed. For the past five years, our students have competed with the drive, dedication and passion to promote the animal agricultural industry to not only be the best team in the nation, but the best team in the nation for five years in a row. Congratulations to all of the students who competed this year and their faculty member, Ms. Jana Knupp, for guiding them through this yearly competition."

This year, more than 300 students and 20 collegiate clubs nationwide took part in the competition, representing 95 colleges and 35 states. The first and second place winners in each division receive a free trip to the Alliance's 2020 Stakeholders Summit, May 7-8 in Arlington, VA.

Over the last four years, more than 300 WIU students have participated in the competitive events, which provide the real-life application of communicating agricultural topics with the general public.



WIU STUDENTS PLACE HIGH IN CME TRADING CHALLENGE

For the second time in recent years, a team of Western Illinois University students have finished high in the CME Group Trading Challenge, a four-week electronic trading competition.

This year's team was made up of Whitney Thomson, an MBA student from Quincy, IL; Bethany Petentler, a junior agriculture and pre-MBA major from Galesburg, IL; and Kye Witek, an economics graduate student from Steward, IL. The trio finished 44th out of 409 participating teams, placing them in the top 11 percent in the competition.

Last year's team finished 18th out of nearly 600 competing teams.

Team Adviser Professor Jason Franken said this year's competition ran from Oct. 6-Nov. 1 and allowed teams to trade future contracts for agricultural commodities, as well as metals, energies and exchange rates.

"Something different this year was that it was one shot, whereas in the past there was an initial round and the teams that did well enough made the cut for the final competition," said Franken. "I'm really proud of our team's effort even more so than the performance. Each team started off with \$500,000 of 'play money' to trade with, and our students turned that into over \$620,000 by the end of the competition."

Franken added that the team's placement was particularly impressive considering 290 of the teams lost money in the futures market.

"The competition is a great opportunity for experiential learning under pressure that tends to produce memorable lessons for students," he said.

The CME Challenge simulated trading contracts in commodity futures markets using CQG trading software.



WIU AG ALUMNA WINS OUTSTANDING YOUNG TEACHER AWARD IN CALIFORNIA



Western Illinois University alumna Kaylyn Davenport was recognized recently with the "2019 Outstanding Young Teacher" award by the California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA).

Davenport, a 2014 agriculture education graduate, is a floral design teacher at Atwater High School in California. Through her classroom work, Davenport started "Falcon Floral," an in-school floral shop that teaches floral design and managerial and leadership skills.

The CATA award recognizes an outstanding young teacher, with five-seven years of service, for their participation and leadership in civic, community, agriculture, agribusiness, and professional activities.

Davenport's father, Phil Schiber, was a former Atwater High School agriculture instructor, and she grew up influenced by his passion for his job and working with students. During her high school years, Davenport was involved in agricultural and FFA activities at the school.

In addition to the CATA award, Davenport has coached three state champion FFA judging teams, including one national championship. Davenport said she has future goals of expanding student Supervised Agriculture Experience opportunities, which is a component of the agriculture education three-circle model of classroom/lab, leadership and hands-on skills application.

During her time leading the high school's agricultural program, Davenport has expanded the floral design program from three to five sections. The school's floral shop is run by 19 of Davenport's students. Students create and sell floral designs, including creating work for weddings.

It was during her time at WIU that Davenport said she developed her passion for teaching.

"I felt ready and excited to earn my first teaching position," she said. "Dr. (Andy) Baker showed me the importance of working hard to learn content, and teach it in the best way possible. My teaching strategies stem from the time spent in my agriculture education courses at WIU.



WIU ALUMNA WINS CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD IN WORLD HORSE SHOW



A Western Illinois University alumna recently won two world champion awards in the American Paint Horse Associations (APHA) World Championship Show in Ft. Worth, TX. Jessica (Bryan) Heyen, of Mt. Pulaski, IL, received her bachelor's degree in agriculture from WIU in 2011.

In late September, Heyen captured the Reserve World Champion Amateur Solid Paint Bred Showmanship award and the Reserve World Champion Amateur Solid Paint Bred Western Pleasure award. "In order to qualify for this show, you must show at two APHA events from the previous July to the current June," she said.

Heyen has been showing horses locally since she was 5 years old, but began showing in Novice Amateur events, which is the basic, beginner level for adults, five years ago. She then moved up to the Amateur and Open events four years ago, which prompted her to attempt to qualify for the World Show.

"For people who competitively show paints, the World Show is everyone's goal to reach for," she said. "Two years ago, this show was just a dream of mine, watching the livestream to see the best of the best, crying with the people who won titles (most of whom I didn't know at the time) and thinking I would never be good enough to go."

The first year Heyen showed her horse, "Noah," she placed fifth in the nation in the amateur standings and eighth in the open overall standings.

After her graduation from WIU, Heyen was hired by ADM. She now works for Crop Risk Services in Decatur, IL, and said she believes WIU provided the groundwork to get her started.

"At one time, while at WIU, I was the president of Sigma Alpha, worked at Woodrum Automotive, and was a full-time student," she said. "Having these responsibilities to juggle and prioritize tremendously helped shape me for my career/home life balance. I'm sure that if it wasn't for the industry knowledge obtained at WIU, I would not be where I am today."

Heyen said she stays in touch with numerous WIU alumni and worked with several at both of her employers. "My favorite memories of WIU were how much of a close-knit group the entire School of Agriculture was," she said. "We worked hard, but we also knew how to have fun and I felt like we were all there for each other. John Carlson, Kevin Bacon, Mark Hoge and Joel Gruver were some of my favorite faculty, each with completely different teaching styles and personalities, but they each made their classes unique and a fun experience for the students."

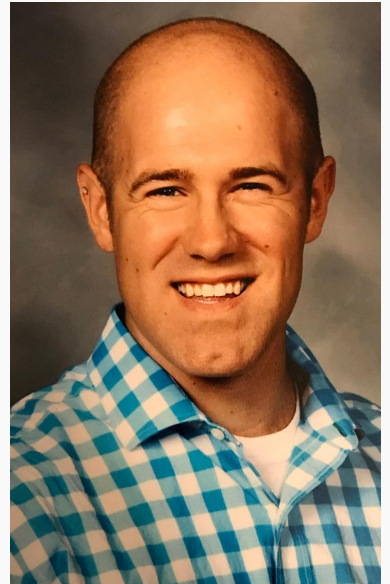


WIU AGRICULTURE ALUMNUS LEADS STREATOR PROGRAM TO NATIONAL HONORS

The Streator High School agriculture department and FFA chapter, advised by Western Illinois University School of Agriculture alumnus Riley Hintzsche, recently received national honors.

The chapter's state-winning Food Science Team will be representing Streator and Illinois FFA at the 2019 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Additionally, Lance Moritz was named a National Proficiency Finalist in the area of Diversified Horticulture. Moritz is one of four students in the nation who has been selected for this honor, and he will interview against the other three candidates for the chance to be selected as the National Proficiency Winner. The Streator FFA chapter was also named a three-star program, the highest ranking an FFA chapter can receive from the National FFA Organization.

Hintzsche said the National Chapter Award is awarded based on the judging of a 22-page application that is judged on the qualifications of strengthening agriculture, building communities and growing leaders. Growing Leaders focuses on student development, Strengthening Agriculture focuses on agricultural improvement, education and literacy and Building Communities focuses on community development.



WIU School of Agriculture alumnus Ryan Hintzsche

"In each one of those three areas, students must determine five activities that they want to engage in to better students, agriculture and the community," said Hintzsche. "Once they have determined these five events or activities, they must choose three in each of the areas to truly expand on. Basically, they have nine activities that they plan, develop and grow upon to improve our chapter, community and students. Each area is judged by Illinois ag teachers through a competitive judging process. Once this is completed, the top 30 programs in the state are sent to the national level, and we were one of those top 30."

Once the program was judged at the state level, it moves on to the national level, where it faces a strict judging process. The applications are ranked as one, two or three star at that point.

"This makes the Streator Communities Ag Program one of the top programs in America as this is the highest ranking any chapter can receive," Hintzsche added. "We have a phenomenal community that assists in preparing students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. It takes a village and we have so much more we can accomplish."

Congratulations!

WIU EQUESTRIAN TEAM BRINGS HOME 14 RIBBONS

The recently-formed Western Illinois University Equestrian Show Team competed in a weekend event at Black Hawk College.

The team brought home 14 ribbons, including two first place ribbons; two second place ribbons; two fourth place ribbons, three fifth place ribbons and five sixth place ribbons.

Individual results include:

- Senior agriculture major Brianna Parada, of Roxana, IL: First place and sixth place ribbons
- Freshman nursing major Haley Homel, of Burbank, IL: First place and sixth place ribbons
- Junior agriculture major Laine Crawford, of Sullivan, IL: Fifth place ribbon
- Junior forensic chemistry major Shea Jones, of Batavia, IL: Fourth place ribbon
- Senior biology major Meghan McCrery, of Galesburg, IL: Fifth place and sixth place ribbons
- Senior agriculture major Haley Smith, of Laura, IL: Second place and fifth place ribbons
- Sophomore computer science major Isaac Stevenson, of Downs, IL: Fourth and sixth place ribbons
- Junior broadcasting and journalism major Steven Smith, of Galesburg, IL: Second and sixth place ribbons



Pictured in the front row the first day of competition, from left, are Meghan McCrery - 6th; Brianna Parada - 1st; Haley Smith - 5th; Laine Crawford; Haley Homel - 1st; and Shea Jones - 4th. In the back row, from left, are Isaac Stevenson - 6th; Steven Smith - 2nd.



Pictured in the front row the second day of competition, from left, are Haley Smith - 2nd; Meghan McCrery - 5th; Haley Homel - 6th; Brianna Parada - 6th; Isaac Stevenson - 4th; and Shea Jones. In the back row, from left, are Laine Crawford - 5th; Steven Smith - 6th.

CONGRATULATIONS

CANNABIS PRODUCTION MINOR TO LAUNCH AT WIU IN FALL 2020

According to Forbes, the cannabis industry is among the fastest-growing job markets in America. According to Leafly's 2019 Cannabis Jobs Count, cannabis directly employs more than 211,000 full-time workers in the U.S. Now Western Illinois University students interested in careers in what Leafly calls America's hidden job boom will have the opportunity through a new Cannabis Production minor set to debut at WIU in Fall 2020.

Western's Faculty Senate approved the new minor at its meeting Feb. 4. Offered through WIU's School of Agriculture, the majority of courses for the 18-19 credit hour minor will be offered through the school, with additional coursework offered through the Department of Biological Sciences.

A new course within the program, "Cannabis Biology and Production," as well as the minor itself, will assist with developing employees for the new Illinois industry in cannabis production, said School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker.

"We're excited to be a part of this flourishing industry and providing in-demand, and new, academic opportunities for our students," said WIU Interim President Martin Abraham. "Because of our many years of work in alternative crops, and the outstanding expertise of our faculty at Western, we are in a unique position to be at the forefront of cannabis studies."

Shelby Henning, horticulture professor in the School of Agriculture, will lead the biology/production course, which includes cannabis anatomy, physiology, breeding, propagation methods, management techniques, post-harvest processing, commercial production, crop rotations and product applications.



"The U.S. Farm Bill of 2014 legalized industrial hemp for research by state agriculture departments and universities. School of Agriculture Professor Win Phippen, who leads our alternative crops program, has been conducting research on hemp for several years, and most recently, added a cannabis component to his research," noted Baker. "This new course and minor are perfect complements to our comprehensive agriculture degree program."

Other courses available in the minor, which already exist through the School of Agriculture and Department of Biological Sciences, include crop sciences, introduction to horticulture, introduction to plant biology, genetics in biology and agriculture, pest management, plant structure, plant physiology, landscape construction and management, greenhouse and nursery management, plant breeding, crop improvement and hydroponic plant production.

MBA IN AG BUSINESS AVAILABLE TO WIU STUDENT BEGINNING THIS FALL



Beginning in Fall 2019, students at Western Illinois University will be able to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in ag business.

The new bridge program will allow a smoother transition to graduate school for students. "This program will allow agriculture students in the ag business degree program to carry over six hours of the undergraduate degree program into their MBA, which will allow students to receive their MBA in one academic year," said WIU School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker. "This gives our undergraduates an option to get their MBA even quicker than before, with an emphasis in ag business."

Undergraduate students in agriculture need to have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 and a GPA of 3.0 in the Pre-MBA minor.

"Through this program, students are allowed to 'bridge,' or use two classes, which will count in both their undergraduate and graduate degree," said WIU College of Business and Technology Academic Advisor Ember Keithley, who helped put the new initiative together. "This will allow students to complete both degrees in five years. This is an incredible opportunity for our agriculture business students, with the desire to get an MBA, to stay at WIU and accomplish their goals in a simplified process. I am very excited we are able to offer this as an option for our students."

WIU Department of Management and Marketing Chair Craig Conrad also helped create the new program to add a seamless process.

"The smooth transition between the undergraduate and graduate degree programs is very beneficial to our students," said Conrad. "However, the real value of the program centers on the additional core business knowledge that agriculture students will be able to acquire and ultimately apply in the agribusiness sector."

WIU AG PROFESSOR RESEARCHING WILD HEMP WITH HELP OF RESEARCH GRANT

Western Illinois University School of Agriculture Professor Win Phippen will log numerous miles this summer as he begins an effort to harvest and study wild hemp plants from each of Illinois' 102 counties.

Phippen has undertaken a yearlong research project to evaluate the hemp strains for THC levels. The project is being paid for by a grant from the University Research Council, funded by the WIU Office of Sponsored Projects.

After being issued the only permit from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to harvest wild hemp, sometimes called "ditch weed," for research, Phippen will take cuttings from three-five plants in each county. Because Phippen holds the permit, he is the only person allowed to do the harvesting.

"This project addresses concerns of high THC hemp being grown in the wild," he said. "We are going to try to get plants from at least 25-30 counties, but we will do the best we can."

In an effort to increase the number of cuttings he and his students are able to study, Phippen is asking WIU alumni to help with the project. He asks anyone who has found wild hemp growing in their county to notify him by email. He is looking for GPS coordinates for the plot in order to make the most effective use of time during the plant's harvest period July 12-26. He has already identified plants in McDonough and Warren counties.

Phippen will bring the cuttings back to the new School of Agriculture greenhouses, north of campus, and plant them. He will also evaluate each plant's THC level, and other plant characteristics.

"We will grow the plants and collect the seed, then make the 'clean' seed available to producers looking for seed from ideal Illinois growing conditions," he said.

The wild industrial hemp is grown for the CBD oil in its leaves and flowers. CBD oil is not an illicit drug and is now available in the mainstream market. Industrial hemp was legalized in August 2018, and since permits for growing became available May 1, 421 applications, representing 15,563 acres of Illinois farmland have been approved.

Those who refer Phippen to wild low THC plants will have the honor of naming the seed variety.



Hello School of Agriculture Alumni,

If you have not already heard, industrial hemp production in Illinois is now legal. A major challenge in producing hemp in Illinois will be the presence of wild or native hemp with high levels of THC from previous cultivations, both legal and illegal. Dr. Win Phippen in the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture has been granted a special permit to identify locations of "wild" hemp and collect seed and/or stem cuttings. This is your opportunity to participate in creating new research opportunities at WIU AND you get to name your variety.

If you know of any location in the state of Illinois where wild hemp is growing, we want to know. It can be on your property or in a public right-of-way. We hope to collect samples from as many counties as possible between July 12-26, 2019 (we already have samples from Warren and McDonough counties).

Please submit the following information to Dr. Phippen at WB-Phippen@wiu.edu.

Precise GPS coordinates of the collection site (a screen shoot from your phone with the location marked would be great) (See sample below)

Nearest Town name: _____

County: _____

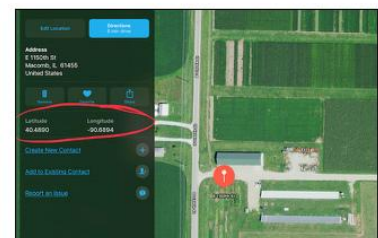
Is the hemp on public or private land? Y or N

Do we have permission to collect on your property? Y or N

Name for variety: _____ (usually last name or farm name, 2 words max)

Your contact information (name, address, phone, & email): _____

Thank you for helping WIU with this groundbreaking research. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Phippen by email or phone (309) 255-9435.



(Sample screen shot)

LEATHERNECK COUNTRY MEATS OFFERING NEW PORK PRODUCT THIS FALL

Organizers of Western Illinois University's Leatherneck Country Meats, the Purple and Gold Standard of Western Illinois, are preparing for the group's next sale, this time with a shifted focus to pork raised outdoors.

Leatherneck Country Meats is a student-run organization that offers pork sales to the public. This is the third year LCM has been holding sales.

This year, LCM is raising Berkshire hogs on the University Farm. The first piglets have already been placed outdoors. This year's retail sale is expected in early October.

"Raising berks on pasture allows our students to learn about another pork production method in a hands-on environment as well as gives consumers a choice in the end product," said Associate Professor Mark Hoge, who is responsible for WIU's swine enterprise.

The University's swine technician is Jay Pittman and Instructor Jana Knupp is handling the LCM marketing.

Berkshires are known for better meat marbling and a tender, juicier flavor.

LCM is run through the University Farm and uses animals raised there as part of the University's academic offerings, including classes on swine science and as part of WIU's nationally-successful Livestock Judging Team. Money raised through the program benefits the School of Agriculture.

Agriculture students are employed at the farm to handle all parts of animal care, from feeding to farrowing.

Processing for Leatherneck Country Meats is done at the Farmhouse Meat Company in Carthage, IL. Owners of the meat locker include two WIU alumni.



Leatherneck Country Meats at WIU is shifting its operation to raise Berkshire hogs this year.

Western Illinois University

**Change of Pace
Jackpot Show**

**3-Day VIRTUAL
Livestock Show**

May 9-31, 2020

The "Western Illinois University Change of Pace Jackpot Show" was hosted on Walton Webcasting. The first day, May 29, was dedicated to sheep and goats, and May 30-31 was reserved for hog showing. Entries were \$35 each and closed at 6 p.m. (EST) Tuesday, May 26.

WIU alumni and students helped with setting up the show. WIU School of Agriculture alumni serving as the event's judges included 2015 agriculture alumnus Tyler Homann, of Charleston, IL – sheep show; 2008 agriculture alumnus James Thompson, of Frankfort, IN – goat show; 2007 agriculture alumnus Blaine Olson, of Elkart, IL - barrow show; and 2007 agriculture alumnus Derek Stayton, of Carlinville, IL – gilt show.

The Hoof-N-Horn Club promotes closer relationships among students interested in livestock and animal science, focusing on promoting the agricultural industry.

