

MAY 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



SC Governor's School
for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY KEOWN

As I sit at my desk to write this, a bittersweet feeling comes over me. This year has been a year of growing - literally and figuratively. Fittingly, our entire campus and community read "**The Growing Season**", written by a successful Illinois produce farmer, **Sarah Frey**. This, too, has been a "Growing Season" for the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe.

Yes, we have grown crops, calves, swine, timber, honeybees, and greenhouse ornamentals. Yet, more importantly, we have grown into a large family. Our students have grown intellectually, physically, mentally, and more mature. Our faculty and staff have grown professionally, and some are even growing their family. Also, when many other schools were working remotely due to the pandemic, our faculty and staff worked every day. Our parents have grown to trust us with their children's education and residential life. Have we always got "it" right this year? No. However, I want to thank you all again for your immense understanding with us when situations arose. To fix a mistake, one must admit to making a mistake.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Congratulations to our Aggies who competed in the **2021 FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event (CDE)** and placed **1st overall!** Our team will represent **South Carolina** at the National level this Fall. The team was coached by AgEd Teacher, **Russell Abrams**.



(l-r) Collin Greene, Jake Simpson, Russell Abrams, Jaquez Perry, and Leon Fulmer

A special **congratulations** to the following **High Scoring Individuals**:

- 1st - **Jake Simpson**
- 2nd - **Leon Fulmer**
- 3rd - **Jaquez Perry**

AGGIE OF THE MONTH KYLE GILREATH



Kyle Gilreath is a rising 12th-grader from **Greenwood, SC**. He is the recipient of this year's **Principal's Award**. The recipient of this award is chosen based on his/her high academic and agricultural achievements, leadership, positive attitude, high standards of character, and true spirit of team work.

Kyle has also been elected **JDLH FFA Chaplain** for the 2021-2022 school year. **Congratulations** Kyle on all your accomplishments!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY KEOWN

Our leadership team has had to do just that many times this year to overcome obstacles that we never imagined would have happened. Our maintenance department has renovated three more of the twelve residential halls - making new space for our growing student body! They will begin three additional residential halls in July, ready for the 2022-2023 school year.

Thus, we will be in our "Growing Season" for a few more years before we have a max capacity of 180 students. We have also been awarded a generous amount from our General Assembly to begin renovations of De la Howe Hall, construct a new Agricultural Mechanics shop, and new greenhouses. Our **maintenance and finance departments** are often overlooked, but they are both hard at work to bring this campus back to life.

Although our school year has come to a close, this summer is packed with activities on campus. Our **Education Center** is hosting eight summer camps, a **Farm Bureau Youth Camp**, and several athletic camps. For more information about our camping program, please follow the Education Center on Facebook or email Kinsley.Miller@delahowe.sc.gov.

In closing, **THANK YOU** for making this year the best (and busiest) year of my life! I am overly proud of our students' personal growth and their desire to learn about the most essential industry to mankind. These young people will be responsible for feeding and clothing the world! We are excited to welcome at least 45 new students in the Fall of 2021. I hope you will all continue to celebrate and follow this amazing story with us! Have a fun-filled and safe summer! **GO AGGIES!**



PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

GREGORY THOMPSON

The month of May marks one of my favorite times of the year because our country celebrates the academic accomplishments of both high school and college students. The graduation ceremony confirms their accomplishments. Diplomas and degrees, respectively, provide them with written documentation of their academic achievement. This also marks the one time that people gather into an arena, gymnasium, or football stadium and everyone leaves happy. **This is because everyone that reached that center stage is a winner.**

Last month my family had an opportunity to celebrate because my youngest daughter graduated from college. During her graduation, I had time to reflect on all the great teachers she had throughout her educational journey that helped make this day possible. I also got a chance to reflect on several past high school graduations where I served as the principal. The one graduation that stood out was my first graduation at the Performance Learning Center (PLC).

The PLC, like the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe (JDLH), was the first school I started up in my career. Unlike John de la Howe, PLC was designed to help at-risk students obtain a high school diploma. Most of the student body was made up of students that had criminal records, teen parents, and a history of academic missteps. It seemed like the world had given up on these students. I went through an emotional roller-coaster every day because of the unpredictable challenges and the great times we had changing the lives of those young people. Every day marked a new challenge and our students brought their problems to our front door. In turn, we provided them with a safe and orderly environment for them to work through most of their problems. I found myself praising, fussing, and advising our students throughout the week. **And all of our hard work paid off every year in May.**

One of my proudest moments I had as the Principal was my first graduation at PLC. Throughout the year, I was nervous about graduation because most of our first-semester graduates opted not to participate in the graduation ceremony. During the second semester, we started shaping up school traditions such as club day, family nights, Life Lesson Wednesdays, prom, and graduation walks. That started creating pride in our school among the students. These improvements ignited more students to want to participate in our graduation ceremony. However, I was still nervous because we only had 26 out of 32 students participating in our first graduation. Our Superintendent and Board Members were accustomed to having 150-250 students participate in the graduation ceremonies. At the time, I felt the small number of graduates and just a few audience members would be embarrassing. I also felt like our small group did not measure up to the usual grand events the arena hosted. Regardless of my own reservations, the ceremony continued as planned.

As I led our first graduation out to Pomp and Circumstance the crowd cheered as if the students were rock stars. I realized then that our students were not a crop that grew up from the soil, but beautiful young adults that had numerous friends and family members that were there to support them. We may not have had any merit scholars or academic scholarships, but our students deserved the right to graduate at the James Brown Arena like everyone else. Our students earned that right. The PLC graduates went on to make astronomical gains in the workforce, continue on to school, and become great citizens.

As this school year draws to a close, the **Governor's School for Agriculture** is celebrating similar heights. Our students not only finished strong, but 96% of our students are academically eligible to return next year. The End of Course (EOC) exam showed just how hardworking our students are. We had a 71.4 % pass rate for Biology. Our Algebra 1 had a 100% pass rate. And the English 2 pass rate was 100% as well. All Ag classes have a 100% pass rate for the year and all core classes have at least a 97% pass rate. Not only that, but our school is on track to a 100% graduation rate. This is, of course, thanks to our diligent faculty and staff, as well as the support of the wonderful parents of our amazing students. **We hope to continue to see this support on June 4, 2022.** This is when we'll host our first graduation to usher our students into the real world. Twenty years later, when we look back upon this year, I hope we recall all the successes, but also the hardships that made our school as strong as it is today. **It is those hardships that make those successes memorable and worthwhile.**



2021-2022 ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Congratulations to our newly accepted students for the 2021-2022 school year! Applications are still open for **Rolling Admissions** if you are interested in attending the SC Governor's School for Agriculture.

Be sure to visit delahowe.sc.gov/admissions for more information or contact our Admissions Representative, **Cadie Giba**, at Cadie.Giba@delahowe.sc.gov.

APPLY NOW!

BECOME AN AGGIE 



Austin Landreth
Homeschool Option 5



Jake Parker
Wando High School



Caithlyn Krout
West-Oak High School



Sierra Tinsley
Woodmont High School



Tanner Martin
Stram Thurmond High School



Timothy Lyle Fulmer
Mid-Carolina High School



Lexie Hanna
Dixie High School



Ryan Joseph
T.L. Hanna High School



Cole Hammond
Homeschool



Carson Jones
Pickens High School



Kaylee O'Neal
Chapin High School

5K BULL RUN & WALK

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **1st Annual 5K Bull Run & Walk** on Saturday, May 1st! A special thank you to our sponsors and donors for helping us put on this event: **Country Way Contract, McCormick County 4-H, and Muscle Hutt in Plum Branch.**

Congratulations to all of our winners! All race times can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lf35avrevyLPU_1tSUu_Uea3p6H63bDf/view?fbclid=IwAR20XdLOT4rNZh_dgwFz-9sSRj_HDHtXIDWV9tLUtXSun_d6AHluubkGtyU.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

In the month of May, we celebrated **Teacher Appreciation Week** and **Public Service Recognition Week**! We are thankful for our campus community's continuous efforts in making our school one of a kind and embarking on this journey in our inaugural year. The entire week was filled with kind gestures to show this appreciation and our employees enjoyed cupcakes and kind words from our Aggies.



ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS CEREMONY

On May 7th, we hosted this year's **Academic Honors and Awards Ceremony** in the McKissick Memorial Chapel. We were joined by our Aggie parents and families who also enjoyed dinner with their students before the ceremony.

Congratulations to all of our students and staff award winners!



YEARBOOKS & FIELD DAY

On May 7th, students, faculty, and staff received their **yearbooks**. We had a **field day** in the afternoon with sports and outdoor games on the campus green and table games in the Cafeteria. Students also enjoyed sno cones from **Calhoun's Tropical Sno Cones**.



TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

To commemorate our inaugural year as the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, we held a **Time Capsule Ceremony** on May 24th. Students, faculty & staff, parents, board members, and key stakeholders placed items in our time capsule to be opened in **50 years**. We hope that years from now, our campus community can look back at these items and reminisce on their accomplishments within the school and all that the years 2020 and 2021 had to offer.



ON AND OFF THE FARM

BART HANNA

On May 1st, students and our **Farm Staff** took a Farm Trip to a local **Silvopasture**. Thank you to **Mr. Palmer** for having us!

Brooke Grondski, 10th grade, stated, "I didn't realize grass and trees were a thing... and I didn't realize herbicides might hurt earthworms and other small critters."

-Referring to how Mr. Palmer manages his forages while considering organisms down to the micro-level

Carson Hall, 10th grade, stated, "I learned that dark-colored cows can attract more flies than lighter ones."

-Referring to a discussion on how darker haired cattle get hotter and attract more flies due to the pests preference for the warmth and how temperature affects cattle grazing abilities due to less heat tolerance



ON AND OFF THE FARM

BART HANNA

One weekend in May, students, and staff took a Farm Trip to **Emerald Farm** in **Greenwood, SC**. We met **Mrs. Kathryn Zahn** on the step of her shop. After greeting, we enjoyed some bee handling with the **Lakeland Beekeepers**. Students learned about the smoking process to calm the bees and how to keep them “happy” with sugar water. Most importantly, handling them calmly prevents stirring the hive.

The group managed to find a missing queen who had gone off to start a new hive, find larva from a moth that destroys the hive and remove them, transplant another queen, find eggs, discuss the anatomy of the bee and identify drones and workers, replace the slats in boxes, discuss boxes and start-up costs for those interested, and all without anyone being stung.



Next, we visited the store and got a behind-the-scenes look at the **goat milk-making area**. Mrs. Kathryn shared her process with us, and explained the importance of using natural ingredients to make options for people, and animals, with sensitive skin conditions. She can produce roughly 20 bars from a single gallon of the milk collected from her Saanen goats. She provides her soaps and other items through online sales and walk-in business. In fact, she sent us on to the next stop so she could finish a sale with a regular customer.



So, we crossed the gravel drive over to the next building – an **antique shop and model train exhibit**. We poked around the store and found many interesting items from **porcelain dolls, model train parts, books and movies, ice cream and snack bar, various children’s toys**, and a LOT more, but our rummaging stopped at a small organ where **Emily Rodman** serenaded us for a minute after we took turns tinkering on the keys. She says her piano days are too far behind her, but I’d have to disagree. Just another skill to add to her impressive list.

Upstairs, there was an entire room dedicated to a **model train exhibit**. A group of enthusiasts from the local and surrounding areas have spent many hours creating a wonderland of rolling hills, placid ponds, endless tracks, and lifelike figurines amongst rural and cityscapes. This was a magical place, and **Eric Jones** seemed to drift away in some of the model trucks and boxcars. You could see the sparkle in his eye as he spoke about the old logos printed on them, took a closer look at the pond, and in spite of the DO NOT TOUCH sign – even poked a finger in it, “Is that real mud?”. Shhhh, we won’t tell.



We cruised through the garage area where we watched the mechanics work on **farm trucks, antique cars, and equipment** before passing by the **herb garden** that Mrs. Kathryn uses for her some of her soaps and other natural products. We had to stop for a few when we got to the charming stall barns where she kept her goats. The students were able to pet and feed them as the **22 peacocks** and numerous chickens dust bathed beneath the shrubs, perched in the trees and fences, and wandered about. After questions and discussions about her birds, we all had a better understanding of them. **Marion Hollingsworth** stated, “I learned that snakes wait until an embryo develops more to eat an egg because they can tell how far along the chick is by how warm it is.” The eggs produce more heat the further along they are in development, and this is a more satisfying meal for the predator.



By this time, we had worked up an appetite, and we settled under the train station to eat our bagged lunches provided by the **JDLH Cafeteria**; nothing like a PB&J on such a perfect day. We discussed some of the stuff we had seen and got feedback about the students' favorite parts of the day so far. We couldn't ignore the rideable model train parked under the station. Her family, and members of the train museum in Greenwood, made sure the detail was there for folks to enjoy as they ride around the pond and through the woods over the 75-acre farm.

After our bellies were full, Mrs. Kathryn met us with a bucket of feed. So, we were off to the pond to see the **ducks, geese, and fish**. At this point, all we could really do was take in the sunshine and watch the water roll off the sides of the birds as they paddled around the pond. It was a very peaceful closure to a very busy day.

I've driven right down the road that led us straight to this terrific place so many times. Just goes to show you what we have right under our noses. Can't wait to see what's around the corner. **With the year coming to a close, we won't be taking any more trips, but planning and arrangements will continue to develop the offering for next year to our returning and new students.**



MOVE-OUT DAY

May 28th was the **last day of school** and **move-out day** for our Aggies. We hope you all have a **safe, fun, and productive summer vacation**. It's not goodbye, just a see you in August!



Before leaving, our **Residential Life Staff** hosted an **End of the Year Party**. Students roasted hot dogs, made s'mores, and listened to music out on our campus green.



ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

HUNTER MORTON

Students in **Wildlife, Forestry,** and **Agricultural Science** have been working to create an **interactive nature trail** here on campus.



Our **Reptile Sanctuary Room** is coming along great! We have a Corn snake named **Flea**, a Kingsnake named **Excalibur**, and a Bearded dragon named **Mushu**. This will be a cool **learning lab** once it's complete.



Students in my **Forestry** class worked to replant native trees on our camps to replace the **Bradford Pear Trees** that were removed.



The **Wildlife** and **Equipment Operation** classes have been working to prepare and plant a nearly **15-acre dove field** to be hunted in the Fall.



AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

RUSS ABRAMS

All my classes have been **working in the garden, planting corn, baling hay, preparing for the Time Capsule Ceremony, and fixing equipment** this month. It has been all hands on deck trying to tidy up loose ends before the students leave for the summer!



DYNA-GRO SEED

Students in **Ag Crop and Equipment Operations** were visited by **Bob Rozier** from **Dyna-Gro Seed**. Bob has been helping our students plant **seven varieties of corn for a test plot** on campus.



ANIMAL SCIENCE

LIBBY TEMPLETON

A representative from the **US Department of Agriculture** visited my class and students tested **goat** and **sheep heads** for **scrapie**. Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE).



ENGLISH

DR. STACY PLATT

English 3 Honors students completed their **Ag Debates** related to various hot button issues in agriculture. The topics included:

- Is organic food and farming better?
- Is smart farming the future of agriculture?
- Are meat alternatives the way to go?
- Should every family be producing their own garden?
- Global warming and climate change are fake news?
- Should farmer subsidies be reduced in industrialized nations?



BERT BAGLEY

Our Aggies received a visit from **Bert Bagley** this month. Bert is the **Territory Customer Support Manager** for SC, GA, and AL at **Deere & Company - Construction & Forestry Division**. He has worked with the John Deere Company for over 16 years and has his B.S. and M.S. in Biosystems Engineering with an Agriculture Concentration from Clemson University.



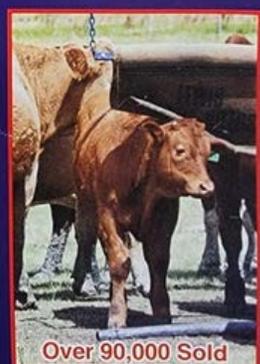
PIONEER SEEDS

Thank you to **Michael Chassereau, Seed Representative** from **Pioneer Seeds**! We are so appreciative of your donation of five bags of **corn seeds** to go towards our agricultural crop.



CATTLE OILER

Thank you to **Mr. David Miller** and his son **JD Miller** (future Aggie) for donating a **cattle oiler** for fly control to our school. We are so excited to try it out!



Over 90,000 Sold

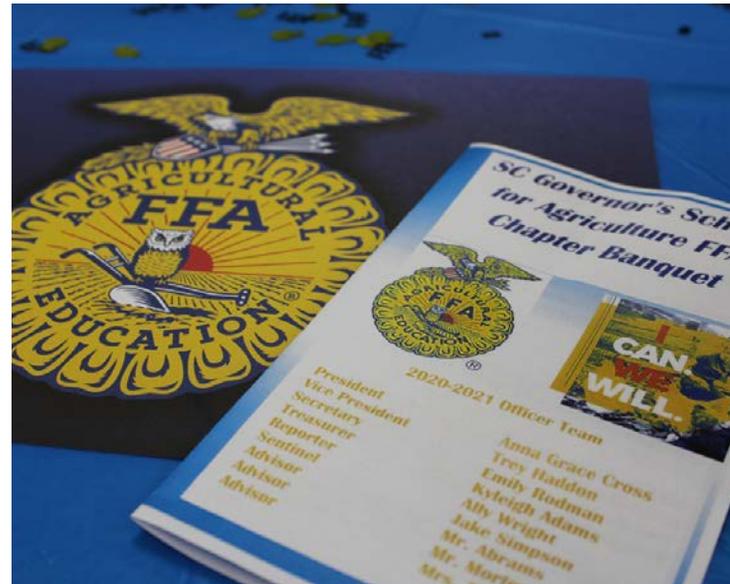


2021 FFA BANQUET

On May 20th, the **JDLH FFA Chapter** hosted their banquet at **The Barn at Hickory Knob State Park**. Students, parents, family, faculty, and staff all gathered for dinner and to recognize the many accomplishments of our students within the **National FFA Organization**.

Congratulations to the following students on their new officer positions for the **2021-2022 school year**:

- President - **Anna Grace Cross**
- Vice-President - **Leon Fulmer**
- Secretary - **Kyleigh Banks-Adams**
- Treasurer - **Trey Haddon**
- Sentinel - **Jake Simpson**
- Reporter - **William Huffman**
- Historian - **Marion Hollingsworth**
- Chaplain - **Kyle Gilreath**



FFA AND 4-H WHEP TEAMS

On May 8th, our FFA and 4-H WHEP teams competed in the **2021 Virtual Wildlife Habitat Education Program State Contest** and placed **Reserve Grand Champion** in both. **Congratulations** to the following students:



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CDE

Congratulations to **Trey Haddon**! Trey has been accepted to the **SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture** this summer and has placed in the **Top 3** in the **Agriculture Education Career Development Event (CDE)**.

We will find out the results at the **FFA State Convention** in June.



HORSE EVALUATION CDE

Congratulations to our Horse Judging Team for placing **3rd overall** in the **FFA Horse Evaluation CDE!** Team members were: **Coralie Davis, Alyssa Gillman, Kyleigh Banks-Adams,** and **Jenna Tucker.** Their advisor is AgEd Teacher, **Libby Templeton.**



MCCORMICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FFA members visited the **McCormick County Sheriff's Office** to deliver appreciation gift bags for their service to the community. Pictured with them are **Sheriff Stearns, Major Christie,** and **School Resource Officer Osborne.**





SC Governor's School for Agriculture LIBRARY

JENNIFER BROWN

SARAH FREY

Thank you to everyone who attended our event on May 12th in partnership with the **McCormick County Library**! It was an exciting night as we hosted **Sarah Frey, CEO of Frey Farms** and bestselling author of **The Growing Season**.

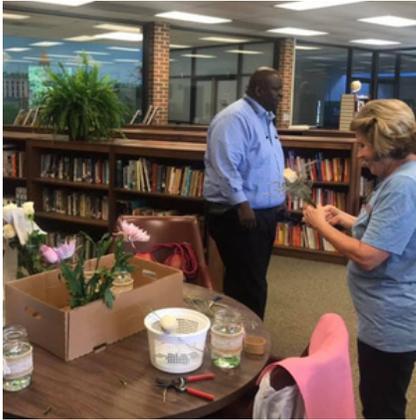
Thank you to Ms. Frey for taking the time to tour our campus and hear all that our Aggies are accomplishing! We hope that everyone enjoyed their time learning more about Ms. Frey, listening to the **Ruby Red's Band**, and participating in this **county-wide reading initiative**. This event could not have been possible without the support of our McCormick County community organizations.





SC Governor's School for Agriculture LIBRARY

So much gratitude to the **McCormick Garden Club** for their time, talent, and generosity! These brilliant ladies volunteered to do all the decorating for the **Sarah Frey** event and it looked **FABULOUS** thanks to them. In addition to creating beautiful displays, they also collaborated with our **Farm Assistant, Athletic Coordinator, Math Teacher, and Agricultural Mechanics Teacher** to pull in **antique tractors, wagon wheels, hay bales, and more** to create a wonderful aesthetic!





SC Governor's School for Agriculture LIBRARY

GAME CLUB

The Library sponsors the **JDLH Game Club** and students are playing the board game **Wingspan**. It is a fabulous game where players learn all about birds and their habitat, diet, and nests. The online version includes birdcalls!



TEEN CUISINE

Congratulations to students **Valeria Vazquez, Aestas Hodge, and Kyleigh Banks-Adams** who earned certificates for completing **Teen Cuisine**. The cooking course was taught by **Nutrition Educator, Brandi Anderson**, with the **McCormick County Clemson Extension Agency**. These students gained valuable skills in the kitchen like knife cutting and how to make tasty and nutritious recipes. Next year, we hope to incorporate our hydroponically grown ingredients into the recipes for this course!





The Education Center

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

KINSLEY MILLER

SC FARM BUREAU ANDERSON COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

On May 18th, the Education Center received a visit from the **SC Farm Bureau Anderson County Women's Committee**. The Women's Leadership Program supports and adds strength to the overall mission of the **South Carolina Farm Bureau**. As the boots on the ground for the organization, committee members work year-round to advocate, educate and provide leadership opportunities.

Thank you to this group for taking the time to visit and learn about our school's mission and vision!



BETTIS PREPARATORY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FIELD TRIP

6th and 7th-grade students from the **Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy** in **Trenton, SC** participated in a **Wildlife Identification lesson** and interacted with our new **Reptile Sanctuary**.





The Education Center

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

MCCORMICK GARDEN CLUB MEETING

On May 19th, the Education Center had the opportunity to host the **McCormick Garden Club** for their meeting. The Garden Club has been a continuous supporter of our school. This group was even given a **Special Achievement Award** by **The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.** for their work in decorating our **Carolina Residence Hall!**



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Education Center is excited to host the **2021 South Carolina Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference** this summer! The program will be July 25-28 on our campus and is for rising high school juniors and seniors. **The registration deadline is July 2nd.**

<https://www.scfb.org/youthleadershipconference>





The Education Center

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

DAY SUMMER CAMPS

Day Summer Camps through the Education Center will begin this June! Be sure to sign up for these **agriculturally focused camps for all ages.**

For more information, email Kinsley.Miller@delahowe.sc.gov.



The Education Center
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

2021

Summer Programs

AGRICULTURALLY FOCUSED CAMPS FOR ALL AGES!

Multiple dates for June and July!

The Education Center is located in the Wilderness area of the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe campus. The purpose of the Education Center is to provide agriculturally focused field trips for K-9 education, summer programs, and continuing education opportunities for adults.

 THE EDUCATION CENTER AT JOHN DE LA HOWE
 DELAHOVE.SC.GOV/EDUCATION-CENTER



THE AGGIE ADVENTURE

The **Aggie Adventure** is a summer program designed for **8th and 9th-grade students** who are interested in agriculture. Students will spend **4 days and 3 nights** immersed in agricultural education at JDLH.

Students interested in attending The Aggie Adventure **must apply**. The application can be found on our website here:

<https://delahowe.sc.gov/education-center/2021-summer-programs>.



The Education Center
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

THE AGGIE ADVENTURE

JULY 18 - 21, 2021

- FOR RISING 8TH AND 9TH GRADERS
- 4 DAYS, 3-NIGHT SUMMER CAMP
- ANIMAL SCIENCE, FORESTRY, HORTICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION & MORE!
- \$200 COST
- MUST APPLY TO ATTEND

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL KINSLEY.MILLER@DELAHOVE.SC.GOV

To be featured in our "Careers in Agriculture" Blog, email Cadie.Giba@delahowe.sc.gov.

BLOG: CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

RALEIGH LOFTIS

I grew up one generation removed from the farm, but that did not keep me away.

From a young age, everything about **ranching, farming, and animal husbandry** fascinated me. This led me to volunteer every free minute of my time to riding around in the truck with local farmers and ranchers who went on to leave a significant mark on my life. Because of them, I followed my passion for agriculture and animals. Just as they did for me, I am always open and willing to let anyone ride around with me to show them the ropes. I fully believe sharing your story and skills with others is the key to ongoing success in the agriculture industry.



Originally from the State of Florida, I moved to South Carolina for college and the rest is history! I fell in love with South Carolina, **Clemson University**, and a classmate who is now my husband, Perry Loftis. Through the connections I made on the road between Florida and South Carolina, I landed a handful of summer internships. I worked extensively in production agriculture on seed stock and cow-calf operations in South Carolina in addition to working with **Clemson Cooperative Extension both in 4-H and with their Livestock and Forages team**, planning workshops and livestock shows. After graduation, I was fortunate enough to have a position to hold me over while I was career searching, where I even worked on an exotic high-fenced deer and commercial cattle ranch in Okeechobee, Florida. All of these experiences shaped me personally and professionally.

I landed my current position as a Credit Analyst for AgSouth Farm Credit in Allendale, South Carolina thanks to a recruiter at a Clemson Career Fair. Funny enough, my dad is a commercial banker. When we were comparing and contrasting where I would go to college, he asked me to create a plan on how it was financially viable for me to attend Clemson. Looking back now as a Credit Analyst, I am not sure how accurate it was, but it's always interesting to see things come full circle.

At AgSouth, our primary mission is to provide financing for farmers and agribusiness for operating lines of credit, vehicles and equipment, facilities, land, homes, and more. As a Credit Analyst, it is my job to **support rural America by working with our AgSouth loan officers and their farmers to help maintain profitability in their operations**. In short, I run a lot of numbers associated with farm operations that range from **traditional row crop operations, recreational tracts of land, future home sites, equipment purchases, equine operations, and different niche market opportunities**. Every day and every loan is different. It's why I love my job. I know farming and I love working with people and numbers to ensure both the current and long-term viability of farming operations in our state. Plus, I love working with my AgSouth family who share similar values.

In my free time, I still get my hands dirty on the farm. I love **riding horses, raising first-generation Brangus and Ultrablack cattle** with a good friend of mine, and sharing many "tractor dates" working cows and baling hay with my husband.

In retrospect, the advice I have for any young adults interested in Agriculture is this: **immerse yourself in your passions, read all the books, ride along with older farmers and ranchers, attend agricultural field days and sales, and shake hands with others to learn their story**. There are so many interrelated sectors of agriculture and exposure is knowledge. You will thank yourself in the long run and will develop a skill set that is a gem to your future employer! I love quotes, so picking just one is hard to conclude with, but the following is a thank you to everyone who invested their time and skills in shaping who I am today:

"The most powerful leadership tool you have is your personal example." – John Wooden

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

EDUCATION CENTER SUMMER DAY CAMPS

- EQUINE | JUNE 8
- ENR | JUNE 9
- ENR | JUNE 10
- ANIMAL SCIENCE | JUNE 17
- ANIMAL SCIENCE | JUNE 22
- EQUINE | JUNE 24

CANNING WORKSHOP

JUNE 15 AT 5:30 PM

MCCORMICK HIGH FOOTBALL CAMP

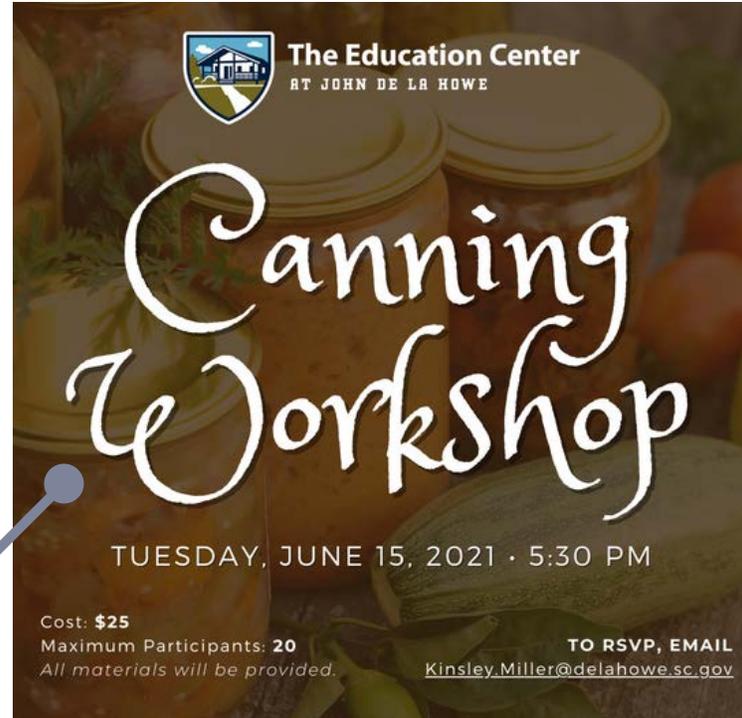
JUNE 15-16

1990 JDLH REUNION

JUNE 19

STATE GARDEN CLUB MEETING

JUNE 26



A GLANCE AT JULY

THE AGGIE ADVENTURE

JULY 18-21

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

JULY 24

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 25-28

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**SC Governor's School
for Agriculture**
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE



South Carolina Governor's School
for Agriculture at John de la Howe



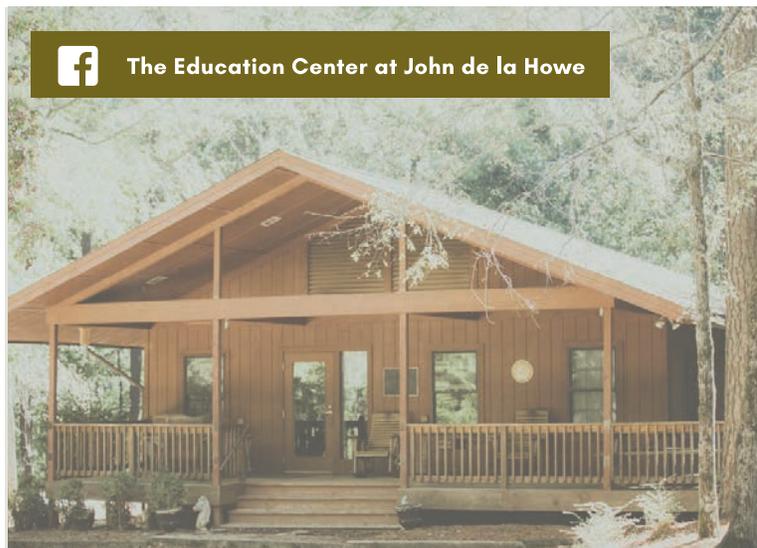
@JDLHSchool



@delahowe_



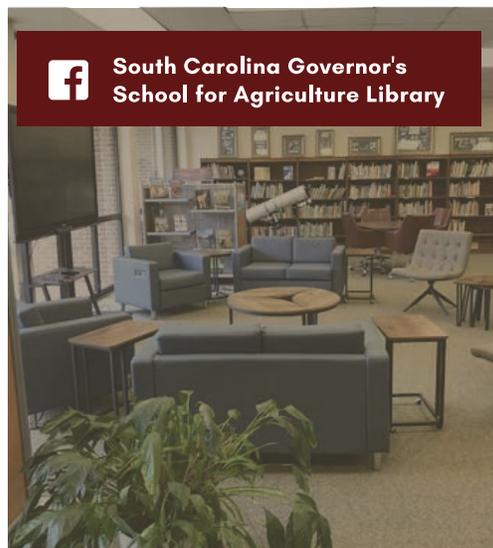
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The Education Center at John de la Howe



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South Carolina Governor's
School for Agriculture Library



Governor's School FFA & 4-H



@jdlh_ffa_4h



South Carolina's Governor's
School for Agriculture Field
Trial Team