

MARCH 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY KEOWN

The month of March, for an agriculturalist, brings hope and optimism for a successful growing season. The process of planting seeds, breaking dormancy, and germinating in the warmer soil of springtime has fascinated me since I was a boy. Our students are able to experience the miracle of life occurring right before their eyes as plants emerge from the earth around them, or the new calf crop bouncing across our pastures. I cannot imagine a better place for students to study life sciences, than our school farm.

We had a busy month of visitors on our campus. We kicked off the month with the **SC Miss FFA Pageant** which had 43 contestants from all across our state. The following day we hosted the **1st Annual Ag Fest** which brought an estimated 400 attendees! Our students exhibited beef cattle, hogs, rabbits, and pocket pets while others competed in a Bird Dog Field Trial! Meanwhile, we also had a student competing in the **Border Skirmish Shotgun Competition**. As a school administrator, I was extremely proud of all of our students who won or placed in those events. Our staff is also to be commended for a job well done in the planning of each of these competitions.

In closing, if you know me, you know that I love to network with others in the agricultural industry. With that said, I am putting a heavy emphasis on bringing people to our campus who are successful in the agricultural industry. In hopes that our students begin networking for job opportunities after they graduate. This month we had a guest speaker, **Bob Rozier**, who has been very successful in seed research and seed sales. He is planning another visit to our campus in April to teach our students how to plant research plots of field corn. With this opportunity, our students will be collecting data that most will not receive until they are in a Master's or Ph.D. program! We are also planning another speaker in April who is a pioneer in embryo transfer research.

Our Aggies are on a much-needed spring break next week. I hope they come back refreshed and ready to finish strongly out the inaugural year!

FLORICULTURE CDE

Congratulations to our Aggies who competed in the **2021 Virtual SC FFA Floriculture CDE!** The JDLH Floriculture Team was awarded **3rd overall**.

A special **congratulations** to **Aestas Hodge**, who had the highest individual score in the state! The team was coached by our Science teacher, **Jordan Glace**.



(l-r) Aestas Hodge, Alyssa Gillman, Riley Cox, and Jason Connors



AGGIE OF THE MONTH LEON "LEE" FULMER



Lee Fulmer is an 11th-grader at JDLH from Prosperity, SC. He was nominated by Mr. Thompson for his active involvement through CDE's, Field Trial Team, Shotgun Team, and academic excellence.

Lee is a great student around campus and is always willing to work! ENR Teacher, Mr. Morton, says, **"I can always count on Lee whenever I need a reliable student to help me complete any task!"**

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

GREGORY THOMPSON

Earlier in my career I was a middle school P.E. teacher and the head football coach at the school. My goal every year was to win the Middle School Football Championship. I stayed on my players about their grades so they would be academically eligible to play for the season. Every summer I would take my players to a college football camp so they could improve their skills. I benefited from the camps as well, because I got a chance to learn from the best high school and college coaches in the country.

One summer while attending a camp, I met a coach that changed my life forever. This coach was there with several of his players, and they had just won the state championship the previous Fall. I was very impressed with how well his players conducted themselves and the leadership qualities they possessed.

I decided that I wanted to get to know this coach so I could find out the secret to winning a championship. So, the two of us walked around that day watching the players go through drills and meeting other coaches. We decided to go to lunch together, and I felt like this was the perfect time for me to ask his secret to winning a championship. I took out a notebook because I thought he was going to share some of his explosive offensive plays or his stingy defensive scheme. Instead, he expressed to me that the key to a successful football program and winning championships is love.

I was so surprised to hear his response because you never hear the word "love" being associated with the violent world of football. He explained to me that he and the other coaches love the players, the players love them, and they all love each other. This made them love the game and forced them to hold each other accountable. He also explained to me that his players have him 110% on and off the field. From that day forward, I made a point to emphasize love in my personal and professional life.

It is hard to believe that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school year is over. I am so proud of what we have accomplished. I feel we have been successful because of the love that I see displayed every day on our campus. Our school faculty and staff show love toward our students, our students show love toward them, and we all show love toward each other.

We have also seen love displayed around the community through our Salvation Army bell ringing and the family adoption program during the holiday season. An outpouring of love was displayed to the JDLH families who experienced loss during the pandemic. Our students were able to travel for field trips, competitions, and social outings throughout the state. I have received compliments from people all over the state who have met with our students. Our students have expressed to strangers their deep love for their teachers, classmates, and the field of agriculture.

In conclusion, I never won that Middle School Football Championship, but I won the battle of love over hate. I feel we are also winning the battle here at JDLH. We are producing students that are going to have a positive impact on others all over the world.



ADMISSIONS 2021-2022

Congratulations to our newly accepted Aggies! We are so excited to welcome these new students to our campus this Fall. Our **Rolling Admissions** phase is still ongoing! If you know of an interested 10th, 11th, or 12th-grade student, point them in the direction of our website:

www.delahowe.sc.gov/admissions. For more information or to schedule a campus tour, please contact Cadie.Giba@delahowe.sc.gov.

We will continue to feature accepted students on all of our social media accounts. Be sure to follow our Admissions page on Instagram ([@ejdlh_admissions](https://www.instagram.com/ejdlh_admissions)) for more admissions-related content!

APPLY NOW!

BECOME AN AGGIE



MISS SC FFA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

On Friday, March 5th, the **SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe** and **AgSouth Farm Credit** presented the 2021 Miss SC FFA Scholarship Pageant at the **Abbeville Opera House**. We want to thank and congratulate all of the girls who participated in this year's Pageant! The 2021 Miss SC FFA is Page Holcombe from the West-Oak FFA Chapter.

A special **congratulations** to our Aggies who participated in the Pageant and represented our school well:

- **Anna Grace Cross** - *3rd Runner Up*
- **Kyleigh Adams**
- **Brooke Grondski**



The Pageant Livestream can be found on our School's Facebook page. For more pictures, a full list of winners, and judge's bios, visit our website www.delahowe.sc.gov/news.

AG FEST

LIVESTOCK SHOW & YOUTH FIELD TRIAL

Thank you to all who attended our first **Livestock Show and Youth Field Trial!** This event was hosted on the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture campus on Saturday, March 6th. The shows consisted of cattle, swine, rabbit/pocket pet, and a field trial.

This day also consisted of sales by our JDLH clubs, community organizations, and event sponsors. The **JDLH Library** hosted an Open House alongside the **McCormick County Library** to showcase the books purchased through their partnership. Refreshments were offered by the **McCormick County Friends of the Library**.



AG FEST - JDLH WINNERS

SWINE

- **Trey Haddon** - 5th Senior Showmanship, 1st Lottery Heavyweight, Grand Champion Lottery Pig
- **Colette Alston** - 9th Heat 2 Intermediate Showmanship
- **William Huffman** - 2nd Lottery Heavyweight
- **Collin Greene** - 4th Heat 2 Intermediate Showmanship, 3rd Heavyweight Lottery
- **Anna Grace Cross** - 3rd Senior Showmanship, 8th Lottery Heavyweight
- **Coralie Davis** - 3rd Heat 2 Intermediate Showmanship, 6th Mediumweight Open, 5th Heavyweight Open
- **Kyleigh Adams** - 1st Heat 2 Intermediate Showmanship, 3rd Middleweight Lottery



FIELD TRIAL

Shooting Dog

- **1st** - Huk handled by **Ally Wright**
- **2nd** - Annie handled by **Collin Greene**
- **3rd** - Pat handled by **Lee Fulmer**

Derby

- **2nd** - Oliver handled by **Kyle Gilreath**

Puppy

- **1st** - Ruger handled by **Marion Hollingsworth**
- **3rd** - Lake handled by **Emily Rodman**



AG FEST - JDLH WINNERS

POCKET PETS

Pocket Pet Showmanship

- **Colette Alston** - 2nd
- **Aestas Hodge** - 3rd
- **Brooke Grondski** - 4th



RABBITS

Rabbit Showmanship - Intermediate Division

- **Brooke Grondski** - 2nd

Rabbit Showmanship - Senior Division

- **Alyssa Gillman** - 1st
- **Valeria Vazquez** - 2nd

Lionhead

- **Valeria Vazquez** - 1st Senior Doe

French Lop

- **Booke Grondski** - 1st and Best in Breed

Best of Show

- **Booke Grondski** - French Lop

Mini Rex

- **Alyssa Gillman** - 1st Senior Buck and Best in Breed

Mini Lop

- **Valeria Vazquez** - 1st Senior Buck and Best in Breed

Netherland Dwarf

- **Alyssa Gillman** - 1st Senior Buck, 1st Junior Doe, and Best in Breed

English Lops

- **Booke Grondski** - 1st Senior Buck, 1st Senior Doe, and Best in Breed



AG FEST - JDLH WINNERS

BEEF

Showmanship - Senior Division

- **Trey Haddon** - 5th
- **Kyle Gilreath** - 6th

Angus - Cow-Calf

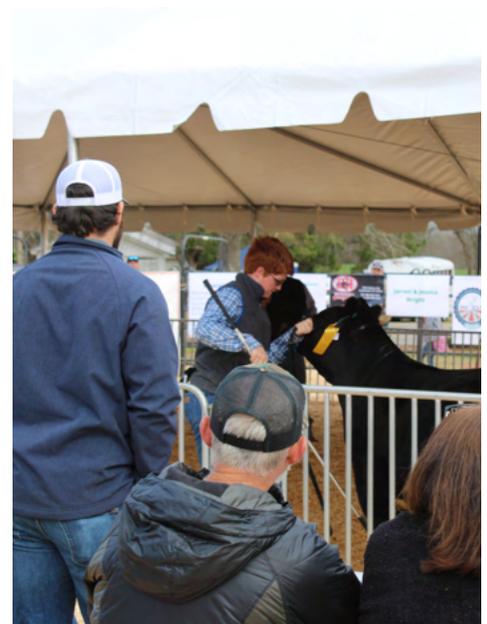
- **Kyle Gilreath** - Grand Champion

Crossbred - Senior Yearling

- **Trey Haddon** - 2nd

Hereford - Cow-Calf

- **Trey Haddon** - 1st



COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

WELLNESS CENTER

On Thursday, March 11th, the **JDLH Wellness Center** and **Abbeville Area Medical Center** hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for faculty & staff. Participants received their first dose and will be given their second dose on Thursday, April 1st.

We thank you all for doing your part in keeping our campus community safe and stopping the spread!



BRADFORD PEAR TREE REMOVAL

On March 22nd, **Dr. David Coyle** visited the JDLH campus to witness our Bradford Pear Tree Removal program firsthand. Dr. Coyle is an Assistant Professor, Forest Health and Invasive Species at **Clemson University**. He spearheads the **Clemson Extension** program, "**Bradford Pear Bounty**", which gives homeowners the option to remove Bradford Pears and replace them with native trees.

Our students and staff have removed over 60 Bradford Pear trees on our campus. Thank you to Aggie, **Jake Simpson**, for removing this tree on this day with the assistance of **Scott Mims**.



FROM DR. DAVID COYLE

"It was great to see the proactive approach the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe took towards removing their Bradford Pear trees, and I was especially impressed with how they involved the students along the way. **This not only helps teach them about the impacts of non-native species, but it also helps give them technical skills that they can use throughout their life.**

With all the success the **Bradford Pear Bounty program** has had, it's great to see our South Carolina state entities "practicing what we preach", so to speak. Kudos to Tim Keown and the JDLH staff and students for removing 66 Bradford pear trees.

I finally got a chance to visit the JDLH campus, and **it did not disappoint**. The resources there are amazing - from forests to ag land to livestock. Thanks to **Tim Keown** for inviting and hosting me, and I can see a lot of collaborative and educational opportunities in the future."

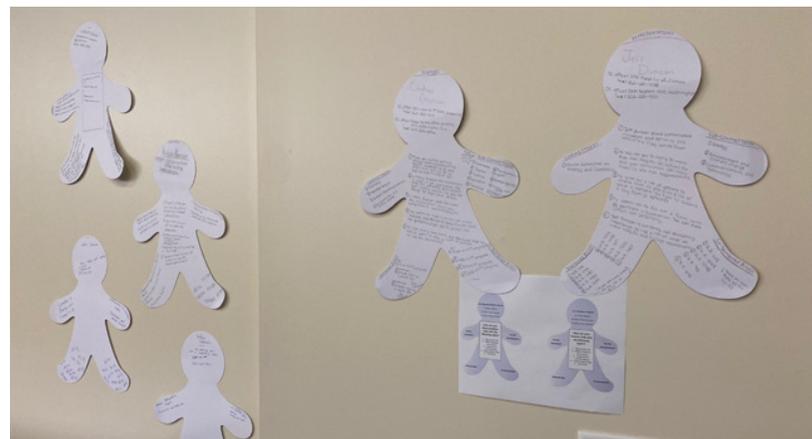
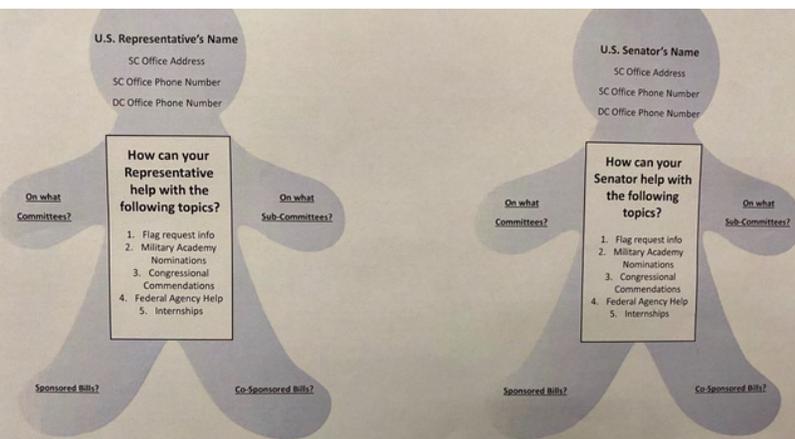
U.S. GOVERNMENT

DR. MICHAEL PRICE

My students researched and worked on **Congressional Cutouts**. They had to find out who their Senator and Representatives are and then put the following information on the cutout:

- What Standing Committees are they on?
- What Sub-Committees are they on?
- What Bills have they sponsored?
- What Bills have they co-sponsored?
- How can they help you with Flag request information?
- How can they help with Military Academy nominations?
- How can they make Congressional Commendations for you?
- How can they provide you Federal Agency help?
- How can they offer you a Congressional Internship?

The students also watched and answered questions on a guided worksheet for the movie **"Swing Vote"**.



U.S. HISTORY

DR. MICHAEL PRICE

Students had the opportunity to examine the influence of **technological changes in society** including the personal computer, the Internet, and social media. They were able to hold and experience old technology.

Dr. Price brought in an old memory card and an old Encyclopedia DVD that was just the letter "A". The students now see that we have come a long way since the ENIAC computer, Apple II, and dial-up internet servers like AOL and CompuServe.

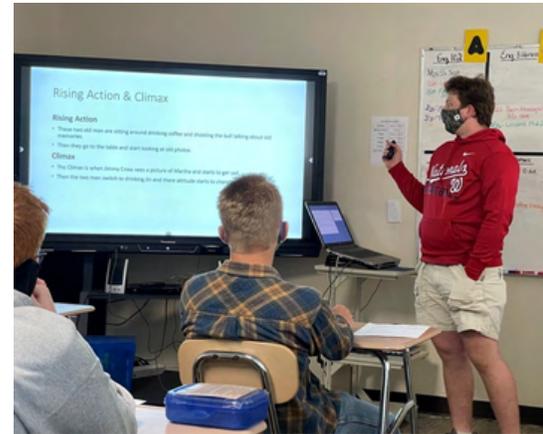
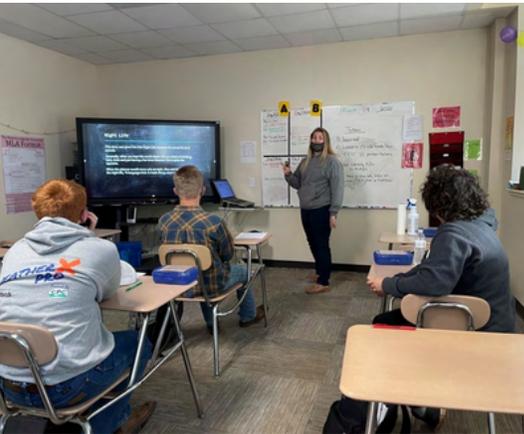


ENGLISH 102

DR. STACY PLATT

Students have almost completed the **Short Story Unit**. They did peer editing over their rough drafts and presented their projects on the short story, "The Things They Carried." We also had a visitor from **Piedmont Technical College (PTC) - Ms. Lakeya Jenkins**, head of the English Dept.

They have also started their poetry unit with the poem "**My Last Duchess**". We had a great discussion and they could not believe it was based on a real story. **Ms. Jenkins** sent comments back from her observation about the students' presentations: *"Thank you for inviting me to your classroom! ... I also liked the oral presentations for the Short Story Analysis Project. Your students were knowledgeable (about the literature), creative (via visual aids), and well-prepared. Job Well Done! Keep up the good work!"*

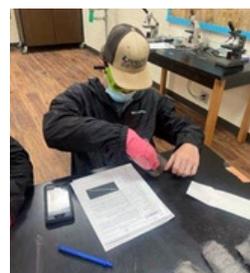
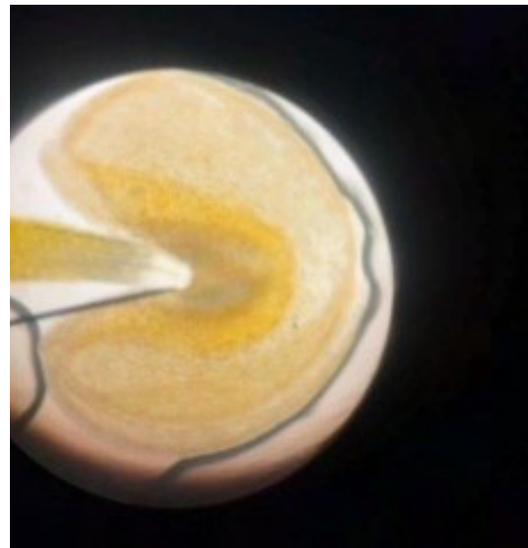


BIOLOGY 1 & 2

JORDAN GLACE

In Biology 1, students started the **Evolution** unit during which they learn about **Natural Selection/Survival of the Fittest**. The class participated in a read-aloud of a comic book-style story called **Survival of the Sneakiest**. They learned that it is not always the strongest organism that survives to go on to reproduce and pass down its traits, but it is the one that can survive best in the environment. Students also completed a lab simulation in which they **bred rabbits to create a certain population**. They learned how competition for resources and camouflage from predators connect to natural selection.

In Biology 2, students are learning about **plant reproduction and response**. Students studied parts of a flower, focusing on the reproductive organs, and were able to identify the parts using a microscope in the lab. Students then designed their own experiment to **test if calcium is the trigger for pollen tube growth**. Special factors in **angiosperm reproduction** were also discussed including **double fertilization and self-pollination**.



NEW SCHOOL VIEWBOOK & PHOTOSHOOT

As we continue to grow, we are always working on ways to promote and market our school. Our **Director of Public Relations & Marketing** & **Coordinator of Outreach & Student Services** have been working on our school's new Viewbook, which encompasses the story of our school and highlights what we have to offer.

A photoshoot was coordinated with **ADCO (Columbia, SC)** our students and staff to utilize in this Viewbook and our Aggies did great! They got a firsthand lesson on marketing, photography, and what it takes to make these photos look great. Check out these behind the scene shots and just some of the final images. We can't wait to share the final Viewbook in the coming weeks!

BEHIND THE SCENES



FINALS





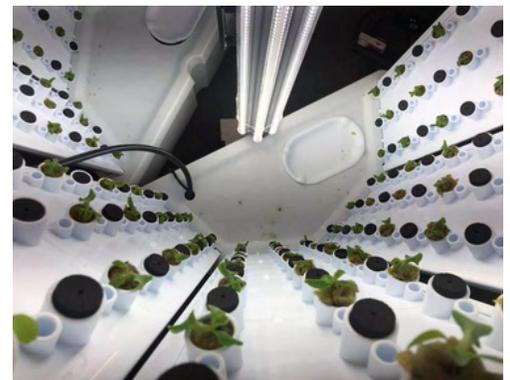
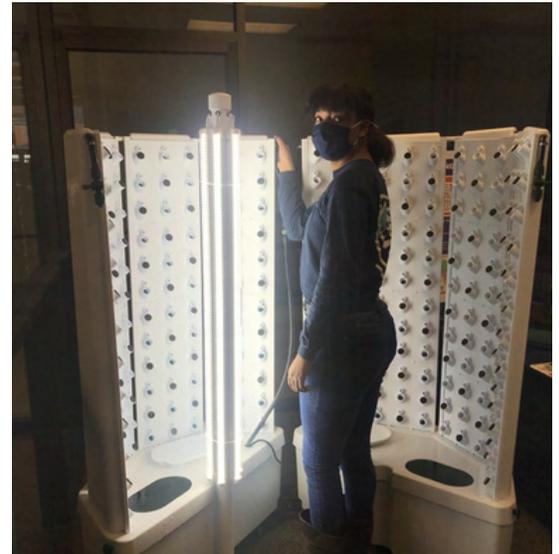
SC Governor's School for Agriculture LIBRARY

JENNIFER BROWN

HYDROPONIC SYSTEM

The new **indoor Hydroponic System** has been installed in the Library Exhibit Room! Students planted **Bibb lettuce seeds** in Rockwool flats which sprouted in three days. The sprouts were then individually transplanted to the Hydroponic System. Students have been testing the water to ensure proper pH and nutrient levels.

The Hydroponic System is from a Partnership with **McCormick County Library** made possible by a **Library Services and Technology Act** grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** administered by the **South Carolina State Library**.



STONE CREEK HYDROPONICS

HARTWELL, GA

Now that we have the hydroponic system installed in the Library, we took all of our students on a hydroponic farm tour on March 25th! **Stone Creek Hydroponics** near Hartwell, GA, was a wonderful host. **Zach Unruh**, the owner, taught the students about the entire process from seeding, to harvesting, to packaging lettuce.

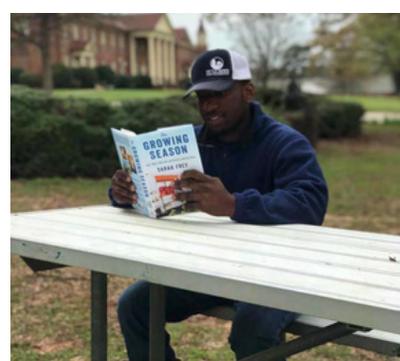
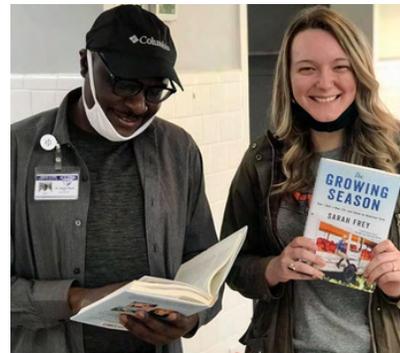
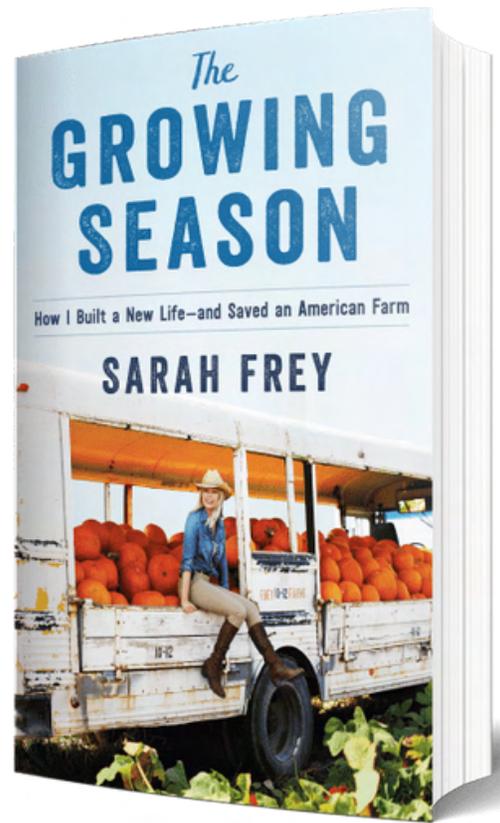




THE GROWING SEASON BY SARAH FREY

The JDLH Campus is ready to read **The Growing Season**, by **Sarah Frey**. The county-wide reading initiative **"One Book, One School, One Community"** has begun. Each student, faculty, and staff member has been handed a copy of their very own!

This program is achievable thanks to the partnership with **McCormick County Library** made possible by a **Library Services and Technology Act** grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** administered by the **South Carolina State Library**.



SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

Frey Farms Founder and CEO **Sarah Frey**, author of the bestselling book **"The Growing Season"**, will visit the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe for a **public Q&A forum** and **book signing**. This free, outdoor event will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, beginning with the public Q&A forum at 6:00 pm and shortly followed by the book signing.

ASTRONOMY CLUB

JENNIFER BROWN

The **JDLH Library** sponsors the **Astronomy Club** and we took a Canoe trip with students! Before launching our boats, students performed community service by picking up trash around the put-in. We also celebrated our Aggie, **Colette Alston's**, 16th birthday with a song and snacks.



CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA SWINE SHOW

RUSS ABRAMS

Congratulations to our Aggies who participated in the **Clinton High School FFA Swine Show** on March 20th!

- **Trey Haddon** - Reserve Grand Champion Lottery Showmanship, 1st Heavyweight Lottery Pig, and Grand Champion Lottery Pig
- **Kyleigh Adams** - 2nd in Class Showmanship



RAIDER RUMBLE SWINE SHOWDOWN

RUSS ABRAMS

Our Aggies participated in the **Raider Rumble Swine Showdown** in **Laurens, SC** on March 27th. Thanks to **Umbarger Feeds** for making our pigs champions! **Congratulations** to the following students:

- **Collin Greene** - 6th Lottery Middle Weight Swine
- **Colette Alston** - 2nd Lottery Heavy Weight Swine
- **Kyleigh Adams** - 1st Lottery Middle Weight, Grand Champion Lottery Swine
- **Coralie Davis** - 3rd Showmanship, 4th and 5th Open Swine
- **Trey Haddon** - 1st Heavy Weight Lottery Swine
- **Anna Grave Cross** - 3rd Heavy Weight Lottery Swine



PARSONS MOUNTAIN HORSE RIDE

HEATHER FIELDS

On March 7th some of our staff took 6 students to **Parsons Mountain** in **Abbeville, SC** for a 7-mile trail ride! They stopped and ate lunch at the lake and continued to ride up to the top of the mountain where you can see for miles!



A LEVEL SAWYER CERTIFICATION

HUNTER MORTON

Congratulations to our Aggies who are now **A Level Sawyers!** These students participated in a certification course on March 30th with the **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** crew on our campus.

A Sawyer Certified at the A level may operate a saw in the least complex situations and must be under the direct supervision of a B or C Sawyer. This certification applies to either chainsaw or crosscut use and can be for bucking only for those sawyers not needing to fall trees.

(1st picture, l-r) Hunter Morton, Marion Hollingsworth, Emily Rodman, Carson Hall, and Valeria Vazquez





The Education Center

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

KINSLEY MILLER

COOKING MATTERS

The Education Center has hosted **Cooking Matters Course** throughout the month. This is in conjunction with **Clemson University's SNAP-Ed Program**. It teaches adults how to shop and cook healthy meals on a budget and for picky eaters.



DUCK CALL MAKING WORKSHOP

The Education Center held a **Duck Call Making Workshop** on March 16th. Participants were able to assemble their own duck call, tune the call, and practice turning a call on a wood lathe! Thank you to our guest instructor, **Troy Cann** of **Cann Custom Calls**.





The Education Center

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

FRANCIS MARION & SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS PARTNERS WITH JDLH

The Education Center is excited to partner with the **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** and the **U.S. Forest Service - Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests** to work on the trail system throughout our campus.

This trail system will benefit not only our students but also the community with outreach and continuing education opportunities. Partnerships such as this one are in line with our mission to serve the community by providing opportunities to work with professionals in the industry.

A partnership could not have evolved more organically; it is all falling into place with the coordination and help of **USDA Forest Service's Sub-Regional Volunteer and Service Program Specialist (SC/GA) Jules DeFriese**, who arranged for a young adult trail crew recruited through SCA to train and to assist with trail work on the school grounds.

Jules DeFriese commented, *"The Forest Service is committed to shared stewardship, which often means creating connections and facilitating conversations among trusted partners that have the potential to change the way our public lands are managed in collaboration. Working alongside the SC Governor's School for Agriculture and SCA, we hope to not only accomplish critical on-the-ground projects but also train the next generation of conservation stewards. We are excited about fostering and growing this new partnership and see incredible potential for success!"*



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

BLOG: CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

AUSTIN THERRELL

Growing up I always had animals around the house and knew from an early age that I wanted a career that somehow revolved around animals and agriculture, but I didn't know exactly what that would look like. When I graduated high school, I went to **Clemson University** as a pre-vet major, but ultimately decided that I was more interested in feed and nutrition than vet school.



I graduated and went to work at a small family-owned pet food company in the southeast where I worked as a product specialist in dog food for the sporting dog breeds. That position was a great role that taught me a lot about the manufacturing and distribution of pet food, labeling requirements, and overall, how to communicate with many different consumers that purchase products for their animals. Looking back, I really appreciate what I learned working for that company, but I was still searching for something else.

Through a mutual friend, I learned that the **South Carolina Department of Agriculture** had an opening for a **Feed Control Official**. I applied and started in that role in September of 2014. I've been with SCDA now for seven years, and in that time, I've had the opportunity to conduct inspections across the state at various types of facilities that manufacture and distribute commercial feed products for animals in our state and around the country. We've been able to grow our feed safety program at the department and really focus on building our team into a nationally recognized program.

Currently, I oversee our day-to-day activities that include a **routine feed sampling program, inspections at facilities across the state, registration and label review, and compliance and enforcement.**

Annually, feed safety staff **collect over 800 samples of products** that range from livestock feed to pet food and even commercial feed ingredients. We test all these products at our laboratory on the campus of the State Farmer's Market to make sure that they meet the nutritional guarantees that are listed on the label as well as for potential adulterants such as mycotoxins, heavy metals, or pathogens. Feed Safety staff follow up with distributors and retailers when we determine that samples have a failed analysis so we can ensure that consumers in the state have safe and nutritious products to purchase for their animals. Additionally, we require all commercial feed products that are sold in the state to be registered with our department each year. This gives us an opportunity to **review over 20,000 product labels to make sure that they include the required information and truthful marketing claims** so consumers can make wise buying decisions when shopping for products. Finally, our staff conducts inspections at all facilities in the state that manufacture or distribute commercial feed products to make sure that they are being manufactured, processed, or packaged under conditions that minimize the potential for contamination. This equates to about **600 inspections per year** at various types of facilities.



I'm very proud of the work that our feed safety team does to ensure that **consumers in our state can have confidence in the products they purchase to feed their animals** and I'm thankful that the journey I've had in agriculture has led me to a career that I'm passionate about and that allows me the opportunity to work to protect and promote feed safety in South Carolina.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

PROM

"FAIRYTALE MAGIC"

APRIL 16, 2021

MCCORMICK TALMADGE
WELLNESS COMPLEX

JDLH GREENHOUSE SALE

APRIL 15 & 16, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

APRIL 17, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

5K BULL RUN & WALK

MAY 1, 2021

JDLH CAMPUS

Register: <https://bit.ly/3dlbBFz>

SARAH FREY EVENT

MAY 12, 2021

JDLH CAMPUS

More details to follow!



SC GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE AT JOHN DE LA HOWE PRESENTS

1ST ANNUAL EVENT

5K BULL RUN & WALK

SATURDAY, MAY, 1ST

192 GETTYS ROAD
MCCORMICK, SC 29835
DRIVE-THROUGH CHECK-IN

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3dlbBFz>

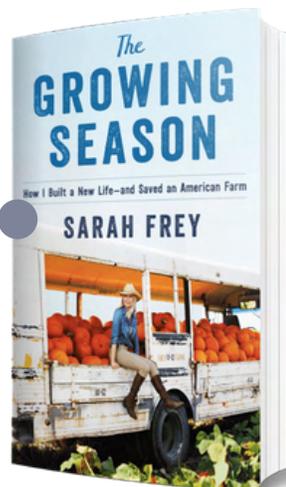
\$20 REGISTRATION
\$25 ON-SITE REGISTRATION

T-SHIRT, WATER BOTTLE, & BAG GUARANTEED W/ PRE-REGISTRATION

7:30 AM CHECK-IN
8:30 AM RACE STARTS

AWARDS FOR THE TOP 3 FINISHERS PER AGE GROUP & GENDER

MORE INFO DELAHOME.SC.GOV / 



 www.freyfarms.com



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for Agriculture**
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE



South Carolina Governor's School
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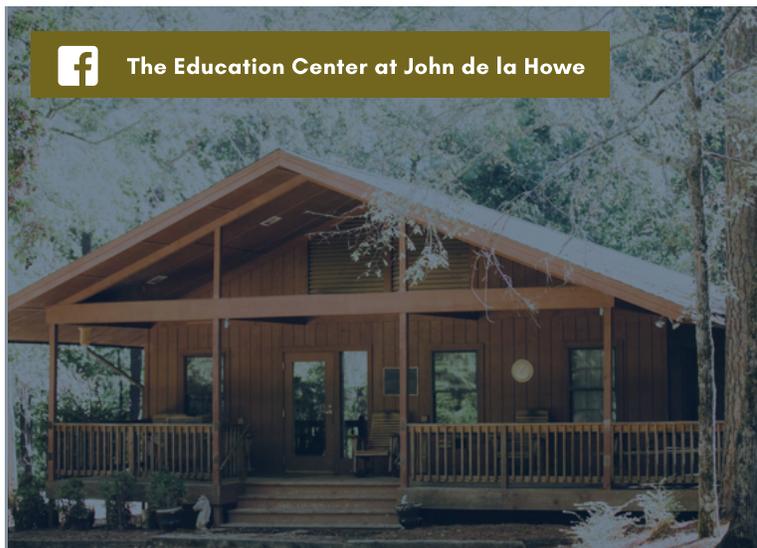
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The Education Center at John de la Howe



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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