

# THE AGGIE REPORT

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe



JANUARY-FEBRUARY  
2023

## LT. GOVERNOR EVETTE VISITS JDLH



*Lt. Governor Pamela Evette posed for a portrait with the student body during her recent visit to the campus.*

Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette paid a visit to the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe on Thursday, February 2, for a firsthand look at the future of agriculture in the state.

En route to an event in Aiken, Lt. Gov. Evette spent about 90 minutes touring the 1,310-acre working farm in rural McCormick County and visiting with students and staff at the nation's only residential high school devoted to agricultural education.

"I am so impressed - so impressed by what's going on out here and so impressed by the students that are here," Lt. Gov. Evette said at the end of her visit. "So many times we see in the news, the national news, about all the things that kids are doing wrong. But all these children have taken the path-less-traveled to do something that they're really passionate about. That gives us hope for the future, and our future is bright. We always say that here in South Carolina, and these students are a testament to that."

The lieutenant governor was welcomed to the campus by agency president Tim Keown and principal Greg Thompson, as well as by members of the school's non-profit foundation and its new executive director, Stacie Smith.

"We are honored to host Lt. Governor Evette on our historic campus! I'm always excited to showcase our amazing students, faculty, and staff," Mr. Keown said. "Lt. Governor Evette seemed really impressed with the major growth and change our agency has achieved in the last two and a half years. Having her support proves we are moving in the right direction, and for that I am thankful."

In the school's library, the lieutenant governor chatted with student leaders J.C. Chandler of Belton and Caitlyn Krout of Fair Play about their academic studies along the school's four pathways: animal science, plant science, wildlife and natural resources management, and

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agricultural mechanics and technology. She then stopped by the school's ag mechanics shop to discuss career readiness with teacher Russ Abrams.

"Every place you go, you hear, 'I didn't realize the impact our farmers have on us,'" Lt. Gov. Evette said. "Especially now, with food prices skyrocketing. Everybody's starting to have a whole new appreciation. I said it this morning: If you see a farmer, thank a farmer - because that's how we're eating every day."

Lt. Gov. Evette stressed the importance of the mission to prepare students such as those at the Governor's School for Agriculture to be college-ready and career-ready to meet the

growing demand for skilled labor in South Carolina.

"We all know we need more farmers," she said. "You talk to our water commissioners; they need more water engineers, they need more soil engineers. By highlighting why those are really great career choices, all we're doing is opening up our future - and that's what the Governor's School is doing."

Following a driving tour of the campus - which included a visit to the Palmetto residence hall and the tomb of the school's namesake, French physician Dr. John de la Howe - the lieutenant governor returned to the school cafeteria for a photo opportunity.

Afterwards, she stood inside a circle of students and encouraged them to continue the noble mission of advancing agriculture in the Palmetto State.

"I think Agriculture Commissioner (Hugh) Weathers is extremely proud of the Governor's School for Agriculture," Lt. Evette said. "Hugh has got a lot to brag about, and so do I. I told everybody here, the students here, as you reach big milestones, please reach out to me because I would love to brag about you not just around the state but across the nation. That's one of the things I enjoy most - bragging about South Carolina."



## NEW SKID STEER ARRIVES, THANKS TO DUKE ENERGY

Our Aggies, Mr. McCall and the farm staff have begun working around campus with an impressive new Kubota skid steer acquired through a generous grant from Duke Energy.

The new equipment has already been put to good use preparing a new practice arena for students with show swine and on other projects around campus.

We are always so grateful for those community partners who see the vision of the Governor's School for Agriculture and help equip our students with the best educational opportunities.





## AGGIES WITNESS HISTORY AT INAUGURATION



*Student leaders from JDLH, advisor Hunter Morton and agency president Tim Keown attended Gov. McMaster's inauguration in January, then visited with state Rep. Shannon Erickson and state Rep. Paula Rawl Calhoun.*

A delegation of student leaders from the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture got a firsthand look at government in action on Wednesday, January 11, when they witnessed the inauguration of Gov. Henry McMaster.

Gov. McMaster was sworn in for his second full term as South Carolina's chief executive on the steps of the State House in Columbia. The students attending from the John de la Howe campus donned their FFA dress uniforms and watched the festivities from their seats among other invited guests, dignitaries and history-loving South Carolinians.

"We get to represent agriculture, which is the number one industry in the state of South Carolina today, and Governor McMaster is such a huge, key leader in our industry," said Caitlyn Krout of Fair Play in Oconee County, who serves as state vice-president of the South Carolina FFA Association. "People really don't know that about agriculture,

that it's the foundation of our world, and people like Governor McMaster just make it 10 times better to shine that light in recognition of agriculture."

Krout was joined at the inauguration by fellow students Kyleigh Adams of Laurens, J.C. Chandler of Belton, J.D. Miller of Edgefield, Sierra Tinsley of Pelzer and Sidney Grantham of Westville, Fla. They were accompanied to the State House by FFA advisor Hunter Morton and Governor's School president Tim Keown.

"It's very important for us to be here today because of all that Governor McMaster has done not only for our FFA chapter but also our school," said Kyleigh Adams of Laurens, who serves as vice-president of the Governor's School for Agriculture FFA chapter. "It's very important to be a part of history and a life-changing opportunity, not only for South Carolina but for agriculture as a whole."

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In December 2020, Gov. McMaster visited the 1,310-acre John de la Howe School campus in rural McCormick County to sign legislation designating the re-organized institution as the state's third Governor's School. It continues to be the only residential high school in the United States devoted to agriculture education.

In this year's inaugural address, Gov. McMaster reinforced his commitment to public education in South Carolina.

"We must do whatever it takes to see that every child in our state has the opportunity to receive an excellent education. Albert Einstein said, 'A problem can never be solved by thinking on the same level that produced it.' He was right; we must think big and bold, and we will," Gov. McMaster said.

According to their FFA advisor Mr. Morton, the students' field trip to the governor's inauguration was a "fun time - being able to bring these kids out here, allow them to experience a moment in history that they'll be able to remember, look back on and maybe be starstruck and want to run for office one day."

Following the inaugural ceremonies, the Governor's School for Agriculture delegation was invited to visit with State Rep. Shannon Erickson of Beaufort County in her House of Representatives office.

She was joined by Rep. Paula Rawl Calhoun of Lexington,



and both of the legislators challenged our students to continue to shine both in the classroom and as the future leaders in agriculture.

"I love it when I see you out doing competitions," Rep.

Erickson said to the young leaders. "I love it when you invite people onto campus. All of those things matter. You're paving the way for so many other people to come behind you and have that opportunity."



## HONOR ROLL STUDENTS - 2ND QUARTER



*Our second-quarter All-A Honor Roll students*

The following students earned the distinction of being named to the Honor Rolls at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture for the second quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

In addition, the residents of Lethe Hall were honored again for having the highest grade point average among the school's residence halls during the second quarter. They retained the ceremonial "championship belt" during a brief ceremony at the "Good News Friday" breakfast.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work and commitment to their academics.

### **All-A Honor Roll**

Kyleigh Ann Banks-Adams, Blake Arias, John Christopher Chandler, Elsa DeRosa, Timothy Carlyle Fulmer, Cole Hammond, Alexis Grace Hanna, Lynzie Nicole Hodge, Ryan Keith Joseph, Mya Grace Kowalke, Caitlyn Krout, Kinley Marie Metts, Micah Robert Moeder, Eli Davis Moore, Hannah Grace Mosley, Katharine Ruth Ostergaard, Harley Marie Reeves, Emily Christine Rodman, William Robert Steigerwald, Cordell Lee Swygert, Ella Reed Taylor, Grace Rebecca Viseth



## HONOR ROLL STUDENTS - 2ND QUARTER



*Our second-quarter A/B Honor Roll students*

### **A/B Honor Roll**

Ross Durham Arthur, Sawyer Melane Buzhardt, Coralie Elizabeth Davis, Gordon Logan Doty, Chase Alexander Fluharty, Lilly Kayte Fox, Jahira Elaine Freeman, Allie Dawn Gentle, Brooklyn Leigh Glassburn, William Caleb Gordon, Collin Douglas Greene, Sidney LeeAnn Grantham, Dakota McKinlee Hill, Michael Kelly Johnson, Steven Garrett Jolley, Caroline Lee Jordan, Austin Joe Landreth, Zachary Shawn Lawson, Ian Joshua McCoy, Tamiah Jae Donae Nunnally, Kaylee Autumn O'Neal, Preston Patterson, Kaley Grace Stevenson, Allie Marie Taylor, Savannah Marie Thompson, Sierra Grace Tinsley, Anna Lee Wagher, Leona Joyce Weber.

# **Fantastic Work, Aggies!**



## ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS - 2ND QUARTER



*The residents of Lethe Hall retained the championship belt for the overall best GPA in second quarter.*

### AgFIRST PARTNERS VISIT; AGGIES GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Representatives from AgFirst Farm Credit Bank visited our campus for a tour in mid-January that included our Equine Center, the Dairy Barn and our Education Center. At the event, three of our students - Caitlyn Krout, Elsa DeRosa and Emily Rodman - were presented with AgFirst Scholarships by principal Greg Thompson.







## STUDENTS LEARN PIGLET PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

During a mid-January classroom lab, our ag teachers and farm staff introduced students to the realities of preparing newly-farrowed pigs for good health and growth. Among the standard processes for young pigs are clipping of needle teeth and tail to avoid pen injury, castration of male pigs, and iron injections to prevent anemia.



## AGGIES EXCEL ON HORSEBACK

During Good News Friday in January, Savannah Thompson was recognized for victories in barrel racing at Lander University and Roan Creek, while Kaylee O'Neal was recognized for winning Open Division seat equitation at an English hunt event in High Point, N.C.

## STUDENT LEADERS VISIT POTENTIAL AGGIES IN NORTH AUGUSTA

In mid-February, a group of student leaders, principal Mr. Thompson and librarian Jennifer Brown visited middle school students in North Augusta to discuss everyday life as an Aggie. Our students then traveled across the Savannah River for an educational visit to the Augusta Museum of History.





## **LINCOLN CO. THIRD-GRADERS TOUR CAMPUS**

The Governor's School for Agriculture was thrilled to welcome a large group of third graders from Lincoln County (Ga.) Elementary School for a field trip in mid-January. These students and their teachers were introduced to the various pathways offered at our school.



## MAKING OUR PLACE (AND OTHERS) LOOK GREAT



A hard-working group of Aggies recently attended the Greenhand Camp at the South Carolina FFA Center in North Myrtle Beach. Our students completed horticulture projects on the 36-acre seaside property, including adding a canoe planter at the entrance to the camp. They also participated in a number of team-building workshops led by Blake Arias and Caitlyn Krout, as well as other fun and informative activities.





In other projects designed to make our own campus look amazing, horticulture students completed a new landscaping project at the Welcome Center, which is the first thing most visitors see upon entering our campus. Residents of Palmetto residence hall and their classmates also recently completed a makeover of the landscaping at the hall. Students designed the landscaping, removed old plants, ordered and placed new plants, and mulched a fresh new look for the hall entrance.





# AGGIE ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE STATE



Caitlyn Krout was awarded a \$1,000 Applied Agricultural Science scholarship from the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association Foundation during the organization's recent annual meeting at the T. Ed Garrison Arena in Clemson.



Kyleigh Adams picked up two handful of awards at the 2022 year-end South Carolina Meat Goat Project awards: Overall Champion in SC4ME Wether, Overall Champion in Open Wether, Reserve Overall Market Doe, Reserve Overall Champion, Champion in Senior Showmanship, Novice Year Champion, Highest Score Record Book and picked up the \$800 SC Meat Goat Project Scholarship.

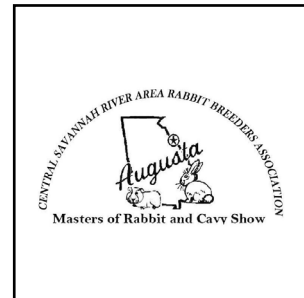




# AGGIE ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE STATE



Garrett Jolley recently picked up multiple honors from the South Carolina High School Rodeo Association, including 2022 Reserve All-Around Cowboy, SCHSRA State Tie-Down Roper Champion and SCHSRA Champion in Boys Cutting Horsemanship.



In early January, Sidney Grantham competed in the Central Savannah River Rabbit Breeders Association Show in North Augusta and picked up Reserve In Show and other honors. She also honored for her achievements during the "Good News Friday" breakfast at school in January.



# LEARNING THE HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FARMING



In early January, the JDLH Hiking History Club visited the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of South Carolina in Pendleton. The excursion featured a tour from Josh Johnson, the museum's site coordinator. Students also collected their first stamp in the 2023 Agritourism Passport, a project of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture that encourages folks to visit farms and other agricultural-themed sites around the state.





# AGGIES CONVERT WEATHERED BARN INTO LAYER HOUSE



Students in Mr. Abrams' ag mechanics and technologies classes recently embarked on a project to convert an old barn adjacent to the iconic Dairy Barn into a layer house, where the students now will raise broilers and harvest eggs. Students handled the construction using wood milled right on campus.





# HANDS-ON LEARNING ON AND OFF THE FARM



In late January, our forestry students got a firsthand look at the operations of Hanna Brothers Logging, based in Abbeville County. Mr. Daniel Hanna spoke about their logging operation and equipment, and current JDLH student Lexie Hanna demonstrated how to operate the equipment and taught some of her classmates how to drive it too.





Students in our ag mechanics classes recently spent the day spreading gravel and fabricating a new canopy for one of the school's tractors.

In mid-February, an intrepid group of Aggies participated in the controlled burn of two plots of land on campus, each a little less than an acre. These will become future research plots for the school's forestry class.



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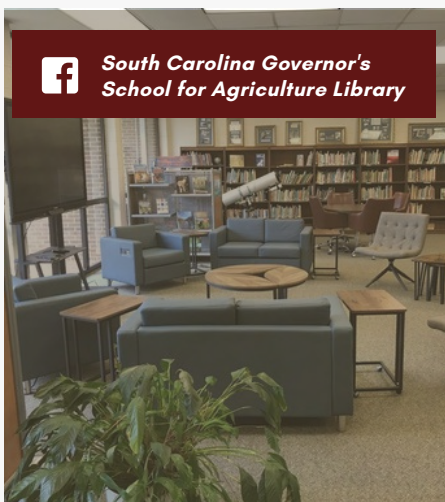
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