

# THE AGGIE REPORT

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



Summer 2022



*The first-ever valedictorian of the Governor's School for Agriculture, Aestas Hodge, delivers her address to the Class of 2022.*

## A NEW CHAPTER IN HISTORY

History was made on Friday, May 27, as the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture honored its very first graduating class in an emotional outdoor commencement ceremony on the Governor's Green.

With stately John de la Howe Hall as the backdrop, the 21 members of the Class of 2022 walked across the stage and received their diplomas from school president Tim Keown and principal Greg Thompson. The ceremony was the culmination of a long journey for the school to its first "product" – as Mr. Thompson likes to call the graduates – since the state's third Governor's School was created by the General Assembly and signed into existence by Gov. Henry McMaster.

The first students to write this latest chapter in the rich 225-year history of this campus arrived in August 2020.

"Many adjectives come to my mind when

describing our 21 seniors; however, one descriptor in particular stands out to me: courageous," Mr. Keown said. "Courageous decisions were made by parents and guardians – and our students – to make the decision to move from their comfortable homes and new school buildings to attend here. Our graduates are courageous for entering the agriculture, forestry, and natural resources industries. The work is not always easy, and the pay is not as competitive as other career options. Our students do have the passion and are driven by their common love for our planet."

Aestas Hodge was honored as valedictorian for the Class of 2022, while Lee Fulmer was named salutatorian. In her valedictory address, Aestas said reminded her fellow graduates that, "Today is

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## HISTORY

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*Jaquez Perry, one of our two S.C. State Innovation Scholarship winners, receives his diploma from Principal Greg Thompson.*

monumental for you, this school and the future.”

“We’re the first graduating class of the first Governor’s School for Agriculture in America,” she said. “You’ve all done so much for this school, and your influence will last for years to come.”

In his salutatory address, Lee thanked the school’s namesake Dr. John de la Howe for establishing the first school on this 1,310-acre campus in his last will and testament in 1797. He also praised the faculty and staff who pulled together to launch the school and who mentored the Class of 2022 to their

graduation day.

“You have taken an idea and turned it into a reality, a vision and made it real,” Lee said.

“You have taken kids and turned them into leaders. Thank you for the tireless efforts you have put into this school, myself and my classmates.”

The keynote address for the commencement was delivered by Dr. Sharon Wall, who served as the interim president here prior to Mr. Keown’s appointment. In acknowledging the support of family, friends and others who walked with the first graduating class on their journey into history, Dr. Wall urged the 21 graduates

to “find your North Star – something you want to commit to – and go for it and make them proud. I have learned that you are the author of your book of life. So, make one you can be proud of. Make it a best-seller.”

Prior to conferring diplomas on the 21 graduates, Mr. Thompson discussed the significance in the size of this first graduating class. “Ironically, the number 21 symbolizes protection, comfort and patience during a transition period. It also symbolizes the beginning of a new phase in life. So let’s get ready for the new chapter, and congratulations to the Class of 2022.”



## KROUT ELECTED FIRST FFA STATE OFFICER IN SCHOOL HISTORY

Caitlyn Krout of Fair Play, S.C., was elected as the Governor's School for Agriculture's first-ever state officer in the South Carolina FFA Association during the organization's annual State Convention in June.

On the final day of the convention in Greenville, Caitlyn was chosen as the 2022-2023 Region 2 Vice President and will serve in the role of Sentinel on the slate of state officers. As her name was announced and for many minutes after the FFA Convention was adjourned, she was tearfully congratulated by her friends, classmates and FFA advisors and teachers.

According to the FFA constitution, the position of Sentinel has the responsibility of being "stationed by the door, to ensure the door is open to all; to care for the meeting room and paraphernalia; and strives to keep the meeting room comfortable as well as assists the president in maintaining order."

Caitlyn's pleasant personality and organizational skills will serve her well in this position. Earlier in the year, Caitlyn was crowned Miss FFA during the annual pageant.

Caitlyn also was chosen earlier in the year serve as the co-president of the Governor's School FFA chapter for the coming academic year alongside Hannah Mosley.





# AGGIES EXCEL AT STATE FFA

Students from the Governor's School for Agriculture picked up several awards at the annual State FFA Convention in Greenville in late May.

Anna Grace Cross won the Individual FFA Award and was second in Prepared Public Speaking. JC Chandler took third place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Allyson Wright, Trey Haddon, and Jake Simpson took first in the state for the respective Proficiency Awards.





## TINSLEY SELECTED TO SERVE IN THE STATE 4-H CONGRESS

Sierra Tinsley, a junior at the Governor's School for Agriculture, was elected to serve as the State 4-H Upstate Regional Representative during the South Carolina 4-H Congress held at Clemson University in July.

Sierra also serves as the Governor School 4-H Club's vice-president.

Sierra was among a group of Aggies who participated in the South Carolina 4-H Congress. Sierra also won the state Dairy Record Book award, while Harley Reeves won the Rabbit Record Book award.

Caitlyn Krout was Reserve Champion of the Swine Record Book competition, and Lee Fulmer was the state winner of the Food Plot Project. Leona Weber also represented the Governor's School at the 4-H Congress.





## MRS. TEMPLETON HONORED AS STATE OFFICER AND AUTHOR

This summer has been a big summer for the Governor's School for Agriculture's animal science teacher Libby Templeton.

In early June, it was announced that Mrs. Templeton had been selected to co-author the 10th Edition of *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production*, a popular textbook for animal science instruction. She will co-write the book with Dr. Frank Flanders from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia.

The textbook was first published in July 1981 with Dr. Flanders and James R. Gillespie as co-authors. The most recent 9th Edition was described by the publisher Cengage Learning as covering "basic animal science and livestock industry information as well as current issues in animal agriculture." The book "continues to be the most comprehensive resource for everything students need to know about all phases and types of livestock production," according to the publisher.

Then, in July, Mrs. Templeton was elected the incoming president of the South Carolina Association for Agricultural Educators (SCAAE) during the organization's Summer Conference at Nation Ford High School in Fort Mill.

The SCAAE is an affiliate of the National Association of Agricultural Educators and, according to the Clemson



*Libby Templeton and her soon-to-be co-author Dr. Frank Flanders of ABAC*

Cooperative Extension website, "seeks to advance agricultural education and promote the professional interests and growth of agriculture teachers as well as recruit and prepare students who have a desire to teach agriculture."

Mrs. Templeton said she is excited to serve in the SCAAE presidency. "We're a family-like organization, and being the president this year, I want to get that back - that family-oriented feeling back," she said. "I want new ag teachers to know that we are there for them."

Agricultural education remains so important in South Carolina in the 21st century, and cultivating excellent agriculture students is essential to that mission.

"One of the biggest challenges that farmers face today is for us to produce enough food," Mrs. Templeton said. "One thing I can instill in my students is to show them how to raise a market hog, or a market steer, or even growing their own poultry or growing a garden in their backyard for them and their family... So they can at least feed their family, so they won't be so dependent on a grocery store."

In addition to these notable accomplishments, Mrs. Templeton has traveled all across the Southeast and even to Washington, D.C., this summer with students and fellow faculty members to continue the essential FFA and 4-H missions of our school.



## HORSE EVALUATION TEAM WINNERS

In late May, the Governor's School for Agriculture's Horse Evaluation Team traveled to the South Carolina Equine Park in Camden for the annual State Competition, hosted by the American Quarter Horse Association. The 4-H Horse Judging Team team placed second in the State and third overall for judging team scores. Caitlyn Krout placed second highest individual for reasons, first highest for judging and first highest individual overall. The FFA team Horse Judging Team placed third overall in the state, and Caitlyn Krout won first place high individual overall. Team members are Caitlyn Krout, Kaytlin Smith, Coralie Davis and Kyleigh Adams.





## FFA SUMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP

A delegation of Aggies traveled to Cherry Grove, near North Myrtle Beach, in late June for the annual FFA Summer Leadership Camp. Our students and teachers participated in kayaking and canoeing, low ropes course, a hula hoop competition, paintball and other team-building and leadership training activities. They also squeezed in time for fun at Broadway at the Beach and other recreation -- including a spirited tug-of-war contest in the surf.





## GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL HOSTS S.C. STATE BULLDOG AG CAMP



The Governor's School for Agriculture partnered with South Carolina State University to host the Bulldog Ag Immersion Camp in mid-June. Rising 9th and 10th graders from all over the state attended the four-day residential camp to learn about agriculture, horticulture, and different animal sciences. Activities included an equestrian lesson, horseback riding, beekeeping, a tour of the Hickory Hill Milk dairy farm in Edgefield County and various leadership and team-building exercises.





## FARM BUREAU LEADERSHIP GATHERING

The 2022 SC Farm Bureau Federation Youth Leadership Conference was held on our campus in mid-July. The theme was "Farming Your Future." There were 27 rising high school juniors and seniors gathered for four days of leadership training, and participants completed hands-on workshops, team-building activities and an Ag Olympics. Elsa deRosa, one of our very own Aggies, picked up several awards at the conference, including serving as a YLC Youth Leader.





# MCCORMICK COUNTY EXTENSION PARTNERS ON CAMP OPENER



The 2022 summer camp season, hosted by Mrs. Kinsley Miller and the Education Center at John de la Howe, launched in early June with Animal Science and Horticulture Camp. Visiting day campers learned about showing livestock, horseback riding, vegetable gardening and more. The McCormick County Clemson Extension partnered with us for a lesson on health and nutrition and animal by-products.





## CLASS OF 2022 CELEBRATED IN VIDEO

A crew from Vista View Productions interviewed members of the Class of 2022 for a special video salute to this historic group of first graduates. The Governor's School for Agriculture's nonprofit Foundation provided funding for the production of this special video, which premiered around graduation.



## 'REAL WORLD' EXPLORES DAM IN FIELD TRIP FINALE

Students in Ms. Jennifer Brown's "Real World" class visited the dam and power plant at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Strom Thurmond Lake on their final field trip of the year. They were given a behind-the-scenes tour by the park manager to see the role the facility plays in flood control and generating hydroelectric power.



## CAROLINA AGRI POWER PROVIDES NEW LOANER TRACTOR

Carolina Agri Power, a farm equipment company with locations in Orangeburg, Bishopville and Stuckey, has become a new industry partner for the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. The company has generously loaned our school a brand new Case tractor to be used by our students and ag teachers for an entire year.

The beautiful new high-tech tractor was delivered in early June.

"With the ever-changing technology of agriculture, it is so important that our students have access to modern equipment such as this Case tractor," our agency president Tim Keown said. "This will allow them to work with equipment that will acclimate them to 21st century farm technology."



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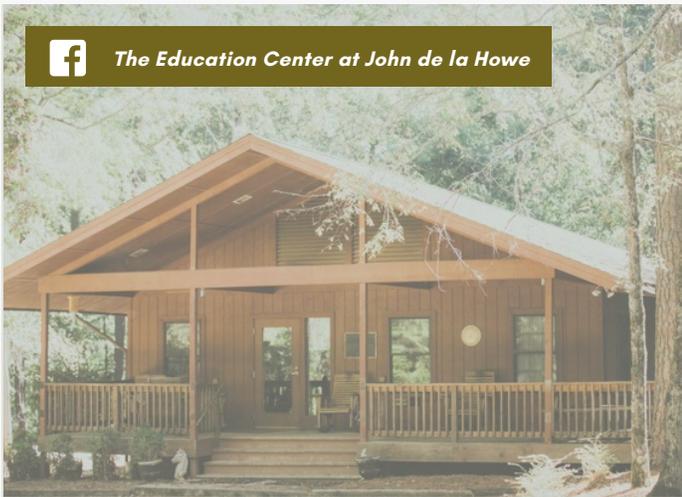
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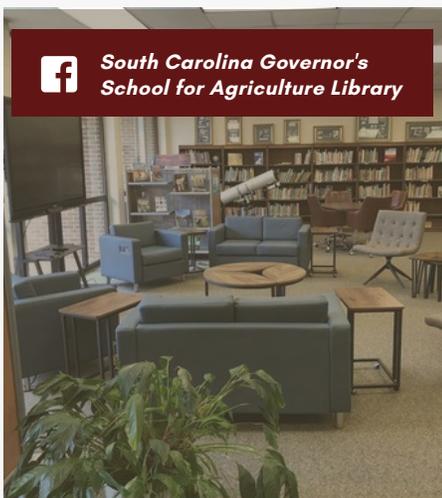
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