

THE AGGIE REPORT

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



MARCH-APRIL
2023

HUNDREDS VISIT FOR AG FEST '23



Swine show participants from across the Palmetto State joined us for the latest edition of Ag Fest in March.

Hundreds of visitors from around South Carolina converged on our campus on Saturday, March 18 for our third annual Ag Fest.

It was a full day of fun for the entire family. The festivities included multiple livestock and small animal shows, a horse event at the school's equine arena and a wide variety of craft vendors and food trucks gathered on our 12-acre Governor's Green at the heart of the campus.

"Ag Fest showcases our campus as the nation's only public residential high school for agricultural education and our students who participate in livestock, small animals, equine, and hunting dog competitive events," said Timothy Keown, our school president. "This third annual festival

exceeded my expectations with the number of visitors, legislators, and exhibitors who were in attendance."

The day's events began with a bird dog hunt test hosted by the Aggies field trial team. Back on the Governor's Green, visiting judges from around the nation held court in the tented arena where students from across the state exhibited their livestock in the goat show, swine show, and beef and dairy cattle shows.

Inside the L.S. Brice classroom building, students exhibited their show rabbits, chinchillas and other small pets. On our nearby baseball field,

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dog owners walked their four-legged friends through a rigorous obedience competition.

Among the student volunteers in attendance at the livestock show holding pens was state FFA Association president Drake Ariail, a graduate of the Pelion High School FFA chapter and now a freshman at Midlands Technical College. He was joined in the pen area by our very own Caitlyn Krout, who serves as a state FFA vice-president.

"If you just look around and all the interactions going on, all these fine individuals and people who've already graduated high school, we've made all these friendships being in the FFA," Ariail said. "Without the FFA, young people wouldn't be able to develop into the agricultural leaders for the future - and I'm excited to be here today, sharing in this event as an FFA officer."

Ag Fest really is a celebration of our ongoing vision to grow the future leaders of South Carolina's \$51.8 billion agriculture industry right here.

State House of Representatives member Annie E. McDaniel of Fairfield County was among the dignitaries who gathered. In her first visit to the farm, she was impressed both by the bucolic setting and our students.

"Everything is extremely great, and I really enjoyed it," Rep. McDaniel said after a tour of the school. "This is an opportunity for high school students to get



Austin Landreth, one of our resident Aggies, was a cattle show participant.

exposure to agriculture, to get exposure to the livestock, to just being outdoors. I'm going to be spreading the word, and I'm going to let the Governor know this is a great use of South Carolina's money."

Such community involvement is always an integral part of the Ag Fest planning, and it is essential

to the ongoing mission and vision of our school.

"Ag Fest would not be possible without our entire agency team, from our maintenance employees to school staff," Mr. Keown said. "We all have a role in making Ag Fest the largest spring livestock event in South Carolina and making this school successful."



MORE SCENES FROM AG FEST 2023



Rep. Annie McDaniel visited the campus and met with staff and students. Mr. Thompson raised the most money in the "Kiss the Pig" contest, and a spirit of teamwork was alive in all of the Aggies who participated in the event.





STUDENT PROJECTS YIELD SCHOLARSHIPS



The Bob Edmonds Conservation Scholarship recognized four of our students as part of a contest staged in conjunction with Ag Fest.

Kyleigh Adams, Lyle Fulmer, Lexie Hanna and J.D. Miller each were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

The JDLH Library organized the competition, and the JDLH School Foundation sponsored a reception for all of the competitors with additional prizes for the best application, most creative video and most professional presentation.

These students participated in three rounds of competition with their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). Students created videos, presented to a panel of judges and answered questions to test the depth of knowledge about their projects.

Lyle was unable to attend the library reception because he was representing the school at a function in the Upstate, but he and J.D. were recognized with ceremonial checks at Ag Fest.





AGGIES ATTEND 4-H LEGISLATIVE DAY AT STATE HOUSE



A delegation of our Aggies traveled to the State House in Columbia on March 7 for the annual 4-H Legislative Day.

They joined dozens of students from across the Palmetto State for this educational event presented by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension. Our Aggies were able to visit with state Representative Bill Hixon, who spoke at the event, and toured the inside of the State House.





MISS FFA PAGEANT 2023



The S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture again sponsored the annual Miss FFA Pageant at Lander University in Greenwood in early March.

Megan Addy Carson from the Blue Ridge FFA chapter was named Miss FFA 2023. The first runner-up was Kelsey Stone of the WJ Keenan FFA; second runner-up was Ava Claire Nimmons of the Seneca FFA; and third runner-up was Kyleigh Adams of the Governor's School for Agriculture. Sierra Tinsley and Lexi Hanna of the Governor's School for Agriculture also finished in the top 10.

The Highest Application Score went to Kyleigh Adams from our Governor's School for Agriculture; the Highest Interview Score was Lindsey Catherine Morris of the McBee FFA; and the Highest Evening Wear Score was Kelsey Stone of the Keenan FFA.





MISTER FFA 2023



Surrounded by supportive friends and family, Lyle Fulmer and J.D. Miller competed in the Mr. FFA 2023 scholarship competition at Pendleton High School in late February, and Lyle was named 2023 Mr. FFA. Both finished in the Top 5, while J.D. earned Top Application honors and Lyle earned Top Interview and Top SAE.



AN EXCITING NIGHT IN THE WOODS

Joshua Wilson of JP Kennels and Trenton Wilson of Dry Hollow Kennels led a group of Aggies on a raccoon hunt in late February, along with the school's activities coordinator Grayson McCullough. It was a great time in the woods for this intrepid group.



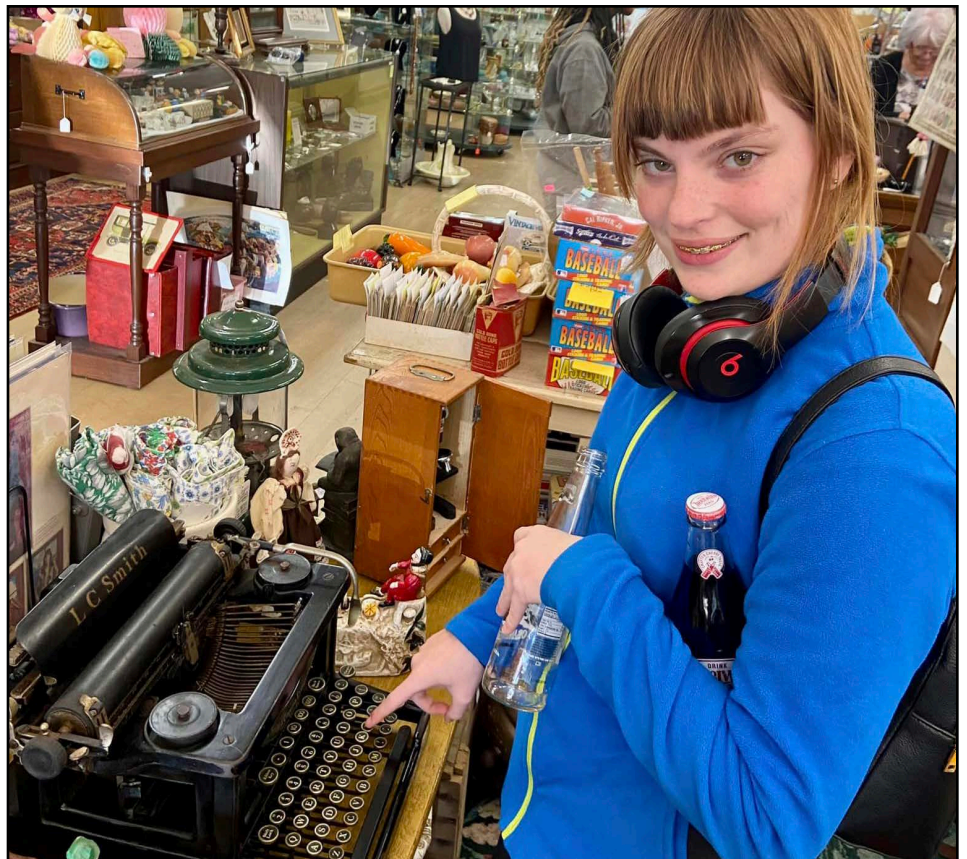
AGGIES EXPLORE LOCAL HISTORY SITES

In late February, students in our school's Real World class visited the Destination Moon exhibit hosted by the McCormick County Historical Commission and toured the Dorn Mill Complex in McCormick. They also visited the Willington Academy site, where many South Carolina statesmen were educated, and took a walk on the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail.



HISTORY HIKING CLUB GOES ANTIQUING

In mid-March, the school's History Hiking Club visited a local antique store in downtown McCormick after school to discover some of the hidden treasures in the bustling shop. Their field trip also included a stop for ice cream.





AGGIE CLASSES WELCOME VISITING MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



Belton and Honea Path Middle School agriculture classes visited our campus for a field trip in late March. The student completed a prescribed burn with Mr. Morton, our Environmental & Natural Resource teacher, and members of his class. The visiting potential future Aggies also got an early glimpse of the Spring Plant Sale in the greenhouse with horticulture teacher Mr. Mann.





EXPLORING THE FOREST WITH TWO DIFFERENT AGENCIES



In mid-February, a group of Aggies and Mr. Morton traveled to Harbison State Forest in Columbia to learn from personnel with the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The Commission’s Environmental Education staffers Beth Foley and Matt Schnabel led the students on exercises to practice timber cruising and map interpretation. On a later visit in February with U.S. Forest Service personnel, students learned about how drones are used in controlled burns.





PROM NIGHT 2023 - "A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS"

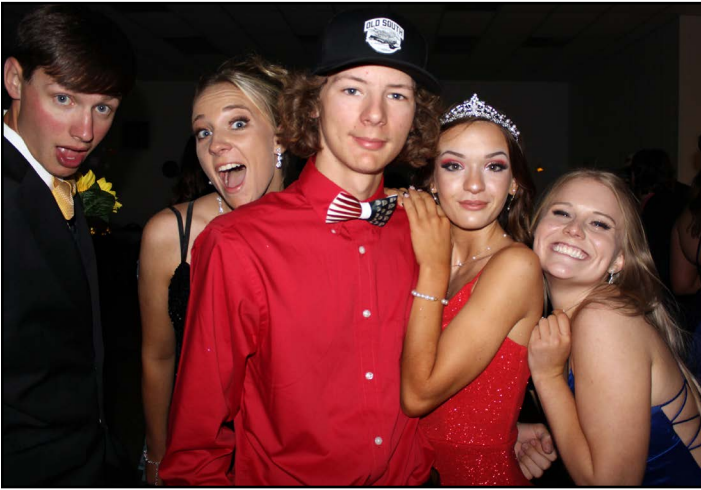
Many of our Aggies gathered at Hickory Knob State Park's big red barn on April 14 for their prom night.





PROM NIGHT 2023 - "A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS"

Here are a few scenes of our students all dressed up and enjoying this traditional rite of spring.





INTRODUCING... OUR PROM QUEEN AND KING 2023



Hannah Mosley was chosen by our Aggies as 2023 Prom Queen, and Garrett Jolly was named Prom King.





BOYS STATE / GIRLS STATE DELEGATES SELECTED



Mr. James Burt of American Legion Post #19 visited in late March to present a \$900 scholarship donation to send J.C. Chandler, Lyle Fulmer and Eli Moore to ALA Palmetto Boys State at Anderson University this summer. Kate Ostergaard also will attend ALA Palmetto Girls State at Presbyterian College in Clinton. Congratulations to these students on being invited to this outstanding summer leadership experience.

AGGIES EXCEL AT FFA LEADERSHIP EVENT IN GAFFNEY



A dedicated group of Aggies competed at the South Carolina FFA Region 2 Leadership Development Event (LDEs) and Tool ID competition at the Cherokee County Institute of Innovation in Gaffney. Lyle Fulmer earned first place in Prepared Speaking. J.D. Miller earned first place in Extemporaneous Speaking, and Jahira Freeman earned first place in Upper Creed Speaking. Our Tool ID team placed in the top five and advanced to the state contest: Ian McCoy, Ty Morton, Layne Gibson and Lynzie Hodge.



CLEMSON SPRING DAIRY SHOW YIELDS HIGH HONORS



Caitlyn Krout, Lyle Fulmer, Sierra Tinsley, and Ty Morton claimed third place in the 4-H Dairy Evaluation Team competition at the Clemson Spring Dairy Show. Ty won second place in the FFA State Dairy Handler CDE. Sierra placed fifth overall in the placings category, and Caitlyn placed eighth overall in the reasons category.





AGGIES COLLECT RIBBONS, BUCKLES AT PEACH COUNTRY SPRING SHOW

Ty Morton won the Beef Herdsman Award and Sidney Grantham placed second and Brooklyn Glassburn placed third at the Peach Country Show for Cherokee and Spartanburg counties in late March. Coralie Davis won Senior Showmanship and a \$500 Scholarship in the Peach Country Swine Show and Raider Rumble!





AGGIES WIN TOP HONORS IN CLAYS, WELDING



Coralie Davis won High Overall Score at the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Event in March. She claimed a \$2,000 scholarship from the Department of Natural Resources and a \$1,000 scholarship from the S.C. Sporting Clays Association.



Cordell Swygert won the Arc Welder Award at the Piedmont Technical College Diversified Agriculture Showcase in March, as a group of Aggies participated in the annual event, which featured a number of competitive events and demonstrations.

Congratulations to all our Aggies on your outstanding achievements!



LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM WINS STATE TITLE



The Governor’s School livestock judging team of Caroline Jordan, JD Miller, Lilly Fox, and Sierra Tinsley won the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and placed second in the FFA Livestock Judging CDE in Clemson at the end of March.

AGGIES LOOK A HORSE IN THE MOUTH

Students in our equine class recently had the opportunity to participate in a visit from equine dentist Ashley Buzhardt, who demonstrated some of the techniques used to treat horses’ teeth. Other programs at the horse barn also explore equine health.





HANDS-ON LEARNING ON THE WATER, IN THE WOODS



In early March, a group of Aggies participated in a canoe trip then visited with S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism park ranger Elise Wingo at Baker Creek State Park to learn about careers in the state park service.

In early April, students placed a red oak log just outside the windows of our school library and implanted spores to begin a mushroom-growing project. Farm manager Mr. McCall and ag teacher Mr. Abrams acquired the large log and helped prepare it for the spores.





FIELD TRIAL TEAM MEMBERS CHASE FUN IN SALUDA



Collin Greene and Grace Viseth represented the Governor’s School field trial team in an early-March fun trial hosted by the Saluda Quail Hunters.

FOUNDATION WELCOMES FFA

Katrina Jones, executive director of the Georgia FFA Foundation, and her assistant Peyton Sweet recently visited the campus and met with our Foundation director Stacie Smith, along with Mr. Keown and Mr. Thompson. The Georgia FFA Foundation raises \$1.5 million per year to support Georgia FFA, and we appreciate them sharing their fund-raising know-how.





PLANT SALE SOARS AFTER EMERGENCY REPAIR



The annual Spring Plant Sale welcomed hundreds of area residents to our campus to choose from a wide array of plants grown in our greenhouse by staff and students. A line of severe weather shortly before the big sale had damaged the greenhouse, but our Aggies rallied, repaired the greenhouse, and once again the Plant Sale was a success.





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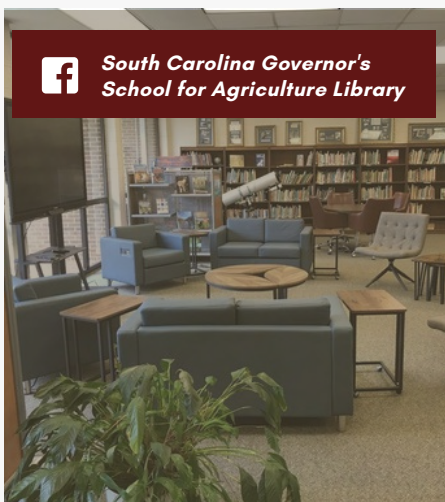
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