The Agricultural Education Program is excited to welcome 5 incoming freshmen and 11 transfer students to the University of Illinois! Combined with the current student population, 74 undergraduates are pursuing a degree in Agricultural Leadership and Science Education. Additionally, the graduate program continues to grow; this year, there are 8 full-time graduate students on-campus and 32 online students. To all -- welcome to the Illinois family!

Two Agricultural Education Program students, Robert Klein and Kaity Spangler, were selected as representatives for the 2017 University of Illinois Homecoming Court. The Homecoming Court is comprised of 20 seniors campuswide who are viewed as outstanding representatives of the university based on their academic achievements, campus leadership, and community involvement. Congratulations to Rob and Kaity!
A total of 19 Agricultural Education students completed professional internships this past summer. Students partnered with businesses and organizations on independent projects in community development, youth development, marketing, grain systems management, crop data management, agricultural advocacy, human resources, and employee training.

Wyatt Capps  
University of Illinois Extension Unit 26

Dylan Knisley  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Rachel Recker  
University of Illinois Extension Unit 22

Lacy Pruitt  
Cargill

Maggi Maxstadt  
Pinnacle Foods

Wyatt Dozier  
Intelinair

Hannah Riedle  
GroAlliance

Travis Nielsen  
MedSpan Research

Rachel Ransom  
DuPage County Farm Bureau
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION: Lead · Teach · Inspire

AGED FACULTY EARN National Awards

Drs. Kari Keating and Erica Thieman earned national recognition for outstanding achievements in teaching and research. Dr. Keating received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award during the annual conference in July. Dr. Thieman was honored with the Outstanding Early Career Member award from the North Central American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE).

S T U D E N T S O R G A N I Z E A N N U A L

FFA Greenhand Conference

More than 450 first-year FFA members from 47 chapters in Illinois attended the University of Illinois Greenhand Leadership Conference. The theme for the conference was, “Climb: Step, Summit, Soar”. Harley Carlson, Conference Coordinator, along with her committee, organized and trained nearly 60 university student volunteers to facilitate workshops and organize logistics for the event. Thanks to all who volunteered and attended the conference!

Kade Hill, sophomore in Agricultural Science Education, will represent Illinois as a National Officer Candidate during the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo on October 25-28, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kade will participate in several one-on-one and group interviews, in addition to speaking engagements and workshop facilitation. The officer team will be announced during the final convention session on Saturday, October 28. Kade served as the 2015-16 Illinois Association FFA State President and is a member of the Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA Chapter. Best wishes to Kade during the convention!
ASE SENIORS EARN

NAAE Scholarships

Caseelynn Johnston and Willow Krumwiede, seniors in Agricultural Science Education, were selected to receive the Upper Division Agricultural Education Scholarship from the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). The $1,500 scholarship awards help to offset expenses during recipients’ student teaching experiences. Twenty-two students from across the United States were selected based on their academic performance, as well as leadership and service activities.

ASE SENIORS EARN

Congratulations to the following Agricultural Education students who will receive their American FFA Degree during the National FFA Convention and Expo on October 28th.

- Jerry Brockett, Cumberland FFA
- Madalyn Hammel, Red Hill FFA
- Kassidy Kimpling, Woodland FFA
- Monica Merkle, Cissna Park FFA
- Hannah Riedle, Mt. Pulaski FFA
- Aaron Slack, Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA
- Kathryn Zelechowski, Edwardsville FFA
- Sarah Van Asten, Wrightstown FFA (WI)

AGED WELCOMES

New Faculty

The Agricultural Education Program is proud to introduce two new faculty to the team!

Dr. Jason Emmert, Animal Sciences Professor, joined the Agricultural Education Program as Associate Director in August 2017. Prior to returning to his alma mater at the University of Illinois in 2008, Dr. Emmert began his academic career at the University of Arkansas (1997-2008) with research and teaching responsibilities focused in the area of poultry science. For more than 20 years, Dr. Emmert has worked closely with countless agricultural education teachers through involvement in the Illinois Association FFA and National FFA Organization. As he enters this exciting new phase of his career, he could not be more excited to work with the faculty, staff, and students in the Agricultural Education Program. As he states, “this program is such an important part of the college, and I feel very honored to be a part of it!”

Dr. Jasmine Collins joined the Agricultural Education Program as an Assistant Professor in August 20017. Dr. Collins received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Culture from Indiana University in 2011. She earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Policy Studies in 2013, and a Ph.D. in Educational Organization and Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education in 2017 from the University of Illinois. Dr. Collins teaches several Agricultural Leadership Education courses, including Leadership Ethics & Pluralism (AGED 340) and Leadership in Groups and Teams (AGED 380). As an assistant professor, Dr. Collins research will focus on the areas of student leadership development, social justice education, and campus racial climate. Through her research, teaching, and service, she aims to develop the next generation of leaders who are self-and-socially aware, multiculturally competent, and unafraid to tackle big issues.