

66 This research project is a testament to how incredibly generous our community businesses, local producers and students are at NEO. 99

Jim Reese, Secretary of Agriculture

CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS - NEO HOSTS OK SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR WHEAT RESEARCH DAY

The NEO Agriculture Department welcomed Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese, GRDA Representatives, area producers, and NEO President's Partners to celebrate the 2018 Field Research Day. The first of its kind in NEO History, students have conducted hands-on winter wheat research during the spring semester as part of a partnership between NEO and the GRDA to enhance students' learning.

"This research project is a testament to how incredibly generous our community businesses, local producers and students are at NEO," said Alisen Anderson, agriculture instructor and project liaison. "It has always been a dream of our department to start research industry of Agriculture, and this year it became a reality."

Along with research stations involving soil temperature, composition, and compaction, students in the NEO Honors Program completed undergraduate research projects that involved seeding rates and fertilization.

Sierra McCullough and Amber Oerly conducted seeding rate experiments for their Plant and Soil Science Systems Honors Contract, where they measured three separate densities of seed distribution. Through their research, they found that while more densely spread wheat can increase early growth, the wheat would begin to crowd and suffer as the season progresses.

Alumni/Recruiting Rodeo

NEO Rodeo Earns Top-Five

NEO Awards Three

Finishes in First Three NIRA Rodeos

Quarter Horse Congress

NEO Repeats as Champion at AQHA World Show

Scholarships at Annual

Men's Rodeo Wins Junior
College Division at SWOSU
Rodeo

Record Number of Rodeo Members Recognized at Honors Banquet

NEO Hosts Hundreds of Area Students for 67th Annual

Aggie Days
Ag Students Land Valuable
Internships

2018 Agriculture Faculty and Staff



Secretary Reese and McKenzie Conner listen as students demonstrate soil labs.

Solvents Continue to innovate and build their national reputation. NEO's first-ever Wheat Research Field Day is another example of their commitment to teaching and learning.

Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO A&M College President Hannah Jenkins completed her Honors Contract in Introduction to Soil Science. Her project focused on nitrogen fertilization by building on McCullough and Oerly's research. She split each of the three seed densities into two strips and applied nitrogen fertilizer to each strip. Through her research, she was able to present the positive effects of nitrogen fertilization, but also the danger of over-fertilization, which leads to nitrogen burning.

Working with land in a flood plain also presented unique challenges and considerations for the Honors Students.

"There were days when the mud was nearly up to our knees," said Jenkins. When asked about what environmental considerations came through the project, she added "We definitely took environmental impact into consideration. As agriculturalists, we need to be leaders when it comes to safeguarding our environment and resources."

"As an instructor, the best part of this project is the knowledge that our students have gained," added Anderson. "That is what it's all about! I would like to see this project expand into other commodities that could enhance and diversify the knowledge of our NEO students."

"I was so excited when Dr. Hale came to me with this partnership, especially because the NEO Agriculture Faculty have been so good about bringing producers in on the project," said Secretary Reese. "Crops are a \$2.5 billion industry in Oklahoma and even though much of the focus is on livestock, I am very excited to see programs like this focus on plant science. I'm very excited to see this project continue to grow."

Along with the partnership with the GRDA, the Bartlett Coop, Anders Farm's, 3-F Farms, VO Morgan, Rich Falkenstein, and Oklahoma State University have made the project possible.

"NEO Ag faculty and students continue to innovate and build their national reputation," said Dr. Jeff Hale. "NEO's first-ever Wheat Research Field Day is another excellent example of their commitment to teaching and learning. I commend instructor Alisen Anderson for her efforts with this exciting new project."

DR. SHANNON CUNNINGHAM ANNOUNCED AS NEO'S 2017 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD RECIPIENT

Officials at NEO announced Dr. Shannon Cunningham as the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Alumna from the School of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. Cunningham graduated from NEO in 2000 with an Associate of Science in Agriculture. While at NEO, Cunningham was heavily involved in student agriculture organizations, judging on the equine judging team and participating in the Aggie Society. She would later complete her bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University (OSU) before returning to NEO as an instructor in 2003. She earned a master's degree at the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from OSU. Cunningham also received her Oklahoma Honorary FFA Degree in 2012 and her National Honorary FFA Degree in 2014.

As an instructor, Cunningham taught the equine science courses and coached the horse judging team. During her coaching career, she earned five American Quarter Horse Association World Championships and three All-American Quarter Horse Congress titles. As an instructor, she quickly made her mark and was named the Agriculture Department Chair in 2008.

During her tenure as the Agriculture Department Chair, Dr. Cunningham developed the Aggie Alumni and Friends Association, this outreach group connected current students to Aggie alumni around the nation and allowed the department to initiate the "Building on Tradition" fundraising campaign. The campaign has brought in nearly \$2 million, and includes the upgraded and expanded stalling barn and the recently completed Animal Science Lab. After serving as Department Chair, she later became the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs until 2015.

Thanks to her various leadership roles at NEO, Dr. Cunningham was selected as the vice president for the Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) Stillwater campus in 2015. She was recently selected by Richland College in Dallas, Texas as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success.

While most of Cunningham's family is located on the East Coast, she is dedicated to agriculture education and plans to remain in higher education, with roles that continually support student success. Since 2003, she has been actively involved administratively in the National FFA and has served as the Superintendent,



Dr. Cunningham was honored during the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Banquet. She was joined by five other distinguished alumni.

Assistant Superintendent, and Committee Member of the National FFA Horse Career Development Event. She was also named a member of the Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program and the Top 10 Emerging Leaders Under 40 in Stillwater, Okla. In her free time, she is a voracious reader, enjoys running and the outdoors, and traveling whenever she can.

"It was an honor to recognize Dr. Shannon Cunningham as this year's Outstanding Alumnus for the School of Agriculture and Natural Sciences," said Jennifer Walker, executive director of the NEO Development Foundation. "Dr. Cunningham is well regarded within the Ag community and has a work ethic that is second to none. Her passion for education began as an instructor in the NEO Ag Department and today she serves as one of the State's most valued leaders in higher education."



Cunningham is well regarded within the Ag community and has a work ethic that is second

Jennifer Walker, executive director of the NEO Development Foundation



NEO LIVESTOCK JUDGING CLOSES 2017-18 SEASON

The NEO livestock judging team closed out their 2017-18 season with a trip to the Houston International Livestock Show and Rodeo. Sophomore McKinley Blassingame placed in the top ten overall at that event, and over the course of the year, NEO judgers have earned dozens of top-ten finishes and were the Championship Team at the 2017 Flint Hills Mid-America Classic and Reserve Champion Freshman Team at the Tulsa State Fair.

Freshman Alexa Montagne and Blassingame led their teams, producing consistent results at the competitions. Blassingame, an Agriculture Education major from Chatsworth, Ga. was a top-ten individual finisher three times this season, with a third place individual finish at the Cimarron Classic in Stillwater in October. Montagne, an Agriculture major from Elk Point, SD, picked up two first place Freshman individual finishes and had several top ten finishes, with three top five finishes in Oral Reasons.

"NEO has a legacy of excellence, and it's easy to see why so many alumni are leaders in all sectors of agriculture," said Head Coach Taylor Graham. "I'm excited for the progress we've made this year and I am excited for what the future holds."

Members of this year's judging team:

FRESHMEN:

Paige Longstreth from Royal Center, IN
Abby Spindle from Stanley, NM
Cagney Effling from Highmore, SD
Grant Hubbard from Miami, OK
Stetson Eschenbaum from Lake Preston, SD
Justin Messner from Dewey, OK
Kassidy Fletcher from Fortville, IN
Sarah Harris from Buchannon, VA
Alexa Montagne from Elk Point, SD

SOPHOMORES:

Loren Benedict from Oroville, CA Anna Brightwell from Carthage, MO Bree Elliott from El Reno, OK Tori Olger from Ovid, MI McKinley Blassingame from Chattsworth, GA Tailor Fields from Wynona, OK

NEO has a legacy of excellence, and it's easy to see why so many alumni are leaders in all sectors of agriculture. I'm excited for the progress we've made this year and I am excited for what the future holds.

Taylor Graham, Head Coach Livestock Judging

NEO AGRICULTURE AMBASSADORS HOST LEADERSHIP LUNCHES

During the fall and spring semesters, Agriculture Ambassadors at NEO have welcomed leaders from across the state for leadership lunches. These casual discussions have focused around the importance of leadership in local communities and to agriculture as an industry.

"I really enjoy meeting with students who have such a positive outlook on agriculture as an industry and how they can shape it with new technology and ideas," said Stacey Satterwhite, Ottawa County Farm Bureau Agent and one of the speakers during the series. "I think meeting the students can put some reality behind their goals and get them acquainted with the opportunities they have available. At the same time, we can offer some insight. Even though technology has changed the college experience, we've been in similar situations to the students."

It doesn't just help the students, though. I get to meet with the next generation of agriculturalists and see where the market is going and helps me understand their needs. I've also been fortunate to hire a NEO graduate as they continue to earn their bachelor's degree through the Pathways Program.

Stacev Satterwhite, Farm Bureau Agent

Along with Satterwhite, NEO Agriculture welcomed NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale, Miami City Manager Mr. Dean Kruithof, District 7 Representative Mr. Ben Loring, Mrs. Mary Booth from the First National Bank of Miami, Rancher and former NEO Instructor Mr. Ryan Sproul, GRDA Assistant General Manager of Ecosystems Management Dr. Darrell Townsend, and Mr. Tyler Dewey with Merck Animal Health and former NEO Agriculture Chair.

"Our local leaders covered a range of topics from self-motivation to career flexibility," said McKenzie Conner, NEO Agriculture Chair. "We are grateful to the guests who volunteered their time to speak with our future agriculture leaders."

Former Agriculture Department Chair Dr. Shannon Cunningham started the organization in 2007 as a way for the agriculture department to have representation by NEO students who rise to the top as leaders within the department. The group is only for sophomores, who are selected based on their application, leadership skills, integrity, and character during their freshmen year.



NEO YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS CLUB ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The NEO Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Club recently travelled to Reno, Nevada, to participate in the 2018 Young Farmers and Rancher's Leadership Conference. Along with the opportunity to participate in breakout session and hear speakers, NEO Sophomore Austin Jackson represented NEO and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in a Discussion Meet.

Jackson was one of the two representatives from the State of Oklahoma to participate in the meet. During a Discussion Meet, students are judged based on their displayed understanding of the selected topics, as well as their ability to present ideas. Participants at the conference discussed utilizing Farm Bureau to develop creative ways to address pressing issues in agriculture. Jackson earned his spot in the Discussion Meet earlier in the spring, when NEO hosted a meet where students discussed different ways that Farm Bureau can advocate for farms of all sizes.

The 2018 Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference was presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation and focused on the "Biggest Little Industry in the World." The conference focused on technology, leadership, civic engagement, and more, as students heard from a variety of speakers, including President of the American Farm Bureau Federation Zippy Duvall.

Along with Jackson, six other NEO students attended the event. Cooper Secker, Nathania McKenzie, Bri Nelsen, Loren Decker, Caitlyn Carnahan, and Katey Freeman all had a chance to participate in a broad spectrum of agriculture seminars and events. The trip was funded in large part through the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Ottawa County Farm Bureau offices.



BRITTANY ABERNATHY WINS NEO'S FIRST EQUESTRIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NEO Alumna Brittany Abernathy was named as the 2017 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) National Western High Point Rider while competing at NEO. This national championship is the first for the NEO Equestrian Team. Along with Abernathy's championship, three other NEO riders placed in the top ten at the national show in Lexington, Ky.

"After becoming the regional High Point western champion, I was filled with excitement and determination," said Abernathy. "I knew that the competition would be tough at Nationals and that I would have to push myself to new levels every day. With the endless support from my coach, team, and family, I was able to improve myself as a rider and how I saw myself. The journey to nationals was incredible and one I'll never forget."

During the High Point Western Rider competition, Abernathy competed against nearly two dozen of the best riders in the nation. Riders were scored on both horsemanship, the ability to ride properly and maintain poise and form, and reining, the ability of the rider to guide the horse through a set of patterns. Following a random draw process, Abernathy had only minutes with her horse before entering the arena.

"I can't tell you how extremely proud I am of Brittany and her accomplishment of winning AQHA High Point Rider," said Amanda Jones, NEO Equestrian head coach. "Not only did Brittany have to excel in Horsemanship but she also had to be just as competitive in Reining. Brittany came into NEO being very successful in the Horsemanship, but over the past year has worked extremely hard and has become just as competitive in the Reining. It is fun and rewarding to coach students like Brittany, because she pushes me just as much as I push her. NEO is lucky to have had her represent the school and equestrian program with class, professionalism, and drive to be the best."

Abernathy is from Indianola, Iowa and has been riding horses her entire life. She chose to visit NEO after competing in Tulsa and once on campus, decided to continue her successful high school career in college. Once in Miami, Abernathy began to train under Head Coach Amanda Jones.

"Coach [Jones] has been one of the most amazing blessings in my life. She has pushed me every single day to be the best I can be. Not only has she improved my horsemanship skills, she has taught me to have self-confidence. It has been an honor to be a part of such a great and successful team and we all owe it to Coach [Jones]. Without her countless hours of early morning practices, I wouldn't be celebrating such an amazing accomplishment. My goal in life is to make an impact on a young rider in a way that Amanda has on me."

Abernathy now attends lowa State, where she is majoring in Agronomy and hopes to eventually earn a Ph.D. and teach at a university. She continues to compete and promote equestrian sports.

It has been an honor to be a part of such a great and successful team and we all owe it to Coach Jones. Without her countless hours of early morning practices, I wouldn't be celebrating such an amazing accomplishment. My goal in life is to make an impact on a young rider in a way that Amanda has on me.

Brittany Abernathy, NEO Equestrian Team

"I believe the equestrian team has a spot for anyone and everyone. It allows people like myself who have been riding for many years to compete against very talented student athletes. It also allows students who have never even been on a horse to compete!"

She also acknowledged that the NEO administration has been critical in supporting agriculture co-curricular programs.

"I would just like to thank NEO and President Hale for allowing us to have this opportunity to compete in the sport we love. It would not be possible without them! I would also like to say congratulations to my other teammates who competed at nationals and all finished in the Top 10!"



NEO EQUESTRIAN CLAIMS REGIONAL TITLE

The NEO Equestrian Team claimed the IHSA Zone 7 Region 5 Title during the March 4 regional show. Along with outstanding team performances at the event, Sophomore Edson Varela was named as the Regional Reserve High Point Rider. After qualifying 19 students to compete in the event, ten placed in the top two in their division and will now travel to compete in the IHSA Western Semi-Final competition on March 17 and 18 in Galva, III.

"Thank you to all the team members, families, and friends that came to support the team this past weekend," said Coach Amanda Jones. "This group is pretty special and watching them ride and support each other is what it is all about!"

Coach Jones noted that this was the largest group NEO had ever qualified for Regionals and that this is also the largest group the we have sent to compete in the Semi-Finals.

"Each year we set the bar higher for our program and along with the ten students we have competing in the Semi-Finals, we have the opportunity for our team to qualify for Nationals.'

Regional Qualifiers: Samantha Clayton, Hannah Jenkins, Katie Daniels, Cheyenne Detherow, Kristan Hamilton, Lyndsey Harvey, Morgan Leeper, Nathania McKenzie, Baily Summers, Becca Garrett, Tanner Robertson, Andrea Althoff, Rachel Harper, Ashley McLaughlin, Carla Carfora, Trish Meyer, Edson Varela, Ashley Aden,

REGIONAL COMPETITION RESULTS:

HIGH POINT TEAM

RESERVE HIGH POINT INDIVIDUAL

Edson Varela

BEGINNER

First - Hannah Jenkins Second - Samantha Clayton

INTERMEDIATE II

First - Morgan Leeper Second - Baily Summers

First - Becca Garrett Second - Tanner Robertson

ADVANCED

First - Andrea Althoff Second - Ashley McLaughlin

OPEN

First - Carla Carfora Second - Dani Picard

REINING

First - Dani Picard Second - Edson Varela

This group is pretty special and watching them ride and support each other is what it is all about!

Amanda Jones, NEO Equestrian Coach



EQUINE JUDGING TEAM NAMED CHAMPIONS AT ALL-AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE CONGRESS

After earning Reserve Champions two years in a row at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress (AQHA Congress), students on the NEO Equine Judging Team recently travelled to Columbus, Ohio, and was named the 2017 All-American Quarter Horse Champion. Along with placing first in Halter, Performance, Reasons, and Overall classes, Sophomore Agriculture major Andrea Althoff earned High Individual Overall and Sophomore Agriculture major Lyndsey Harvey earned Reserve High Individual Overall.

"Hard work, perseverance, and no excuses are the phrases that describe this team!" said Amanda Jones, equine judging head coach. "They step up to every challenge they are faced with by their teammates, coach, and competitors. I am so proud of their individual and team success."

The AQHA Congress is the largest single breed horse show in the world. NEO judges dominated the team and individual competition, securing at least the top two spots in every individual category. Andrea Althoff, an Agriculture major from Palmyra, Mo., led the team with 824 points after finishing first in Reasons and Performance, while finishing second in Halter. She was followed closely by Lyndsey Harvey, an Agriculture major from Claremore, Okla., who beat out the third place competitor by one point.

HALTER PLACINGS OVERALL

Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo. - First Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Mo. - Second Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. - Third Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla. - Sixth Performance Placings Overall Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Mo. - First Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. -Second

Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla. - Eighth Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo. - Ninth

REASONS PLACING OVERALL

Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Mo. - First Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. -Second

Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo. - Fourth Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla. - Ninth Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. - Tenth Individual Placing Overall Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Mo. - First

Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Mo. - First Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. -Second

Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla. - Sixth Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo. - Ninth

They step up to every challenge they are faced with by their teammates, coach, and competitors. I am so proud of their individual and team success.



NEO REPEATS AS CHAMPION AT AQHA WORLD SHOW

The NEO Horse Judging team closed out their season with the 2017 American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) World Show Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest, where they repeated as the Champion team. The contest was held on November 12. in conjunction with the AOHA World Show in Oklahoma City. NEO competed against other two-year colleges such as Blackhawk East Community College, Cloud Community College, and Ellsworth Community College.

NEO fielded one team and six individuals for the contest. The NEO Gold Team, consisting of Andrea Althoff, Lyndsey Harvey, Trish Meyer, and Tanner Robertson took home the title of AQHA World Champions. The Gold Team also won first in halter, reasons, and overall categories, as well as second in performance. Edson Varela and Becca Garrett also competed in individual categories.

In addition to tremendous team success. NEO secured four of the top five individual score, with Andrea Althoff winning reserve high individual overall, followed by Lyndsey Harvey in third, Edson Varela in fourth, Trish Meyer in fifth, Becca Garrett in eighth, and Tanner Robertson in tenth.

"I can't tell you how incredibly proud I am of this group of students," said Coach Amanda Jones. "We set our goals high at the beginning of their season and they didn't let anything stand in the way of their success. It is an honor to coach such an elite group of students."

For their success, the team was award the AQHA Championship Trophy, belt buckles, jackets, and a \$2,000 scholarship.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

OVERALL

Second - Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Okla. Third - Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. Fourth - Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. Fifth - Trish Mever - Locust Grove, Okla. Eighth - Becca Garrett - Stillwell, Okla. Tenth - Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo.

First - Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. Second - Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. Third - Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo. Fourth - Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Okla. Seventh - Becca Garrett - Stillwell, Okla. Eighth - Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla.

PERFORMANCE

Second - Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Okla. Third - Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. Sixth - Trish Meyer - Locust Grove, Okla. Seventh - Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. Ninth - Becca Garrett - Stillwell, Okla. Tenth - Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo.

REASONS

First - Lyndsey Harvey - Claremore, Okla. Third - Andrea Althoff - Palmyra, Okla. Fifth - Edson Varela - Bixby, Okla. Seventh - Tanner Robertson - Ozark, Mo Tenth - Becca Garrett - Stillwell, Okla

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Amanda Jones, equine judging head coach

RODEO

NEO AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS AT ANNUAL ALUMNI/ RECRUITING RODEO

Officials from the NEO Agriculture Department and rodeo team awarded three scholarships at the Eighth Annual NEO Alumni/Recruiting Rodeo, with a full ride scholarship going to Logan Wiseman, High Point Winner and senior from Paola, Kan. The rodeo took place on Nov. 18 and hosted hundreds of contestants.

The day began with long rounds in several events and the top six competitors in the high school and alumni divisions made the short round, which started at 7 p.m. Over 300 riders competed at this year's rodeo. Alumnus Kory Keeth again served as the announcer for the rodeo. Students in NEO Agriculture programs ran sound, prepared the arena, and operated gates.

"The event seems to grow each and every year," said Rodeo Coach Kolby Ungeheuer. "I can't be more excited about the turnout and look forward to a great spring season for the NEO Rodeo Team."

Logan Wiseman from Paola was the high school high point winner, and NEO Rodeo Coach Kolby Ungeheuer awarded him a two-year full-tuition scholarship. The NEO Development Foundation also provided two \$500 book scholarships to Callie Keaton from Anderson, Mo., and Martie Shockley from Alma, Ark.

"This event is so successful thanks to the NEO staff and administration and their hard work," said Ungeheuer. "We have so many generous volunteers who not only help keep the rodeo on track, but serve as terrific ambassadors for NEO."



Logan Wiseman received a full ride NEO scholarship from Rodeo Coach Kobly Ungeheuer

We have so many generous volunteers who not only help keep the rodeo on track, but serve as terrific ambassadors for NEO.

Kolby Ungeheuer, Rodeo Coach

FULL RESULTS:

BAREBACK BRONCO

High School: Jayco Roper Alumni: Maverick Griffin - Kansas City, Mo.

SADDLE BRONCO

High School: Tyler Smith - Huntsville, Ark. Alumni: Rowdy Chesser - Goodwell, Okla.

CALF ROPING

High School: Tom Crouse - Gallatin, Mo. Alumni: Ben Piazza - Twin Oaks, Okla.

BREAKAWAY ROPING

High School: Halle Tathum - Pryor, Okla. Alumni: Emma Charleston - Carthage, Mo.

WRESTLING

High School: Logan Wiseman - Paola, Kan. Alumni: Bradley Ralph - Lann, Okla.

GOAT TYING

High School: Martie Shockley - Alma, Ark. Alumni: Sage Keener - Whitesboro, Texas

TEAM ROPING

High School: Jaden Trimble, Coffeyville, Kan., and Luke Line, Copan, Okla.

Alumni Team Roping- Cale Markham Vinita, OK + Buddy Hawkins Columbus, KS

BARREL RACING

High School: Kati Pendergrass - Beggs, Okla. Alumni: Shelby Hicks - Pocola, Okla.

BULL RIDING

High School: Hunter Tate - Riverton, Kan. Alumni: Maverick Griffin - Kansas City, Mo.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Overall Tuition Scholarship Winner: Logan Wiseman - Paola, Kan.

Book Scholarship Winners: Callie Keaton - Anderson, Mo., and Martie Shockley - Alma, Ark.



The NEO Rodeo Team competed in Colby, Kan., in September for the first regular season National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) rodeo, followed by Durant, Okla., in late September and Stillwater, Okla., in early October. Riders competed against schools in the Central Plains Region and NEO riders earned eight top-five finishes, with Amber Scales placing first in barrel racing in Colby and Ben Piazza placing third in tiedown roping in both Colby and Stillwater.

Scales is a freshmen Business Administration major from Pittsburg, Kan. She put herself in a comfortable position by finishing the Colby long round in fourth. Her lightning short-go performance earned her first place and puts her in the top 5 of the NIRA standings with 140 points. She is joined by Sage Keener, a freshman general studies major from Whitesboro, Texas, who earned a top ten finish in goat tying in Stillwater. The women's team has also rallied behind the experience of sophomore Shelby Hicks, an Agriculture major from Pocola, Okla. After a successful barrel racing season last year, Hicks placed fourth in the event at Durant.

For the men's team, Freshman Agriculture Major Ben Piazza from Twin Oaks, Okla., placed third in the Colby tie-down roping event, with a total time of 20.9 seconds over two rounds and a score of 110 points. Piazza also placed fourth in team roping in Durant and third in calf roping in Stillwater. He was joined by Freshman Steer Wrestler from Gowan, Okla., Steven Richmond. Richmond, an Agriculture major, was tenth in the long round at Colby with a time of 4.6 seconds, but fought his way back to claim fourth in the average by clocking a blazing 3.9 seconds in the short-go and scored 70 points. Richmond finished top five again in Stillwater. Their finishes place NEO in sixth place in the NIRA and third among two-year colleges.

During the next two rodeos, both new and familiar faces cracked the top ten, with sophomores Brady Hagler and Laramie Warren finishing top five in Stillwater. Hagler, a sophomore Agriculture major from Salem, Mo., placed fourth in team roping with freshman partner Ethan Griffin of Jay, Okla. Warren, a sophomore Agriculture major from Adair, Okla., placed fifth in calf roping. New blood included Ray Carlson, a freshman Criminal Justice major from Bristow, Okla., taking fifth in steer wrestling at Stillwater and Taylor Biggs, a freshman Agriculture major from Harrison, Ark., earning fourth in Durant's team roping event.

I'm very excited about how the Men's and Women's teams have gotten off to a great start this fall!" said Head Rodeo Coach Kolby Ungeheuer. "With three events completed, we have some students climbing their way to the top of the regional standings, towards a birth in the spring to the College National Finals Rodeo! Ben Piazza and Steven Richmond have both placed twice, and are in great shape!"

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Kolby Ungeheuer, Rodeo Coach



McFall, Shelby Hicks, Ben Piazza, Katelyn King, Laramie Warren, Amber Scales, Josh Pool, Britney Wiggins, Steven Richmond

The NEO spring Rodeo season continues as the team recently travelled to Weatherford, Okla., and Garden City, Kan., for the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and Garden City Community College Rodeos. Riders competed against schools in the Central Plains Region and NEO riders and the men's team won the junior college division at SWOSU, led by buckle winners Joshua Pool and Laramie Warren.

Pool, a sophomore from Fairland, has been a consistent top-ten finisher and he earned his buckle in tie-down roping with a total combined time of 18.9 seconds. After finishing fifth in the long round, he blazed back to take first in the short round and average. Laramie Warren, a sophomore steer wrestler from Adair, Okla., who has been a staple of NEO Rodeo, joined pool in earning a buckle. Placing fourth the long round, he fought to pick up first in the short round and the average.

Along with the buckle winners, Rowdy McFall earned second in team roping, Ben Piazza took third in tie-down roping, and Steven Richmond qualified for the short round in steer wrestling. Combined, the team scored 300 points, clearing Fort Scott Community College by thirty points and Colby Community College by nearly 250 points.

The men's team also several top-ten finishes at the Garden City Rodeo, with Pool taking fourth and Ben Piazza taking seventh in tie-down roping, Steven Richmond qualifying for the short round in steer wrestling, and Ethan Griffin and Brady Hagler qualifying for the short round in team

The NEO women also had success at the two rodeos. with Freshman Business Administration Major Amber Scales taking third at SWOSU and seventh at Garden City. Scales is currently sitting in fourth in the Central Plains Region. Along with Scales, Shelby Hicks qualified for the short round at SWOSU in barrel racing. Lauren Brock also made the short round in SWOSU for goat tying and Katelyn King made the short round in Weatherford in breakaway roping.

The event seems to grow each and every year. I can't be more excited about the t<mark>urnout and</mark> look forward to a great spring season for the NEO Rodeo Team.

Kolby Ungeheuer, Rodeo Coach



The NEO Rodeo Team made up nearly ten percent of the students honored at the NEO Honors Banquet in March. Twenty-three NEO Rodeo students were recognized for their academic achievements, including Sophomore Maggie Porter from Miami, who was named one of the Top-Ten Freshmen for work during her first year.

"I am excited by the sheer number of students we have on our team who received these honors," said Rodeo Head Coach Kolby Ungeheuer. "I'm so proud of how hard these students work in the arena and in the classroom to succeed at whatever they do."

Students at the NEO Honors Banquet are recognized for academic achievements, including being on the President's or Dean's Honor Rolls, being named a Top-Ten Freshman, being recognized with the Carl Rigney Athletic Award, or being a member of the Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. In all, eight students were PTK members and eight maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

I am excited by the sheer number of students we have on our have on our team who received these honors," said Rodeo Head Coach Kolby Ungeheuer. "I'm so proud of how hard these students work in the arena and in the classroom to succeed at whatever they do.

Kolby Ungeheuer, Rodeo Coach



Individual winners for the Livestock Judging Contest accept their awards.

NEO HOSTS HUNDREDS OF AREA STUDENTS FOR 67TH ANNUAL AGGIE DAYS

The Agriculture Department at NEO hosted the 67th annual 'Aggie Days' in March and hundreds of area students attended the yearly interscholastic agriculture contests. Students from all over the four-state area travelled to compete in a variety of events, from speech and plant taxonomy to livestock and meat judging. Aggie Days is open to any student who is a member of 4-H or FFA, and participants range in age from third grade to seniors in high school.

"Although our Aggie Days contest spans more than six decades, the events have evolved with the industry," said McKenzie Conner, Agriculture Department Chair. "This year's Aggie Day event included contests such as

Meat Evaluation (hosted at the newly unveiled Quapaw Tribe Meat Processing Facility) and Forestry (hosted by Oklahoma Forestry Services), along with 14 other agriculture and natural resource related competitions. This event provides excellent exposure for the programs and activities available at NEO in the field of agriculture."

The Adair FFA received first place in the Aggie Days sweepstakes division for multiple-teacher programs. They were followed by Owasso and Oklahoma Union. In the single-teacher division, Vinita FFA took first in the sweepstakes division, followed by Colcord and Chouteau. The winning chapters in each division were awarded a Viking Tuition Scholarship.

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McKenzie Conner, Agriculture Department Chair

AG STUDENTS LAND VALUABLE IN TERM SHIPS



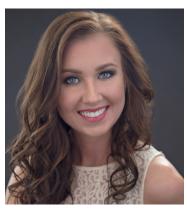
ANDREA ALTHOFF

Andrea has earned an internship with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension services. She will assist agronomist with day-to-day activities in the field concerning cotton, sorghum, corn, pecan, and watermelon production in West Texas. Many of these duties will include planting result demonstrations, plant-mapping cotton fields, writing reports, and more.



AMBER OERLY

Amber will serve as a summer intern for the Oklahoma
Department of Agriculture
Market Development Services in Oklahoma City. She will be assisting with the Ag in the Classroom Program by demonstrating ways to implement agriculture science into their education curriculum.



CAITLYN CARNAHAN

Caitlyn will be a summer intern with Bartlett Coop and NEO involving NEOs soybean research plots. She will assist with daily research and recording, and work with Coop managers to ensure that the plots are meeting research benchmarks.



ANNA BRIGHTWELL

Anna will have an educational research internship at Acoura in Edinburgh, Scotland. She will help with case studies and market developments to help increase food traceability and improve food assurance. She will conclude the internship by assisting at the annual Royal Highland show in Edinburgh.

2018





2018 AGRICULTURE FACULTY AND STAFF



MCKENZIE CONNER

Agriculture Department Chair

CHASE FAIRWEATHER

Natural Resource and Ecology Management Instructor

AMANDA JONES

Agriculture Instructor and Equestrian and Horse Judging Coach

ALISEN ANDERSON

Agriculture Instructor

TAYLOR GRAHAM

Agriculture Instructor and Livestock Judging Coach

JOHN MCMAIN

Farm Manager

KOLBY UNGEHEUER

Farm Manager and Rodeo Coach

ZEB KING

Adjunct Agriculture Instructor

BRITTANY PARKER

Administrative Assistant

