

# Field Notes

Growing Opportunities  
in Agriculture at Rhodes State

November 2024

*As the fall semester draws to a close, we want to thank you for being part of another successful season in the Rhodes State College Agricultural Technology Department. Field Notes will take a short break and return in January, ready to kick off an exciting spring semester filled with new opportunities and growth. Until then, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year!*

## Diggin' In



## Hands-On Learning in Integrated Pest Management

Students in Dr. Uphaus' Integrated Pest Management class recently got a hands-on lesson in sprayer calibration using a custom-built sprayer table, funded by the USDA NIFA AgREACH grant. This innovative tool allows students to measure liquid flow through various nozzle types and investigate factors that may cause inconsistencies.

Through these exercises, students observed how broken nozzles can disrupt spray patterns, emphasizing the critical importance of regular equipment maintenance. By directly engaging with these challenges, students gained valuable insights into how equipment performance impacts pest management efficacy and agricultural sustainability.

The sprayer table is just one example of how Rhodes State College's Agricultural Technology program prioritizes practical, customizable learning experiences. By integrating tools like this into the curriculum, the program ensures that students not only understand theoretical concepts but also retain the practical skills necessary for success in the field.

As agriculture evolves, Rhodes State remains committed to preparing students with the hands-on expertise needed to tackle real-world challenges. With the sprayer table, our students are learning to fine-tune their skills and elevate the standard of precision agriculture.

## What's on the Horizon?

### Lead the Change in Agriculture

Rhodes State College proudly presents the "Lead the Change in Agriculture" event on December 6th, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, designed to inspire and connect the next generation of agricultural leaders. This dynamic event brings together high school students with top agricultural employers for an engaging day filled with hands-on activities, demonstrations, and networking opportunities. Students will gain valuable insight into how their coursework translates into real-world agricultural careers, explore diverse career paths, and make connections that could shape their futures in this ever-evolving industry. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to unlock your potential and lead the change in agriculture. Register your students now!

[Click for the Form](#)

## Women in Ag

### Virtual Lunch and Learn Event with Bert Fisher

Rhodes State College wraps up its Women in Ag Lunch and Learn series for the year with an engaging virtual event on December 19th, from noon to 1:00 PM.

This session features Bert Fisher, a Precision Technician from Koenig Equipment, who has built an impressive career in agricultural technology.

Bert is a graduate of Owen's Community College, where he completed the John Deere Technician program. His passion for problem-solving and innovation led him to specialize in precision agriculture, where he now excels in troubleshooting advanced agricultural equipment. From optimizing machinery to helping farmers utilize cutting-edge technology, Bert's work plays



a critical role in modernizing farming practices and enhancing efficiency in the field.

During this session, Bert will share his career journey, highlighting how his technical training evolved into a fulfilling role in precision agriculture. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the growing field of ag-tech, learn about the challenges and rewards of precision troubleshooting, and discover how technology is transforming the industry.

Educators are encouraged to host a class watch party, allowing students to bring their lunch and join in this interactive learning experience. Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and be inspired by Bert's expertise. Email Danielle Banks at [banks.d@rhodesstate.edu](mailto:banks.d@rhodesstate.edu) to register!



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