

Prairie Agriculture Education and FFA Kick-Off Event

The College Community School District has long considered the establishment of an Ag Ed/FFA program on its campus. Several months ago Prairie Parents were surveyed to determine their interest in such a program. That survey delivered a resounding yes to the need for and interest in such a program.

Once the district made the commitment to establish the program the Prairie School Foundation was called on to help finance the launch of the program. The Foundation's Director, Randy Rumery, joined with members of the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee to compile a list of potential donors.

One of the committee members, Dwight Hughes, was first to step forward with a gift of \$1,000 for each of his five grandchildren for a total of \$5,000. Another committee member, Steve Bohr, contributed a portion of his harvested grain. Several other members, including Dean Schrader and Niki Frese, joined Rumery for donor visits with a number of local ag businesses.

Meetings with Patrick Duerksen of Cargill and Lori Kramer of Diamond V provided the best yield with a \$150,000 commitment. Those gifts, plus over a dozen more, from local individuals and businesses provided a significant launch for the program.

Members of the Prairie community, including many of the donors, joined district representatives, the new Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor Erica Baier, and student representatives of the FFA Chapter on October 5 to celebrate this new component of Prairie's educational offerings. Over 100 students enrolled in the Agricultural Education Classes this fall.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Agricultural Education/FFA Program Launch.

From left to right: Taryn Hosek, Ag Ed student and FFA member; Patrick Duerksen, Cargill; Lori Kramer, Diamond V; Randy Rumery, Prairie School Foundation; Randy Bauer, President, College Community School Board; Niki Freese, Ag Education Advisory Committee; Dr. Doug Wheeler, Superintendent, College Community Schools, Dwight Hughes, Ag Education Advisory Committee and Eric Townsley, Chair, Ag Education Advisory Committee.