

PSS Staff Meeting
March 6 and 7, 2023

I. Congratulations

Staff Development Awards: Kenneth Clayton to attend the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Orlando, FL.

II. Staff/Faculty Position Updates

- a. Staff hires – Shawn Simpson (Rebecca McCulley), Ben Currens (Brad Lee), Vivienne Main (Brad Lee), Tim Salzman (Luke Moe), Magdalena Ricciardi (Bob Pearce), Ji Min Shin (Tomo Kawashima)
- b. Staff departures – Jessica MacLeod, Ann Freytag, Steve Jones
- c. Faculty searches:
 - i. Soil Micro – interviews concluded Friday, 3/3. Search committee is soliciting feedback.
 - ii. Molecular Weed/Bio – posting has closed and applications are under review.
 - iii. Extension Soil Scientist – will be advertised through next week
 - iv. Ag/Environmental Informatics – still waiting on Provost approval. Anticipate it will post June/July.
 - v. Plant Reproduction Biology – approved. Anticipate it will post June/July.

III. Updates – General

- a. Research – RCR trainings should be completed by the end of May. Thanks to Jim Nelson and Natalia Martin for hosting the training sessions.
- b. Farm Updates
 - i. North Farm Service Center – trying to hire 2nd mechanic
 - ii. North Farm Greenhouse – assessing damage from the 3/3 high winds.
 - iii. UKREC has new temporary office and lab structures. Installation of other new infrastructure should occur soon including new tobacco barns.
- c. Other infrastructure updates:
 - i. ASN - N122 work related to the December freeze should be wrapping up by the end of April
 - ii. New autoclaves should arrive in PSB in May. At that time some of the old units will be transitioned to HORT.
 - iii. New growth chamber is being purchased and needs additional space in the greenhouse. Older/non-functioning units will be assessed and eliminated if necessary.
- d. Reminders
 - i. Allowances/incentives must be spent by mid-May
 - ii. Sign up for UK appreciation day T-shirts. It will be held May 25th.
 - iii. Abbreviated 6 week seminar schedule planned for the semester to accommodate faculty interviews.