USU Students Practice Skills and Philanthropy with Donated Tractor

Shelby Ruud

02/20/2018

Members of the Ag Tech Club, part of Utah State University’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, routinely gain first-hand knowledge and experience with agricultural machinery in their classes. But they are currently working on restoring a donated tractor that is giving them technical experience and will support more learning opportunities for themselves and others.

The project is giving agricultural machinery or agricultural systems technology students at USU skills that will be beneficial to their future careers in the agricultural industry, according to Royce Hatch, the club advisor and agricultural systems technology instructor.

“The agricultural industry relies on machinery to be fast and efficient,” Hatch said. “Our students are learning how to best take care of those machines, and that is so important for the world’s food supply.”

The tractor was donated by a generous farmer and Aggie alumnus from Tremonton who recently upgraded to a newer tractor.

Once the tractor’s repairs are completed, it will be sold and the proceeds used to help support trips for club members to visit agricultural manufacturers and connect to future careers. The club will also donate part of the tractor sale’s proceeds to the college’s Alumni Scholarship where it will be combined with other donations to endow scholarships for years to come.

Though Hatch is the club advisor, he says the real guidance on the project comes from students.

“The club’s primary goal is to teach leadership skills,” Hatch said. “Students work with other students to direct, teach and work as a team.”

Restoring the tractor is not the only project the club is working on. Since the club was founded in 1970, hands-on projects have been a big focus. Currently the club members are welding and repairing a Ford Model A, fixing the axle and transmission on a Ford 8N tractor, and painting a Ford 4600 tractor.

For more information about agricultural technology programs and the Ag Tech Club at USU, visit aste.usu.edu.