

Acquaintance Day Tour of Fusion Tech



Back on Monday, April 3rd, nearly twenty students from Monmouth-Roseville and West Central High School FFA Chapters attended a Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau® Acquaintance Day event.

Acquaintance Days programs are held to help foster relationships between FFA Chapters and Farm Bureau and show ways students can become involved with the organization.

This event started off with a morning tour of Fusion Tech located southwest of Roseville. Fusion Tech is a custom food processing equipment manufacturer. Fusion Tech designs, fabricates, installs, and services custom lines and equipment for the food processing industry. Started in 1998 in a two-car garage with three employees, Fusion Tech has now grown into a facility of over 80,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space complete with a drafting and design office and near 100 employees. The company is headquartered in Roseville and has a satellite engineering office in Des Moines, Iowa. Fusion Tech does business all over the country as well as internationally; some of the companies Fusion Tech has partnered with include Smithfield, Kellogg's, Tyson, Kraft, and Cargill.

When the Chapters arrived at the facility, they were greeted by Dan Bentz, After Sales Manager, and Ben Peterson, Innovation Center Manager for Fusion Tech Integrated. Dan went over the history of the company before taking students on a tour of the many buildings on the grounds. Shown on the tour were things such as their water jet and laser, their deburring machine, CNC milling, as well as live examples of an assembly line and other projects that were in the process of completion. One thing taken away from the tour seemed to be that regardless of industry or ask, Fusion Tech seems up to the task to trying to design and create a solution for their customers.

Ben Peterson ended the tour by showing the students the Innovation Center he leads. The Innovation Center includes processing equipment for various animals (beef, pork, veal, poultry) as well as a 2-truck smokehouse/dehydrator. The group was even treated to some beef jerky processed at the facility.

Questions were answered in a side classroom before the tour concluded. It was mentioned to the students that many skillsets are needed at Fusion Tech and there are a lot of career opportunities available. Some of the areas mentioned were engineering, designing, welding, marketing, HR, sales, etc. Current job openings can be found at ftiinc.org under the *View Open Positions* tab.

After the tour, students headed to the Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau auditorium for lunch and listened to Justin Allaman, W-HFB Young Leader Chair, Ag Education Coordinator, Anna Sharp, and W-HFB Manager Gina Sanberg talk about the opportunities and benefits of Farm Bureau. Opportunities mentioned included scholarships, the IFB Young Leaders Conference, the ALOT (Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow) program, Young Farmers and Ranchers awards contests, networking, being involved in the community, and engaging in issues that affect farmers' livelihoods.

You can learn more about Fusion Tech Integrated and the work they do by visiting ftiinc.org, searching for them on **Facebook**, or by searching them on **YouTube**. They have a wide array of videos which show their facilities and some of their daily work and research being done in the innovation center. A big thank you goes out to Dan and Ben for giving such an interesting tour of Fusion Tech and sharing their knowledge with local FFA students!



Dan Bentz showed FFA students an example of a conveying line designed and created for the meat processing industry at Fusion Tech's facility outside Roseville. The April 3rd tour was part of the Acquaintance Day W-HFB sponsored for local chapters.



Ben Peterson, Innovation Center Manager for Fusion Tech Integrated, explained some of the research that goes on in Fusion Tech's processing facility and smokehouse. Students were even treated to some made in-house beef jerky.