

Once again, we're looking forward to lots of events with you!


Dear Sir/Madam,

Now that the Corona Pandemic has subsided, it's possible to hold more face-to-face events. We were particularly delighted to be able to hold the presentation ceremony for our Foundation Awards in October with all the winners, the panel of judges, and the Board of Trustees.

The restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus have had an impact on all of us in our daily lives, but it was children in particular who suffered most. Which makes it all the more gratifying that we can now resume our projects with schools. The great passion that the young technicians brought to the competitions "Hands on Technik" and "Ag Tech Competition" was a joy for us. The garden project carried out in collaboration with the GemüseAckerdemie programme at the school Gymnasium Harsewinkel showed us how much we'd all missed community ventures.

We all hope that we'll be able to hold our events without restrictions this year too. As always, a highlight will be the presentation of the Foundation Awards in October. And in November, after an interruption of four years – the Agritechnica will be held once again. For the first time, the CLAAS Foundation will also be represented at the world's biggest agricultural technology fair. If you're visiting the event in Hannover, feel free to drop in! You'll find us at the CLAAS booth. We'd be delighted to have you, as always.

With warmest regards,



Sylvia Looks

Frank Klüsener

CLAAS Foundation Executive Board



The winning scholars met luminaries such as Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser for a group photo.

2022 award ceremony

CLAAS Foundation honours budding talent

This year, once again, the CLAAS Foundation awarded prizes with a total value of around €50,000 to students from agricultural and engineering faculties in recognition of their outstanding final theses.

The winners received their prizes at the CLAAS Greenhouse in Harsewinkel, Germany on 19 October. Students who won the main prizes also gave concise presentations outlining their theses. Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser, Chair of the Board of Trustees since 2021, was delighted to welcome another batch of young researchers from seven European countries and Africa. "Talents from the fields of agriculture and engineering are vital to overcome the challenges we're currently facing and will continue to face going forward", said Claas-Mühlhäuser.

This year's awards included one new category: The AgTEx Doctoral Thesis Prize is awarded to a second-year doctoral student for research into agricultural machinery and mechanisation, tractors and engines or automation and electronics.

The main prizes were scholarships, which went to the following winners:

1st prize: Patricia Ulbricht came first with her bachelor's thesis on regenerative agriculture, which she wrote at the University of Leipzig. She can look forward to financial support totalling €7,200.

2nd prize: Paul Speitelsbach from the University of Hohenheim worked on the construction of a tine-based traction system for lightweight robots in field use. His thesis took second place with prize money of €6,000.

3rd prize: Richard Geary, a student at Harper Adams University in Britain, won third prize. His thesis, entitled "Maize Belongs to the Farmer, Not the Field", investigates the optimisation of harvesting technology and earned him a grant of €4,800.

4th prize: Lasse Clausen analysed the use of a CLAAS combine harvester in the field. The graduate from Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences received €3,600 in prize money.

You can find the announcement for the Helmut Claas Scholarship 2023 at claas-foundation.com

Agricultural technology doctorate prize awarded for the first time

AgTE_X Doctoral Thesis Prize

In October 2022, a new category was added to the Foundation Awards: From now on, the AgTE_X Doctoral Thesis Prize will be awarded once every two years to a PhD candidate in the second year of their thesis researching agricultural machinery and mechanisation, tractors and engines, or automation and electronics.

Malte von Bloh is the first winner of the new prize, which is endowed with €5,000. In his doctoral thesis at the Technical University of Munich, von Bloh researches the digital monitoring of plants.

The winner is chosen by a panel of judges comprising three respected experts on agriculture and agricultural technology. They evaluate all submissions for the newly introduced dissertation prize. Deadline for submission of the application documents (in English) for the next round is 1 July 2024. You can find more on the terms and conditions at [claas-foundation.com](https://www.claas-foundation.com).

The patron of the award is Dr Hermann Garbers, Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees.



Malte von Bloh was the first winner of the new thesis prize.



At Gymnasium Harsewinkel

School project week with GemüseAckerdemie

Many schools have an open-air “green classroom”, but there tends to be little teaching of active horticulture in them. The CLAAS Foundation, in cooperation with the organisation GemüseAckerdemie (a pun meaning something like “Vegetable Field Academy”) want to change this and are offering students at the secondary school in Harsewinkel practical experience in vegetable cultivation.

As part of a week-long project in October 2022, the students dug a pond and built raised beds. CLAAS production facilities had provided the wood for these in the form of Euro-pallets.



Reclaimed pallets were used for the main structure of the raised beds – a sustainable choice of building material.

The school garden is intended to help students from years seven and eight gain a better feeling for nature and learn how to produce and market food. “We’re really happy about this garden, because it’s a brilliant addition to our sponsorship projects, which are otherwise mostly about engineering”, says Sylvia Looks from the Foundation’s Executive Board. “And it fits perfectly with our idea that the young generation should take an interest in agricultural issues as early as possible. This programme is also set to run for several years, which is another way we help ensure sustainability”. The CLAAS Foundation’s main intention for this initiative is to actively contribute towards increasing the younger generations’ understanding of agriculture.

What is “GemüseAckerdemie”?

“GemüseAckerdemie” is an educational programme by the charity Acker e.V., which was initiated and founded by Dr Christoph Schmitz in 2014. As part of a multi-year, hands-on educational programme, children and young people cultivate up to 30 varieties of vegetables in the field.

The newly designed school garden also includes a pond.

“Hands on Technik” and “AgTech Competition”

With fun and finesse

The CLAAS Foundation regularly supports projects in which school students can put their technical skills to the test. Shortly before the 2022 summer holidays, teams from four schools in northern Germany had the chance to show off their engineering and driving abilities. With remote-controlled tractors, they mastered a series of tasks on an obstacle course that was set up at CLAAS Weser-Ems GmbH in Molbergen, Germany. In the run-up to the competition, each school received class sets containing 20 metal tractor construction kits, which were assembled during lessons. “Our aim is to instil a feel for technology, natural sciences, mathematics and IT at the schools as early as possible. Also, we want engineering to be fun, and the best way to have fun is with other people”, says Sylvia Looks from the Executive Board of the CLAAS Foundation. At the end, the team “TrekkerBres 1” took top place on the podium and won 300 euros for its class fund; second prize and 200 euros went to “Agrartechnik Wirkner”; “Team Lilpeep” was in third place with 100 euros.



Full concentration was needed to remote-control the tractors.

The “AgTech Competition” was also an opportunity for secondary schools to enter teams and compete against each other. The schools from North Rhine-Westphalia were kitted out in advance by the CLAAS Foundation with mBot construction kits from Makeblock. After the mBots had been programmed in school clubs or teaching units, CLAAS invited the teams to a competition in Harsewinkel in November 2022.



The mBots challenged the students’ programming and engineering skills – and were a lot of fun.

+++ News in brief +++

+++ The Chair of Agricultural Engineering and New Technologies at the University of LaSalle in Beauvais, France, and the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Hohenheim are continuing the collaboration they started in the 2020/21 winter semester with new projects. More university twinning programmes are being established.



The project involved the construction of a drone charging station.

+++ Philipp Pinn, from Britain, the bonus winner of the 2021 Helmut Claas Scholarship, took advantage of his visit to Germany to visit the Technoparc in Harsewinkel with his father. He was greeted by Sylvia Looks as well as Fynn Lammers (Helmut Claas Scholarship 2021) and Molly Robson (Harper Adams University and currently student in the advanced development team at CLAAS).



Philipp Pinn (second from left) visiting the Technoparc.