

# Animal Science Weekly

April 13, 2009



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### Forrest Appointed Associate Head



COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS – Dr. David Forrest was appointed Associate Head for Academic Programs effective March 15, 2009. He has been a member of the department's faculty since 1980, most recently as Professor and Leader of the Physiology of Reproduction Section.

In his new role, Dr. Forrest will be responsible for serving as graduate advisor and overseeing the administration of the undergraduate and graduate instructional programs. In addition, he will represent the faculty to university and agency administrators, state and federal agency personnel and industry clientele. Dr. Forrest brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position, and we are pleased to welcome him to the administrative team. His office will be located in Kleberg 133, and he may be contacted at 845-1543 or at [d-forrest@tamu.edu](mailto:d-forrest@tamu.edu).

### Bilby Gives Presentation at Brazil's Dairy and Beef Conference

Dr. Todd Bilby gave three presentations at the "XIII Curso Novos Enfoques na Produção e Reprodução de Bovinos," which is Brazil's largest dairy and beef conference held in Uberlandia, MG, Brazil. His presentations were titled "Effects of Recombinant Growth Hormone on Fertility: Dependence Upon Seasonal Variations, Dosage Differences and Lactational Status," "Pharmacological, Nutritional and Managerial strategies to Improve Fertility during heat stress in Lactating Dairy Cows" and "Improving Fertility

in the Repeat Breeder." There were more than 1600 people in attendance which included professors, producers and graduate students.

### Curley Honored with U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Award

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (April 2, 2009) – Kevin O. Curley, Jr., a doctoral candidate co-advised by Drs. Ron Randal and Tom Welsh of the physiology of reproduction section, was one of seven outstanding doctoral students honored with the U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Award. The award was presented by the TAMU Office of Graduate Studies at a reception in Rudder Tower on April 2.

Each student selected for this award must concurrently exemplify excellence in both research and teaching endeavors. The other six award recipients were from the departments of marketing, political science, biomedical engineering, sociology, chemistry and industrial systems engineering.



*Photo courtesy of Jean Wulfson*

Kevin O. Curley, Jr., (center) received the U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Award from Dr. Jeffery S. Vitter, (left), provost and executive vice president for academics, and Dr. Robert C. Webb, interim dean, office of graduate studies.

## Team Earns Silver Award at Dairy Challenge



(Front row) Katherine Maples and Shay McDonald.  
(Back row) Coach Scott Holloway, Luke Gallegos and Neal Frerichs.

SYRACUSE, NEWYORK (March 30, 2009) - A team of four students from Texas A&M University won a Silver Award in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held March 27 - 28 in Syracuse, NY. The team coached by Scott Holloway consisted of Neal Frerichs, La Grange; Luke Gallegos, Dalhart; Katherine Maples, Sugarland; and Shay McDonald, Davis, Calif. A total of 29 teams from the United States and two from Canada competed in the eighth annual event, hosted by the Northeast Region NAIDC committee.

Dairy Challenge was designed by professionals from the allied dairy industry and university educators to bring classroom training to life in the real world for students preparing for dairy careers. The team spent two days combing through cow and farm management data, financial records, conducted an on-site evaluation and then interviewed the farm owner. The team presented ideas to increase efficiency and profitability for the herd owner and were judged on their analysis of the operation, recommendations and overall presentation.

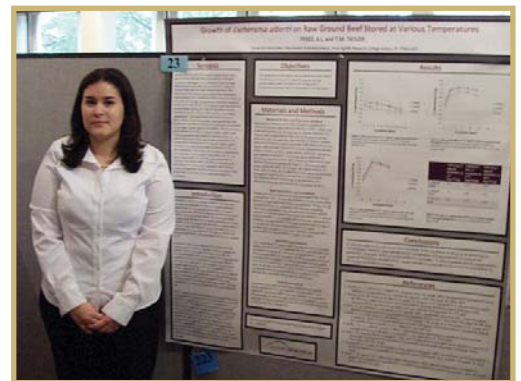
## Graduate Students Win 1st, 2nd in Research Competition

Four graduate students in the department of animal science were winners in the 12th annual Texas A&M University Graduate Student Council-sponsored Student Research Week held on the A&M campus March 23-27, 2009.

Alex Brandt, (pictured right, top) a master of science candidate in food science and technology, received first place overall among all graduate student posters in the taxonomy of microbiology division. Brandt's poster entitled, "*In vitro* inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* with acidic calcium sulfate combined with nisin or epsilon-poly-L-lysine," described the capacity of experimental antimicrobials to exert inhibitory effects on the foodborne pathogen when applied singly or in combination. He received a certificate and a \$300 award. Brandt was also recognized with the Environmental Health and Safety Department Safety Recognition Award for his research. His research was sponsored by the National Pork Checkoff.



Keila Perez, (pictured right, bottom) master of science candidate in food science and technology, received second place for her poster in the taxonomy of microbiology division. Her poster entitled, "Growth of *Escherichia albertii* on raw ground beef stored at various temperatures," described the rates of growth of individual strains of the emerging potential foodborne pathogen on raw ground beef stored under refrigeration, abuse and physiological temperature. Perez received a certificate and a \$150 award. Her research was sponsored by Texas Agrilife Research.



Brandt and Perez are each completing their degrees under the direction of Dr. Matthew Taylor, assistant professor of food microbiology in the meat science section in the department of animal science. Both students will be presenting their research at this year's International Association of Food Protection annual meeting July 12-15 at the Gaylord Hotel and Resort in Grapevine, TX.

Jungwoo Choi, doctoral candidate in animal breeding and genetics, won first place in the poster competition for his research presentation entitled, "Identification of signatures of selection in *Bos taurus* beef and dairy cattle using genome-wide SNP genotypes." He was also awarded first place for the genetics taxonomy.

Sarah Vitanza, a master candidate in animal breeding and genetics, won second place for the genetics taxonomy for her poster entitled, "Expression of candidate genes for horn growth in early bovine development."

Choi and Vitanza are each completing their degrees under the direction of Dr. Clare Gill, associate professor in the animal science department.



## 4-H and FFA Students Participate in Judging Competition

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (March 28, 2009) – More than 300 4-H and FFA students participated in the annual Texas A&M University Meat Judging Clinic at the Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center March 28. The students had an opportunity to evaluate 12 placing classes, beef carcasses for grading and over 100 retail cuts for identification. In addition animal science department hosts Ray Riley, Davey Griffin and Dan Hale were assisted by current and future meat judging team members and coaches in conducting “how-to” mini-clinics on each segment of the meat judging contest during the morning.



## Calkins Named Educator of the Year

WASHINGTON, DC (March 30, 2009) - University of Nebraska's Dr. Chris Calkins received the Educator of the Year Award from the North American Meat Processors Association (NAMP) in March at its Meat Industry Management Conference in Chicago, IL. Calkins is the Nebraska Beef Industry Professor of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE. He received his B.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in Animal Science with an emphasis in meat science and muscle biology.

## Recent Publications

Kim, Y.H., J. T. Keeton, H.S. Yang, S.B. Smith, J.E. Sawyer, and J.W. Savell. 2009. Color stability and biochemical characteristics of bovine muscles when enhanced with L- or D-potassium lactate in high-oxygen modified atmospheres. *Meat Sci.* 82:234-240.

## Upcoming Events

Department of Animal Science Special Seminar (April 16, 2009 - 9:00 a.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) Dr. Ryan Rathmann, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Texas Tech University, will present “*Teaching: Prioritizing the student investment*” and “*Research: Zilpaterol hydrochloride increases lean tissue deposition in beef steers through alteration of skeletal muscle gene expression factors.*”

Parents' Weekend (April 17-18, 2009) schedule of events.

- April 17:** All day - Parents' Weekend Cookoff (*Pearce Pavilion*)  
 5:00 p.m. - Little Southwestern (*Pearce Pavilion*)  
 7:00 p.m. - Ham Auction (*Pearce Pavilion*)
- April 18:** 8:00 a.m. - Little Southwestern (*Pearce Pavilion*)  
 5:00 p.m. - Scholarship Banquet (*Brazos County Exposition Center*)  
 6:00 p.m. - Awards Banquet (*Brazos County Exposition Center*)

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (April 22, 2009 - 11:30 a.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas Agrilife Extension, will present. For more information, please contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham <tryon@tamu.edu>.



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