

Animal Science Weekly

October 19, 2009



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Livestock Judging Team wins first, third at Tulsa State Fair

TULSA, OKLAHOMA – Texas A&M University's livestock judging team won the Tulsa State Fair Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest on October 10 in Tulsa, Okla.

The Texas A&M maroon team of Dustin Keith of Lincoln; Jacob Thorne of Winters, Calif.; Chris Cassady of Ancona, Ill.; Ryan Malone of Abingdon, Ill.; and Kobe Davis of Willis, all seniors, won the competition by scoring 4,694 points, just two points ahead of second place Oklahoma State University.

The Texas A&M white team finished third with senior team members Brenden Benson of Winters, Calif.; Aaron Jennings of Fredonia; John Avellar of Winters, Calif.; Katie Fields of Mount Pleasant; and Jesse Beckett of Winters, Calif., scoring 4,680 points.

Blake Bloomberg and Zach Rambo, both graduate students in the Department of Animal Science, coach the team.

"This team has proven time and time again that they are the most consistent in the country, winning Denver, Fort Worth, Houston, and now Tulsa," said Bloomberg. "I'm extremely proud of

them, and both Zach and I both feel we are in a great position for the rest of the fall."

In addition to the first and third place team members, Jay Behrens of Voca; Joellyn Donough of Manheim, Pa.; Brandon Freel of Washington, Iowa; Kim Hardan of Snohomish, Wash.; Billy Moczygemba of Karnes City; Thor Patton of Silverton; Lindsay Swick of Franklin; and Michelle Whalen of Colleyville competed in the individual competition. Keith earned the second highest individual score with Benson finishing fourth high; Jennings, seventh; and Donough, eighth.

The livestock judging team, coordinated by Dr. Chris Skaggs and Jake Franke, train in presentation of reasons and livestock evaluation, including the selection of beef cattle, swine, sheep, goats and horses.

The team will travel to Kansas City on October 31 to compete in the American Royal Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest and will close the fall competition season on November 16 in Louisville, KY, at the International Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest.

Horse Judging Team earns Reserve Champion at Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA – The TAMU Horse Judging Team earned the Reserve Champion title at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City on October 16, 2009.

The Texas A&M maroon team scored 1527 points overall, missing Grand Champion by one point to William Woods University. Mississippi State University was third (1526) and the Texas A&M white team finished fourth (1517).

Team member Erin Grace of Milton, Fla, finished first high individual (532), while Kat Dehaan of Twin Falls, Idaho, finished third high (516), Amy Stewart, of Lake Jackson, eighth (511), and Adrienne Pacquet of Plano, 11th (509).

Dr. Clay Cavinder, assistant professor and horse judging team coach, said this contest was a great opportunity for the younger team members to gain experience.

(Horse Judging Team continued page 2)



<http://www.facebook.com/tamuanimalscience>

Horse Judging Team (cont.)

"This was only the second contest for a few of our team members but I think they gained a lot of confidence and momentum going into the judging year," Cavinder said. "Our goal is to be more prepared and experienced for the three biggest contests: the NRHA Futurity, AQHA Congress and the AQHA World. We will judge at the NRHA Futurity in December, but we will have another year to prepare for the Congress and World."

Second place Texas A&M maroon team members consisted of Erin Grace; Ari Sear of Simonton; Leslie Wagner of McAllen; and Amy Heartfield of Belton. Fourth place Texas A&M white team members were Lauren Fulce, Irving; Amanda Zuniga of Charlotte; Adrienne Pacquet of Plano; and Brooke Byrd of Helotes.

Teri Antilley and Jeannette Mawyer are assistant coaches.

Students on the horse judging team learn analytical and critical thinking, judgment, and written and oral



communication. The team is designed for students interested in equine selection and performance evaluation.

The team heads to Tulsa, Okla., on October 28 to compete in the Arabian Horse Grand Nationals.

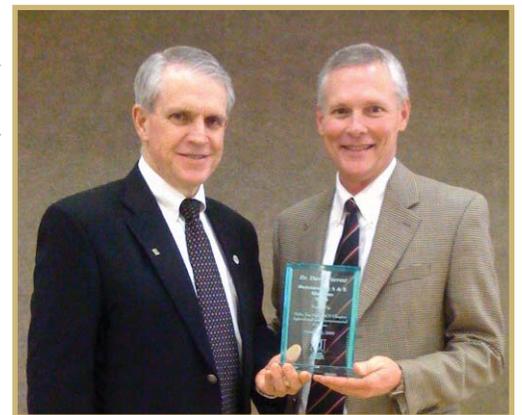
Forrest named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year

ABILENE, TEXAS – Dr. David Forrest, professor and associate head for academic programs in the Department of Animal Science, was named the Outstanding A&E Alumnus of the Year by Abilene Christian University Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

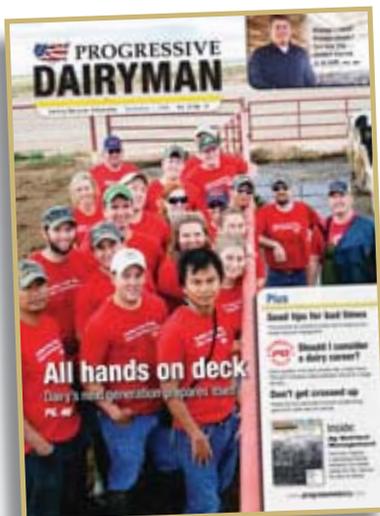
Forrest received this award on October 17, 2009 at the department's homecoming banquet.

Forrest earned a bachelor's of science degree in animal science in 1974. While a student at ACU, Forrest was a member of the livestock, wool and dairy cattle judging teams and served as President of the Aggie Club. He was assistant coach for the livestock judging team under Dr. Edwin Dubose.

Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, Forrest was accepted in the graduate program at Texas A&M University and completed a master's degree in physiology of reproduction in 1976. He continued graduate study at the University of Wyoming and received a doctoral degree in reproductive physiology in 1979.



Dr. David Forrest, left, receives the Outstanding A&E Alumnus of the Year Award from Dr. Foy Mills, Jr., chair of the A&E department.



Making HeadLines...

Students of the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium - Teaching were featured on the September 1, 2009 cover of the *Progressive Dairyman* magazine. The magazine highlights student comments regarding the hands-on field training and lectures taught during the conference held in Clovis, NM, May 18 - June 28, 2009. These comments can be viewed **here** or at http://www.progressivedairy.com/pd/features/2009/1309/1309_sgpdc_learning.html. Texas A&M University is a member of this 11-university organization that strives to meet the educational needs of the dairy industry in the Southern Great Plains. Animal science faculty Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, professor and dairy specialist emeritus, is chair of the steering group for the teaching consortium, and Dr. Glenn Holub, assistant professor, is on the committee. The consortium provides a formal structure for teaching, a large herd dairy management since no university in the region has the necessary resources to meet the expanding needs of the dairy industry. Please visit <http://sgpdct.tamu.edu> to learn more about the teaching consortium.

Vogelsang chosen to watch cadets pass in review

COLLEGE STATION -- Dr. Martha Vogelsang's involvement with the Parsons Mounted Cavalry recently landed her a stint on Kyle Field and breakfast in the presence of the former president of the United States.

Vogelsang, a senior lecturer in equine science, along with her husband Stephen were invited by the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne to the reviewing stand on Kyle Field before the October 12 match-up between Texas A&M and Oklahoma State. She also was asked to fire the Spirit of '02 cannon at the start of the football game. Military officers, dignitaries, and invited guests view the Corps of Cadets as they march on the track around the stadium and "pass in review" where they are evaluated on their proper military appearance and style.

Since 1989, Vogelsang has served as an advisor and instructor for more than 450 cadets of the Parsons Mounted Cavalry, the horse cavalry unit of the Corps of Cadet.

"I have been working with the cadets in Parsons Mounted Cavalry for 20 years to help them learn proper horsemanship, horse care and safety," Vogelsang said. "Most people do not realize that the majority of the cadets in the cavalry have little horse experience, so it is imperative they have structured training and time to develop those skills before they perform in public."

"I felt really honored to be asked to watch the cadets pass in review and then get to fire the cannon that they are so well-known for being in charge. Teaching students who have little prior experience with horsemanship is generally a rewarding experience because they tend to soak up new information like a sponge," she added.

Earlier in the day, the Vogelsangs attended the TAMU President's Buffet for breakfast and met Former President George H.W. Bush (#41). Former President Bush also appeared on the reviewing stand.



Frank Litterst, front right, a 1943 graduate in animal husbandry, also was invited to the reviewing stand. He was recognized during the game for being named a 2009 Distinguished Alumnus by the Association of Former Students.



Photos courtesy of Bruce Bockhorn



Cuervo takes top honors in poster presentation

BERLIN, GERMANY – Mary Pia Cuervo, a doctoral student working under the direction of Dr. Alex Castillo, won first place for her poster presentation while at the European Symposium of the International Association for Food Protection in Berlin, Germany Oct.7-9, 2009. Cuervo's poster showed the latest studies using the Maxim Chamber, a device developed in Dr. Castillo's laboratory, and the Electron Beam Center, which applies superficial irradiation treatments on carcasses and on any food or material with irregular surface, achieving an even dose distribution regardless of the shape of the material. Dr. Castillo also attended the symposium.

Aggie REPS to host breakfast taco fiesta October 23



Animal Science faculty and staff are invited to a breakfast taco fiesta on Friday, October 23, 2009 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Kleberg Faculty Lounge. The breakfast is hosted by the Aggie REPS as a way to say thank you to all the department's faculty and staff.

Recent publications

Kochan, K. J., R. N. Vaughn, T. S. Amen, C. A. Abbey, J. O. Sanders, D. K. Lunt, A. D. Herring, J. E. Sawyer, C. A. Gill, and P. K. Riggs. 2009. Expression of mitochondrial respiratory complex genes in liver tissue of cattle with different feed efficiency phenotypes. *Proc Assoc Advmt Anim Breed Genet.* 18:175-178.

Satterfield, M. C., G. Song, K. J. Kochan, P. K. Riggs, R. M. Simmons, C. G. Elsik, D. L. Adelson, F. W. Bazer, H. Zhou, and T. E. Spencer. 2009. Discovery of candidate genes and pathways in the endometrium regulating ovine blastocyst growth and conceptus elongation. *Physiol Genomics* 39:85-99.

Boler, D. D., S. F. Holmer, F. K. McKeith, J. Killefer, D. L. VanOverbeke, G. G. Hilton, R. J. Delmore, J. L. Beckett, J. C. Brooks, R. K. Miller, D. B. Griffin, J. W. Savell, T. E. Lawrence, N. A. Elam, M. N. Streeter, W. T. Nichols, J. P. Hutcheson, D. A. Yates, and D. M. Allen. 2009. Effects of feeding zilpaterol hydrochloride for twenty to forty days on carcass cutability and subprimal yield of calf-fed Holstein steers. *J. Anim. Sci.* 87: 3722-3729.

Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (October 21, 2009 - 11:30 a.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - Dr. Josie Coverdale, assistant professor, will present "Effect of Maternal Nutrition on Mares and Their Foals." For more information, please contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham <tryon@tamu.edu>.

38th Annual Summer Horsemanship School Program Informational Meeting (October 26, 2009 - 5:15 p.m. - Kleberg Room 200) - Summer opportunities available. For more information, please contact Teri Antilley <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-5264.

Saddle and Sirloin Club & Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Halloween Social (October 30, 2009 - 8:30 p.m. to midnight - College Station Convention Center) - For more information contact Whitney McMillan <whitneymc10@neo.tamu.edu>.

Rosenthal Lecture Series (October 30, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Jeff Savell <j-savell@tamu.edu> at 979-845-3935.

2009 Aggiefest Livestock Judging Contest (November 7, 2009) - For more information, please contact Mr. Jake Franke <jfranke@tamu.edu> at 979-846-7616.

2009 Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop (November 7, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Dennis Sigler <dsigler@tamu.edu> at 979-845-1652.

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course (December 8-10, 2009 and January 13-25, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Martha Vogelsang <m-vogelsang@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7731.

Fit to Finish Show Cattle Camp (December 12 and 13, 2009) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby <beefcenter@tamu.edu> at 979-862-4736.

Mare/Foal Workshop (February 24, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.

Horse Management 101 (February 25, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.



Department of Animal Science - Dr. Gary Acuff, Professor & Head - 2471 TAMU - College Station, TX 77843-2471
Tel. 979.862.4994 - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu>

Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Courtney Coufal <cacoufal@tamu.edu>