

# Animal Science Weekly

October 26, 2009

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### Cochran Fellowship Program --

### West African dairymen train at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION – Texas A&M University dairy science experts from the Department of Animal Science hosted a group of visitors from West Africa touring the country from September 28 to October 10, 2009 to learn about the United States dairy industry.

The 16 visitors from Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso traveled the United States as part of the Cochran Fellows Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. The program provides U.S.-based agricultural training for senior and mid-level professionals from developing countries who are interested in agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy and marketing.

The fellows, consisting of dairy farmers, veterinarians and managers of cooperatives and marketing organizations in the dairy industry, spent four days on the Texas A&M campus in College Station receiving classroom instruction on various dairy disciplines and touring its facilities.

Animal science faculty Dr. Glenn Holub, assistant professor, and Dr. Luis Tedeschi, assistant professor, spoke on nutritional management of dairy cattle. Dr. Dan Hale, professor and Extension meat specialist, presented information on the meat industry. Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, professor and tour leader, presented an overview of the changing dairy structure as well as genetic advances in dairy cattle selection. Dr. Andy Herring, associate professor, discussed

market assisted selection and reviewed the McGregor project.

In addition, Dr. Juan Roman with the College of Veterinary Medicine discussed reproductive function and demonstrated AI and ultrasound technology in dairy cattle.

"The participants seemed to like the balance between practical and theoretical instruction," said Tomaszewski. "They liked seeing laboratories and being able to visit agencies that had a direct impact on the dairy industry."

Ibrahim Seydi, a dairy farmer from Senegal, owns a 500-cow farm at Lake Rose and said this course

will help him improve the management of his farm and to expand his business.

"The material was a well balanced combination of the latest technology on the field with relevant visits to key government organizations, cooperatives and dairy farms of different sizes," Seydi said. "The program has increased my knowledge of U.S. government policy regarding livestock herd management. This has helped me change my opinion on U.S. products and services."

During their two weeks in the U.S., the group also visited Madison, Wisconsin where they toured the World Dairy Expo and ABS-Global. They then traveled to Dallas where they visited Texas Association of Dairymen, DairyMAX, Dairy Farmers of America and the Federal Milk Administrator. They also toured Sexing Technology in Navasota and dairy farms in Navasota, La Grange, Franklin and Stephenville.



## Horse Judging Coaches' Clinic held at Pearce Pavilion

COLLEGE STATION – Twenty-one 4-H, FFA and adult leaders from across the state took part in a one-day Horse Judging Coaches' Clinic held October 22 at Pearce Pavilion. The horse judging team coaches were instructed on the philosophy and strategy of coaching judging teams, lead and coordinated by Dr. Dennis Sigler, professor and Extension horse specialist, Dr. Clay Cavinder, assistant professor and horse judging team coach, and Teri Antilley, Extension horse program specialist.

## Upcoming events

**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 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.



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