

Animal Science Weekly

August 15, 2010

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McCollum receives Specialist of the Year Award

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND – Dr. Ted McCollum, professor and Extension beef cattle specialist, received the Specialist of the Year in Texas Agriculture Award from the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association at the group's annual meeting held August 1-4, 2010 in South Padre Island.

McCollum is located at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo. He assists the north region with educational programs, directs beef cattle programs for producers, provides assistance to cattle producers and industry groups, and conducts field research. Statewide, McCollum serves as a resource person for beef cattle nutrition and stocker cattle programs. His interests include production management of all phases of commercial cattle and beef production from rangeland and forage-based production systems to cattle feeding systems.



Aggie equine group conducts horse riding clinics in Europe



Standing, left to right, Dr. Clay Cavinder, Raul Valdez, Amy Heartfield and Ari Sear along with students of the International Horsemanship Clinic.

EUROPE – Two faculty and three undergraduate students from the equine science section within the Department of Animal Science spent a couple of weeks this summer in Europe teaching horse riding clinics.

Animal Science undergraduate students Ari Sear from Simonton, Amy Heartfield from Belton and Raul Valdez from Laredo served as instructors at the International Horsemanship Clinics held July 17-Aug. 5 in Gotland (a small island in the Baltic Sea), Sweden, Poland and Switzerland. The program is funded by the American Quarter Horse Association and provides university students the opportunity to educate European western riding enthusiasts with basic and advanced riding skills.

The clinics focused on gaining better communication between horse and rider in order to focus on specific events of interest, mainly reining, trail and horsemanship.

Dr. Clay Cavinder, assistant professor, and Dr. Laura White, equine lecturer, assisted and traveled with the team.

Department represented at annual scientific meeting

DENVER, COLORADO – Faculty and students from the Department of Animal Science attended the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association, Poultry Science Association, Asociación Mexicana de Producción Animal, Canadian Society of Animal Science, Western Section American Society of Animal Science and American Society of Animal Science held in Denver, Colorado July 11-15, 2010. Many faculty and graduate students presented their research during poster and oral sessions. For a complete list of those presenting and their abstract titles, http://animalscience.tamu.edu/newsandevents/news_jam_2010.htm.



Top: Dr. Davey Griffin, associate professor and Extension meat specialist.

Middle: Dr. Ron Gill, professor and Extension livestock specialist.

Bottom: Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner.



2010 Beef Cattle Short Course

COLLEGE STATION – The 56th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course was held Aug. 2-4, 2010 in College Station on the Texas A&M University campus.

More than 1,350 people from Texas, 21 states and four countries attended the three-day event, which is coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Beef and Livestock Specialists and hosted by the Department of Animal Science.

This year's short course included a large trade show of 126 companies and industry groups. The Cattleman's College portion of the event featured 74 speakers from the Department of Animal Science, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas AgriLife Research, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Veterinary Medicine, other universities and the beef industry. A youth track was introduced at this year's short course and attracted 14 Texas high school students.

The 2010 TAM BCSC was dedicated to Dr. Steve Hammack for his service to the beef cattle industry, Texas agriculture and the Texas A&M University System.

The Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner was held on Monday evening in the McFerrin Indoor Track Facility. More than 1,350 people attended including several special guests from the TAMU System and across the state. The prime rib was prepared and served by Dr. Davey Griffin and the meat science undergraduate and graduate students. The students served all 1,350 guests in 19 minutes.

Plans are underway for the 2011 BCSC scheduled from Aug. 1-3, 2011.

Taylor, Castillo part of team to receive \$1 million grant

COLLEGE STATION – Two faculty members in the Department of Animal Science are part of an international team of researchers awarded a \$1 million United States Department of Agriculture grant to study ways to protect the safety of fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Alex Castillo, associate professor, and Dr. Matt Taylor, assistant professor, both food microbiologists and part of the meat science section within the department, will work with fellow researchers to determine



CASTILLO

why *E. coli* and *Salmonella* can resist removal from the surface of fresh produce and to develop training for the produce industry and food inspectors.



TAYLOR

The grant is for a project entitled, "Role of surface-related factors on contamination and survival of pathogens in fresh produce grown in Texas and Mexico."

Drs. Castillo and Taylor will join other researchers to complete the project, including Dr. Elsa Murano, Dr. Luis Cisneros-Zevallos and Dr. Juan Anciso, all from Texas A&M; Dr. Jorge Fonseca from the University of Arizona; and Dr. Miguel Martinez Tellez from the Centro de Investigacion en Alimentacion y Desarrollo.

For complete details on the study, please visit <http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/news/7-2010-murano.php>.

2010 Aggieland Lamb and Goat Camps

COLLEGE STATION -- More than 540 lamb and goat enthusiasts traveled to College Station from across Texas and Louisiana to attend the 2010 Aggieland Lamb Camp held July 16-18 and the Aggieland Goat Camp held July 23-25 at Pearce Pavilion.

The camp teaches the showman ways to improve their showmanship techniques including proper facilities, selection criteria, nutrition and health, pre-show preparation and exercise programs. The camp also included hands-on demonstrations of proper ways to shear, trim hooves and give shots.

A showmanship contest was held on the last day for the campers to demonstrate the new showmanship skills learned during camp. The top showman awards were donated by SureFed.



Coverdale part of Texas group to bring equine education to South America

SOUTH AMERICA – Dr. Josie Coverdale, assistant professor of equine science in the Department of Animal Science, spent the first two weeks of August in South America as part of an effort to expand equine knowledge internationally.

The trip, sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, brought together Texas educators and horsemen to deliver equine education at three locations including Asuncion, Paraguay; Salto, Uruguay; and Colonia, Uruguay.

In addition to Coverdale, joining her from Texas A&M University were Dr. Jim Heird and Anna McNaught, representing the equine initiative; Jordan Williams, a student from Texas Tech University; Thomas Saunders, horseman and clinician; and Henry Pickett, horseman and cattle feeder.

At each location, Coverdale gave a presentation on equine nutrition. Other topics discussed by those in



Coverdale, holding the Texas A&M flag, is joined here with the group attending the clinic in Salto.

the group included techniques used to start young horses under saddle, equine behavior and advanced training techniques, and AQHA Ranch Horse Versatility. During several clinics,

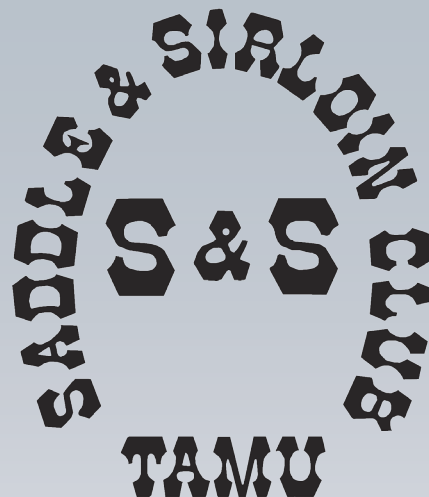
ranch cowboys (gauchos) participated in the training exercises with young horses.

The group spent three days at each location.

Summer shows in Aggieland draw large crowds

BRYAN – Youth from around the state gathered in Bryan July 31-Aug. 2 for a weekend of livestock shows including the Saddle & Sirloin Steer, Heifer and Pig Futurity and Livestock Judging Team Extravaganza.

The Saddle & Sirloin Club teamed up with the TAMU Livestock Judging Team to put on an eight-ring, two-day cattle event held at the Brazos County Exposition Complex in Bryan. The show brought exhibitors from across the state, and they received various awards including autographed footballs and baseballs, leather banners, pullover jackets and the famous S&S trophy belt buckle. The S&S steer and heifer futurities were judged by Mark Core and Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz. The Steer and Heifer Extravaganza judges were Dan Hoge and Dr. John Rayfield. The pig futurity, held that Saturday, brought in 123 animals and filled up the swine barn. Judges for the pig futurity were



Charles Hodde and Jason Hodde.

Colton Atkins, one of the show coordinators and animal science major, said, "Overall this show was one of the best and smoothest shows we've ever had."

More than 200 entries were exhibited in each of the steer and heifer shows during the two-day event. Proceeds from the shows will support

the TAMU Saddle & Sirloin Club and also be used to help defray expenses for the TAMU Livestock Judging Team during the 2010-2011 season. Special appreciation is extended to the many sponsors who supported the event.

Those responsible with putting on the show and helping during the event include Jake and Catherine Franke, Colton Atkins, Sydney Wilkinson, Heather Hirsch, Kasey Lettunich, Nicole Leach, David Salinas, Alyssa Looney, Alyzabeth Looney, Carl Muntean, Cassidy Hayes, Courtney Eberts, Rebecca Hamilton, Kenton Kirkpatrick, Jake Thorne, Cody Sloan, Casey Henly, Paul Wunderlich, Dustin Valusek, Brian Weaver, Webb Field, Joe Rathmann, Lance Bearb and several parents. As the faculty advisors to the Saddle & Sirloin Club, Dr. Chris Skaggs, Dr. David Forrest and Dr. Jodi Sterle assisted with the shows.



Aggie REPS recruit at state FFA convention

CORPUS CHRISTI – The Department of Animal Science Aggie REPS attended the 82nd annual Texas FFA Convention in Corpus Christi July 13-15, 2010 to visit with potential future Aggies about majoring in Animal Science. Undergraduate students (*pictured from left*) Callie McCullough from Ridge, Megan Webb from Burlington, W. Va., David Salinas from McAllen, and Alyzabeth Looney from Denton along with Dr. Shawn Ramsey, associate professor and leader of undergraduate programs, and Kelly Essler, academic advisor, worked at the Department of Animal Science booth and spoke with many future and current Aggies about the Animal Science program. More than 12,000 people attended the convention.

Texas Angora goat genetics destined for Tajikistan

SONORA – The 30th annual Sonora Angora Goat Performance Test sale took an unusual twist. The genetics from the top selling and indexing animals and five additional sale bucks are destined for flock improvement in Tajikistan, a former USSR republic, according to an international consultant.

The July 29 field day, which this year honored the memory of Mac Gilliat, longtime Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent in Real County and Angora goat industry supporter, is an annual event conducted by Texas AgriLife Research at the Texas AgriLife Research Station at Sonora. The field day and sale is a cooperative effort hosted by Angora goat producers, AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

At the sale's conclusion, 27 head passed under the gavel for a total of \$10,625 or an average of \$393.52 per head.

This year's top-selling animal consigned by Bonnie and Dale Naumann

of Bandera brought a winning bid of \$900 from Dr. Liba Brent of Madison, Wis.

The sale's top-indexing buck, consigned by John Justice of Cerulean Farm, Harrah, Okla., also sold to Brent for \$350, as did five other bucks making her one of the sale's top two volume buyers with \$3,725 paid for the seven head. The high-indexing buck produced a clean fleece weighing 13.1 pounds with a lock length of 7.12 inches. Scott Mitchell of Sanderson was the other volume buyer with 13 head purchased for a total of \$3,925.

Brent, an international development consultant for the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, said semen from the goats she bought will be shipped to Tajikistan and used to improve the genetics of Tajikistan's 250,000 Angora-type goats. She said since the country's fiber processing is done by hand, the superior U.S. genetics should improve the country's mohair production and

Congratulations Class of 2010

The Department of Animal Science congratulates the animal science students who graduated on Aug. 13, 2010. Those graduating include 26 undergraduates receiving a bachelor of science degree in animal science and one bachelor of science degree in dairy science. Graduate students earning degrees include Carolyn Allen and Anna Poovey, master of science in physiology of reproduction, Shannon Cruzen, Amanda King, Scott Langley and Eglue Mendes, master of science in animal science. Nicole Burdick received a doctorate in physiology of reproduction and Christian Ponce earned a doctorate in animal science.



reduce the work needed to remove poor-quality fibers.

Dr. Dan Waldron, AgriLife Research geneticist, professor in the Department of Animal Science and the test's coordinator, said the test helps producers identify and develop better Angora goats. He said the sale affords them and others wanting to add superior genetics to their flocks a convenient way to do so at a central location using animals all compared in the same way.

"The Angora producers that have supported this test program are nationally and internationally recognized because of their genetic improvement efforts," Waldron said. "Agricultural development efforts such as this Tajikistan project are willing to make investments because the breeders have data to show the quality of their goats."

For complete sale results and for more information on the test, go to: <http://safiles.tamu.edu/genetics/angoratest.htm>.

Savell, Griffin help form Foodways Texas group

Dr. Jeff Savell, regents professor, and Dr. Davey Griffin, associate professor and Extension meat specialist, along with cookbook author Robb Walsh, seafood dealer Jim Gossen and chefs Bryan Caswell and Alan Lazarus joined together to form a group called Foodways Texas to celebrate Texas food.

Hanna Raskin, food news writer for the *Dallas Observer*, recently wrote on her blog "Foodways Texas Drafts Recipe to Celebrate Lone State Cui-

sine." To read the entire blog, go to http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/cityofate/2010/07/foodways_texas_drafts_recipe_t.php.

The entry states, "Texas is a Southern state by Southern Foodways Alliance's reckoning. But the state's vast size means few Texans can participate fully in the organization, which is based in Oxford, Mississippi. And, Texas has plenty of its own food traditions to study, few of which are found

anywhere else. Ergo, Foodways Texas.

... Walsh wants me to emphasize there's much more to come from FTX, but I can report that the group's on course to define, document and support Texas food – and have fun doing it. According to the official mission statement, modeled after the Southern Foodways Alliance's first draft, FTX will "protect, preserve and celebrate the diverse food cultures of Texas."

Long-time AgriLife Extension leader named to international adult education hall of fame

COLLEGE STATION – A man who fondly recalls his early career as a Texas AgriLife Extension Service assistant county agent and who later became director of that agency said his best work was an effort to educate under-served people about better nutrition.

Dr. Daniel Pfannstiel of College Station said the project in the late 1960s was aimed at teaching nutrition, food safety, wise food shopping and how to prepare food. "We were not meeting the needs of the ever-growing low-income Hispanic population," said Pfannstiel, who was raised near San Antonio. "We worked with a social research scientist who found that this audience could be reached by training paraprofessional educators."

Pfannstiel said that project became what is now known as AgriLife Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, which since 1969 has worked in local Texas com-

munities providing food and nutrition education to vulnerable limited-resource families and youth, according to the program's website. For that work and a lifetime of leading the educational programs of AgriLife Extension, Pfannstiel has been named to the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame for 2010. He will be inducted at a service in Guadalajara, Mexico, in October. He will be one of 12 people from seven countries on four continents to be inducted.

In addition to his doctoral degree, Pfannstiel earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University in 1949 and a master's degree in Extension education from Michigan State in 1952.

To view the complete story, go to <http://agrififenews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2056>.

Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Welcome Party (August 27, 2010 - Pearce Pavilion - 4:30 p.m.) - The Department of Animal Science invites all incoming animal science majors to meet the faculty and fellow students. Enjoy free food, horseshoes, volleyball and washers. For more information, contact Donna Witt <d-witt@tamu.edu> or Kelly Essler <essler@tamu.edu> at (979) 845-7616.

37th Annual Sheep and Goat Field Day (Sept. 2, 2010 - Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at San Angelo) - For more information, go to <http://agrififenews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2083>.

Sonora Ram Test (Sept. 13-14, 2010 - Texas AgriLife Research Station at Sonora) - For more information, go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2079>.

CenTex Beef Cattle Symposium (Sept. 24, 2010 - McGregor Research Center) - For more information, go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2072>.



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