

Animal Science Weekly

February 8, 2010

ATM | TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Inside this issue:

- TAMU Livestock Judging Team wins Fort Worth... again
- Aggies at the Alamo Reception held during NCBA convention
- Study shows male erectile dysfunction drug enhances fetal growth in female sheep
- ASGSA gathers for bowling social
- Smith named Who's Who Among Students
- Recent publications
- Upcoming events

TAMU Livestock Judging Team wins Fort Worth ... again

FORT WORTH – The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team remains unstoppable in Cowtown, claiming top honors for the fifth consecutive year at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

The A&M team finished 14 points ahead of second place Texas Tech University on Feb. 5, 2010. University of Arkansas and Kansas State University came in third and fourth, respectively.

Jake Franke, team coordinator, said, "The team has spent many hours preparing for competition, and I am proud of their accomplishment. Hard work and determination always prevail."

Winning team members are Kevin Gleason of Waxahachie; Lance Bearb of Church Point, La.; Joe Rathmann of Bastrop; Dustin Valusek of Rosharon; Cassidy Hayes of Port Lavaca; and Corey Taylor of Humble.

In the team division, the Aggies finished first in reasons and horses, and sec-

ond in beef and swine.

Also competing were Kenton Kirkpatrick, Bryan; Rebecca Hamilton, Woodbine, Md.; Sidney Wilkinson, Trinidad, Colo.; Kasey Lettunich, Stephenville; Kaitlyn Grimshaw, Pleasanton; Casey Henly, St. Augustine; Brian Weaver, Center Point; Paul Wunderlich, Brenham; Caleb Wendt, Needville; Chance Muehlstein, Kerrville; and Webb Fields, Mt. Pleasant.

In the individual competition, Beard finished fourth high individual, followed by Valusek, 14th; Hayes, 15th; Rathmann, 16th; Fields, 19th; Gleason, 20th; and Lettunich, 21th.

The team is coached by Franke, and assistant coaches Carl Muntean, Cody Sloan and Jake Thorne.

The team heads to San Antonio on Feb. 20 to compete at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

Aggies at the Alamo Reception held during NCBA convention

SAN ANTONIO – Department of Animal Science faculty, former and current students along with beef industry representatives and producers gathered at the Aggies at the Alamo Reception held in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association annual convention at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Antonio on Jan. 28, 2010.

NCBA members from all segments of the beef industry had a chance to visit with A&M faculty and students who support the beef industry through teaching, research and Extension activities.

The event was hosted by the Department of Animal Science and Wes Klett from Anipro Xtraformance Feeds, who also was the event sponsor.



Left, Dr. Wayne Green, Auburn University; Dr. Greg Nunner, Quail Tech, Inc.; Dr. Gordon Carstens and Dr. Gary Acuff, Department of Animal Science.

Find us on
Facebook

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

Department of Animal Science Research --

Study shows male erectile dysfunction drug enhances fetal growth in female sheep

By Blair Fannin

AgriLife Communications

COLLEGE STATION – A joke among two Texas AgriLife Research scientists later turned into a fully-funded study found that Viagra can aid fetal development in female sheep. Female sheep (ewes) are an agriculturally important species, which can serve as an excellent animal model for studying the physiology of human pregnancy, the researchers said.

Viagra (sildenafil citrate), which is used to treat male erectile dysfunction, enhanced blood flow in pregnant female sheep, helping send vital amino acids and other nutrients needed in fetal development. The study's results not only will assist with solving fetal development problems in other livestock, but possibly in humans, said Dr. Guoyao Wu, AgriLife Research animal nutritionist and Senior Faculty Fellow in the Department of Animal Science.

“Because 5 percent to 10 percent of infants are born as low birth-weight babies worldwide, and because fetal-

growth retardation is also a significant problem in livestock species, our findings have important implications for both human health and animal agriculture,” Wu said.

The findings appear in a recent edition of *The Journal of Nutrition* (<http://www.nutrition.org/>).

The study originated in 2003 after a chat between Wu and fellow AgriLife Research scientist Dr. Tom Spencer when they were working with pregnant ewes.

“We made a joke that many men are now using Viagra and that women may also have a need for it,” Wu said. “Interestingly, one week later, we saw that Pfizer Inc. announced an international request for research proposals on Viagra.”

The team submitted a proposal to Pfizer, using pregnant sheep as an animal model for evaluating Viagra's potential role in enhancing fetal growth. The research team would also evaluate both adequate or inadequate maternal intakes of nutrients from the diet, Wu said.

Pfizer selected the proposal and



Viagra, a drug used to treat male erectile dysfunction disorder, was used to enhance blood flow in pregnant female sheep, helping send vital amino acids and other nutrients as metabolic fuels needed in fetal development. Pictured are newborn lambs. The smaller lamb has intrauterine growth retardation, while the larger one has normal intrauterine growth. (Photo by Dr. Guoyao Wu)

work began.

The research team includes Fuller Bazer, Carey Satterfield, Spencer and Wu - all AgriLife Research scientists and faculty members with the animal science department at Texas A&M.

Go to *AgriLife News* to view the complete story at <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1736>.

ASGSA gathers for bowling social

The Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) held its first social of the semester on Feb. 1, 2010 at Grand Station Entertainment. Members enjoyed a free hour of bowling courtesy of the ASGSA to kick-off the spring semester. ASGSA is an organization open to all Animal Science graduate students.

To find out how you can get involved, join the group at their next meeting on Feb. 10 at 5:15 p.m. in the Kleberg Faculty Lounge.



Smith named Who's Who Among Students

COLLEGE STATION – Amanda Smith, a senior animal science major, has been selected for the 2009-2010 Who's Who Among Students In American Universities and Colleges.

Smith, a native of Bryan, is among the six seniors and two graduate students selected from Texas A&M's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Who's Who is a nationally recognized award honoring students for their academic accomplishments. This year 64 Texas A&M students earned this award.

Go to <http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/news/2-2010-whos-who.php> for a complete list of COALS students receiving this award.



Recent publications

Wagner, E.L., G.D. Potter, P.G. Gibbs, E.M. Eller, B.D. Scott, M.M. Vogelsang and R.L. Walzem. 2010. Copper, zinc-superoxide dismutase activity in exercising horses fed two forms of trace mineral supplements. *J. Equine Vet. Sci* 30:31-37.

Riggs, P.K., and M. Ronne. 2009. Fragile sites in domestic animal chromosomes: Molecular insights and challenges. *Cytogenet. Genome Res.* 126:97-109.

Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Special Seminar (February 11, 2010 - 11:30 a.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - Dr. Nicolas DiLorenzo, Texas Tech University, will present *"Beef Cattle Research and Teaching in the Next Decade: Challenges and Opportunities."* Dr. DiLorenzo is a candidate for a beef cattle faculty position in the Department of Animal Science.

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.

Equine Metabolic Disease, Neonatal Health and Disaster Management Conference (February 26, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.

Livestock Judging Clinic (March 27, 2010 - Pearce Pavilion) - For more information, please contact Jake Franke <jfranke@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7616 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/youth/judging-clinic-10.pdf>.

Spirit of Aggieland Inaugural Sale (April 18, 2010 - 1 p.m. - TAMU Beef Center) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby at 979-862-4736 or at <beefcenter@tamu.edu>.

56th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course (Aug. 2-4, 2010 - College Station)- For more information, please contact the Beef Cattle Extension office <extansc@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-6931 or visit <http://beef.tamu.edu>.



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>