

Animal Science Weekly

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Livestock Judging Team ends season with big win in Houston



Front left, Kenton Kirkpatrick, Rebecca Hamilton, Kaitlyn Grimshaw, Sidney Wilkinson, Kasey Lettunich and Corey Taylor. Back left, Dr. Gary Acuff, Cody Sloan, Lance Bearb, Carl Muntean, Dustin Valusek, Caleb Wendt, Kevin Gleason, Webb Fields, Paul Wunderlich, Casey Henly, Cassidy Hayes, Joe Rathmann, Brian Weaver, Jake Thorne, Chance Muehlstein, Dr. Mark Hussey, and Jake Franke.

HOUSTON – The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team closed out the spring competition season in a big way at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest on March 17, winning first place overall and securing the top three high individual overall awards.

The Aggie team led the field by a 50-point margin, defeating Western Illinois University, Texas Tech University, Oklahoma State University and Purdue University, respectively, with near-perfect finishes in each division. A&M won high team in the cattle and reasons divisions, and second high team in sheep/goats and swine divisions.

Jake Franke, team coordinator, said this win was a team effort that paid off in the end. "I am very proud of each member and assistant for their relentless hard work, drive to be the best at what

they do and the time and dedication they brought forth in preparing for Houston."

Aggie team members racked-up a long list of individual honors including:

- Joe Rathmann of Bastrop – first high individual overall and first high individual in beef cattle;
- Cassidy Hayes of Port Lavaca – second high individual overall and first high individual in swine;
- Dustin Valusek of Rosharon – third high individual overall and first high individual in reasons;
- Corey Taylor of Humble – first high individual overall alternate division;
- Caleb Wendt of Needville – third high individual overall alternate division;

(see **Judging Team** on page 2)

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*Department of Animal Science Research --***AgriLife Research, horse breeders seek answers to reproductive seasonality in mare**

Research is currently underway at the Texas AgriLife Research Station-Beeville and the Texas A&M University Horse Center in College Station to address an important and economically-challenging problem for the horse breeding industry – mare reproductive seasonality. A team of researchers supported by South Texas horse breeders and the Link Equine Research Fund are unraveling its intriguing causes and developing strategies to minimize its impact in the industry.

Jennifer Thorson, *pictured right*, doctoral student in the Department of Animal Science, works with the mares as part of her dissertation research.

For details on this study and a list of faculty, sponsors and graduate students participating in the research, go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/newsandevents/news_mare_study.htm.



Animal Science student Elissa Emmons receives \$1500 beef industry scholarship

Elissa Emmons, a senior animal science and poultry science double major, has received a \$1500 National Beef Industry Scholarship sponsored by CME Group and the National Cattlemen's Foundation.

Ten outstanding students pursuing careers in the beef industry have each been awarded scholarships in this program. Emmons is the solo recipient from Texas A&M University.



Emmons is active with the Dexter Cattle Association and works with youth on animal care, feeding, showmanship and various other topics. She is a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Alpha

Zeta and the Poultry Science Club. She also is completing an internship at the Houston Zoo in the hoof stock department.

The scholarships are offered to high school seniors and undergraduate college students studying fields related to the beef industry. This year's ten winners represent eight different states with five of the recipients being high school seniors. Each scholarship winner wrote a 750-word essay that identified key issues confronting the beef industry and suggested possible solutions for dealing with those issues.

Judging Team - continued from page 1

- Kasey Lettunich of Stephenville – fifth high individual in sheep/goats;
- Lance Bearb of Church Point, La. – fourth high individual in reasons;
- Kevin Gleason of Waxahachie – eighth high individual in cattle.

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

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

The Houston competition ends the spring judging contest season. "This win has given the team motivation as they start to prepare and think about the upcoming fall contests," Franke said.

In addition to the team members and coaches, Dr. Gary Acuff, Animal Science department head, and Dr. Mark Hussey, vice chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, attended the awards banquet on March 18 in Houston.

"I am very thankful to have such a great support system from our department and the college. Our students are very fortunate to have their encouragement and backing," Franke said.

Earlier this spring, the Livestock Judging Team finished first at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, second at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and fourth at the National Western Stock Show.

Weight Watchers CEO calls Texas Aggie beef jerky 'unfreakinglybelievably great jerky'

David Kirchhoff, CEO of Weight Watchers International, recently wrote about Texas Aggie Brand beef jerky on his blog. In his blog entry titled, "Jerky: misunderstood food or man's best friend? Or both." Kirchhoff points out that beef jerky has very few calories and many grams of protein which "translates into snacking and satiety glory." He then goes on to write the following about the Aggie product:

First off, how could I not support public education? This stuff is made and sold by Texas A&M. Probably the best part of the Aggie beef jerky experience is the purchasing process. Quaintly, there is no online store, and purchase requires the use of a telephone (seriously!). Even better, they answer the phone "Rosenthal Meat Science Department, how may I help you?" Seriously, the assistant for the meat science department answers the phone, takes your order and has your product shipped (she's VERY nice BTW)... .

Assessment: unfreakinglybelievably great jerky. Amazingly tasty and totally tender. This stuff is almost too good. It's also completely natural and unpreserved, so remember not to leave it on the shelf for four or five months.

Go to <http://www.manmeetsscale.com/2010/03/jerky-misunderstood-food-or-mans-best.html> to view the complete blog.



Mark Your Calendar • Mark Your Calendar • Mark Your Calendar

Students: TSCRA/TBC sponsored beef cattle program scheduled for April 15

Students interested in the beef cattle industry are invited to attend a networking prime rib dinner and program on April 15, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at Pearce Pavilion. Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine can attend and interact with cattle and industry leaders. Program speakers include Dr. Ron Gill, Dr. Jason Cleere, and Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers and Texas Beef Council representatives. Students are asked to RSVP by April 12 to extansc@ag.tamu.edu or call (979) 845-6931.

"Man of Trail" Clinic slated for May 1

Texas A&M AgriLife and the Texas A&M Horse Judging Team present "Man of Trail" on May 1, 2010 at Freeman Arena. Learn how to effectively ride the pattern and critique course design from Tim Kimura, a world-renowned horse trainer specializing in trail horse courses and critique. Also enjoy small group settings and ride with Tim. Riding sessions are limited to eight riders. Cost is \$100 per riding session and \$30 per spectator. For more information contact Dr. Clay Cavinder <cac@tamu.edu> at (979) 845-7731. Register online at: http://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=37.

ASGSA Crawfish Boil is May 1

Join the Animal Science Graduate Student Association for a crawfish boil on May 1 starting at 2 p.m. at the Lake Bryan Pavilion. Enjoy all the crawfish and sides you can eat while supplies last. This event is open to all animal science graduate students, faculty, staff and their families. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 until April 23. Tickets purchased after the 23rd are \$15. Tickets for children under 12 are \$5. Please contact Lauren Hulsman for tickets at <lhulsman@tamu.edu> or by calling (936) 870-6102.

Upcoming events

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>.

Children's Barnyard hosted by the Saddle & Sirloin Club (April 27-29, 2010 - Pearce Pavilion) - For more information, contact Kaleigh Burnett <krburnett2007@neo.tamu.edu> or call (512) 750-2530 or visit the website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/students/clubs/s&s/announcements/index.htm>.

Texas A&M University Show Cattle Camp (May 28-30, 2010 & June 4-6, 2010) - For more information, please visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/camps/show-cattle-camp/index.htm> or contact Paul Maulsby at 979-862-4736 or by email at <beefcenter@tamu.edu>.

Horse Judging Camp (June 2-4, 2010 & June 16-18, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/tamu-horse-judging-camp.htm> or contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at 979-845-7731 or by email at <cac@tamu.edu>.

Livestock Judging Camp (June 13-15, June 20-22 & June 23-25, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/livestock_judging_camp.htm or contact Jake Franke at 979-845-7616 or by email at <jfranke@tamu.edu>.

Aggieland™ Lamb & Goat Camps (July 16-18, 2010 & July 23-25, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm> or contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey at 979-845-7616 or by email at <sramsey@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>.



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