

Animal Science Weekly

November 15, 2010

Inside this issue:

- Lewis receives 2010 President's Meritorious Service Award
- TAMU Stock Horse Team starts the year with wins
- Animal Science professor lectures in China
- Texas AgriLife Extension Summer Horsemanship School Meeting
- Research news and presentations
- Upcoming events

Lewis receives 2010 President's Meritorious Service Award

COLLEGE STATION - Becky Lewis, Senior Office Associate, has been selected as a recipient of a 2010 President's Meritorious Service Award.

Texas A&M University will publicly recognize 25 outstanding individuals for their meritorious service to the University. We are extremely proud that Becky was chosen to receive this prestigious award.

Becky has been providing administrative support to the Undergraduate Advising office since 1987, and her care and attention to students, advisors and faculty is very much appreciated and valued.

Becky and the other award recipients will be honored at a ceremony hosted by President R. Bowen Loftin on Dec. 7, with more details to be announced at a later date. Congratulations, Becky!



TAMU Stock Horse Team starts the year with wins



STEPHENVILLE – On Nov. 6 the Texas A&M Stock Horse Team was named champion team overall at the Intercollegiate Stock Horse Competition at Tarleton State University. Texas A&M beat a competitive New Mexico State Team and six other college teams.

Individual placings were: Kat DeHann, champion high-point overall non-pro; Melanie Armstrong, third

overall np; Alyssa Plackemeier, champion high-point overall limited np; Olivia Kovac, third overall limited np; Kelsey Larson, reserve champion overall novice; Ari Sear, third overall novice.

Team alternates were Lydia Miller, Raul Valdez and Cody Smith. The Team is coached by Dr. Dennis Sigler, professor and Extension Horse Specialist and Dr. Laura White, lecturer.

The Team was also named Reserve Champion Team recently at the Intercollegiate Stock Horse Show held on Oct. 2 at Freeman Arena on the A&M Campus.

Upcoming competitions will be held in the spring, culminating with the National Championship Intercollegiate Show to be held April 16-17 in Abilene, Texas.

Animal Science professor lectures in China

Dr. Stephen Smith traveled to China Oct. 26 – Nov. 5. to give the following presentations:

Oct. 28. Lipid Metabolism in Beef Cattle — Adipose Tissue Differentiation During Growth, presented to faculty, staff, and graduate students of the Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University and the National Beef Cattle Improvement Center of China, Yangling, China.

Oct. 31. Lipid Metabolism and Fatty Acid Composition in Beef Cattle — Adipose Tissue Differentiation During Growth, presented to faculty, staff, and graduate students of the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, Hohot, Inner Mongolia.

Nov. 2. Gene Expression in Adipose Tissue of Beef Cattle Over Time on Feed in Grass-fed and Grain-fed Cattle, presented to faculty, staff, and graduate students of China Agricultural University, Beijing, China.

Nov. 4. Nutritional Regulation of Lipid Content in Pork Muscle, an invited presentation at the International Symposium on Lipogenesis, Lipid Metabolism, and Its Nutritional Regulation in Livestock, Beijing, China.



Above, Dr. Smith in front of the China National Beef Cattle Improvement Center, Yangling, China.

Left, Chinese Yellow Tail cattle, related to Korean Hanwoo and Japanese Wagyu.

Texas AgriLife Extension Summer Horsemanship School Meeting



COLLEGE STATION - On Thursday, Nov. 4, over 30 college students attended an informational meeting to learn about the process of becoming an instructor for the Summer Horsemanship School Program.

Students that are interested in trying out for a spot on the teaching team will begin training in January. Weekly riding sessions are led and managed by Teri Antilley, Horse Program Specialist, and are overseen by Dr. Dennis Sigler, Extension Horse Specialist. Riding sessions are meant to give the prospective instructor time to learn how to teach various maneuvers in an easy-to-understand format, while maintaining a positive atmosphere in a professional manner.

Started in 1973, 2011 will mark the 39th consecutive year for the program to be in existence. Over the past 38 years, there have been 220 different instructors (173 female, 48 male) who have taught the schools to youth and adults. The Summer Horsemanship School Program has made a lasting impact on many people in Texas, with 1,302 schools having been conducted, reaching 45,874 youth, parents and volunteers.

We are looking forward to working with a great group of students in the spring that will be sure to result in some outstanding instructors.

Research news and presentations

- Collaborative research by Dr. Tom Welsh, professor, Physiology of Reproduction Section in the Department of Animal Science; Dr. Noah Cohen, professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences; and Dr. Jenifer Gold, assistant professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences regarding endocrine and immune aspects of sepsis in foals was presented (by Dr. Gold) as a symposium paper and as a research abstract at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Forum in Anaheim, Calif.
This collaborative work was supported by funding from the H. Patricia Link Endowment for Equine Research and resulted in the following publication.
Sequential plasma concentrations of adrenocorticotropin and cortisol in term septic neonatal foals compared to healthy non-septic foals. J.R. Gold, N.D. Cohen and T.H. Welsh, Jr. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* (2010) 24:783-784.

- Penny Riggs, assistant professor, and Kelli Kochan, research associate in Dr. Riggs' laboratory, were part of a team that identified *Gsta4*/*GSTA4* as a novel susceptibility gene for non-melanoma skin cancer that affects risk for cancer development in both mice and humans, published Nov. 3, 2010, in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, one of the leading cancer journals.
The McGregor Genomics team is using related methods to study genes that are important for traits in beef cattle, and also investigates other species including goats, horses, and river buffalo.
Citation:
Abel EL, Angel JM, Riggs PK, Langfield L, Lo H-H, Person MD, Awasthi YC, Wang L-E, Strom SS, Wei Q, and DiGiovanni J. 2010. Evidence that *Gsta4* modifies susceptibility to skin tumor development in mice and humans. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 102:1663-1675.

- Drs. Ellen Jordan and Todd Bilby participated in the DCRC conference, Nov 11-12 in Minneapolis Minnesota. Jordan edited the proceedings and Bilby was elected as a director. The DCRC includes producers, veterinarians, academicians and allied industry focused on improving dairy cattle reproduction.

- Andrea Loyd, Ph.D. student in the Physiology of Reproduction Section [jointly mentored by Drs. Ron Randel (Animal Science Overton), Jeff Carroll (ARS Lubbock) and Tom Welsh (Animal Science)], was awarded a Lechner Graduate Presentation Grant through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The grant is funded by the Walter W. Lechner Estate Endowment and provides funds for graduate students to attend and present original research at scientific conferences. As a Lechner Scholar, Andrea presented her paper "Neither temperament nor residual feed intake affect sexual maturity in Brahman heifers" at the 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science meetings in Denver, Colo.
Contact Dr. David Reed <dwreed@tamu.edu> for more information on the Lechner Graduate Presentation Grant program.

- Dr. Fuller Bazer, distinguished professor, Physiology of Reproduction, was invited to present the seminar Interferon Tau: Pregnancy Recognition and Beyond on Nov. 11, 2010, Center for Reproduction Research, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
He also served as External Examiner of Dissertation Defense of Ms. Pavine Lefevre.

- Dr. Bazer was recently appointed Associate Editor, *Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology*, published in China.

Upcoming events

Saddle & Sirloin Club We Bleed Maroon Blood Drive (Nov. 16, 2010 - Bio-Bio Building - 10:30-3 p.m.) - For more information contact Sydney Wilkinson at <sydneykellums@tamu.edu>.

Saddle & Sirloin Club Meeting (Nov. 16, 2010 - Kleberg 115 - 7 p.m.) - For more information contact Sydney Wilkinson at <sydneykellums@tamu.edu>.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Nov. 17, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - noon) - Mr. Jim Schwertner, President and CEO of Capitol Land & Livestock, and member of Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, will present, "An Industry Perspective." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Nov. 19, 2010 - Kleberg 023 - noon) - Dr. Jim MacDonald, Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, will present, "Identifying Structural Variants in the Bovine Genome: A Potential Genetic Mechanism of Phenotypic Variation." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Football Tailgate (Nov. 20, 2010 - TAMU Horse Center - 6 p.m.) - Texas A&M v. Nebraska, free parking at Horse Center. If you are interested in bringing food items or helping setup, please contact Russell Gordan at <rgordan@tamu.edu>.

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course (Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2010 - College Station) - For more information visit <<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/equine-repro-short-course.htm>> or contact Dr. Vogelsang at 979-845-7731 or by e-mail at <m-vogelsang@tamu.edu>.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association End-of-the-Semester Social (Dec. 9, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 3-5 p.m.) - For more information, contact Lauren Hulsman at <lhulsman@tamu.edu>.



Department of Animal Science - Dr. H. Russell Cross, Professor & Interim 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 Callie Whitworth <cwhitworth@tamu.edu>