

Animal Science Weekly

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Dr. Gary Acuff recognized for service to Department

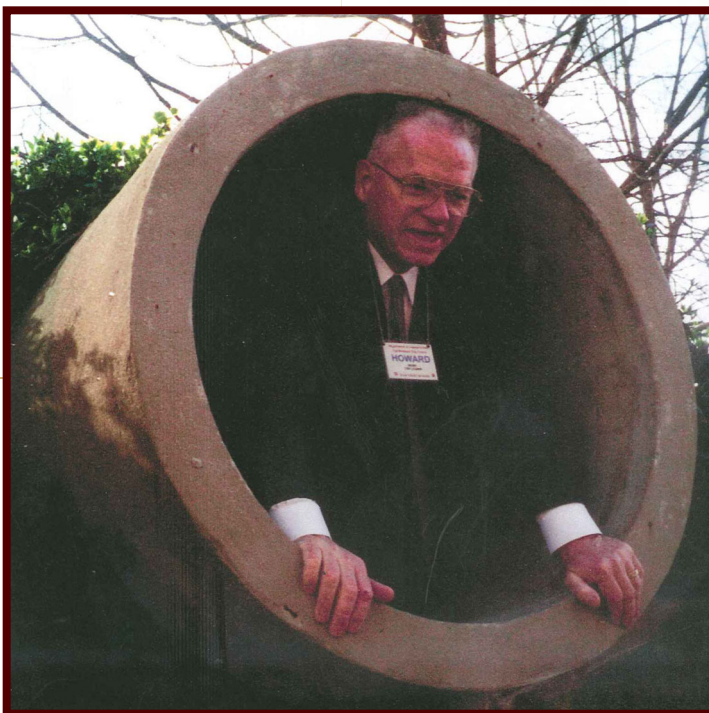


Left, Dr. Gary Acuff receives award from Dr. Tom Welsh, professor, Physiology of Reproduction.



Dr. Gary Acuff holding gift of Kleberg building cutout.

COLLEGE STATION - The Department of Animal Science hosted a reception on Friday, October 22, to recognize and thank Dr. Gary Acuff for his service as Interim Head and Head of the Department of Animal Science from 2004-2010. Remarks and appreciation were offered by faculty and by Lauren Hulsman, President of the Animal Science Graduate Student Association. Dr. Acuff recently assumed the position of director of the Texas A&M University's Center for Food Safety.



Dr. Howard Hesby Atrium project

PROGRESS REPORT:

Big Hands: Big Heart is a tribute book of stories from former students, friends and colleagues on how Dr. Howard Hesby impacted their lives. The book should be to the publisher by the end of the month. All proceeds go to the Hesby Atrium Project. This picture is of Dr. Hesby educating and entertaining students on one of his infamous career development trips to the east coast. Continue to follow the progress of the book by reading this weekly newsletter.

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TAMU Junior Horse Judging Team Wins in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY – The TAMU Junior Horse Judging Team traveled to Oklahoma City where they competed against 12 teams in the American Morgan Horse Grand Nationals. The team won all events which included Halter, Performance, Reasons and Overall. Mississippi State University, TAMU maroon and Southern Illinois University Carbondale placed second through fourth, respectively.

Team members include: Megan Webb, W.Va.; Karinda Dickens, Magnolia; Kenny Spencer, Apple Springs; Amber Marcum, Dickinson; Libby Hallett, Sugar Land; Courtney Phillips, San Antonio; Andy Adams, Paris; Rebecca Muller, Round Rock; and Cassie Holloway, Md.

Megan Webb won second high individual overall; Karinda Dickens, fourth high; Courtney Phillips, seventh high; and Elizabeth Hallett, ninth high. In Halter, Webb

placed second high individual; Dickens, third high; and Kenny Spencer, fifth high. Amber Marcum won second high individual in Performance; Webb, fifth high; Dickens, sixth high; and Phillips, seventh high.

TAMU had six individuals in the top ten in reasons. Hallett, fourth high; Webb, fifth high; Dickens, seventh high; Marcum, eighth high; Spencer, ninth high; and Rebecca Muller, tenth high.

This was the first contest in which the Junior team competed. Their next contest is the Arabian Nationals in Tulsa, Okla. and then the team concludes the semester at the National Reining Horse Futurity in Oklahoma City.

The team is coached by Dr. Clay Cavinder. Assistant coaches are Jessica Lucia and Jeannette Mawyer.

Texas AgriLife Ranch Management University



COLLEGE STATION – The Texas AgriLife Ranch Management University was held Oct. 12-15, 2010 at the O.D. Butler, Jr. Animal Science Complex in College Station. The intensive four day program is designed to provide basic training in ranch management.

Class size is limited to 50 so that the novice ranchers in attendance can interact with the instructors. Soil fertility, forages, cow-calf management, wildlife management, marketing, and business management were covered in classroom and demonstration settings.

The program attracted 43 producers from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, California, Illinois, and Costa Rica. It was coordinated by Larry Redmon (Soil and Crop Sciences), Jason Cleere (Animal Science), Jason Sawyer (Animal Science), Mark McFarland (Soil and Crop Sciences), Jim Cathey (Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences), David Anderson (Agricultural Economics), and all served as speakers during the program. Shawn Ramsey covered Small Ruminant Production during the workshop.

The next Texas AgriLife Ranch Management University is scheduled for April 12-15, 2011.

Aggies travel to Michigan for Block and Bridle Convention

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN – Twelve student members and two advisors from the TAMU Saddle & Sirloin Club attended the 91st National Block and Bridle Convention, hosted by Michigan State University Oct. 14-16, 2010. The convention was held in conjunction with the Michigan Great Lakes International (MGLI) Draft Horse Show and Pull where Dr. Jodi Sterle had the privilege of riding in the six-Belgian hitch of her alma mater, MSU, during the evening show.

Students were able to compare and contrast the agriculture between Michigan and Texas and experience the advances in technology Michigan is utilizing through tours offered by MGLI and MSU. The hosts opened the doors to a renewable energy feed mill, apple orchards, dairies, an Amish cheese factory, breweries/wineries, ethanol plants, the Great Lakes Sire Service, horticultural gardens, and the State Fish Hatchery among others. Following the tours, MSU provided a “true taste of Michigan” in which they served the convention attendees a

meal prepared from products produced in Michigan.

Also included in the convention program were a number of powerful speakers from different agricultural professions. The consensus from many of the speakers was to get out of your comfort zone and be an activist for animal agriculture, or the challenges we face today from animal rights organizations will become greater. Some of the other speakers addressed topics such as preparing a résumé and building a successful business in niche markets.

Overall, the 91st convention was a success and students and advisors alike brought back new connections, provoking thoughts from speakers, and a better understanding of Michigan’s agricultural economy.

Those in attendance included Dr. Jodi Sterle, Dr. David Forrest, Nicole Leach, Jamie Stephenson, Morgan Merdian, Courtney Eberts, Cortney Evins, Alyssa Looney, Alyzabeth Looney, Colin Leach, KaRonna Bass, Ashley Barker, Kaitlin Shaw, and Ashleigh Sowell.



Left, Kaitlin Shaw, Jamie Stephenson, Alyssa Looney, Courtney Eberts, Ashleigh Sowell, Morgan Merdian, Dr. Jodi Sterle, Ashley Barker, Cortney Evins, Nicole Leach, Alyzabeth Looney, Colin Leach, KaRonna Bass, and Dr. David Forrest with the MSU Spartan mascot, “Sparty”.



Left, front row: Kaitlin Shaw, Alyssa Looney, Morgan Merdian, and Ashley Barker. Back row: Ashleigh Sowell, Alyzabeth Looney, Jamie Stephenson, Cortney Evins, Colin Leach, Nicole Leach, Courtney Eberts, KaRonna Bass, Dr. Jodi Sterle, and Dr. David Forrest.

Animal Science Apparel Sale

Department of Animal Science Graduate Student Association

is selling fleeces and windjackets featuring
the Texas A&M Animal Science logo.

Order online by November 5 at asgsa.tamu.edu/node/13
or contact Lauren Hulsman
at lhulsman@tamu.edu or in Kleberg 422A.



Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Oct. 27, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - noon) - Dr. Scott Dindot, assistant professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, will present, "Identifying Structural Variant in the Bovine Genome: Production Efficiency and Reduce Feed Costs." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

Department of Animal Science Aggie Reps Breakfast Taco Fiesta (Oct. 29, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 8:30-10 a.m.) - Department of Animal Science faculty and staff are invited to attend the Breakfast Taco Fiesta, in honor of their commitment to students.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Football Tailgate (Oct. 30, 2010 - TAMU Horse Center - prior to kickoff) - Texas A&M v. Texas Tech, free parking at Horse Center. If you are interested in bringing food items or helping setup, please contact Russell Gordon at <rgordon@tamu.edu>.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Meeting (Nov. 10, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 5:15 p.m.) - For more information, contact Lauren Hulsman at <lhulsman@tamu.edu>.

2011 Summer Horsemanship Employment Meeting (Nov. 4, 2010 - Free,am Areana - 7:15 p.m.) - For more information contact Teri Antilley at <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu>.

2010 Aggiefest Livestock Judging Contest (Nov. 13, 2010 - Pearce Pavilion) - For more information contact Jake Franke at <jfranke@tamu.edu> or go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/10_aggiefest_ad.pdf.

2010 Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop (Nov 13, 2010 - Freeman Arena) - For more information contact Teri Antilley at <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> or go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/aggiefest_horsejudging.htm.



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Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Callie Whitworth <cwhitworth@tamu.edu>