

Animal Science Weekly

January 24, 2011

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Texas A&M judging teams compete in Denver

Livestock Judging Team takes first place by large margin



Front, left, Caleb Boardman, Cody Trimble, Ryan Smoes, Cody Marburger and Jacob Shaw. Back, left, Jake Franke, Jake Thorne, John Mayer, Erich Schatte, Canaan Dreibrodt, Brad Brundage, Mike Helle, Marty Gifford and Cody Sloan.

DENVER – The 2011 Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team swept their first contest of the year beating second place Texas Tech University by 51 points at the National Western Stock Show Jan. 14 & 15 in Denver, Colo. TAMU brought home high team overall, reasons, and sheep and goats, along with second high team in hogs and third in cattle.

Caleb Boardman of Powell, Wyo., won reserve champion individual overall, second in sheep and goats, fifth in reasons, and seventh in cattle. Cody Marburger of Round Top placed fourth high individual overall, third in hogs and reasons and sixth in sheep and goats. Ryan Smoes of Hamilton, Mich., finished seventh high individual overall, hogs and reasons, and ninth in cattle.

The Livestock Judging Team also

competed in the Carload Contest at the National Western Stock Show and won fourth high team overall. Canaan Dreibrodt of New Braunfels placed third high individual.

Team members also include Lance Bauer of Ingram; Brad Brundage of Cameron, Mo.; Marty Gifford of Cowley, Wyo.; Mike Helle of Edinburg; C.J. Mabry of Port Lavaca; John Mayer of Round Top; Robert Oestrich of New Braunfels; Wes Regmund of Llano; Erich Schatte of Giddings; Jacob Shaw of Smyer; T.J. Skinner of Liberal, Kan.; Cody Trimble of Knox City; and Bethanie Yeaman of Rock Springs.

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

(See **WOOL, MEAT** page 2)

Wool Judging Team practices in Wyoming ahead of Denver competition

DENVER – The 2011 Texas A&M Wool Judging Team traveled to Laramie, Wyo., for practice before heading to the National Western Stock Show in Denver on Jan. 14.

Team member Katie Moore of Richmond won high individual overall and reasons. Lea Luensmann placed fourth in reasons.

Team members also include Taylor Adcock of Fairfield; Jacob Brown of Bryan; Meredith Earwood of Sonora; Dillon Garr of Fayetteville, Ark.; Chloe Geye of Rising Star; Brent Hale of Dayton; Whitley James of George West; Konni Kelso of Seguin; Brittni Littlejohn of Longview; William Whitworth of Junction; and Lexus Weinheimer of Stone-wall.

Dr. Shawn Ramsey is the faculty coach/coordinator and Kim Hardan is the coach. Assistant coaches are Claire Luensmann, Kenton Kirkpatrick and Carl Muntean.



From left, Claire Luensmann, Kenton Kirkpatrick, Whitley James, Jacob Brown, Carl Muntean, William Whitworth, Lea Luensmann, Dillon Garr, Chloe Geye, Meredith Earwood, Brent Hale, Taylor Adcock, Katie Moore, Kim Hardan, Konni Kelso, Brittni Littlejohn and Lexus Weinheimer.

Meat Judging Team competes at JBS Swift



From left, Jake Reed, Kylie Jones, Kyle Phillips, Jimmie Natho, Rachel Glascock, Nathan Labus, Haley Kelley and Garrett Cline.

GREELEY – The 2011 Texas A&M Meat Judging Team finished in seventh place at competition held at JBS Swift in Greeley, Colo. The awards were presented at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Nathan Labus of Poth placed fourth high individual in placings.

Team members also include Garrett Cline of Morgan; Rachel Glascock of Pilot Point; Kylie Jones of Cowley, Wyo.; Haley Kelley of Franklin; Jimmie Natho of Runge; Kyle Phillips of Vidor; and Jake Reed of Copperas Cove.

The team is coached by Amanda Smith. Dr. Davey Griffin is team coordinator.

Texas A&M Animal Science, S&S Club to host regional Academic Quadrathlon

COLLEGE STATION – Teams of students from 10 universities across the southern section are coming to Aggieland to compete in the regional Academic Quadrathlon on Feb. 5.

Teams of four students will start the morning competing in the laboratory practicum, completing various hands on skills and answering applied questions at 10 different stations, both on campus and at the various centers. The second part of the competition will be a written exam, after which the teams will head to Corpus Christi to finish the contest. Sunday, Feb. 6, the teams will compete in the quiz bowl and oral presentation portions of the competition, in conjunction with the Southern Section American Society of Animal Science meetings.

Saddle & Sirloin Club members will be hosting the competition in College Station. Representing the Aggies on the competing team are Alyzabeth Looney of Denton; Heather Hirsh of Athens; Christine Mesecher of Richmond; and Kirbie Day of Waxahachie. Dr. Jodi Sterle will be traveling with the team.

ANSWER RESEARCH at WORK

Genomics of Cow Productivity

By Clare Gill, Ph.D.

MCGREGOR – Why are some beef cows able to produce calves every year for 20 years and others need to be replaced after four years? What factors contribute to differences in udder characteristics, cow survival, longevity and productivity?

These are some of the questions relevant to cow-calf producers that faculty in the Department of Animal Science have been addressing in the McGregor Genomics Project. The project is so named because the cattle are located at the McGregor Research Center in central Texas. The center encompasses more than 6,300 acres where scientists in the Department of Animal Science conduct beef cattle research focused on product and process differentiation; reducing the unit cost of production; and beef quality, consistency and food safety. The two dominant research projects are bovine genomics and heterosis retention.

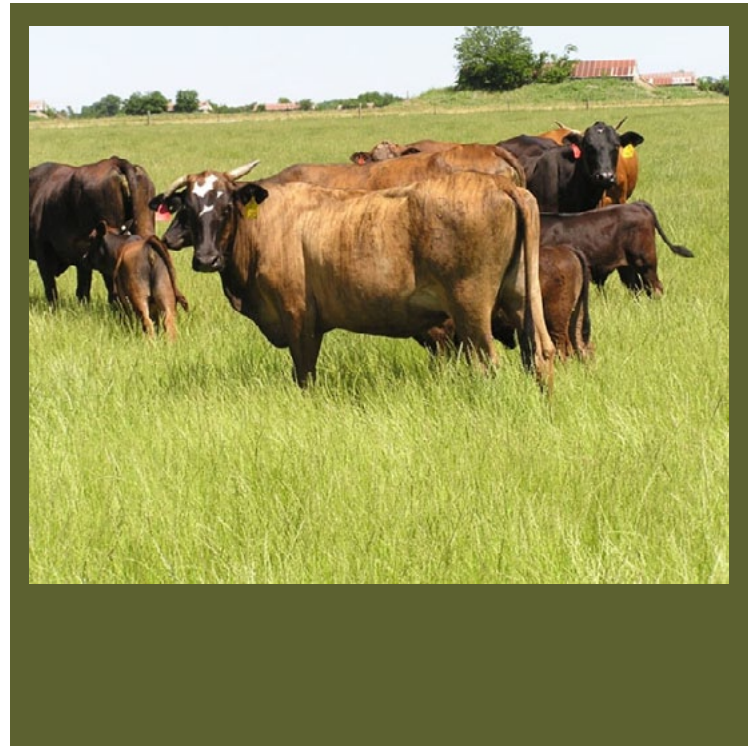
Genomics is the field of research that characterizes the structure and function of the genetic material (i.e. DNA) required to make a living example of an organism. By characterizing DNA and phenotypes from populations of cattle, researchers can identify what features of a genome contribute to genetic variation in traits of economic importance.

A key to success of such studies is the availability of extensive collections of animal records. This is one of the strengths of the McGregor Genomics populations. Through investments by the Department of Animal Science and Texas AgriLife Research, faculty have been able to collect data for more than 100 lifetime production traits on over 1,000 cattle. Coupled with the availability of the bovine genome sequence and new high-throughput DNA sequencing and genotyping platforms, such populations will accelerate the pace of discovery of genes underlying economically important traits.

The McGregor Genomics populations are unique in that they (1) provide numerous detailed phenotypes for cow productivity, growth, disposition (temperament), feed efficiency, carcass and meat traits, health traits, coat color and horned/scurred/polledness; (2) include female relatives and opportunities to evaluate relationships between feedlot and carcass traits with cow productivity traits; (3) utilize British-Bos indicus composites; and (4) have paired

carcass and meat data with and without electrical stimulation.

Faculty have collaboratively identified substantial genetic differences for most traits being measured and have identified quantitative trait loci (i.e. multiple genes that contribute to variation in a trait) for many important traits of beef cattle production. Now the focus is on integrating multiple types of genomics data to better understand the



biology underlying variability in these traits.

The McGregor Genomics Project will serve as a powerful resource for years to come as more is discovered about the cattle genome, not only to identify genetic markers for many production traits, but to also study the interrelationships among traits that can impact production such as temperament, body composition, animal health and immune function.

The McGregor Genomics Project is a collaboration among Drs. Clare Gill, Andy Herring, Rhonda Miller, Penny Riggs, David Riley, Jim Sanders, Jason Sawyer, Jeff Savell, and Tom Welsh, their staff and students. The project has received funding support from America's beef and veal producers through the \$1 per head checkoff, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grants, the Texas Beef Industry Competitiveness fund, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and Texas AgriLife Research. Please refer to <http://indicus.tamu.edu/mcgregor/project.cgi> for more information.

Equine reproductive management courses taught by equine science section

COLLEGE STATION – Faculty in the Equine Science Section of the Department of Animal Science conducted two short courses on Equine Reproductive Management in December 2010 and January 2011. The three-day programs offered information on anatomy and physiology of both the mare and stallion, management practices to increase reproductive efficiency, and care during and after the birth of the foal in both classroom and hands-on sessions. This is the 32nd year these programs have been offered to horse owners in Texas and the U.S. with approximately 1,300 horse owners, breeders and veterinarians having attended. The short courses are currently organized by Dr. Martha Vogelsang with the support from both Extension and teaching faculty, the Horse Center and graduate students in the Equine Science Section.

Texas Beef Council Beef Symposium

COLLEGE STATION – The Meat Science Section in the Department of Animal Science hosted the Texas Beef Council Beef Symposium on Jan. 20, 2011 in College Station.

The Beef Symposium was targeted to beef suppliers and end-users as well as TAMU meat science faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students to learn more about beef value cuts. Featured speaker and demonstrator for the symposium was former Animal Science student and graduate student Bridget (Baird) Wasser, Director, Product Enhancement Research, Education & Innovation National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Photo: Bridget Wasser teaches beef value cuts at the Rosenthal Meat Science Center.



Texas Chefs Seminar on Beef


COLLEGE STATION – The Department of Animal Science along with the Texas Beef Council hosted the Texas Chefs Seminar on Beef January 18-19, 2011.

The group learned the “ins and outs” about the live cattle industry, watched a beef harvest demonstration, learned beef grading and certified beef specifications as well as factors affecting beef tenderness on their first day. On the second day, they participated in an active demonstration designed to highlight differences in beef palatability as affected by grade, aging, feeding regimen and others. The seminar concluded with a beef fabrication demonstration designed to help the participants identify currently utilized carcass portions as well as discuss potential alternatives and new cuts.

Drs. Jason Cleere, Davey Griffin, Jeff Savell, Rhonda Miller, as well as Ray Riley, Meat Science graduate students, and TAMU former students and TBC hosts Russell Woodward and Andrew Brooks all presented segments of the program.



Aggie Roundup Reception to be held in Denver at annual convention



DENVER -- The Department of Animal Science and Anipro Xtraformance Feeds will host an Aggie Roundup Reception in conjunction with the 2011 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show. The reception will be held Feb. 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the West Club Lounge of Invesco Field in Denver. All faculty, current and former students, beef representatives and producers are invited. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP to Dr. Tryon Wickersham at tryon@tamu.edu.

Mare/Foal Workshop and Back to the Basics Horse Short Course scheduled for Feb.

Mare/Foal Workshop

COLLEGE STATION – Mare owners seeking information on broodmare management and raising foals will have an opportunity to attend a one-day program focusing on just that at the 13th annual Mare/Foal Workshop on Feb. 24, 2011 at Texas A&M University.

The workshop will be held at the Louis Pearce Pavilion. This location will allow for a hands-on approach to some of the workshop topics. Information on broodmare and foal nutrition, the estrous cycle, foaling care, as well as basic reproductive function, detection of estrus and signs of foaling will be discussed. Health care and restraint of mares, as well as some foal handling and neonatal care also will be addressed.

This one-day workshop is designed for mare owners. It is not intended to be a Breeder's school and will focus more on mare management than on breeding procedures. The information will be useful for

the mare owner, regardless of how many mares they own or manage. Instruction will be provided by equine faculty from both the Equine Science Section of the Animal Science Department and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Back to Basics Horse Short Course

A "Back to Basics" Horse Short Course for all horse enthusiasts will be held Feb. 24-25 in College Station. The event is sponsored by Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Extension.

Live training demonstrations will begin at 7 p.m. on the Feb. 24, focusing on starting young horses. Starting at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 25, there will be presentations and live demonstrations on various topics of interest to horse owners, including health care, nutrition and feeding management, selection, evaluation and ending with basic and advanced training techniques for performance horses.

Pre-registration is preferred. Registration includes printed materials, light breakfast and noon meal. Program begins at 8:00 a.m. with registration. The cost for each of these Equine Owner Education Workshops is \$40.00 and online registration will be accepted through Feb. 13, 2011. Late online registration is \$50.00 and will be accepted from Feb. 14 through Feb. 18, 2011. Registration at the door is \$60.00 per workshop. You may register for both workshops for a total of \$70 prior to Feb. 13, or \$90 from Feb. 14 through Feb. 18. Registration at the door for both workshops together is \$100. For more information, contact Dr. Dennis Sigler or Teri Antilley at (979) 845-1562, or dsigler@tamu.edu or see the webpage <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/index.htm> and click on Equine Workshops. For registration information, please visit AgriLife Extension Conference Services at <http://agrilifeevents.tamu.edu/>.

Rosalyn Rosenthal to speak at Rosenthal Lecture Series in February

COLLEGE STATION – Rosalyn Rosenthal, wife of E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal ‘42, will be the featured speaker at the Rosenthal Lecture Series to be held at the Annenberg Conference Center at Texas A&M University at 2 p.m. on Feb 1, 2011.

Mrs. Rosenthal will discuss the early days of Standard Meat Company and the business and personal relationships she and her late husband, Manny, had with so many in the meat and food service industries.

Mrs. Rosenthal lives in Fort Worth and is an avid supporter of the arts and many charities not only in her community but also across the nation. The Rosenthal family has had a long relationship with Texas A&M University through hiring and mentoring Aggies, serving on various councils and committees, and by endowing the E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal Chair and the Manny and Rosalyn Rosenthal Endowed Fund in the Department of Animal Science.

Former Students Remembered...

We would like to recognize and pay tribute to our former students in Animal Science who recently passed away. We extend our condolences to friends and families of these former students.

- Bryan Patrick McIlhany ‘04
- Gary Frank Parker ‘75
- Harvey G. Hoermann ‘50
- Frank L. Krampitz, Jr. ‘41
- Scott Alton Meador

Upcoming events

Agricultural Career Expo (ACE Day) (Feb 2-3, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please visit <http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/news/1-2011-aceday.php>.

Texas A&M Show Cattle Camp (May 27-29, 2011 & June 3-5, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby at 979-862-4736 or email <beefcenter@tamu.edu> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/camps/show-cattle-camp/index.htm>.

Texas A&M Horse Judging Camp (June 22-24, 2011 & July 6-8, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at 979-845-7731 or email <cac@tamu.edu> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/tamu-horse-judging-camp.htm>.

Aggieland Lamb & Goat Camps (July 15-17, 2011 & July 22-24, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey, Katie Fritz or Kelsey Willberg at 979-845-7616 or email <aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm>.

Rosenthal Lecture Series (Sept. 15, 2011 - College Station) - Dr. Temple Grandin will be the speaker at the Rosenthal Lecture Series to be held at the Annenberg Conference Center at the George Bush Presidential Library. For more information, please contact Dr. Jeff Savell at <cj-savell@tamu.edu>.



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