

Animal Science Weekly

January 31, 2011

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Skaggs named ING Professor of Excellence

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. Chris Skaggs is the recipient of the ING Professor of Excellence Award at Texas A&M University. Skaggs is professor and San Antonio Livestock Exposition Chair in the Department of Animal Science and associate dean for student development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As part of ING's partnership with Aggie Athletics, ING has pledged to recognize two professors throughout the football and men's basketball season for their dedication to education.

Skaggs will be recognized at the Texas A&M vs. University of Texas basketball game Jan. 31, immediately prior to the start of the game at 8 p.m.



Salinas selected to attend USDA forum in Washington D.C.

ARLINGTON, V.A. – David Salinas, a senior Animal Science major from McAllen, has been selected to attend the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program in Arlington, Virginia Feb. 24-25, 2011.

Junior and senior students who represent the diversity of American agriculture are selected to attend the forum based on their essays, "Agriculture as a Career." This is a unique opportunity for students to learn about agribusiness, the latest research, future trends, and policy in contemporary agriculture.

USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum provides producers, policy makers, business leaders, and government and industry analysts with a chance to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America's agriculture. In an effort to increase the present and future diversity of participation in the Forum, in 2007 USDA launched the Diversity Program focused on students majoring in agriculture-related majors at land grant colleges and universities.



ANSC EXTENSION at WORK



Beef Cattle Short Course

by Dr. Jason Cleere

the largest beef cattle education program in the world

COLLEGE STATION – The campus of Texas A&M University is rich with tradition, and each year on the first Monday in August the campus becomes the center of the beef cattle industry. The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. Dating back to 1942, Professor John K. Riggs started the first in a series of Beef Cattle Short Courses held on the campus of Texas A&M College to discuss the results of beef cattle research from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (now Texas AgriLife Research).

The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is a Department of Animal Science Texas AgriLife Extension program that seeks to educate beef cattle producers. It also provides an educational experience for future beef industry leaders such as high school, undergraduate and graduate students.

Today, the highly respected Short Course is nationally and internationally recognized as the largest attended beef cattle educational program of its type in the world.

The vision of the Short Course is to provide integration of research, new product development and technology through a quality, relevant continuing education program for producers that will allow them to overcome challenges currently facing the Texas beef cattle industry and Texas beef cattle producers.

The Short Course has evolved over the past 50 years to become the largest beef cattle educational program of its kind in the nation. The current format of the two and one-half day event began in 1990 when then Animal Science

Department Head Dr. Gary C. Smith asked Dr. Larry Boleman, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, to take over the revival of the traditional Beef Cattle Short Course.

Dr. Boleman used his Extension planning experiences to involve as many people from beef-related agencies, organizations, and associations to assist in the reformat-

(see BCSC page 3)



Dr. Larry Boleman and Dr. Jason Cleere



Dr. Rick Machen conducts a talk during the BCSC.

BCSC (continued from page 2)

ting of the Short Course. In the first year (1991), 350 participants attended, with 700 attendees the following year, and then 850 attended, breaking all previous existing records. The first two of these meetings were held in the Kleberg Center and, because of the huge crowds, the meetings were moved to Rudder Theatre Complex.

In 1994, 1,100 beef cattle producers attended, and its popularity continues to spread across the United States and internationally. Since that year, the average attendance has been approximately 1,400 annually through 2010, even with the declining numbers of Texas beef cattle producers. In 2004, Dr. Boleman decided that it was time to begin a leadership transition of the program and asked Dr. Jason Cleere, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at the Overton Center, to move to campus as state beef cattle specialist and take over as coordinator of the event.

Today, the highly respected Short Course is nationally and internationally recognized as the largest attended beef cattle educational program of its type in the world. Post-conference evaluations reveal that participants feel that the Short Course is an extremely valuable educational program, and 95% indicated that they would benefit economically from information learned at the Short Course. In 2009, the estimated net returns associated with changes in participant production practices totaled \$1.1 million, and the 2006-2009 cumulative benefit of the program to participants is estimated at \$3.6 million.



Over 120 agri-related businesses and trade show exhibitors annually attend the course. The entire TAMU System supports this activity with members of the Board of Regents, TAMU Chancellors, and Presidents often attending the famous Aggie Prime Rib Dinner each year.

The 2011 Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is scheduled for August 1-3. Additional information can be found at the following web site <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/index.html> or by contacting Dr. Cleere's office (979)845-6931.

Recent publications

Wu, G., and M.C. Satterfield. 2011. Proteins: oxidation, turnover and proteomics. In: Encyclopedia of Animal Science, 2nd edition (W.G. Pond, D. Ullrey and C. Kirk-Baer, eds.), Taylor & Francis Group, New York, NY. pp. 1:1, 929-931.

Wu, G., X.L. Li, J.R. McKnight, and M.C. Satterfield. 2011. Amino acids: utilization, gene expression and cell signaling. In: Encyclopedia of Animal Science, 2nd edition (W.G. Pond, D. Ullrey and C. Kirk-Baer, eds.), Taylor & Francis Group, New York, NY. pp. 1:1, 17-19.

Upcoming events

Rosenthal Lecture Series (Feb 1, 2011 - College Station) - **POSTPONED** - The Rosenthal Lecture Series featuring Rosalyn Rosenthal as guest speaker has been postponed due to potential weather hazards.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Coffee Break (Feb. 4, 2011 - Faculty Lounge) - All Animal Science faculty, staff and graduate students are invited to attend.

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>.

Children's Barnyard (April 27-29, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Kaitlyn Grimshaw at <kaitlyn_grimshaw@neo.tamu.edu> or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/students/clubs/s&s/announcements/index.htm>.

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 <j-savell@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 Courtney Coufal <cacoufal@tamu.edu>