

Animal Science Weekly

September 19, 2011

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Texas A&M student interest in dairy teaching program grows



SGPDCT CLASS OF 2011

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO – Eighteen students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences participated in the 2011 Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium Teaching program this summer earning hands-on dairy large herd management experience.

For the fourth year, the six-week long intensive dairy teaching program was held in Clovis, New Mexico, May 16 - June 24, 2011, and has seen a steady increase in the number of student participants. In 2011, 52 students from 13 different universities and two companies were welcomed to the program, nearly triple that of the inaugural year's enrollment in 2008.

The 2010 consortium class included nine students from Texas A&M, and this year that number doubled. Enrolled from Texas A&M were Ashley Barker, Carina Cedillo, Ike Damstra, Nathan Dudley, Sarah Genzer, Jaelan Gilbreath, Nicole Hoff, Robert Johnson, Andrew Krenek, Enrique Mendiola, Andres Ward and Tiffany Yarborough, animal science; Kristin Catron and Shay McDonald, dairy science; Stacy Negron and Victoria Wolverton, wildlife and fisheries; Megan Sima, biomedical sciences; and Blake Wolf, agribusiness.

Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, professor emeritus of dairy science in the Department of Animal Science and coordinator of the teaching consortium, said, "The continued growth in the program is an indication of the need for such a program in the southwest. At Texas A&M, we have seen an interest and enthusiasm for a dairy program continue to increase among our students, due to the opportunity that the consortium offers."

The SGPDCT was created specifically to address the need of dairy science education at universities in the southwest and to ensure an educated, qualified pool of employees for the growing dairy industry. The program allows students to receive dairy training in large herd management while still enrolled at a university and covers topics such as herd evaluation, reproduction, nutrition, genetics, facilities and mastitis.

The 2012 SGPDCT program is scheduled for May 14-June 23, 2012 and application are now being accepted. Go to <http://sgpdct.tamu.edu> to apply or for more information on the program.



TAMU Meat Judging Team Reunion brings together past, present, future members

COLLEGE STATION – The Texas A&M University meat judging program hosted a reunion for past, present and future TAMU Meat Judging Team members and their families on Sept. 16-18, 2011 in College Station, with a weekend complete with reminiscing, judging, tailgating, football and golf.

"We welcomed team members from 1957 to the present from all over Texas, the United States and Mexico," said Dr. Davey Griffin, TAMU Meat Judging Team Coordinator. "This reunion was one of the best meat judging reunions we have ever had and it was a very successful weekend for the TAMU Meat Judging Program!"

Approximately 110 former and present members and their families gathered at events that began with a reception and smoked pork loin dinner at the G. Rollie White Visitor's Center on Friday evening. On Saturday, the Junior and Senior Meat Judging Teams held an early morning workout and were joined by former coaches Ryan Person, Jarrett Hudek and Randel Garrett, who put classes together and read team reasons. Former and future judging team members attended an open house at the Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center where they toured the facilities, tried their skills at placing classes and introduced their children to the experience of meat judging. Many also visited the Kleberg Center and toured the Howard Hesby Student Atrium, the brand wall and staircase and viewed the former judging team photo gallery lining the wall of the first floor of the building.

Rachel Glascock, 2011 Meat Judging Team member, said, "It was really inspiring to have so many former meat team mem-

bers back here and to know that they still have much excitement about the meat judging program - it made me proud to know they care and want to see us be successful."

A short program was held in the Rosenthal Center and included an update on the Department of Animal Science and introduction of the Junior and Senior Meat Judging Teams. The 1991 "20-Year" TAMU Meat Judging Team members in attendance were introduced and a short summary of their accomplishments was given by their coach, Dr. Randal Garrett.

Plaques also were presented to those attending who made significant contributions to the Texas A&M Foundation Meat Judging Team Fund.

Lunch featuring the famous Texas Aggie Prime Rib sandwiches was served to 175 people. Saturday afternoon marked the end of a successful two-day silent auction, which was coordinated by former coaches Shanna Boleman and Jennifer Wylie with the help of Melanie Moore. Funds raised will be used for the meat judging team travel.

After lunch, participants tailgated under the TAMU Meat Judging Team Reunion tent prior to attending the TAMU versus Idaho football game.

The weekend ended with a golf tournament at Briarcrest Country Club to raise funds for the Dr. G.C. Smith Scholarship Fund. The team of Shawn Ramsey, Joe Gillespie, Darren Dylla and David Grams won the tournament, that was coordinated by Ray Riley and Shawn Ramsey. Dr. Gary Smith was on hand to support and "coach" each team as well as serve as official scorekeeper.



Dr. Jeff Savell, center, with the 1977 TAMU Meat Judging Team, left, Alfred Bausch, Greg Gossett, Susan (Newman) Fritz and Ray Riley. Savell coached the 1977 team.



Meagan Igo, meat science graduate student and coach of the 2012 TAMU Meat Judging Team, introduces the new team.



Harold "Thump" Witcher '73 and member of the 1971 Meat Judging Team was presented a plaque for his contribution to the Texas A&M Foundation Meat Judging Team Fund. Kirk and Emily Jones, Reba and Kenneth McGee, Tom and Jennifer Kelley, and Dr. J. Brad and Missy Morgan were also recognized for their significant contributions to the fund.



Temple Grandin attracts large crowds

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. Temple Grandin, world-famous for both her revolutionary insight into the autistic mind and her innovative design of livestock-handling equipment that reduce animal stress, drew large crowds for the Rosenthal Lecture Series and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Centennial Lecture Series. Grandin presented "Different Kinds of Minds Need to Work Together" on Sept. 14 to more than 2,100 people and "Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach" to nearly 900 attendees of the Rosenthal Lecture Series. Grandin also guest lectured to the ANSC 337 Meat Merchandising class.

Faculty, graduate students present research at annual reproduction meeting

PORTLAND – Several faculty and graduate students in the Department of Animal Science physiology of reproduction section presented papers at the 44th annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction held in Portland, Oregon in August 2011. Research presented includes:

Bruna Alves received a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Merit Fellow Award for her presentation entitled: "Accelerated body weight gain during the juvenile period reduces neuropeptide Y close contacts with GnRH neurons in heifers" by *Bruna Alves, S. Lui, E. Stevenson, Jennifer Thorson, Rodolfo Cardoso, Tedeschi DH, Gary Williams and Marcel Amstalden*

"Effects of prostaglanin (PG) E1 or E2 (PGE1, PGE2) intra-luteal implants of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2) and angiopoietin 1 and 2 (ANG-1; ANG-2) receptor: B-actin ration to prevent luteolysis in cows" by *Charles Weems, Yoshie S. Weems, Yan Ma, Stephen Ford, Terry M. Nett, Phillip Bridges, Rhonda Vann, Don Neuendorrf, Andy Lewis, Thomas Welsh and Ron Randel*

"Maternal exposure to bisphenol a disrupts and reverses sex differences in deer mice (*peromyscus maniculatus*) offspring" by *Eldin Jasarevic, Paizlee T. Sieli, Denise A. Warzak, Lisa Caldwell, Thomas Welsh, Rex A. Hess, Todd Schachtman, David C. Geary and Cheryl S. Rosenfeld*

"Potential roles for HSD11B1 and cortisol in regulation of endometrial functions and conceptus elongation in sheep" by *Thomas E. Spencer, Piotr L. Dorniak, Fuller W. Bazer and Thomas Welsh*

"Effects of RF-Amide related peptide 3 (RFRP-3), an equine homolog of avian gonadotropin-inhibiting hormone, on adenohipophyseal responsiveness to GnRH in mares" by *Jennifer Thorson, Ligia Prezotto, Rodolfo Cardoso, Brunna Alves, Songrui Liu, John Edwards, Thomas Welsh, Marcel Amstalden and Gary Williams*

"Failure of an equine homologue of avian gonadotropin inhibiting hormone to alter secretion of luteinizing hormone in the mare" by *Ligia Prezotto, Jennifer Thorson, Rodolfo Cardoso, Marcel Amstalden and Gary Williams*

"Semen parameters of cooled-shipped ejaculates in relation to fertility in stallions" by *Stephanie Standridge, C.T. Bearden, Clay Cavinder and Charles Love.*



Stephanie Standridge

Williams presents invited talk in Switzerland

BERN, SWITZERLAND – Dr. Gary Williams gave an invited presentation at the 10th International Congress on Farm Animal Endocrinology in Bern, Switzerland recently. The presentation was entitled, "Reproductive seasonality in the mare: neuroendocrine basis and pharmacological control." Williams is a regents fellow, faculty fellow and professor in the Department of Animal, stationed at the Texas AgriLife Research Center in Beeville.

Texas A&M Horsemen's Association kicks off year

The Texas A&M Horsemen's Association held their first meeting for the 2011-2012 year on Sept. 13 with more than 85 students in attendance, many of which were new members. This year, Horsemen's will volunteer at the Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) Show on Sept. 30-Oct. 2, as well as the Aggie Super Circuit Quarter Horse Show in the spring. The club also will send its members to the American Collegiate Horsemen's Association's National Convention, hosted this year by the University of Florida. The Aggie Horsemen look forward to another fantastic, educational year full of personal growth and the forging of life-long friendships. More information on the club can be found at <http://aggiehorsemen.tamu.edu/>.



B Straight from the BLOCK

TAMU Saddle & Sirloin Club News



The Texas A&M University Saddle & Sirloin Club held their first meeting of the fall semester on September 6 with more than 350 students in attendance. New members are encouraged to join. The Saddle & Sirloin Club is one of the oldest and largest clubs on campus. Saddle & Sirloin is a club open to students of all majors and departments, but it has its roots in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Our primary purpose is to build a social network with fellow Aggies and raise funds through our events to support our judging teams. For more information on the club go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/students/clubs/s&s/index.htm>.

COMING UP...

Oct. 4: S&S Club Fall BBQ - Beef Center - 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 18: Halloween Social - Pumpkin Patch

Oct. 26-28: Children's Barnyard - Pearce Pavilion



Children's Barnyard to be held in fall

The Children's Barnyard, an event hosted by the Saddle & Sirloin Club, is scheduled for Oct. 26-28, 2011 at Pearce Pavilion. The event is open to local pre-kindergarten through first grade students and gives them the opportunity to experience animals and farm life. Children's Barnyard has typically been held in the spring but was moved to the fall this year to allow more club members the chance to participate and to improve the quality of the event. More information on the event can be found online at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/saddle-sirloin/Childrens-Barnyard-Forms-Fall-2011.pdf> or please contact Katie Fritz at (830) 992-1364.

Craig Morris to present Centennial Lecture Series

Dr. Craig Morris, deputy administrator with the Agriculture Marketing Service, USDA, will present, "Checkoffs - An Overview of the Federally Overseen Commodity Research and Promotion Programs" on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. in the Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, Room 129.

From peanuts to pork, nearly every agricultural commodity has an organization dedicated to promoting the economic welfare of its producers. Primary oversight for the checkoff programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). At this lecture, Morris, will discuss an overview of commodity research and promotion and the functions and benefits of these programs.

Morris oversees the agency's Livestock and Seed Program. He is responsible for services provided to the livestock, meat, fish, grain, and seed industries. These services include commodity grading services, voluntary and mandatory market news reporting services, quality system verification programs, export verification programs, commodity purchases for Federal food and nutrition programs, research and promotion program oversight, and oversight of various other regulatory programs including the Country of Origin Labeling program, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, Wool Trust, and Federal Seed Act enforcement.

Morris received a bachelor of science with distinction in animal science at Iowa State University and a doctor of philosophy, regents graduate fellow in animal science/meat science section at Texas A&M University.

For more information go to <http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/100>.

Recent Publications

Romano, Juan E., J.A. Thompson, D.C. Kraemer, M.E. Westhusin, M.A. Tomaszewski and D.W. Forrest. 2011. Effects of early pregnancy diagnosis by palpation per rectum on pregnancy loss in dairy cattle. JAVMA. 239:668-673.

Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Centennial Lecture Series (Sept. 23, 2011 - College Station) - Dr. Craig Morris, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Marketing Service, will present "Checkoffs - An Overview of the Federally Overseen Commodity Research and Promotion Programs." The event will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held in the Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, Room 129. For more information, go to <http://agrilife.org/college100/events/commoditygrading/>.

Saddle & Sirloin Fall BBQ (Oct. 4, 2011 - 6:30 p.m. - TAMU Beef Center) - For more information, contact Kirbie Day at (972) 921-7773 or at <kirbie_day@yahoo.com>.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Oct. 7, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - Dr. Glenn Holub, instructional assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, will present "Attitudes and Perceptions of Students in an Introductory Animal Science Class." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the program beginning at noon. Please contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu> with questions.

Saddle & Sirloin Children's Barnyard (Oct. 26-28, 2011 - Pearce Pavilion) - For more information, contact Katie Fritz at (830) 992-1364 or at <k2012fritz@neo.tamu.edu>.

4th annual Korea-United States International Joint Symposium (Nov. 1-2, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/symposium/> or contact Dr. Stephen Smith at (979) 845-3939 or <sbsmith@tamu.edu>.

2011 Aggiefest Livestock Judging Contest (Nov. 5, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, contact Jake Franke at <jfranke@tamu.edu> or call (979) 845-6059.

2011 Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop (Nov. 5, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, contact Teri Antilley at <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> or go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/aggiefest_horsejudging.htm.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Dec. 2, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - Dr. Barry Lambert, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at Tarleton State University, will present "Southwest Regional Dairy Center Update." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the program beginning at noon. Please contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu> with questions.

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course (Jan. 11-13, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Martha Vogelsang or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/equine-repro-short-course.htm>.



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