

Animal Science Weekly

July 1, 2008

ATM | TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Inside this issue:

- Carstens, Forrest, Hammack, Paschal & Randel Attend World Brahman Congress
- Smith Presents For Australian Veterinarian Association
- Dr. Charles Graham Funds Akaushi Research
- Dr. Paul Harms Announces Retirement
- Paschal Interviewed for RFD TV Presentation
- Sterle Hosts Pork Leadership Tour
- Gibbs Hosts Cargill™ Horse Feed Industry Workshop
- Department Represented at American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference
- Dairy Program Featured On cnjonline.com
- Recent Publications
- Upcoming Events

Carstens, Forrest, Hammack, Paschal & Randel Attend World Brahman Congress

FT. WORTH, TEXAS (May 19-23, 2008) - Drs. Gordon Carstens, David Forrest, Steve Hammack, Joe Paschal and Ron Randel attended the World Brahman Congress; the event attracted over 250 Brahman breeders from 34 countries. The 2008 edition was the 14th congress since 1982 and marked only the second time the event was held in the United States. In addition to the cattle show, technical seminars, receptions, tours, a trade show, and a sale featuring elite Brahman genetics were held. Drs. Randel and Paschal were invited speakers at the Technical Session held on May 19. Randel spoke on the effects of temperament on carcass quality, while Paschal discussed the American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) carcass research and ranch to rail results. Paschal also announced the results of the Parade of Champions, Gray and Red Brahman bulls and females, based on his committee's rankings using the ABBA's Standard of Excellence.

Smith Presents For Australian Veterinarian Association

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (May 27, 2008) - Dr. Stephen Smith presented "Health Effects of Ground Beef" via teleconference from the KAMU broadcast building to attendees at the Australian Veterinarian Association 2008 Annual Conference, held in Perth, Australia.

Dr. Charles Graham Funds Akaushi Research

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (June 6, 2008) - Dr. Charles Graham, on behalf of Dr. Antonio Calles, owner of HeartBrand Beef, Inc., recently presented Dr. Stephen Smith with funding for Akaushi beef research. Akaushi cattle, a *Bos Taurus* type, had their origin in Kumamoto, Japan. This breed type produces meat with a high amount of intramuscular fat and a fatty composition that is significantly lower in saturated fat and cholesterol. In 1994, due to a loophole in the Trade Act of 1992 between the United States and Japan, a small nucleus of Akaushi cows and bulls were brought to the United States, and these genetics are controlled by HeartBrand Beef, Inc. Smith's research focus will be on post-menopausal women who are at risk for coronary vascular disease because they experience a decrease in HDL cholesterol (the "good" cholesterol). Prior research has shown that feeding ground beef high in oleic acid to men increases their HDL cholesterol, especially when coupled with exercise. Forty

post-menopausal women will rotate through one of two diets: standard ground beef, relatively high in saturated fatty acids, and HeartBrand Beef, Inc. beef from Akaushi cattle, high in monounsaturated fatty acids (especially oleic acid). The women will eat five, quarter-pound patties each week for a total of five weeks, after which they will participate in a brief exercise program. Next, they will rotate to the second ground beef for another five weeks. In collaboration with Dr. Rosemary Walzem (Poultry Science) and Dr. Stephen Crouse (Health & Kinesiology), Smith will measure their cholesterol levels before and after consumption of the ground beef and after the exercise program. Subjects will receive a free, comprehensive physical examination by a physician, as well as free diet and activity evaluations. Smith is currently in the process of recruiting subjects. For more information, please contact Dr. Steve Smith at 979-845-3939.



Pictured above: Dr. Charles Graham funds Akaushi Research. From left to right: Dr. Larry Boleman, Dr. Steve Smith, Dr. Charles Graham, Dr. Russell Cross, and Dr. Gary Acuff.

Dr. Paul Harms Announces Retirement

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS - After more than 34 years with Texas A&M University, Dr. Paul G. Harms has announced his retirement effective August 31, 2008. Planning is underway for an event to honor Dr. Harms for his countless contributions to the University, the Department of Animal Science, and the Physiology of Reproduction Section. To make the event special, current and former students, faculty, staff, and friends are invited to join us for this celebration. If you'd like to receive further information regarding the Harms Retirement Celebration, please send your contact information by July 18th to: Sherry Martin (skelly@ansc.tamu.edu), 2471 TAMU, Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2471, or you may also contact Sherry at 979-845-3560.

Paschal Interviewed for RFD TV Presentation

KINGSVILLE, TEXAS (June 3, 2008) - Dr. Joe Paschal was interviewed by LZ Productions at the King Ranch Feedyard for a program to be presented on RFD TV in August. Topics discussed during the interview focused on feedyard performance, carcass merit, and profitability of the Santa Gertrudis National Steer Feedout Program. Santa Gertrudis Breeders International has conducted a total of nine steer feedouts with over 900 head from 45 breeders participating in the program. The data is used by the breeders in selection for improving feedyard performance and carcass merit. It will also be used in the calculation of carcass merit expected progeny difference (EPD), including tenderness EPD. Dr. Rhonda Miller of the Meat Science Section conducts the shear force work.



Pictured above: Dr. Joe Paschal was interviewed by LZ Productions for a program to be presented on RFD TV.

Sterle Hosts Pork Leadership Tour

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (June 22, 2008) - After six days and over 1,300 miles, 16 high school students finished their week on the Pork Leadership Tour at the Kleberg Animal & Food Sciences Center. Youth swine producers from across the state experienced the pork industry from conception to consumption. Stops included the following locations: Smithfield Premium Genetics (Pampa, TX), Premium Standard Farms (Dalhart, TX), Seaboard Foods (Guymon, OK), Texas Farm (Perryton, TX), West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX), Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX), Belew Farms (Tahoka, TX), Wright Brand Foods (Vernon, TX), Owens Country Sausage (Richardson, TX), H-E-B (College Station, TX), and Texas A&M University. The participants toured various aspects of the pork industry, participated in harvesting and fabricating pork carcasses, received media training, and competed for scholarships throughout the week. They were accompanied by Ken Horton, Executive Vice President of the Texas Pork Producers Association, Stanley Young, Extension Agent Emeritus (Lubbock County), and Dr. Jodi Sterle, Extension Swine Specialist.



Pictured above: Dr. Jodi Sterle hosted the Pork Leadership Tour.

Gibbs Hosts Cargill™ Horse Feed Industry Workshop

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS (June 16-17, 2008) - Dr. Pete Gibbs organized the 12th Annual Cargill Horse Feed Industry Workshop for Territory Managers from 13 states, Canada, and Korea on the campus of Texas A&M University. Faculty and staff members also making presentations or giving demonstrations included Dr. Dennis Sigler and Dave Golden from the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science, and A. C. Barr from the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab. Cargill™ is also a major education and award enhancement sponsor for the Texas Sate 4-H Horse Show.

Department Represented at American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA (June 22-25, 2008) - Both faculty and graduate students from the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science participated at the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) hosted by the University of Florida. RMC is an annual conference that brings together meat scientists and students from academia, industry and government. The conference addresses critical issues facing meat scientists in an age of fast change and constant challenges in the areas of meat safety, quality and consistency as it applies to all points in the production and processing chain. Drs. Kerri Harris, Wes Osburn and Steve Smith presented "Nutrient Composition of Meats," "Improving Tenderness with Further Processing," and "National Cattlemen's Beef Association Ground Beef Diet/Health Study." Graduate student Tess Aldredge (advisor Dr. Rhonda Miller) placed second in the RMC M.S. Graduate Student Poster competition with her research topic, "Decreasing variation in cook color of ground beef patties varying in myoglobin and pH." Ph.D. candidate

Department Represented at American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference Continued

Betsy Booren (advisor Dr. Rhonda Miller) finished first in the RMC Graduate Student Poster competition, Ph. D. Division, with her research topic, "Rheological characterization of pale, soft, and exudative and normal ground pork gels utilizing bicarbonate buffers, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, and konjac flour in standard commercial enhancement solutions." In the Iron Chef "People's Choice Award" Collegiate Team Product Development competition, Shannon Bennett (advisor Dr. Rhonda Miller) and Gabriel Chmielewski (advisor Dr. Wes Osburn) placed first. Plans are underway for next year's conference to be held in Arkansas.



Pictured above: Faculty and graduate students from the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science attend the AMSA RMC. From left to right: Tess Aldredge, Dr. Rhonda Miller, and Betsy Booren.

Dairy Program Featured on cnjonline.com

The Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium Teaching Program was featured on cnjonline.com, the web site of the Clovis News Journal. The Consortium is a multi-university, interagency organization established to meet the educational and research needs of the rapidly expanding dairy industry in the Southern Great Plains. It provides a formal structure for coordinating teaching, research, extension and diagnostic service programs. The Clovis News Journal is a daily newspaper that is based in Clovis, New Mexico. The article can be viewed via the World Wide Web at http://www.cnjonline.com/news/dairy_28435___article.html/students_program.html

Recent Publications

Smith, R. D., K. L. Nicholson, J. D. W. Nicholson, K. B. Harris, R. K. Miller, D. B. Griffin, and J. W. Savell. 2008. Dry versus wet aging of beef: Retail cutting yields and consumer palatability evaluations of steaks from US Choice and US Select short loins. *Meat Sci.* 79:631-639.

Upcoming Events

Horse Judging Camp (July 9-11 - College Station, TX) - For more information, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder <cac@tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/main/academics/equine/judging-camp.html>

Aggieland Lamb & Goat Camps (July 25-27 - College Station, TX) - For more information, please contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey <sramsey@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7616 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/main/academics/sheep/center/camps.html>

Saddle & Sirloin Club Steer, Heifer, & Pig Futurities (August 2-3, 2008 - Bryan, TX) - For more information, please visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/main/08-futurities.pdf> or email the Saddle & Sirloin Club at ssfuturities@gmail.com

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course (August 4-6, 2008 - College Station, TX) - For more information, please contact Dr. Jason Cleere <jjcleere@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-6931 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/>



Department of Animal Science - Dr. Gary Acuff, Professor & 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 Grace Glenn <g-glenn@tamu.edu> (979.845.1543)