

Animal Science Weekly

December 14, 2009

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Horse Judging Team wins NRHA national contest



Left, Brooke Byrd, Erin Grace (also pictured below), Adrienne Paquette, Lauren Fulce and Leslie Wagner with coach Clay Cavinder.

COLLEGE STATION -- The TAMU Horse Judging Team won first place at the National Reining Horse Association Futurity Collegiate Judging Contest in Oklahoma City on Dec. 4.

The Aggie team led the competitive field of 16 collegiate teams, with West Texas A&M University finishing second; University of Wisconsin-River Falls, third; Clemson University, fourth; and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, fifth.

Members of the champion team are Erin Grace of Milton, Fla., Lauren Fulce of Irving, Adrienne Paquette of Plano, Leslie Wagner of McAllen, and Brooke Byrd of Helotes.

The A&M team was the only team with three members finishing in the top 10. Grace led with first place high individual, Fulce

finished third, Paquette scored sixth and Wagner, thirteenth.

"This contest was only the third competition for this group and in three outings they have finished second twice and now first," said Clay Cavinder, assistant professor and horse judging team coach. "I am extremely excited about their future. Their commitment, competitive drive and growing confidence are making them a very dangerous team."

Earlier this fall, the team earned reserve champion at both the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City and at the Arabian Horse Judging Contest in Tulsa.

Jeannette Mawyer is assistant coach. Amy Stewart of Lake Jackson, Amanda Zuniga of Charlotte and Shellie Delluge of Fallon, Nev., also are members of the horse judging team but did not compete in this contest.



Department of Animal Science hosts

Holiday Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

The Department of Animal Science hosted its annual Holiday Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Dec. 9 in the Kleberg atrium.

More than 200 faculty, staff, retirees, graduate students and student workers gathered for a barbecue brisket and pork tenderloin meal. The Texas A&M meat judging team prepared the pork tenderloin and sliced the brisket and pork during the serving of the meal.

Recipients of the 2009 Vice Chancellor's Awards were announced and will be formally accepted at the Texas A&M AgriLife Conference in January. Nicole Burdick will receive the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Graduate Student Research (on/off campus). Burdick is a doctoral candidate working under the direction of Dr. Tom Welsh. Dr. Andy Herring will receive the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Graduate Student Teaching. The Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Research will be given to the McGregor Bovine Genomics Team of Drs. Clare Gill, Andy Herring, Rhonda Miller, Penny Riggs, Jim Sanders and Jason Sawyer.

Dr. Ted Friend was named a Texas AgriLife Research Faculty Fellow.

Pauline Recek, senior office associate, and Kenton Lilie, research assistant at the Beef Center, each received the Department of Animal Science Outstanding Support Staff award.

Dr. Gary Acuff, department head, presents awards to:

- (1) Dr. Andy Herring (2) Nicole Burdick (3) Penny Riggs, Clare Gill, Andy Herring and Jason Sawyer (4) Pauline Recek (5) Kenton Lilie (6) Ted Friend.**



Food Drive Contest

The Department of Animal Science hosted a team-based Food Drive Contest with all collected donations going towards the KBTX Food For Families Food Drive held on Dec. 9 to benefit the Brazos Valley Food Bank and area pantries.

1017 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$466 in monetary donations were collected from four teams. According to the food bank \$1 equals five pounds of food. Total food items and monetary donations, the department donated 3,347 pounds of food.

The winning teams were announced at the annual Holiday Luncheon and Award Ceremony, and each person received either two, four or eight hours of administrative leave.



Upcoming events

Southwest Beef Symposium (January 20-21, 2010 - Tucumcari, NM) - For more information, please contact Dr. Bruce Carpenter <BCarpent@ag.tamu.edu> at 432-336-8585.

Mare/Foal Workshop (February 24, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.

Horse Management 101 (February 25, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.



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 Courtney Coufal <cacoufal@tamu.edu>