

# Animal Science Weekly

July 12, 2010



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

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## Savell chosen to Meat Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2010

KANSAS CITY - Dr. Jeff Savell, regents professor and E.M. "Manny" Rosenthal Chairholder in Animal Science, has been elected to the Meat Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

Twelve new members were chosen from a list of more than 50 nominees by the Hall's Board of Trustees and inductees from last year's inaugural class, according to a press release issued by Hall officials in Kansas City. The nominees included an all-star list of executives, academicians, innovators, and association leaders from all sectors of the industry.

"We are delighted to include 12 of the legendary names in our industry this year," said Dan Murphy, executive director and co-founder of the Hall of Fame. "These people are rightfully credited with fostering much of the profound change, remarkable progress and success of our North American meat industry. We're proud to celebrate their legacies."

Savell is leader of the meat science section in the Department of Animal Science and also holds an appointment on the Faculty of Food Science and Technology. He teaches the introductory course in meat science where he has taught more than 8,000 Aggies since 1982.



Savell also teaches an undergraduate livestock and meat marketing class, a graduate course in carcass composition and quality, and team-teaches a graduate and undergraduate course in HACCP. In addition, he conducts research on the quality, quantity, safety and usefulness of meat and meat products through his appointment with Texas AgriLife Research, and has been identified by ISIHighlyCited.com as one of the top 250 most cited researchers in the world in the field of agricultural science.

"Being selected as a member of the Meat Industry Hall of Fame is one of the highlights of my career," Savell said. "I have been blessed with outstanding mentors, colleagues, and students who all have played a vital role in this recognition."

Savell has received numerous academic and industry honors and awards for teaching, research, and service, and he belongs to several professional organizations and industry advisory boards and committees.

The induction ceremony for the new Meat Industry Hall of Fame members will be held Oct. 30, 2010 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## Wu honored with two prestigious awards

Dr. Guoyao Wu, professor and University and AgriLife Senior Faculty Fellow, recently received two prestigious awards: the Thousand-People-Talent Award from the Central Government of China and the Samburu Collaboration Award from the International Association of Giraffe Care Professionals. Wu is the first scientist to receive the Thousand-People-Talent Award in the field of animal science and veterinary medicine.

## 63rd Reciprocal Meat Conference Highlights June 19-23, 2010 | Texas Tech University

### Hale recognized with AMSA service award

LUBBOCK – Dr. Dan Hale, professor and Extension meat specialist, received a Signal Service Award at the American Meat Science Association awards banquet held during the annual Reciprocal Meat Conference in Lubbock, Texas, June 23, 2010.

The AMSA Signal Service Award was established in 1956 and is given to members in recognition of devoted service and lasting contributions to the meat industry and to the association. Each Signal Service Award winner is recognized as an American Meat Science Association Fellow.

Hale served as president of AMSA from 2006-2007 and was instrumental in guiding the updating and implementation of the organization’s strategic plan. He also served as RMC chair and AMS student board advisor.

In his current role at A&M, Hale works predominantly with 4-H youth and meat industry professionals across Texas. He has created a lasting impression on the state’s and nation’s meat curricula, with extension programs such as Value-Added Meat and Poultry School, Beef Quality Excellence in Texas, Fantasy Beef Challenge and Beef 808, all under his direction since 1997.



Hale has developed 29 educational and food safety interactive videos, as well as written 60 publications, 25 referred journal articles, 39 research papers, and 23 Texas AgriLife publications.

### Savell participates in “Syllabus Swap”

Dr. Jeff Savell, along with several professors from different universities who teach introductory meat science courses, participated in a reciprocation session entitled “Syllabus Swap” at the Reciprocal Meat Conference on June 21. The session was designed to discuss the major topics that are being covered in introductory courses around the country and to allow audience interaction regarding the challenges and opportunities faced when teaching these courses.

### AMSA Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl



Left, Meat science students Carson Ulbrich, Maggie Albrecht, Melanie Moore and Jae Ebeling; graduate coaches Ashley Haneklaus and Shannon Cruzen; and meat science students Kayla Nelson, Amanda Smith and Gatlan Gray participated in the AMSA Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl. Both teams advanced far into the competition before being eliminated. Dr. Dan Hale is the faculty sponsor. The quiz bowl is designed to encourage interaction among students from different universities, increase student interest in the area of meat science and provide a field for friendly competition within academia.

### Aggie students named Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award winners

Meat science students Gatlan Gray and Amanda Smith were recognized as 2010 Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award winners during the RMC opening general session on June 21. Melanie Moore and Carson Ulbrich were also recognized as honor roll recipients. This award recognizes outstanding undergraduate students with potential for a career in meats and who have demonstrated an interest in meat science and the meat industry. ■

Pictured left, Gray, Moore, Smith and Ulbrich.





## Animal/dairy science students earn hands-on training in dairy teaching program

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO – Nine Texas A&M University students from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences participated in a six-week long intensive hands-on dairy teaching program held in Clovis, New Mexico this June.

The third annual Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium – Teaching program was held May 17-June 25 and brought together 36 students interested in dairy large herd management from 12 universities across the United States.

Those participating from Texas A&M include animal science majors Kristin Catron, Jeff Cunningham, Mateus Freua, Richard Grafe, Nicole Hoff and Taylor Tully; dairy science major Shay McDonald; biomedical science major Hillary Henderson; and agribusiness major David Volleman.

The SGPDCCT was created to specifically address the need to improve the availability of dairy science education at universities in the Southwest and to ensure the growing dairy industry a well qualified pool of prospective employees for future employment, according to a SGPDCCT brochure.

Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, visiting professor and professor emeritus of dairy science in the Department of Animal Science, serves as chair for the SGPDCCT steering committee.



**SGPDCT Class of 2010**

“Advanced dairyscience classes are no longer taught at Texas A&M or any other university in the Southwest, even though the dairy industry is growing and is in need of qualified mid-range managers for dairy farms as well as agribusiness which is adding personnel in order

to meet the needs of a growing industry,” said Tomaszewski.

“This program allows students to receive training in large herd management while still enrolled at Texas A&M.”

The program is divided into two concurrent sessions and covers topics such as herd evaluation, reproduction, nutrition, genetics, facilities and mastitis.

“The program is designed to familiarize students with general basics in the first session and teaches more advanced management practices as well as work with veterinarians and consultants in the second session,” said Tomaszewski.

A major component of the learning process encourages hands-on training. “Each day the group spends at least four hours in the classroom and every day the class either visits a dairy, lab or takes a field trip to enforce what was taught during class. There is a tremendous amount of hands-on. For example, there were 120 cows available for rectal palpation. Where do you find that number at the university?” said Tomaszewski.

Nationally-known instructors are brought in from all over the country and are considered experts in the field of dairyscience. They include university faculty members from participating schools as well as industry experts.

Interest in the program has grown since its beginning. In 2008, the program welcomed 18 students from six universities and in 2009, there were 22 students from 10 universities.

“This program has been completely funded from private industry and a USDA grant. My hope for the future of this program would be for universities to recognize the impact regional education has for certain species/commodities and provide resources to create regional centers of learning to nurture this type of program,” Tomaszewski said.

Planning for the 2011 program has already begun and is scheduled for May 16-June 24, 2011.

For more information about this program, go to <http://sgpdct.tamu.edu>. ■



**Catron**



**Cunningham**



**Freua**



**Grafe**



**Hoff**



**McDonald**



**Tully**

Go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/weekly/progressive-dairyman.pdf> to read an article about this program in *Progressive Dairyman*.

## Australian scientist to collaborate with animal breeding/genetics faculty

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. Brian Burns, a scientist with Agri-Science Queensland in Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia spent several weeks this May and June visiting Texas A&M University and faculty in the Department of Animal Science to discuss and plan a collaborative research project to study non-traditional inheritance patterns (called epigenetics) in tropically adapted cattle.

Burns is coordinator of this large-scale research project in Queensland, and works closely with the animal breeding and genetics faculty in the Department of Animal Science. The cattle and information from the McGregor Genomics Project are contributing to this research project. Burns was awarded a prestigious Queensland International Fellowship that will allow him to return to College Station this fall to continue his work with the Department of Animal Science. He will be hosted by Dr. Andy Herring, associate professor and assistant head for academic programs.



Back in Rockhampton, Burns' research project has drawn attention from the *Queensland Country Life* June 10, 2010 issue. Burns says in the article, "This collaborative partnership is all about scientists adopting a global perspective - not just for the life of the current five year project - but developed as a long term collaboration.

"Through collaboration with Texas A&M, Queensland researchers will have access to extensive DNA data banks collected over the past 50 years from U.S. resource herds that can be used to fast-track the screening in Australian cattle."

To view the complete article, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/weekly/australia-article.pdf>.

### Wu gives invited presentations

Dr. Guoyao Wu, professor of animal nutrition, and University and AgriLife Faculty Fellow, gave two invited talks recently in California. Wu presented "Amino acid nutrition in fetal and neonatal growth: from animal studies to clinical applications" at Experimental Biology 2010 in Anaheim, held April 23-28, 2010. He also presented, "Glutamate content in foods and utilization by the pig small intestine" at International Glutamate Technical Committee on April 29 in Santa Monica.

### Angora Goat Performance Test Field Day and Sale is July 29

SONORA – Texas AgriLife Research's annual Angora Goat Performance Test Field Day and Sale is set for July 29 at the AgriLife Research Station at Sonora.

The station is located 28 miles south of Sonora on U.S. Highway 55, between Sonora and Rocksprings.

The day's activities open at 10 a.m. with an informal viewing of the test animals and their records. Educational presentations start at 11:15 a.m. and resume at 1 p.m. after lunch. The sale of performance-tested animals will immediately follow the educational program at about 2 p.m.

Program topics include range utilization by goats; meat: the other angora product; tribute to Mac Gilliat; mohair market update and outlook; comments on test results; and a presentation of Mohair Council of America Awards and Recognition of Certified Bucks.

For more information, contact Dr. Dan Waldron, Texas AgriLife Research professor, or Dr. Frank Craddock, Texas AgriLife Extension Service sheep and goat specialist in San Angelo, at 325-653-4576, or the AgriLife Research Station at Sonora at 325-387-3168.

To view complete details, visit <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1987>.

### Beef quality training to be held Aug. 24

VERNON – Beef producers are invited to attend a training session on Aug. 24 for the Texas Beef Quality Producer program to sharpen their knowledge of Beef Quality Assurance principles, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialist.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the program running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wilbarger County Auditorium, 2100 Yamparika Street, in Vernon. A complimentary lunch sponsored by Texas Beef Council will be served.

"Beef Quality Assurance is a national effort in the beef industry that focuses proven management practices that help ensure safety and quality of beef," said Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in Amarillo.

The intensive half-day training will cover Beef Quality Assurance principles, industry updates, record keeping, environmental stewardship, management practices associated with genetic selection, cattle handling, culling and use of animal health products, said Langdon Reagan, AgriLife Extension agriculture agent for Wilbarger County.

To view complete details, visit <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1993>.



## TAMU Horse Judging Camp

COLLEGE STATION – The annual TAMU Horse Judging Camp was held June 2-4, 2010 and June 16-18, 2010 here in Aggieland. 89 young horse enthusiasts showed up for the camps ages 12 to 18, mostly from Texas with several coming from West Virginia.

The students were taught the art of giving oral reasons along with correct conformation of the horse and evaluate Western and English Performance classes.

Dr. Clay Cavinder along with his students were instructors and chaperones. Dr. Dennis Sigler, Teri Antilley and Jessica Lucia were also instructors.



## TAMU Livestock Judging Camp

COLLEGE STATION – 185 4-H and FFA members from as far away as Oregon gathered in College Station for the annual Livestock Judging Camp. Three camps were held

June 13-15, June 20-22 and June 23-25 at the Texas A&M Beef Center.

Livestock Judging Team coaches Cody Sloan, Carl Muntean and Jake Thorne, team coordinator Jake Franke and members of the 2010 and 2011 Livestock Judging Teams taught the youngsters, who came from across Texas, Colorado, Oregon, Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma, about market and breeding animal evaluation of cattle, sheep, hogs and goats. Most of day two of the camp was dedicated to reasons.

The camp participants also competed in a judging contest on the final morning of the camp and the top ten junior and senior awards were given.



## Summer Shows in Aggieland

**Saddle & Sirloin  
Steer, Heifer & Pig Futurity**  
July 30-Aug1  
Brazos County Expo Complex

Entry forms available online at  
[http://animalscience.tamu.edu/  
students/clubs/s&s/index.htm](http://animalscience.tamu.edu/students/clubs/s&s/index.htm).

Mail entry forms to 2471 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843

**Contacts:**  
Sydney Wilkinson  
719-680-7910  
Colton Atkins  
979-219-0551

**TAMU Livestock Judging  
Team Extravaganza**  
July 31-Aug1  
Brazos County Expo Complex

**Contact:**  
Jake Franke  
[jfranke@tamu.edu](mailto:jfranke@tamu.edu)

**Lamb Booster Futurity**  
July 31  
Pearce Pavilion

Two shows  
Ring A: \$25 - Ring B: \$10  
Cash prizes guaranteed  
No pre-entry

**Contact:**  
Joslyn Kotzur  
210-355-7781

For complete details on all three events go to  
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/saddle-sirloin/summer-shows.pdf>.

## New technology, herd management practices part of 2010 Beef Cattle Short Course

COLLEGE STATION - Basic beef cattle production tools and the latest technology available to ranchers will be showcased at the 56th Annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course scheduled August 2-4.

"Each year at the conclusion of the beef cattle short course we ask participants how we can make it better the next year," said Dr. Jason Cleere, AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist and conference coordinator. "One question asked is if participants feel like they will be able to use some of the information from the short course to improve ranch profitability. Ninety-six percent indicated that it would improve profitability. Ninety-nine percent of the 2009 participants said they would recommend the course to others. We're shooting for 100 percent this year."

The cattleman's college part of the short course will feature more than 20 different four-hour educational sessions, covering a variety of different topics affecting ranchers.

"The cattleman's college allows participants to choose the topics that are most important to their ranch and personalize short course educational program according to their needs," Cleere said. "From the novice beef cattle producer to the most experienced rancher, there will be beef cattle information for all at this short course."

Whole-herd health management, selecting your next bull or replacement females, cattle nutritional needs, crossbreeding systems and safe cattle handling are just a few of the topics in the basic ranch management category, he said.

"For the more seasoned ranchers there will be discussions about DNA technology, fine-tuning your replacement heifer program, advanced marketing strategies, business management and many others," Cleere said.

"In addition to cattle management, there will be a number of sessions dedicated to economical forage

management, weed management, brush control and grazing management. The sustainability of the ranch as well as our land resources depends on how well native or improved forages are managed."

The short course also will feature a beef cattle market outlook presentation by Randy Blach, CEO of CattleFax.

"Successful ranchers are constantly looking into the future and trying to adjust management to take advantage of future opportunities," Cleere



said. "Our goal for participants is to take both the basic and advanced information from the short course and practically apply it on their ranch. The last day of the short course will feature demonstrations that apply many of the topics discussed during the first two days."

Participants can receive a pesticide applicator's license during the short course, and receive at least seven pesticide continuing education units if already licensed. An industry trade show will be held during the event featuring more than 110 agricultural businesses and service exhibits.

Registration is \$140 per person and includes educational materials, a copy of the 600-page Beef Cattle Short Course proceedings, trade show admittance, admission to the prime rib dinner, meals and daily refreshments.

Registration information and a tentative schedule is available at <http://beef.tamu.edu> or by contacting Cleere's office at 979-845-6931.

### YOUTH PROGRAM OFFERED AT BCSC

COLLEGE STATION - A program featuring educational sessions specifically for youth will be offered in conjunction with the 56th Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course at Texas A&M University Aug. 2-4.

The beef short course is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The program will feature a variety of educational sessions, ranging from beef evaluations and grading, to beef advocacy, said Dr. Jason Cleere, conference coordinator and AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist.

"Youth participants will also be able to attend the general session as well as the live demonstrations on Aug. 4," Cleere said. "Competitions will be held for the students to exhibit their beef skills and awards will be given to the winners."

Participants will learn about beef fabrication, carcass evaluation, beef quality and other topics. The youth program is for students ages 13 to 18 years old.

"They must have an accompanying adult that is registered and attending Beef Cattle Short Course," Cleere said.

Only the first 50 student participants will be allowed. The youth course has a special registration rate of \$50 on or before July 26 and \$75 after. Registration forms and additional information can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/family.html>.

Contact Cleere's office at 979-845-6931 for more information or e-mail [extansc@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:extansc@ag.tamu.edu). You can also contact Dr. Dan Hale at 979-845-3935.

## AgriLife administrative leaders complete leadership program

Dr. Gary Acuff, professor and head of the Department of Animal Science, completed an 18 month AgriLife Administrative Leadership Program this June. The program is a joint effort with Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and class topics include budgeting, teambuilding, visioning and communications, governmental relations and more.

In inaugural class graduates also included Burl Carraway, Dr. Darrell Dromgoole, Dr. Tom Gerik and Dr. Ann Kenimer. The capstone projects, a benchmarking study for their respective AgriLife entity, were presented to agency and college leaders on at the end of June.

## Ramsey to participate in AgriLife Advanced Leadership Program

Dr. Shawn Ramsey, associate professor and academic advisor, has been chosen to participate in the AgriLife Advanced Leadership Program that began in May. This program is an 18 month cohort program targeted at developing advanced leaders from across Texas A&M AgriLife. Faculty and professional staff will deepen their understanding of college and agency specific issue and relevant international, national and state topics, according to the program website.

## Recent publications

Fu, W.J., A.J. Stromberg, K. Viele, R.J. Carroll, and G. Wu. 2010. Statistics and bioinformatics in nutritional sciences: analysis of complex data in the era of systems biology. *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* 21: 561-572.

Hou, Y.Q., L. Wang, B.Y. Ding, Y.L. Liu, H.L. Zhu, J. Liu, Y.T. Li, X. Wu, Y.L. Yin, and G. Wu. 2010. Dietary alpha-ketoglutarate supplementation ameliorates intestinal injury in lipopolysaccharide-challenged piglets. *Amino Acids* 39: 555-564.

Flynn, N.E., M. Patryak, J. Seely, and G. Wu. 2010. Glycine oxidation and conversion into amino acids in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida albicans*. *Amino Acids* 39:605-608.

Li, X.L., F.W. Bazer, G.A. Johnson, R.C. Burghardt, D.W. Erikson, J.W. Frank, T.E. Spencer, I. Shinzato, and G. Wu. 2010. Dietary supplementation with 0.8% L-arginine between days 0 and 25 of gestation reduces litter size in gilts. *Journal of Nutrition* 140: 1111-1116.

McKnight, J.R., M.C. Satterfield, W.S. Jobgen, S.B. Smith, T.E. Spencer, C.J. Meininger, C.J. McNeal, and G. Wu. 2010. Beneficial effects of L-arginine on reducing obesity: Potential mechanisms and important implications for human health. *Amino Acids* 39: 349-357.

Lassala, A., F.W. Bazer, T.A. Cudd, S. Datta, D.H. Keisler, M.C. Satterfield, T.E. Spencer, and G. Wu. 2010. Parenteral administration of L-arginine prevents fetal growth restriction in undernourished ewes. *Journal of Nutrition* 140: 1242-1248.

## Upcoming events

**Aggieland™ Lamb & Goat Camps** (July 16-18, 2010 & July 23-25, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm> or contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey at 979-845-7616 or by email at <[sramsey@tamu.edu](mailto:sramsey@tamu.edu)>.

**56th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course** (Aug. 2-4, 2010 - College Station)- For more information, please contact the Beef Cattle Extension office <[extansc@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:extansc@ag.tamu.edu)> at 979-845-6931 or visit <http://beef.tamu.edu>.

**Beef 706** (August 10-11 & August 12-13, 2010 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Dan Hale at 979-845-3935 or email <[dhale@tamu.edu](mailto:dhale@tamu.edu)>.



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*Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Courtney Coufal <[cacoufal@tamu.edu](mailto:cacoufal@tamu.edu)>*