

Animal Science Weekly

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<http://www.facebook.com/tamuanimalscience>

Ramsey honored with advising award

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. Shawn Ramsey, associate professor and academic advisor in the Department of Animal Science, has received the Margaret Annette Peters Advising Award.

Ramsey received the award at the University Advisors' and Counselors' annual meeting and awards ceremony on May 5, 2010.

The award, established by local community residents Mervin and Annette Peters 11 years ago, recognizes a faculty advising administrator who embodies the spirit of concern for the welfare of individual students. Ramsey has spent 15 years in the advising field and was noted for being a “dynamic and powerful communicator with the gift of making students feel comfortable discussing any matter affecting performance.”

As winner of the award, Ramsey received a \$1,000 cash award and plaque from last year's winner, Peter Drysdale.



Dr. Shawn Ramsey, right, receives the Margaret Annette Peters Advising Award from Peter Drysdale.

Waldron presents 'Rambouillet Merino in USA' at World Merino Conference in France

RAMBOUILLET, FRANCE – Dr. Dan Waldron, professor of animal breeding and genetics in San Angelo, gave an invited presentation at the 8th World Merino Conference in Rambouillet, France held May 3-5, 2010.

Waldron's presentation was entitled, “Rambouillet Merino in the USA.” The rambouillet is the predominant breed of sheep raised in west Texas and much of the southwest United States. Waldron uses this breed in much of his research.

The World Merino Conference is held every four years in different locations around the world. This year's location in Rambouillet is historical because it is the namesake of Rambouillet breed of sheep.

In the late 18th century, Spain

held a monopoly on the production of fine wool and prohibited the export of the Merino sheep. In 1786, a flock

of Spanish merino sheep was sent from the king of Spain to the king of France, where they were kept in Rambouillet, France. In 1840, some of the descendants of this flock were imported into the United States. Eventually, U.S. sheep producers named this breed Rambouillet.

The conference covers scientific and technical aspects of sheep-raising and of Merino sheep in particular of sustainable development. The program enables attendees to gain insight into European policies and needs, while calling upon the contributions of international experts, according to the conference website <http://www.merinoscope2010.fr/index.php?id=presentation-conference-merinos&L=1>.



Variety of meat topics covered at Center of the Plate Training®

COLLEGE STATION – Texas AgriLife Extension and the Department of Animal Science hosted the North American Meat Processors' Center of the Plate Training® on May 4-6, 2010 at the Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center.

The workshop covers topics such as where meat items originate and how this affects their final use; how value is determined for different meat products and how this is affected by quality parameters; the IMPS/NAMP numbering system, purchase specification options, and standards common to the industry; the importance of standards and how they keep products consistent, wholesome, and fair throughout the market; common defects in meat products that retailers can look for to prevent dissatisfied customers or unpleasant dining expe-



Steve Olson, front left, and Dr. Davey Griffin, far right, demonstrate cutting techniques during the Center of the Plate Training®.

riences; and new menu ideas for the food service industry and new options for retail, according to www.namp.com.

Steve Olson, standards and specifications advisor for NAMP and retired USDA meat marketing specialist, and Dr. Davey Griffin, associate professor and Extension meat specialist, served as primary instructors for the workshop and included in-depth cutting demonstrations of beef, veal, pork, lamb and chicken.

37 participants attended from 20 organization including major restaurant groups, foodservice distributors, retail distributors, the U.S. Army and National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Texas Beef Council and National Pork Board sponsored evening events.

Take judging team survey

Former Texas A&M judging team members who participated on the horse, livestock, meat, wool, dairy or meat animal evaluation judging teams between the years of 1970 to 2004 are needed to answer a quick survey. This survey is being conducted to explore the potential impact that prior participation on a collegiate judging team may or may not have had on the team members' career, life skills and professional abilities. The survey is straightforward, simple and quick. If you qualify and are interested, please take a few minutes to answer the survey found at the following link at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/judgingteams>. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at <cac@tamu.edu> or (979) 845-7731.

Upcoming events

Beef 101 (May 18-20, 2010 & June 14-16, 2010 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Davey Griffin at 979-845-3935 or email <dgriff@tamu.edu>. To register, go to <https://agrilifeevents.tamu.edu/>, or call 979-845-2604 or email agrilifeevents@ag.tamu.edu.

Pork 101 (May 25-27, 2010 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Davey Griffin at 979-845-3935 or email <dgriff@tamu.edu>. To register, go to <http://www.meatscience.org/page.aspx?id=579> or call 800-517-AMSA.

Southwest Dairy Day (May 27, 2010 - Spandet Dairy in Hart, Texas - 10 a.m.) - For more information, visit the dairy website at <http://texasdairymatters.org/>.

Texas A&M University Show Cattle Camp (May 28-30, 2010 & June 4-6, 2010) - For more information, please visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/camps/show-cattle-camp/index.htm> or contact Paul Maulsby at 979-862-4736 or by email at <beefcenter@tamu.edu>.

TAMU Club Lamb Sale (May 30 - Pearce Pavilion) - Viewing begins at 10 a.m. with the sale starting at 1 p.m. For more information, please contact Colt Sharpton at 979-209-9714 or email <cmsharpton@tamu.edu>.

Upcoming events

Youth Beef 706 (June 1-2 & June 3-4, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Dan Hale <dhale@tamu.edu> at 979-845-3935.

Horse Judging Camp (June 2-4, 2010 & June 16-18, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/tamu-horse-judging-camp.htm> or contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at 979-845-7731 or by email at <cac@tamu.edu>.

Livestock Judging Camp (June 13-15, June 20-22 & June 23-25, 2010) - For more information, please visit the website at http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/livestock_judging_camp.htm or contact Jake Franke at 979-845-7616 or by email at <jfranke@tamu.edu>.

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>.

Saddle & Sirloin Club Steer, Heifer and Pig Futurities (July 30-Aug 1, 2010 - Brazos County Expo Complex) - For more information, contact Colton Atkins at <coltonatkins07@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> 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>.



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