

Animal Science Weekly September 13, 2010

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Russell Cross named interim head of Animal Science

COLLEGE STATION – H. Russell Cross, Ph.D., has been named interim department head of the Department of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University effective Sept. 15, 2010. The announcement was made by Mark A. Hussey, Ph.D., vice chancellor and dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences.



Cross, who most recently worked as a professor in the department, will serve as interim until a permanent replacement for former head Gary Acuff, Ph.D., is found.

Acuff is leaving this position of five years to become director of the Texas A&M University Center for Food Safety

Cross brings with him more than 35 years of management experience, holding numerous positions in government, academia, and the private sector. Before returning as professor to the Department of Animal Science, he served as executive vice president for operations and chief of staff to Texas A&M University President Elsa Murano. Prior to that appointment, Cross served as deputy vice chancellor and associate dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences.

In the academic sector, Cross was head of the Department of Animal Science and the meat and muscle biology section and holder of the E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal Chair in Meat Science. Additionally, in 1994 Cross was the founding director of Texas A&M’s Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

His service in government included the role of Administrator of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service under Presidents George Bush (41) and Bill Clinton. At the U.S. Meat Animal

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Gary Acuff named director of Center for Food Safety

COLLEGE STATION – Gary Acuff, Ph.D., has been named director of the Texas A&M University’s Center for Food Safety effective Sept. 15, 2010.

Acuff will lead the Center for Food Safety which works to expand and improve food safety activities across the university’s academic departments or units, and to enhance external visibility and public



knowledge of these activities.

Most recently, Acuff served as head of the Department of Animal Science for the past five years and on the faculty since 1985, specializing in food microbiology. He is an AgriLife Research Faculty Fellow and a member of the Faculty of Food Science.

Acuff has achieved national and international recognition for his work in microbiological quality and safety of foods, both academically and scientifically. Prior to becoming head, Acuff taught undergraduate and graduate level courses and laboratories in food microbiology for 20 years and conducted

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Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., (largest animal research center in world), Cross served as USDA's Research Leader within the Meat Research Group.

Cross also pioneered the International HACCP Alliance, serving as its founder and Executive Director. The International HACCP Alliance represents 24 food associations, 40 universities and the governments of 13 countries.

Within the private sector, Cross was the CEO and Chairman of Future Beef Operations, L.L.C. Furthermore, he served as Director of Food Safety for IDEXX Laboratories. Within National Beef Packing Co., Cross served as Executive Vice President of Food Safety/Government and Industry Affairs. In addition, he was Vice President of DuPont Food Industry Solutions.

Cross is published extensively, with more than 235 published works on meat quality and safety.

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research on the microbiological quality and safety of food through his appointment with AgriLife Research. He continues to actively collaborate with Texas AgriLife Extension personnel on food safety issues.

Acuff is the past president of the International Association for Food Protection. He also is a member of the American Society for Microbiology and the Society for Applied Microbiology. He is a member of the editorial committee for the Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods and was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food from 1992 to 1997.

In 2010, Acuff was selected by the National Research Council to chair a 10-member committee that will evaluate food safety requirements of the Federal Purchase Ground Beef Program. In addition, Acuff also was recently appointed to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Advisory Committee.

Acuff is a two-time graduate of Texas A&M University, earning both a master's and doctorate degree in food science and technology. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Abilene Christian.

Upcoming events

Sonora Ram Test (Sept. 13-14, 2010 - Texas AgriLife Research Station at Sonora) - For more information, go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2079>.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Sept. 15, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - noon) - Dr. Bill Pinchak, professor, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Vernon, will present "Beef Cattle Microbial Ecology: The Era of -omic Sciences." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Coffee Break (Sept. 17, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 8:30 to 10:30) - Animal Science faculty, staff and graduate students are invited. For more information, contact Lauren Hulsman at <lhulsman@tamu.edu>.

CenTex Beef Cattle Symposium (Sept. 24, 2010 - McGregor Research Center) - For more information, go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=2072>.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Sept. 29, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - noon) - Dr. Gary Snowden, associate director for the Institute for Countermeasures Against Agricultural Bioterrorism, will present, "Overview of the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.



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