

# Animal Science Weekly

April 4, 2011



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## Texas AgriLife Vice Chancellor's Awards

COLLEGE STATION -- Several animal science personnel were honored with the 2010 Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence presented during an awards ceremony held March 25, 2011. The Vice Chancellor's Awards recognize outstanding achievements by faculty and staff in Texas AgriLife agencies.

### *Donna Witt - Student Counseling and Relations*

Donna Witt, senior academic advisor in the Department of Animal Science, received the 2010 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for student counseling and relations.

A senior academic advisor since January 2006, Witt is an active student recruiter and is responsible for new student and transfer student conferences. From working with freshmen registering for classes to discussing future career opportunities with the seniors, she makes student excellence and success a priority.

Witt also communicates internship and employment opportunities to undergraduate students and coordinates a writing-intensive course for students who participate in research directed by animal science faculty members.



*Donna Witt receives the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for student counseling and relations from Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences.*

### *Lisa Slay - Technical/Extension Support, On-Campus*

Lisa Slay, research assistant, was presented the 2010 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for technical/extension support, on-campus.

Slay's technical support for the beef cattle nutrition program contributes significantly to its collaborative research activities. She manages an extensively funded laboratory, keeps multiple projects proceeding on time, and routinely trains undergraduate and graduate students on laboratory techniques and research protocols. A colleague noted that the way Slay executes her vital duties "has enabled project scientists from several disciplines to collectively bring significant recognition" to Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



*Lisa Slay receives the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for technical/extension support, on campus from Dr. Mark Hussey.*





*The Bridges to the Doctorate in Reproductive Biology Leadership Team receives the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for diversity. Pictured, left, Dr. Mark Hussey, Dr. Gregory Johnson, Dr. Tom Spencer, Dr. Guoyao Wu, Dr. Gary Newton and Dr. Tom Welsh, accepting on behalf of Dr. Michelle Garcia. Not pictured is Dr. Fuller Bazer.*

## Sterle wins Teaching Excellence Award

COLLEGE STATION - Dr. Jodi Sterle, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, is a recipient of the 2010 Student Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence, formerly known as the Teaching Excellence Awards.

Sterle is one of 279 faculty members in the Texas A&M University System to receive this award. The Teaching Excellence Awards were initiated by Michael D McKinney, chancellor of the A&M System, in 2008 to honor and award the system's top teachers as selected by students. Faculty members who teach courses of three hours or more and have a minimum of 16 students are eligible.

Sterle teaches the honors section of ANSC 107 and teaches part of the corresponding laboratories, ANSC 108. She has developed a course embracing the history and heritage of the livestock industry through various forms of art. Sterle is an advisor to the Saddle & Sirloin Club and coordinates the Academic Quadrathlon contest.

Also the AgriLife Extension Swine Specialist, Sterle is responsible for Extension swine education programs throughout Texas, from the large vertically integrated operations with more than 30,000 sows in the Texas Panhandle to the more than 26,000 youth involved in the show pig industry each year.

The full listing of recipients can be viewed at <http://news.tamus.edu/2011/03/29/teaching-excellence-honors-279/>.



## Bridges to the Doctorate in Reproductive Biology Leadership Team - Diversity Award

Drs. Fuller Bazer, Tom Spencer and Guoyao Wu, all professors in the Department of Animal Science, were among the team members of the Bridges to the Doctorate in Reproductive Biology Leadership Team to receive the 2010 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for diversity.

Other members of the team are Dr. Gregory Johnson, veterinary integrative biosciences; Dr. Gary Newton, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, PVAMU; and Dr. Michelle Garcia, TAMU-Kingsville.

The faculty members of this multidisciplinary team of researchers and educators are committed to increasing the participation of underrepresented minorities in biomedical research. Team members from three institutions (Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville) and one agency (Texas AgriLife Research) have recruited minority students to join their laboratories. They foster student development with mentoring from the team's faculty members and access to specialized laboratories and animal resources at all three campuses. A former student said "I can sincerely say that I would not be pursuing a Ph.D. in animal science if it were not for the outstanding support and guidance provided by the entire Bridges to the Doctorate team." Another student noted, "I have been fortunate to have many mentors and positive associations that have resulted in my love for research."

## Acuff oversees FDA Food Advisory Committee discussion on artificial dyes

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Dr. Gary Acuff, Director of the Center of Food Safety at Texas A&M University, served as chair of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Advisory Committee that was recently tasked with determining if artificial dyes in foods and beverages contribute to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHA) in children.

The advisory panel of experts in nutrition, toxicology, food science, immunology and psychology consists of 14 voting members and two non-voting representatives from the food industry. After extensive review of the issue and a two-day meeting, the group concluded there is no clear scientific indication that artificial food dyes cause hyperactivity or other behavioral problems in children, but enough uncertainty exists to justify more research, according to an article in the *Los Angeles Times*. Also, the panel decided against recommending that more information about dyes be added to the food labels.

This topic has sparked national interest from many major media outlets. To review more information on the issue, go to <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-fda-food-dye-20110401,0,777274.story> or [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42338423/ns/health-diet\\_and\\_nutrition/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42338423/ns/health-diet_and_nutrition/).



1st Place: Gordy and Friends - Cooper Terrill, Aimee Hafta, Isaac Olvera and Lauren Dobson.



2nd Place: Endo and Friends - Dr. Tom Welsh, Brook Bradbury, Andrea Loyd and Lisa Mapel.



3rd Place: Horse Meat - Calvin Waters, Sarah Parkenton, Kelly Winsco and Joel Walter.

## ASGSA hosts Aggie Style Olympics

COLLEGE STATION -- The Animal Science Graduate Student Association hosted the inaugural Aggie Style Olympics on March 24, 2011 at Pearce Pavilion. Seven teams of four participated in events such as Road Hazard, Sack Stack, Poker Face, Gather the Eggs, Cowboy Discus and Calf Roping. Thanks to all the students, faculty and staff members that supported the event and made it a huge success. The top three teams were Gordy and Friends, Endo Friends and Horse Meat.

## Megan Webb selected to intern with NCBA government affairs office



Megan Webb, a junior Animal Science major from Burlington, West Virginia, has been selected to intern in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Government Affairs office in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Webb is one of three students from across the United States selected to the program. The NCBA Public Policy interns will have the opportunity to participate

with lobbying and regulatory teams to advance policies important to the beef industry.

In addition to this internship, Webb has completed internships with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, NCBA Convention, NCBA Prepared Speaking Contest and National Beef Ambassador Program.

## 4-H, FFA meat judging contest, clinic held at Rosenthal

COLLEGE STATION -- The Department of Animal Science hosted a practice meat judging contest and clinic for 4-H and FFA meat judging teams held at the Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center on March 26.

The teams evaluated 11 judging classes, grade beef carcasses and identified over 100 individual retail cuts prepared by Ray Riley, Davey Griffin, Dan Hale, Amanda Smith and the 2011 TAMU Meat Judging Team. The team and faculty also taught mini clinics on how to evaluate the different classes.

Many of the teams will return to Texas A&M to compete in the Area FFA and District 4-H contests in April and compete to qualify for their respective state contests also held at Texas A&M.



## Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events

**Department of Animal Science Seminar Series** (April 6, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 11:45 a.m.) - Dr. Josie Coverdale, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, will present "Possible relationships between nutrition and joint health in horses." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the presentation beginning at noon. For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

**The Network Connection - Interacting with Cattle Industry Leaders** (April 7, 2011 - Pearce Pavilion - 5:30 to 8 p.m.) - This program will address how to network and find a job. RSVP to extansc@ag.tamu.edu or call (979) 845-6931.

**Department of Animal Science Seminar Series** (April 13, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 11:45 a.m.) - Dr. James R. Thompson, professor of dairy science at University of British Columbia, Canada, will present "UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre - A Work in Progress." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the presentation beginning at noon. For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

**AgFacts Friday** (April 15 - Texas A&M University Campus) - Looking to educate and spread ag's positive message to those unfamiliar with agriculture. For more information on the day's events, contact Gentry Shafer at gentry.shafer@gmail.com

**Parents' Weekend** - April 15 - **Little Southwestern** (Pearce Pavilion - 5 p.m.); **Barbecue Cookoff** (Pearce Pavilion - 5 p.m.); **Ham Auction** (Pearce Pavilion - 7 p.m.) & April 16 - **Little Southwestern** (Pearce Pavilion - 9 a.m.); **Scholarship Donor Reception** (Brazos County Expo Exhibit Hall - 5 p.m.); **Saddle & Sirloin Spring Banquet** (Brazos County Expo Exhibit Hall - 6 p.m.)

**Spirit of Aggieland Sale** (April 17, 2011 - TAMU Beef Center) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby at (979) 862-4736 or email <beefcenter@tamu.edu>. More information will be available soon.

**Department of Animal Science Seminar Series** (April 20, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 11:45 a.m.) - Dr. Glenn Holub, instructional assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, will present "From backpack to briefcase." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the presentation beginning at noon. For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

**2011 Mid-South Ruminant Nutrition Conference** (April 20-21, 2011 - Grapevine, TX) - For more information, please go to [http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/2011\\_Ruminant\\_Nutrition\\_Conf.pdf](http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/2011_Ruminant_Nutrition_Conf.pdf).

**Department of Animal Science Seminar Series** (April 27, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 11:45 a.m.) - Dr. Clay Cavinder, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, will present "Factors potentially affecting reproductive performance in horses." Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. with the presentation beginning at noon. For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.

**Children's Barnyard** (April 27-29, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Kaitlyn Grimshaw at <kaitlyn\_grimshaw@neo.tamu.edu> or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/students/clubs/s&s/announcements/index.htm>.

**Southwest Dairy Day** (May 5, 2011 - Stephenville - 9:30 to 4 p.m.) - For more information, please visit <http://texasdairymatters.org/2011-southwest-dairy-day/>.

**TAMU Department of Animal Science Horse Center Horse Sale** (May 7, 2011 - Freeman Arena) - Viewing of horses will begin at 9 a.m. with the sale beginning at 11 a.m.

**Animal Science Graduate Student Association 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil** (May 19, 2011 - 4:30 p.m.) - Tickets will go on sale in mid April. Cost \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Open to all faculty, staff, students and family. More details will be available soon.

**Texas A&M Livestock Judging Camp** (May 27-29, 2011 & June 24-26, 2011) - For more information, please contact Jake Franke at (979) 845-7616 or visit [http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/livestock\\_judging\\_camp.htm](http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/livestock_judging_camp.htm).

**Texas A&M Show Cattle Camp** (June 10-12, 2011 & June 17-19, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby at 979-862-4736 or email <[beefcenter@tamu.edu](mailto:beefcenter@tamu.edu)> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/camps/show-cattle-camp/index.htm>.

**Texas A&M Horse Judging Camp** (June 22-24, 2011 & July 6-8, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at (979) 845-7731 or email <[cac@tamu.edu](mailto:cac@tamu.edu)> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/workshops/youth-workshops/tamu-horse-judging-camp.htm>.

**Aggieland Lamb & Goat Camps** (July 15-17, 2011 & July 22-24, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey, Katie Fritz or Kelsey Willberg at (979) 845-7616 or email <[aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com](mailto:aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com)> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm>.

**57th annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course** (August 1-3, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Beef Cattle Extension at (979) 845-6931, email <[extansc@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:extansc@ag.tamu.edu)> or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/index.html>.

**Rosenthal Lecture Series** (Sept. 15, 2011 - College Station) - Dr. Temple Grandin will be the speaker at the Rosenthal Lecture Series to be held at the Annenberg Conference Center at the George Bush Presidential Library. For more information, please contact Dr. Jeff Savell at <[j-savell@tamu.edu](mailto:j-savell@tamu.edu)>.



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