

# Animal Science Weekly

August 10, 2011



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## Harms named Fellow of American Society of Animal Science

NEW ORLEANS – Dr. Paul Harms, professor emeritus in the Department of Animal Science, was named a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science.

The presentation was made during the 2011 American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Joint Annual Meeting held July 10-14, 2011, in New Orleans, La.

This award is given to recognize distinguished service to animal science and the livestock industry.

Harms joins an elite group of animal science professors from Texas A&M University who have received this award including O.D. Butler, Z.L. Carpenter, T.C. Cartwright, W.C. Ellis, T.R. Greathouse, F. Hale, G. T. King, H. O. Kunkel, R.D. Randel, J.K. Riggs, J.M. Shelton, G.C. Smith and T.D. Tanksley Jr.

“Paul is an outstanding educator, mentor, researcher, leader and colleague with a record of distinguished service to ASAS,” said Dr. Tom Welsh, professor. “By his modest approach to service as an excellent researcher and outstanding educator, Paul inspires colleagues and students.”

He received a bachelor’s degree in dairy science and a master of science in physiology of reproduction from the University of Illinois. He earned a doctorate in physiology of reproduction from Purdue University in 1968. Harms served in the United State Air Force as a Captain and Staff Research Physiologist in Aerospace Medicine in 1972. He was a postdoctoral research fellow in neuroendocrinology at the Southwestern Medical School, University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas through 1973. In 1974, he joined the department as an assistant professor, and went on to serve as associate professor, professor, and physiology of reproduction section leader until his retirement in August 2008.

Harms’ contributions to higher education and to reproductive physiology have made a lasting impact on technologies for assisted reproduction in mammals. During his career he and his students have produced 81 refereed journal articles, nine chapters in books (including an obstetrics and gynecology textbook chapter that was co-authored with his physician son), 14 invited papers and 150 abstracts presented. He has served as the major advisor to 32 graduate students and as an advisor to more than 170 graduate students.

As an active member of the Southern Section of ASAS, Harms has served as

■ See **HARMS** page 2



Dr. Paul Harms, professor emeritus, right, was named a Fellow of American Society of Animal Science, presented by Dr. Ronnie Green, president of ASAS.

# HOWARD HESBY STUDENT ATRIUM

## Construction Report

The first phase of construction on the Howard Hesby Student Atrium in the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center is moving forward. On Aug. 8, concrete was poured in the area where the ground level planters existed. The protective plastic has been removed and the atrium cleaned. The carpet and furniture have been ordered. This area will also get new light poles and trees, all expected to be completed by mid-October. The second phase will take place in the elevator lobby, which will be renovated with a new ceiling, lighting, wood panel walls, information monitors and lettering.

For additional information on the atrium project or to support the project, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/hesby-atrium>.



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## HARMS continued from page 1.

secretary-treasurer elect, secretary-treasurer, president-elect, president and past-president. In 2011, he was awarded the distinguished service award from the Southern Section of ASAS.

### Also at the ASAS and ADSA joint annual meeting

- Dr. Dan Waldron, professor, gave an invited presentation entitled, "National Sheep Improvement Program's Current Impact and Future Potential" during the small ruminant symposium.
- Dr. Dennis Sigler, professor and extension horse specialist, gave an invited presentation entitled, "Agricultural Extension's Role in Large Animal Emergency Management Assessment and Recovery Plans."
- Andrea Loyd, graduate research assistant, received the Joseph P. Fontenot Student Travel Scholarship. Loyd is seeking a doctorate in physiology of reproduction and is working under the direction of Drs. Ron Randel, Tom Welsh and Jeff Carroll.

### Presentations

Students, staff and faculty from the Department of Animal Science authored or co-authored numerous presentations. For a complete list of the presentations, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/newsandevents/news-asas-adsa-2011.htm>.

## Dr. Harold Franke

Dr. Harold W. "Doc" Franke passed away on July 16, 2011 at the age of 87. Franke was a member of the Department of Animal Science for most of his career, as the coach of the livestock judging team, professor, academic advisor and faculty sponsor for the Saddle and Sirloin Club. He retired from TAMU as professor emeritus.

Franke is survived by his wife Mary Anna of nearly 64 years; two children, son Bob and daughter Luann Henderson, son-in-law Richard Henderson; and two grandchildren, Victoria Henderson and Jake Franke and wife Catherine.

Memorials can be made to the First Christian Church of Bryan or the Dr. Harold W. Franke Endowed Scholarship Fund of the Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

More details on the life of Dr. Franke will follow in a future issue of *Animal Science Weekly*.



## Kerth serves as expert panelist on National Public Radio science program

SAN ANTONIO – Dr. Chris Kerth, associate professor of meat science and muscle biology in the Department of Animal Science, served as a guest panelist on *Science Friday*, a national radio talk show broadcast live on National Public Radio July 8, 2011 from San Antonio.

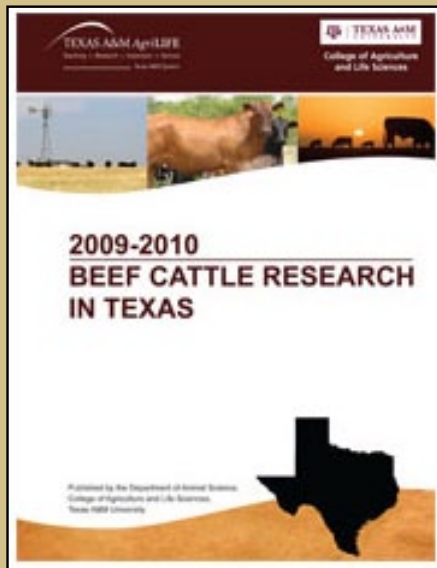
Kerth, along with two other expert panelists, were invited to the show to discuss "Using Science to Raise the Perfect Porterhouse" with host of the show Ira Flatow. The 40-minute discussion included talk on producing perfect steaks, from how genes affect tenderness and marbling to how grass and grain affect the type of fat in a cut of beef.

*Science Friday* is a weekly science talk show broadcast live over public radio stations nationwide as part of NPR's "Talk of the Nation" programming. Each week, the host and his expert panelists focus on current scientific topics and present an educated, balanced discussion on the topic.

To listen to the July 8 show, please go to <http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/201107081>.



## 2009-2010 Beef Cattle Research in Texas publication available online



The 2009-2010 Beef Cattle Research in Texas publication is now available to view online. This publication is a compilation of scientific information for Texas beef producers and is produced by researchers from the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension as well as collaborators from around the United States. Current programs focus on health, nutrition, management, economics, breeding and selection, pasture and forage, meats and end-products, and reproduction.

To view the publication, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/research/index.htm>.

## Rosenthal Lecture Series

### Temple Grandin to discuss animal welfare

COLLEGE STATION - Dr. Temple Grandin, known worldwide for her contributions to the meat and livestock industries, will be the featured speaker at the 2011 Rosenthal Lecture Series on Sept. 15, 2011 in College Station.

Grandin will present "Animal Welfare and Handling Past, Present and Future" to students, faculty, meat industry leaders and others in agriculture at the George Bush Presidential Library starting at 7 p.m.

A professor at Colorado State University, Grandin teaches courses on livestock behavior and facility design. She also consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling and animal welfare. In 2010, *Time Magazine* named her one of the 100 most influential people. She has also authored more than 400 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on animal handling, welfare and facility design. Her book "Animals in Translation" and "Animals Make Us Human" were both on the *New York Times* best seller list. Her life story has been made into an HBO movie titled "Temple Grandin" starring Clair Danes. The movie shows her life as a teenager and how she started her career.

The Rosenthal Lecture Series is designed to bring together meat industry representatives with the meat science academic group in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University to hear discussion on current topics, to share information and to network.

Additionally, this event is marked as part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Centennial Lecture Series and will be open to the public. There is no charge to attend but participants must obtain a ticket in order to reserve a seat. For more information on the event, please contact Dr. Jeff Savell at (979) 845-3935.

## Marisela Spangler named Tillman Military Scholar

COLLEGE STATION – Marisela Spangler, a junior animal science major from Tyler, has been selected as a Tillman Military Scholar for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Kathryn Hernandez, a psychology major from Burleson, also was selected as a scholar.

Spangler is a sergeant in the Army Reserves and has recently signed a contract as a Cadet to become a future officer in the United States Army. She is a member of Squadron 3 in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. Last year she served as the gunnery specialist and this year will serve as a recruiting officer.

She also is active in CADET (Cultural Awareness and Diversity Expansion Team), the Voices of Praise gospel choir, Silent Voices of Praise mime/dance team, Save our Streets ministry and is a member of NAACP, Alpha Zeta and Sigma Alpha Lambda.

Texas A&M is one of 12 universities serving as a Tillman Military Scholar University Partner for the 2011-2012 academic year.

As a University Partner, each institution conducts outreach to its veteran and military dependent student population and actively participates in the Tillman Military Scholar selection process. Upon selection of the scholars on campus, each then supports the building and strength-



ening of community among these students, enhancing their academic and personal experiences.

In 2008, the Pat Tillman Foundation established the Tillman Military Scholars program to support educational opportunities for servicemembers and military families. Military families face many challenges during the transition from military to civilian life and have unique needs that often prevent the successful completion of a degree. The Pat Tillman Foundation aims to remove any and all obstacles that would otherwise prohibit academic success.

## Harbison captures silver medal in national shooting championship

COLORADO SPRINGS – Morgan Harbison captured the Junior Men's Silver Medal and a spot on the Junior National Team at the USA Shooting National Trap Championships held in Colorado Springs on June 15, 2011.

Harbison is a sophomore animal science major from Farmersville, Texas and is a member of the Aggie Trap & Skeet Team.

After breaking 238 out of 250 targets he finished the finals round with a total of 257 targets and the silver medal. Harbison's score also qualified him for the men's open finals where he shot a final round score of 22 out of 25 targets landing him in 4th place in the Open Men's National Championships. There were 101 competitors vying for the National Championship.

Morgan was a member of the USA Shooting Junior Olympic Trap Team in 2009 and the Junior National Trap Team in 2010. As a part of the World Championship Junior Trap Team he competed at the World Championships in Munich, Germany where he was a member of the Silver Medal Junior Team. He will compete in September for a spot on the Open Men's National Team at the 2011 Fall Selection Match in Kerrville, Texas. This match is also the 1st Trial for the 2012 Olympic Team.



## Atkins designs College's centennial t-shirt

Colton Atkins, a senior animal science and agricultural communications and journalism double major, designed the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences centennial t-shirt in celebration of the College's 100th year. Atkins is active in the Saddle & Sirloin Club, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Animal Science Aggie REPS, the COALS Student Council and numerous other clubs. He worked part-time as student worker in the Texas AgriLife beef cattle extension office.

Shirts are available for sale by calling the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council at 979-845-3712.

# ANSC EXTENSION at WORK



Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo by Steve Byrns

## Drought causing concerns for livestock water availability, quality

by Kay Ledbetter  
Texas AgriLife Communications

**AMARILLO** – As the drought continues and temperatures remain above normal, cattle water is becoming a greater concern, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialist.

Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, said the location of the deceased cattle suggests the deaths could be associated with water consumption.

“Because little or no forage growth has occurred this year, the forage contains very low amounts of water,” McCollum said. “An average cow grazing green forage normally consumes about 30 to 70 pounds of water daily, or about 3.5 to 8.4 gallons, from the forage she grazes.

“This year, as a result of no forage growth and a relatively low intake of dry forage, daily water consumption from grazed forage is probably around 3 to 5 pounds or 0.4 to 0.6 gallons.”

Couple low water intake from forage with the higher, stressful temperatures this summer, McCollum said, and intake of water from drinking sources takes on greater importance than “normal” years or years with high temperatures but with green forage.

“The lack of water from forage is more important than we credit,” he said. “How many people would think of going out to work for a few hours without a jug of water to drink from periodically? The water in the grazed forage is the cow’s ‘jug of water’ that rehydrates her while she is out on the range or pasture.”

High temperatures alone may not be a problem, but hot temperatures in combination with lack of green grass as is the case this year, is a problem, McCollum said.

“The risk of heat stress is greater because we have high ambient temperatures combined with dry dead forage,” McCollum said. “The cow’s ‘jug of water’ is relatively empty this year, and the risk of heat stress and water-related problems is greater.”

He said water deprivation, water intoxication and water quality can all play a role. These three may act independently, but often they are interrelated.

Water deprivation occurs when cattle cannot consume an adequate amount of water, McCollum said. Water is a nutrient just as protein, vitamins and minerals. And reduced water intake can result in reduced performance. Water deprivation can be fatal or lead to circumstances that can be fatal.

He said many people immediately associate this with a situation in which a well cannot pump enough water to keep up with cattle needs, the breakdown of a well or watering system, or a pond or creek drying up. These certainly are of great concern, but water deprivation also can occur in circumstances when it is perceived there is an adequate amount of water available.

McCollum said cattle behavior may lead to water deprivation because they develop preferences for grazing sites and loafing areas. If more than one watering point

is available, they may develop a preferred watering location in a pasture.

So, a grazing area with multiple watering points may appear to have an adequate supply of water, he said. However, if cattle have a preferred site and that site breaks down, dries up or the water quality declines and reduces consumption, then water deprivation may occur.

Cattle with no familiarity of a grazing area also can suffer deprivation, McCollum said.

“Do not assume cattle will find water. When cattle are moved to new pastures, take them to water and observe their consumption to determine if they are willing to consume the water,” he advised.

Water intoxication occurs when cattle over-consume water, McCollum said. It usually occurs following a period of reduced water consumption or increased water loss from the body. The cattle are dehydrated and consume an excessive amount of water. Electrolyte balance in the body is disrupted and water intoxication occurs, which can be fatal.

In cases of acute water intoxication, dead cattle will be found near the watering site, he said. Water intoxication typically follows water deprivation. So, a key to avoiding water intoxication is avoiding water deprivation.

Limiting water intake when cattle are moved to a new water source

may be next to impossible, McCollum said. If cattle are dehydrated, it may be worth the effort to allow them to drink, but find a way to limit the amount immediately consumed.

With the concern of water quality, the supply of water may be adequate but the cattle are deprived because they cannot or will not consume enough of the water, he said. Total dissolved solids and total soluble salts are two water quality measures that can lead to poor performance and possibly death.

As the concentrations increase, water intake is reduced. Salinity of water limits intake just as salt in feeds can limit intake, McCollum said. Hence, water quality can lead to water deprivation.

Also, high consumption of sodium, calcium, magnesium salts and sulfates can lead to failure to thrive, and in some cases, can be fatal, he said. Nitrates in the water may also be of concern.

“Coupled with reduced water intake, these issues can become even more of a concern,” he said. “Water quality can indirectly affect performance and health by reducing water consumption, which exacerbates heat stress and can lead to water intoxication once cattle locate or can access palatable water.”

Another problem McCollum pointed out is that hot sunny days and warm stagnant water may lead to blue-

green algae blooms. Some species of blue-green algae are toxic, so consumption of the algae or the toxins from it can be fatal. As a result, dead animals may be found close to the watering site.

Oftentimes, algae is concentrated on the downwind side of the pond as a result of wave action, he said. Dead rodents, birds or fish along the downwind side of the pond may indicate the presence of blue-green algae. Limiting access to the downwind side of the pond by cattle may reduce risk of toxicity.

Copper sulfate can be used to limit algae growth, but caution must be exercised because excess copper sulfate can lead to stream pollution and harm fish and plant life, McCollum said.

“Also, don’t rule out toxic plants that may be present around watering locations. The immediate area around ponds and tank-overflows is disturbed, and the moisture profile in the soil is better than out in the pasture,” he said.

“Even though drought conditions exist, disturbance and moisture are conducive to weed growth. Pigweed, kochia, Russian thistle, dock, buffalo burrs, etc. can grow in these areas, and they are green and may be attractive to cattle. If cattle deaths are occurring, see what has been grazed off around the watering area.”

## DROUGHT RESOURCES

For more information on water quality for livestock, go to:

⇒ View “Water quality: Its relationship to livestock” at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/beef-water-quality.pdf>.

⇒ View “Some points to consider about cattle water” at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/Some-points-to-consider-about-cattle-water.pdf>.

⇒ View additional publications related to drought and livestock on the Department of Animal Science website at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/publications/index.htm>.

### Texas Drought Task Force

For additional drought resources and the latest news and updates, go to Texas Drought Task Force website at <http://agrillife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

# AGGIELAND SUMMER CAMPS

## Livestock Judging Camp

The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Camp was held May 27-29, 2011 for experienced youth and June 24-26 for beginning to intermediate youth at the Texas A&M Beef Center and Sheep Center.

183 4-H and FFA members from Texas, Arizona, Alaska, Oklahoma and California gathered for two days to learn from the experts at Texas A&M about market and breeding animal evaluation of cattle, sheep, hogs and goats. The camp also focused on presenting oral reasons.

Current and former TAMU Livestock Judging Team members, along with Colt Sharpton, Paul Maulsby, Cody Sloan, Jake Thorne and Jake Franke served as instructors and assisted during the camp.



## Show Cattle Camp

The sixth annual Texas A&M Show Cattle Camps were held at the Texas A&M Beef Center June 10-12 and June 17-19. Most of the attendees were from Texas but several traveled from Florida, Alaska and Arkansas to gain knowledge and insight into being successful with beef cattle projects. Instruction included day-to-day management, show day preparation and developing showmanship skills.

The camps were coordinated by Paul Maulsby and Beef Center staff and supported a full capacity attendance. In addition to Maulsby, speakers were Dr. Chris Skaggs, Dr. Lesley Easterwood and Jake Franke. Dr. Jason Cleere and Franke served as showmanship judges.



## Horse Judging Camp

The Texas A&M Horse Judging Camp was held June 22-24 and July 6-8, 2011 in College Station. A total of 117 young horse enthusiasts, ages 11-18, attended the camps from Texas, Idaho, Wyoming and Missouri.

The students are taught reasons and the correct conformation of the horse and evaluate Western and English Performance classes.

Instructors were Teri Antilley, Dennis Sigler, Clay Cavinder, Jessica Lucia and the senior Horse Judging Team members Karinda Dickens, Courtney Phillips, Libby Hallett, Rebecca Muller and Amber Marcum.



## Aggieland

### Lamb and Goat Camps

The 2011 Aggieland Lamb Camp was held July 15-17 and the Aggieland Goat Camp was held July 22-24, both at Pearce Pavilion in College Station. The camps welcomed 750 attendees this year including youth and their parents. The camps offer instruction on showmanship techniques, proper facilities, selection criteria, nutrition and health, pre-show preparation, show day activities and exercise programs. Hands-on demonstration were conducted on proper ways to shear, trim hooves and give shots. A showmanship competition was held the last day of the camps. Camp sponsors were SureFed Feeds, Drive by Encore Visions, Sullivan Supply and the Department of Animal Science.

## Paschal judges Brahman show in Colombia

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA – Dr. Joe Paschal, professor and Extension livestock specialist in the Department of Animal Science, traveled to Colombia this July to serve as a judge for the National Agricultural Exposition Brahman show in Bogota at the request of the American Brahman Breeders Association. Paschal was accompanied by Chris Shivers, ABBA executive vice president, and Armelinda Ibarra, ABBA recording secretary. Following the two-day show, Paschal visited Brahman breeders in Yopal and Casanare, giving presentations on selection and genetic improvement in cattle for economically important traits in Brahman cattle. Along the way, Paschal also met several Texas A&M University former students.

Paschal is stationed at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi and serves 37 counties in the Gulf Coast and South Texas districts.

## West Texas Beef Conference headed for San Angelo August 20

SAN ANGELO – The West Texas Beef Conference and Trade Show, tailored specifically for West Texas cattlemen according to organizers, is scheduled for 8 to 4 p.m. August 20 at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Fairgrounds Sale Pavilion.

The conference is being conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Topics will include long-term market implications of the on-going drought, cattle marketing lessons learned for both the industry and individuals as they relate to the default of Eastern Livestock Company, feeder and stocker calf health and preconditioning, and low stress cattle handling.

Individual pre-registration is \$60. The fee will include a noon meal catered by Kenny Blanek.

For those participating in the Texas Beef Quality Producer program, five Beef Quality Credits will be available.



To pre-register go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>  
Keyword: Beef.

For more information, call Dr. Bruce Carpenter at (432) 336-8585 or Dr. Rick Machen at (830) 278-9151 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/W-Tx-Beef-Conference-Flyer.pdf>.

## Aggie REPS attend State FFA Convention



Left, Incoming freshman Tyler Coufal with Aggie REPS Crysta Stallwitz and Katie Heinrich at the Texas FFA Convention.

LUBBOCK – Department of Animal Science Aggie REPS Crysta Stallwitz, from Dumas, and Katie Heinrich, from Lubbock, represented the department at the 83rd Texas FFA Convention held in Lubbock on July 11-14, 2011. They were accompanied by Dr. Shawn Ramsey and Kelly Essler. The group visited with FFA members from across Texas about the many opportunities at Texas A&M University and the Department of Animal Science. They also talked with agriculture teachers and distributed information for their classrooms.

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# BORN TO BE AN AGGIE, BECOMES BEEF INDUSTRY ICON

BY CALLIE WHITWORTH

Being an Aggie has impacted all 89 years of a man's life, from war to ranching to becoming a top teacher at Texas A&M University.

Frank C. Litterst Jr. was born to be an Aggie; he had little chance of being anything else. His father, Frank C. Litterst Sr., was the starting quarterback at A&M. Frank Sr. graduated in 1919 and later carried Frank Jr. to Aggie football games beginning at the age of five.

Litterst was studying animal husbandry at Texas A&M University when the United States became involved in World War II. During that time every student at Texas A&M University was a member of the Corp of Cadets. Litterst would later be awarded as captain of "A" Battery.

As a result of the war, Litterst and the rest of the class of 1943 took summer school classes to graduate a semester early.

"I was commissioned in the U.S Army May 6, 1943, and got married two days later," said Litterst.

Litterst was an army officer and was shipped to the Pacific. The ship encountered a cyclone when Litterst was sleeping on a cot, and was thrown back and forth across the deck. After being drenched, he found a friend and fellow Aggie and crawled into the tiny bed to escape the weather, said Litterst.

On a mission in the mountains of New Guinea to search for Japanese soldiers, Litterst suffered an injury to his left leg and was shipped back to the states.

"When we got back to the

states we had our first big meal on a big large table. The table had fried chicken piled higher than you could look over and also lettuce, tomatoes and milk. All I had eaten in New Guinea was powdered food and spam. I lost 32 pounds," said Litterst.

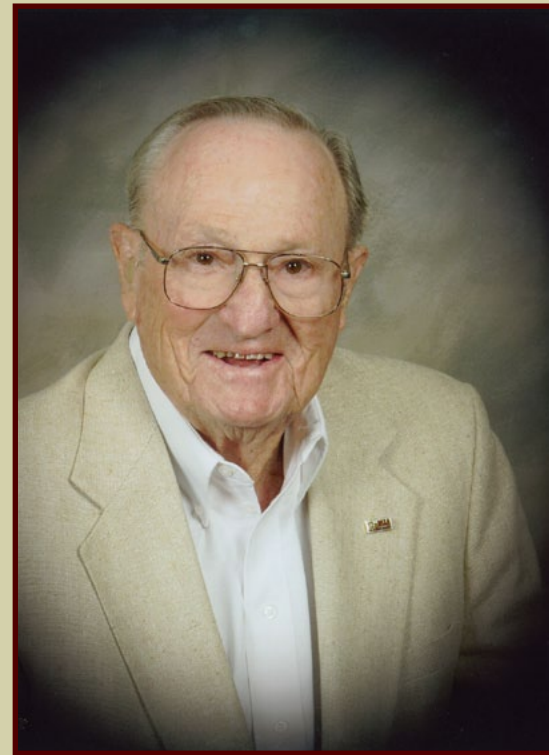
Litterst said that a good meal in New Guinea was when they received beef heart from Australia.

At the Hammond General Hospital in Modesto, Calif., Litterst went to his ward to find only one person, a fellow Aggie. Litterst asked Aggie O.D. Butler, later head of the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science, where his bunk was, to find that he was bunked right next to his classmate and friend, Jake Webster. Litterst and Webster continued correspondence during the war between their stations in Germany and New Guinea.

"Jake wrote to me and said he had been shot in the arm in General Patton's Third Army and said he was coming home. I wrote back and said I'm coming home too, wouldn't it be neat to be in the same hospital," said Litterst. "Of all the hospitals, I ended up right next to him."

After the war, Litterst worked in feed sales and ranching. Litterst said he didn't have enough money to get into the cattle business until Herman Heep helped him by cosigning a note to buy cattle.

"I still have the bank note



with his name on it in my safe," said Litterst.

Litterst's father and Heep attended Texas A&M together. Heep would sleep in my father's room to be protected from upperclassman because Heep was a little man and my father was on the football team, said Litterst.

In 1966, Litterst became the beef cattle specialist for Texas A&M's Texas Education Agency, where he educated more than 12,000 ranchers and visited some 2,400 Texas ranches in 10 years with the Agriculture Education Specialist's Group, said Litterst.

"During those days, our ag ed specialists would leave campus on Monday and go to the weeklong training set up by the FFA teachers in the community where the high school

## Retired Faculty Focus

★Frank C. Litterst Jr.★



Left, T.D. Tanksley, Jr., Gene King, Frank Litterst, James Bassett and Harold Franke, all retirees of the Department of Animal Science.



Class of '43 Aggies Cecil Carlisle (center) and Frank Litterst (right) with friend at Camp Davis, North Carolina.

was located. Mr. Litterst would teach the ranchers at the school every night and return home Friday. But during the day he would visit as many ranches as the teachers and county agents could cram in a day before the night's class," said Dr. Larry Boleman, who worked with Litterst at the time.

"He traveled across Texas teaching short courses. I never walked away without a clearer understanding about the production of food and fiber. He would take what was normally a dry subject and put in words regular folks could understand," said Richard Winters Jr., son of Litterst's lifelong friend and classmate, Richard Winters Sr.

Litterst was recruited by Animal Science department head Dr. O. D. Butler and became a lecturer at A&M in 1975; he taught three courses and managed the TAMU Beef Center. Between working cattle and teaching students, he changed clothes up to four times a day, said Litterst.

Boleman said that Litterst was the best TAMU Beef Center teacher ever because he had so much firsthand experience teaching for those 10 years on the road with ranchers and in the high school classrooms. He could

relate to the students in practical application terms with a "how to" approach rather than a textbook theory.

"I remember Dr. O. D. Butler being so proud that he was able to take Mr. Litterst off the road and put him in the classroom where he belonged," said Boleman.

"I wasn't academically qualified to be a professor at A&M because I only had my bachelor's degree. My first office was a tiny room that I shared with grad students, that's how I rated," said Litterst.

Litterst said fellow Animal Science professor, Howard Hesby, taught him how to keep a grade book.

"After the first quiz, I rushed down to Houston for the steer show. My secretary called and said grades had to be submitted and she can't find my grade book anywhere. I said it's in my pickup truck at Houston. So I told her to give all the girls As and all the boys Bs," said Litterst. "I was more of a cowman than I was a professor."

Litterst taught for 14 years and had 8,000 students. He has received many awards including Texas A&M's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2009.

"Mr. Litterst is an icon in Texas beef cattle education and is still revered and known all over the state. Whenever I would go out in the state conducting Extension Beef Cattle training programs, someone would come up afterwards and ask about Mr. Litterst. The ranchers and his students were and still are so fond of him and his teachings," said Boleman.

"Frank Litterst is the Department of Animal Science and he is Texas A&M University. He has influenced so many lives over the years and continues to do so. Frank is a treasure to us and we are so fortunate to have him as part of our "family," said Dr. H. Russell Cross, professor and interim head of the Department of Animal Science.

Litterst still attends Aggie athletics and has never missed a Saddle & Sirloin Club banquet, where he gives scholarships to Animal Science students each year. He even spoke at the Gonzales Aggie Club to a packed room of ranchers and former students for Aggie Muster.

"I love the Department. I think it's the best in the United States," said Litterst. ■

## Former Students Remembered...

We would like to recognize and pay tribute to our former students in Animal Science who recently passed away. We extend our condolences to friends and families of these former students.

- Charles Brian Jennings '39
- James Hiram Allen '44
- James F. Gibbs '44
- John Albert Shurford '44
- Werner Max Lindig '51
- Wesley Lee Smith, Sr. '56
- Douglas M. Defferari '61
- James D. Word, Jr. '65
- Jack Donald Rux, Jr. '70
- Dennis James Filson '71
- William John Skrivanek '78

## Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events

**Winter Pastures for Central & East Texas Program** (Aug. 19, 2011 - Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Overton) - For more information, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/Winter-Pastures-for-Ctrl-East-Texas-Flyer.pdf>.

**West Texas Beef Conference** (Aug. 20, 2011 - San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Fairgrounds) - For more information contact Dr. Rick Machen at (830) 278-9151 or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/W-Tx-Beef-Conference-Flyer.pdf>.

**38th annual Sheep and Goat Field Day** (Sept. 1, 2011 - Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, San Angelo) - For more information, go to <http://agrilife.org/today/2011/08/09/38th-annual-sheep-and-goat-field-day-dedicated-to-the-late-john-cargile/>.

**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 <[jsavell@tamu.edu](mailto:jsavell@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)>