

Animal Science Weekly

February 14, 2011

Inside this issue:

- Dr. Paul Harms receives Distinguished Service Award
- TAMU Academic Quadrathlon Team wins regional competition
- TAMU Livestock Judging Team finishes second in Fort Worth
- Faculty coordinate San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Beef Cattle Skillathon
- Aggie Roundup Reception held during NCBA convention
- Payne makes presentation to beef group
- Former students remembered
- Robert Hostetler passes away
- Recent publications
- Upcoming events



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

Department of Animal Science faculty, students attend annual meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science

CORPUS CHRISTI – Several members of the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science participated in the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science (SS-ASAS) held Feb. 5-8, 2011 in Corpus Christi, Texas, in conjunction with the 108th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS). Awards and involvement include:

Dr. Paul Harms receives Distinguished Service Award

CORPUS CHRISTI – Dr. Paul Harms, professor emeritus in the Department of Animal Science, was presented the 2011 Distinguished Service Award from the SS-ASAS during an awards ceremony held Feb. 7, 2011.

This award recognizes Harms for his outstanding service to the livestock industry.

Harms 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 has joined the department as an assistant professor, and went on to serve as associate professor, professor, and 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.

Through his many officers rolls with the Southern Section, Harms guided the section through a challenging time and helped ensure the success it enjoys today.



Dr. Paul Harms -
*2011 Distinguished Service Award,
Southern Section, American Society
of Animal Scientists*

More highlights from Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meeting

TAMU Academic Quadrathlon Team wins regional competition

CORPUS CHRISTI – The TAMU Academic Quadrathlon Team won the 2011 Academic Quadrathlon held at the SS-ASAS annual meeting, beating six other university teams to earn the regional title.

Aggie team members are Alyzabeth Looney, a junior animal science major from Denton; Alyssa Looney, a junior ag business major from Denton; Christine Mesecher, a freshman animal science major from Richmond; and Jessica Steger, a junior animal science major from Del Valle. The team is coached by Dr. Jodi Sterle, associate professor and Extension specialist.

University of Tennessee finished second and University of Florida came in third.

The first two legs of the competition were coordinated by Dr. Sterle and conducted on the TAMU campus on Feb. 5. Saddle and Sirloin Club students, Associate Department Head Dr. David Forrest, and numerous departmental faculty and staff helped conduct the practicum and written exams. The teams then traveled to Corpus Christi the next day to complete the final two portions of the competition - a 12-minute oral presentation on a topic related to a livestock production issue, and the quiz bowl. The A&M team placed among the top three in every segment of the competition and was undefeated in the round robin format of the quiz bowl.

By winning in Corpus Christi, the Aggie team advances to the national competition which will be held later this year.



TAMU Academic Quadrathlon Team members Alyzabeth Looney, Alyssa Looney, Jessica Steger and Christine Mesecher.

Also at the meeting....

- Professor and Interim Department Head **Dr. Russell Cross** delivered the official “Welcome to Texas” comments at the SS-ASAS Business Meeting.
- Professor and PREP Section Leader **Dr. Tom Welsh** completed his term as President-elect and was installed as President of SS-ASAS for 2011-2012. In addition, he began serving a 2-year term on the Executive Board of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS).
- Associate Professor **Dr. David Riley** (Animal Breeding & Genetics Section) chaired the Graduate Student Research Paper Competition.
- Associate Professor **Dr. Clare Gill** (Animal Breeding & Genetics Section) served as a judge of papers presented in the Graduate Student Research Paper Competition.
- Assistant Professor **Dr. Jason Banta** (Beef Extension Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Center, Overton, TX) chaired the Extension Section program.
- **Andrea Loyd** (doctoral student in PREP Section) was elected to a two-year term as Graduate Student Representative to the Executive Board of the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science.
- Former ANSC faculty member **Dr. Wayne Greene** (former NUTR Section Leader and Professor at Amarillo Center; currently Head of Auburn University’s Department of Animal Science) completed his term as Secretary-Treasurer elect and was installed as Secretary-Treasurer of SS-ASAS for 2011-2012.
- Former graduate student **Dr. Bob Godfrey** (PREP master’s and doctorate with Dr. Randel; currently Professor and Associate Director of the University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station) completed his term as Secretary-Treasurer and was installed as President-elect of SS-ASAS for 2011-2012.

ANSC 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-ss-asas-2011.htm>.

TAMU Livestock Judging Team finishes second in Fort Worth competition

FORT WORTH – The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team trailed behind Texas Tech University for a second place finish at the Fort Worth Stock Show intercollegiate livestock judging contest on Feb. 4, 2011.

The University of Arkansas, Kansas State University and San Angelo State University closed out the top five.

In team competition, A&M finished high team in hogs, second high in sheeps, reasons and horses, and third high in cattle.

Four Aggie team members finished in the top 10. Individual placings include:

- Caleb Boardman from Powell, Wyo. - third high overall, fifth in sheep, sixth in reasons, seventh in cattle and 10th in hogs;
- Cody Marburger from Round Top - seventh high overall, third in hogs;
- Marty Gifford from Cowley, Wyo. - eighth high overall, seventh in reasons;
- Brad Brundage from Cameron, Mo. - 10th high overall, fourth in horses;
- Jacob Shaw from Smyer - 11th high overall, eighth in horses, ninth in reasons;
- Erick Schatte from Giddings - fifth in horses;
- Ryam Smoes from Hamilton, Mich. - ninth in horses.

Team members also include Lance Bauer of Ingram; Mike Helle of Edinburg; C.J. Mabry of Port Lavaca; John Mayer of Round Top; Robert Oestrich of New Braunfels; Wes Regmund of Llano; T.J. Skinner of Liberal, Kan.; Cody Trimble of Knox City; and Bethanie Yeaman of Rock Springs.

Jake Franke is the team coach. Assistant coaches are Carl Muntean, Cody Sloan and Jake Thorne.

The team heads to San Antonio on Feb. 19 for their next competition.

Faculty coordinate San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Beef Cattle Skillathon



Photo courtesy of Martha Holliday Garrett.

SAN ANTONIO - The inaugural San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Beef Cattle Skillathon was held Feb. 9, 2011 on the show grounds with 70 youth participating.

The contest seeks to engage youth ages eight to 19 in beef cattle production activities. Participants were divided into three age groups and began with contestants taking a written exam and then moved on to feed identification (ID), breed ID, health problems and equipment ID. The top five senior and intermediate contestants advanced to the finals which involved cuts of beef ID, reproductive system ID, cow body condition scoring and application of artificial insemination, ear tagging and growth implanting procedures. The final round also included interviews conducted by Dr. Ron Gill, associate department head for Extension; Dr. Rick Machen, professor and Extension livestock specialist; Mr. Jay Gray from Graham Land and Cattle; and Mr. Josh Powell from HEB Meat Marketing.

The contest was coordinated by Dr. Chris Skaggs, associate dean for student development; Paul Maulsby, Beef Center manager; Dr. Jason Cleere, associate professor and Extension beef cattle specialist; and Ellen Tom from Tom Brothers Ranch.

Aggie Roundup Reception held at Invesco Field during NCBA convention

DENVER – Department of Animal Science faculty, former and current students along with beef industry representatives and producers gathered at the Aggie Roundup Reception held in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association annual convention at Invesco Field in Denver on Feb. 3, 2011.

NCBA members from all segments of the beef industry had a chance to visit with A&M faculty and students who support the beef industry through teaching, research and Extension activities.

The event was hosted by the Department of Animal Science and Wes Klett from Anipro Xtraformance Feeds, who also was the event sponsor.

Payne makes presentation to beef group

DENVER – Cassie Payne, an Animal Science graduate student, presented “Food, Think” to the Masters of Beef Advocacy Commencement at the annual NCBA convention on Feb. 1 in Denver.

Payne developed the program to explain how her initial perspective of the beef industry was developed by her urban childhood and her experiences and personal interactions while living in New York City. She described how her belief systems underwent a transformation from misinformed views to those which are scientifically ascertained. She encouraged the MBA graduates to reach out to consumers with the story of beef by suggesting practical and effective ways to address the urban demographic.

Payne works under the direction of Dr. Tryon Wickersham, assistant professor in Animal Science.



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.

- Betsy Trenckmann Turchi '81
- Gene Logan Lyon '52
- James A. Gallant '40

Robert Hostetler passes away

Robert Lowell Hostetler, a former employee in the Department of Animal Science, passed away on Feb. 4, 2011 at the age of 87. He was instrumental in developing the cookery and sensory panel capabilities of the department, first in the Animal Industries Building and then in the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center. Hostetler was one of the leading experts in the field of sensory evaluation and tenderness assessment, and he served on numerous panels and committees that helped to standardize this important field of meat science.

In the 1970s, Hostetler's greatest scientific accomplishment was the development of the TAMU Tenderstretch process, a method of suspending beef carcasses by the pelvic bone rather than the Achilles tendon. This suspension technique resulted in the stretching of sarcomeres, the basic contractile units of the muscle, which resulted in enhanced tenderness for the major muscles of the carcass. Although this process did not gain favor in the United States, by 2005, 95 percent of the beef carcasses in Ireland were suspended using TAMU Tenderstretch, and beef carcasses in Australia can be suspended in this fashion to qualify for an improvement in grade.

Condolences can be left for the family at www.hillierfuneralhome.com.



Recent publication

Steven P. Hammack. Texas Adapted Genetic Strategies for Beef Cattle IV: Breeding Systems. Texas AgriLife Extension <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/genetics/geneticsE189.pdf>.

Upcoming events

Aggieland Saturday (Feb. 19, 2011 - College Station) - For more information on Animal Science events during Aggieland Saturday, visit the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tamuanimal.science or contact Kelly Essler at (979) 845-7616 or essler@tamu.edu.

Aggie REPS Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast (Feb. 24, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 8 to 10 a.m.) - Animal Science faculty and staff are invited to join the Aggie REPS for breakfast tacos, fruit, coffee and juice.

Mare/Foal Workshop (Feb. 24, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Dennis Sigler at (979) 845-1562 or dsigler@tamu.edu or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/equine/MareFoal-editted.pdf>.

Texas A&M "Back to Basics" Horse Short Course - (Feb. 24-25, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Dennis Sigler at (979) 845-1562 or dsigler@tamu.edu or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/equine/HoseShortCourse-editted.pdf>.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Coffee Break (March 11, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - All Animal Science faculty, staff and graduate students are invited to attend.

Livestock Judging Clinic (March 26, 2011 - College Station) - For more information, please contact Jake Franke at (979) 845-7616 or jfranke@tamu.edu or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/youth/judging-clinic-11.pdf>.

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.

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>.

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 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/camps/show-cattle-camp/index.htm>.

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.

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 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 or visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm>.

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.



Department of Animal Science - Dr. H. Russell Cross, Professor & Interim Head
2471 TAMU - College Station, TX 77843-2471 - Tel. 979.862.4994 - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu>

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