

Animal Science Weekly

February 21, 2011



Inside this issue:

- Livestock Judging Team finishes at top
- Wool Judging Team finishes in second
- ANSC Research at Work: Ruminants are key to food production - yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- Thank-A-Farmer Thursday informational meeting to be held Feb. 22
- Australian scientist to present seminar
- Upcoming events

AGGIE JUDGING TEAMS DO WELL IN SAN ANTONIO

Livestock Judging Team finishes at top

SAN ANTONIO – The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team edged out Texas Tech University for a first place finish at the San Antonio Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest on Feb. 19, 2011, in San Antonio.

Angelo State University, Kansas State University and Sam Houston State University rounded out the top five.

Texas A&M won high team in cattle, tied for high team in reasons and finished second high team in sheep and swine.

In individual competition, Caleb Boardman from Powell, Wyo., took high overall individual and Cody Marburger from Round Top tied for second high overall. Other individual placings include:

- Boardman - second in reasons and sheep, fifth in hogs, eighth in cattle;
- Marburger - first in cattle, third in reasons, ninth in hogs;
- Marty Gifford from Cowley, Wyo. - tenth high overall, fifth in reasons, ninth in sheep and tenth in swine;
- John Mayer from Round Top - tenth in cattle;
- Canaan Driebrodt from New Braunfels - sixth in cattle;
- Erich Schatte from Giddings - second in goats;
- Bethanie Yeaman from Rock Springs - tenth in sheep.

Team members also are Ryan Smoes of Hamilton, Mich.; Lance Bauer from Ingram; Brad Bundage from Cameron, Mo.; Mike Helle from Edinburg; C.J. Mabry from Port Lavaca; Robert Oestrich from New Braunfels; Wes Regmund from Llano; Jacob Shaw from Smyer; T.J. Skinner of Liberal, Kan.; and Cody Trimble from Knox City.

The team is coached by Jake Franke. Assistant coaches are Carl Muntean, Cody Sloan and Jake Thorne.

Wool Judging Team finishes in second

SAN ANTONIO – The Texas A&M Wool Judging Team - Grey missed first place by 20 points bringing home second place from the Collegiate Wool Judging Contest held at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo on Feb. 12, 2011 in San Antonio.

Texas A&M - Maroon and Texas A&M - White teams finished in fourth and fifth places overall. Angelo State University was first and Texas Tech University - Black was third. In grading, the Aggie teams placed second, third and fourth; and in reasons, Texas A&M finished sixth, seventh and eighth.

In individual competition, Dillon Garr from Fayetteville, Ark., won fourth high overall, seventh in grading, and fifth in reasons; Konni Kelso from Seguin took fifth

(see Judging Team page 3)



Find us on
Facebook

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

ANS RESEARCH at WORK

Ruminants are key to food production: yesterday, today, and tomorrow

By Jim MacDonald, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Animal Nutrition
Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Amarillo

AMARILLO – Since the dawn of time the ruminant animal has played an essential role in human food production. The unique ability of the rumen to convert cellulose in plants into meat, milk, fiber, and power has been crucial to human survival for many millennia. Ruminants remained an important part of food production in the post-World War II era when ramped-up United States grain production resulted in excess supplies. Nutritional and management strategies were developed to utilize the excess grain to finish cattle. This resulted in the modern beef production systems where cattle are finished in feedlots.

Another structural change is underway and ruminants are again playing a vital role in ensuring a safe and abundant food supply. The starch in cereal grains is now being utilized for ethanol production to fuel cars, to make sweeteners in foods or beverages, and for the production of plastic materials. The fibrous by-products that remain after the starch has been utilized have little value to most industries, except those industries that utilize ruminant animals.

Texas AgriLife Research at Amarillo has been working diligently at developing strategies to incorporate these by-products into beef cattle production systems, and the results are promising. For example, supplementing yearling stocker cattle with dried distiller's grains can improve gains by 9 percent for cattle grazing winter wheat pastures, 14 percent for cattle grazing summer short grass prairie, and 142 percent for cattle grazing dormant winter range. Including crude glycerin (a by-product of biodiesel production) in the diets of growing calves can improve gains by 10 percent. Producers need to conduct their own economic analysis to determine if utilizing these by-

(see **Ruminants are key** page 3)



Thank-A-Farmer Thursday informational meeting to be held Feb. 22

An informational meeting about a new event called Thank-A-Farmer Thursday will be held on Feb. 22, 2011, in Kleberg Center room 113 starting at 5:30 p.m. Thank-A-Farmer Thursday will be held on March 31, 2011 on participating university campuses across the United States. The event is aimed at improving the image of agriculture by educating college students about where food and clothes comes from; providing facts about the vital role agriculture plays; and exposing students to the genuine values held by agriculturalists. Students interested in this event are encouraged to attend the informational meeting to learn how to get involved. For more information, contact Gentrie Shafer at gshafer@neo.tamu.edu or Andrea Loyd at anl13d@neo.tamu.edu or visit the events Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=149399628449673>.

Australian scientist to present seminar

COLLEGE STATION – Antonio (Toni) Reverter, Ph.D., from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation in Brisbane, Queensland, will present “Computation and Systems Biology Research at CSIRO Livestock Industries” on Feb. 28, 2011, at noon in Kleberg Center room 023. This talk will outline the developments over the last years by scientists at the CSIRO Livestock Industries in Brisbane. With a focus on traits of economic importance in beef cattle, emphasis will be placed in gene regulatory networks and an association weight matrix for multiple trait genome-wide association studies. Reverter has been with CSIRO Livestock Industries since 2001 where he leads a computation biology team with skills in quantitative and molecular genetics, gene expression microarrays, whole-genome association studies, promoter sequences and gene networks.

Judging Team *(continued from page 1)*

high overall and second in reasons; Brittini Littlejoin from Longview won sixth high overall and first in grading; and Chloe Geye from Rising Star was tenth in grading.

Team members also include Katie Moore from Richmond; Lea Luensmann from Zuehl; Taylor Adcock from Fairfield; Jacob Brown from Bryan; Meredith Earwood from Sonora; Brent Hale from Dayton; Whitley James from George West; William Whitworth from Junction; Lexus Weinheimer from Stonewall; and Misty Jackson from Sumner.

Dr. Shawn Ramsey is the faculty coach/coordinator and Kim Hardin is the coach. Assistant coaches are Claire Luensmann, Kenton Kirkpatrick and Carl Muntean.

Ruminants are key

(continued from page 2)

products will improve their profitability of production, but the information provided by animal scientists should take some guess work out of the performance that can be expected from using these by-products.

Incorporating by-products into finishing diets in Texas has been a bit more challenging. The steam-flaked corn-based diets with added fat commonly fed in the Texas High Plains region already maximizes efficiency. We have observed a 9 percent reduction in feed efficiency when including 30 percent wet distiller’s grains in steam-flaked corn-based finishing diets. However, other strategies can be employed to make up some of the lost efficiency. Using distiller’s grains allows dietary roughage to be reduced to 7.5 percent of the diet and a majority of the supplemental protein and fat can be replaced. We are currently looking for strategies to improve the digestibility of distiller’s grains so it can be incorporated at higher levels.

The use of by-products has also provided some

opportunities to improve cattle feeding. We are now able to start cattle on feed more quickly by using wet corn gluten feed to adapt cattle to a finishing diet rather than using the traditional method of combining roughage and corn. This strategy has resulted in an additional 17 pounds of carcass weight on average.

As by-products increase in availability and change in make-up, it will be important not to be confined by tradition. For example, cellulosic ethanol has the potential to dramatically change the dynamics of beef production yet again. While it is difficult to predict how food production will change in the future, you can be sure that ruminants will continue to play an important role in feeding the world.

Jim MacDonald, Ph.D., is assistant professor of animal nutrition, in the Department of Animal Science. He can be reached at (806) 677-5600 or by email at jcmacdonald@ag.tamu.edu.

Upcoming events

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/HorseShortCourse-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 <j-savell@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>