

Animal Science Weekly

March 14, 2011

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Students participate in Western Regional Dairy Challenge

FRESNO – Four students from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences represented Texas A&M University in the Western Regional Dairy Challenge held March 3-5, 2011 in Fresno, Calif. and one of the students earned a top award.

Caroline Gardiner, a junior animal science major from Owings, Md.; Kristin Catron, a senior animal science major from Fort Worth; Nicole Hoff, a junior animal science major from Windthorst; and Blake Wolf, a freshman ag business major from Scotland, were among the 55 students from five western universities and one Canadian university to compete in the challenge. In addition to Texas A&M, other participating universities were the University of

Alberta (Canada), University of Idaho, Washington State University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the California State University of Fresno.

Hosted by Fresno State University, the Western Regional Dairy Challenge is an innovative management analysis competition developed by industry and university professionals from across the U.S.

A key objective of the dairy challenge is to present students with real-life situations that stress the importance of teamwork and professionalism.

Students from the different universities were partnered in teams of four or five. Each group conducts a comprehensive evaluation of a working dairy farm. The evaluation includes everything from

cow comfort and herd health to reproduction and finances. The teams are looking for opportunities to improve operational efficiency of the dairy farm being evaluated and ideas to improve that particular dairy's bottom-line.

Texas A&M's Nicole Hoff was a member of the team winning the gold award.



Left, Caroline Gardiner, Kristin Catron, Nicole Hoff and Blake Wolf.

Her four team members were from California State University Fresno, University of Alberta and University of Idaho. A platinum award was also presented to one of the teams.

These four A&M students all have a background in the dairy field or are interested in pursuing some aspect of the dairy business after graduation. Catron and Hoff both completed the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium Teaching program last summer and are returning in May along with Wolf to this year's teaching program.

Dr. Michael Tomaszewski, professor emeritus in dairy science, and Dr. Glenn Holub, instructional assistant professor, serve as the team's advisors.

Riley named Brahman Friend of the Year

HOUSTON – Dr. David Riley, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, was named “Brahman Friend of the Year” by the American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) on March 3, 2011. Riley was presented the award during the International Brahman Show in Houston, where more than 2,000 Brahman breeders and spectators from around the world were in attendance.

Riley and fellow beef industry researcher Dr. Chad Chase were chosen by the ABBA membership and board of directors to be recognized for their outstanding research contributions to the American Brahman breed of cattle.

Riley joined the department in 2009 as a faculty member in the animal breeding and genetics section. His research efforts are focused on the McGregor Genomics Projects and include the association of genes, gene combinations and other molecular variants with beef cattle production traits, especially those traits related to cow reproduction and efficiency.



Left, Chris Shivers, ABBA executive director, Dr. Chad Chase and Dr. David Riley, both Brahman Friends of the Year, and Bob Hudgins, ABBA president.

Japanese journalists visit department

COLLEGE STATION – A group of Japanese journalists led by Susumu (Sam) Harada, senior director of the United States Meat Export Federation in Tokyo, visited the Department of Animal Science on Feb. 17, 2011.

The journalists heard presentations from several faculty in the department. Dr. Kerri Harris, associate professor of meat science, spoke about the U.S. food safety regulation and HACCP programs; Dr. Steve Smith, professor of meat science, presented information regarding marbling research; and Dr. Jeff Savell, regents professor and E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal Chair, talked about U.S. beef production and export/trade issues.

The group also visited the Texas A&M University Beef Center and was presented an overview of U.S. seedstock operations from Paul Maulsby, beef center manager. In addition, the group visited ANSC 437 Marketing and Grading of Livestock and Meat and talked with the



students regarding U.S. production practices and the Japanese market for beef.

Gill's genetic research featured in *SimTalk* magazine

How can a bull that has been DNA tested as homozygous black have red calves? This is the question that Dr. Clare Gill, associate professor of animal breeding and genetics in the Department of Animal Science, and her research team were recently asked to solve for the American Simmental Association. Her group identified a new variant of the red coat color gene in Simmental cattle that is not detected by commercial DNA tests.

These findings were published in the March 2011 issue of *SimTalk* in an article called “When black is not black.” To view the complete article and to read all the details on their discoveries, go to <http://simmgene.com/index.php/Publications/Publications/Current-Issue.html>.

Parents' Weekend activities planned

COLLEGE STATION – The Department of Animal Science and the Saddle & Sirloin Club will host several activities during this year's Parents' Weekend scheduled April 15-16, 2011. Parents' Weekend provides an opportunity for current and retired faculty members to visit and interact with students and their parents. The schedule is as follows:

April 15

- 5:00 p.m. - Little Southwestern (*Pearce Pavilion*)
- 5:00 p.m. - Barbecue Cookoff (*Pearce Pavilion*)
- 7:00 p.m. - Ham Auction (*Pearce Pavilion*)

April 16

- 9:00 a.m. - Little Southwestern (*Pearce Pavilion*)
- 5:00 p.m. - Scholarship Donor Reception (*Brazos County Expo Exhibit Hall*)
- 6:00 p.m. - Spring Banquet (*Brazos County Expo Exhibit Hall*)

April 17

- 1:00 p.m. - Spirit of Aggieland Sale (*Beef Center*)

Savell makes presentation at Southwest Meat Association conference


RICHARDSON – Dr. Jeff Savell, regents professor and E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal Chair, presented a talk entitled “35 year retrospective and a look forward” at the Southwest Meat Association Mid-Year Conference held Feb. 23-24, 2011 in Richardson. Savell's talk focused on the research and education programs he has worked on during his career and the importance of the people and students he has come into contact with during this time. His message to the attendees was that each of them was in the people business and that successful businesses in the future will be so because of the relationships they have built through the years.

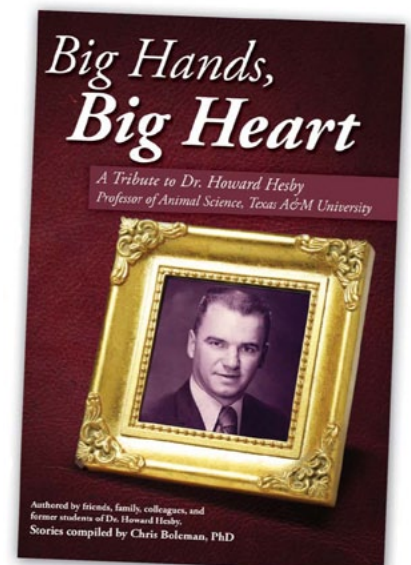
HOWARD HESBY STUDENT ATRIUM

in the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center

Support the Howard Hesby Student Atrium Fund today, and as a special bonus receive a copy of “Big Hands, Big Heart,” the tribute to Dr. Hesby. Each contribution of \$25 or more will receive a copy of this book celebrating the life and stories of Dr. Howard Hesby. Donations of \$50 or more can be made at giving.tamu.edu/SupportHesbyAtrium. To learn more about the atrium project, please go to:

animalscience.tamu.edu/hesby-atrium

Texas A & M Foundation		
Howard Hesby Student Atrium Fund		
PLEDGE INFORMATION		
My personal pledge:	\$	All contributions of \$25 or more will receive a copy of “Big Hands, Big Heart” a tribute to Dr. Hesby and can be claimed as a charitable contribution on an individual's itemized tax return less \$9.00 for the value of the book received.
My matching gift company will contribute: Name of company:	\$	
Total Commitment:	\$	
DONOR INFORMATION (Please Print)		
Name		Class Year
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PAYMENT INFORMATION		
Enclosed Contribution: \$	Please make checks payable to TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION . On the memo line, indicate – Howard Hesby Student Atrium Fund, account number 0573410	Return to: Amanda Mendoza College of Agriculture and Life Sciences 2140 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-2140



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Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (March 23, 2011 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 11:45 a.m.) - Dr. Matt Taylor, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, will present "The non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing E. coli: What's known, not known, and what's needed." 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>.

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>.

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>.

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.

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>.



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