

2020 UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

A BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

This newsletter was designed as an update for 2020.

Department Head's Notes

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Students,

The last year has been a wild ride, to say the least--for the department, as well as the university and the nation. By the time you receive this publication, it will have been almost a year since we received the email asking us to convert completely to an online format (with a week's notice!) to finish the Spring 2020 semester. COVID-19 has greatly impacted our programs across all three missions of the department, with the greatest impacts on teaching and Extension activities. Our faculty, staff, and students rose to the challenge to get the work done in the typical outstanding way of UT Animal Science. As department head, I know that not everyone was happy with how the department and university handled the situation. Our goal was to keep our clientele, staff, and their loved ones safe.



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As Dr. Jim Neel used to say about our Extension or field day talks, “If we have one producer take home one thing we discussed and it improves their production, economics, or way of life, then we have a win.” My thinking regarding COVID was the opposite, in that if we had one person--be it a student, youth, parent, or staff member--take COVID home to their loved ones or get sick themselves due to our programs and activities, then we have a loss! Here’s hoping and praying that we are on the backside of this pandemic!

We’ve learned a lot during the pandemic, including new methods and formats of educating our clientele during a time of crisis without diminishing quality. Face-to-face will always be our preferred method of instruction, but we have received great feedback that says we need to continue to look at other means of educating our clientele, both in the classroom and across the state. Our Extension specialists have worked hard to develop outstanding webinars to continue delivery of their programs during this time of social distancing. Our classroom instructors have incorporated new technology into their lectures and labs and continue to provide a great learning environment. Not everyone liked our methods and decisions, but we refused to let a pandemic beat us in fulfilling our mission. Our biggest hurdles were with our youth livestock events. I applaud Aaron Fisher and his committees for working through the health safety plans, approvals, and other matters to provide the best experiences for these youths while keeping in mind the thoughts stated in the above paragraph . . . we don’t want this going home with someone because of a poor decision on our part. We are hoping for better times this summer as we get into the middle of another busy youth livestock schedule!

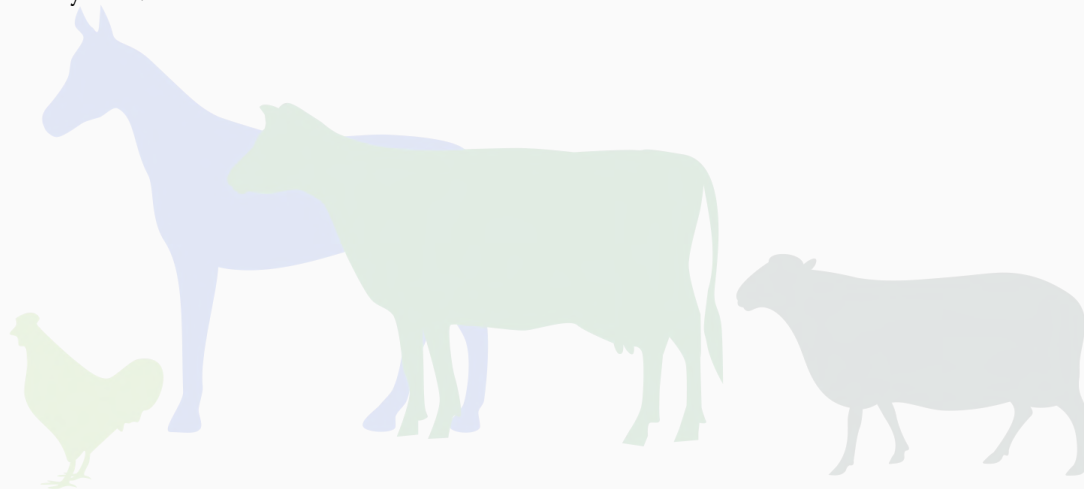
Despite the challenges this situation presented to research, we never stopped. I’m not even sure we slowed down. Our faculty have performed outstandingly with the excellent assistance of their graduate and undergraduate students and with the help of the Research and Education Centers statewide. While adjustments were made in order to maintain social distancing, faculty and staff were able to continue their work. We have been very successful in publishing our research and Extension results as well as applying and receiving funds for research to continue. We are still experiencing personnel turnover across all missions of the department. Several new faces will appear in this edition and more new folks will be featured in future editions of this newsletter. As mentioned in past issues, and as a result of several retirements and new hires, we are now a very young, energetic faculty. I will not call them “replacements” since these new hires have new goals and ideas for a department that continues to change each and every semester.

I am entering my 10th year as head of Animal Science here at UT. As an Okie, I was smart enough to marry a middle Tennessee girl who keeps me always looking forward and to what is the next direction for the department. Not everyone agrees with my thinking, but listening to producers and students is what provides information to my compass as it relates to direction for the department. Continuous improvement—in both efficiency of production and the quality of hands-on education—is a driver that will continue to steer our department as we look towards the future, adjusting our path ahead of other universities and Animal Science departments and when hiring new faculty. We are here to educate, assist, and discover new findings for our clientele. I’m always interested in hearing your suggestions. Feel free to send me an email or call anytime!

Stay safe,



Neal Schrick
Professor
and Head



This newsletter contains information as an update for 2020.

Departmental Growth: New Faculty & Staff

Since 2018, the Department of Animal Science has seen new faces and new expertise. We are pleased to welcome and introduce these exceptional individuals.



Beginning in 2019, Dr. Jon Beever is the Director of the newly established UTIA Genomics Center for Advancement of Agriculture. As a Professor he also holds appointments in the Department of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Jon is a molecular geneticist, and earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois in 1986, 1989 and 1996, respectively, all in animal sciences. After earning his doctorate, he remained at the University of Illinois as a professor and researcher until 2019, where he joined UTIA. Throughout his career, Jon has helped provide key tools for beef producers to eliminate genetic problems in their herds.



Liz Eckelkamp is the Dairy Extension Specialist at the University of Tennessee. She is a non-traditional Ag lover who became involved with dairy cows during her undergrad at LSU. She went on to pursue her Masters and PhD in Animal Science with a focus on Dairy Systems Management at the University of Kentucky with Dr. Jeffrey Bewley. He introduced her to the amazing men and women who produce nature's most nearly perfect food, milk. Liz is honored to continue working with those farm families in Tennessee. Her extension and research programs focus on providing low to no-cost functional fixes for dairy farmers across the state as well as understanding farmer and public perceptions about dairy farming practices. More recently, they have been exploring the potential of value-added dairy products, such as bottled milk, ice cream, and cheese, to provide a reliable income stream for dairy farmers. Liz routinely holds face-to-face meetings with farmers through the Master Dairy Program, and provides a one-stop shop for all things dairy on her website, UTdairy.utk.edu. If you've got a cow question, give Liz a call/text/email. She would love to talk cows with you.



In September 2018, Aaron Fisher returned to the University of Tennessee Department of Animal Science to serve as the

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Learn more about our Faculty and Staff at
animalscience.tennessee.edu/our-people



youth Livestock and Equine Specialist. In that role he provides leadership to statewide youth animal science programs. This includes state 4-H and FFA animal exhibitions, state 4-H livestock, meat, dairy, poultry and horse judging contests, quiz bowls and Hippology. Prior to this role, Aaron served as the State 4-H Livestock Specialist at Purdue University from May 2011 to August 2018, which included very similar responsibilities as his current position. His initial stint at UT was as an Extension Specialist and then a Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science from April 2001 to April 2011.



Dan grew up on a small family farm in Northwest Indiana. His father was a fourth-generation farmer there and worked alongside his father and brother raising pigs and planting row crops, corn and beans. Dan has always loved nature and some of his favorite memories as a kid are riding in the combine during harvest, watching the deer and pheasant run out of the fields.



Kyle grew up in Miles City, MT with his parents and younger brother. Kyle received an A.S. from Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington in 2008 and his B.S. at Oklahoma State University in 2010. After graduation, he worked in Morristown, Indiana managing a small feed yard prior to starting graduate school. In 2013 Kyle completed requirements for his M.S. at Oklahoma State University with an emphasis on reproductive physiology under Dr. Robert Wettemann. His research was focused on the effects of supplementation on fall calving cows. Kyle completed his PhD in 2016 at North Dakota State University with an emphasis on nutritional physiology under the direction of Dr. Joel Caton. Upon graduation Kyle continued within academia and underwent postdoctoral training at the University of Kentucky from 2016 to 2018. In July of 2018, he joined the faculty here at the University of Tennessee with an 85% research and 15% teaching appointment. Kyle spends his free time with his wife, Amanda, and 1 year old daughter, Ridley, at their home in Philadelphia, TN riding horses and enjoying the outdoors.

After taking an animal reproductive physiology course (ANSC 420), Dan became interested in embryology and pursued a master's and later, Ph.D., in Animal Science with a focus in Reproductive Physiology in the Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri. Dan loves to travel and after completing his Ph.D., he moved to Ireland where he worked as a Post-doctorate Research Fellow in a bovine reproductive physiology laboratory at the University College Dublin. A fun fact is that Dan lived in Celbridge, Ireland, the birthplace of Arthur Guinness and where they say he poured his first pint of famous Guinness beer. After his Post-doctorate, Dan joined the faculty at the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences at West Virginia University for two years. There he taught an undergraduate level Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology course.

Dan Mathew joined the faculty at the Department of Animal Science at the University of Tennessee in July of 2019 and now teaches Animal Anatomy and Physiology (ANSC 220). His current research program aims to develop methods that reduce reproductive failure in cattle and other livestock. Dan mentioned, after all these years and change in life direction it's sometimes hard to believe that he lives in East Tennessee again and has an opportunity to make a positive impact in a place that he's always called home. Although he enjoys traveling and exploring nature in his free time, Dan also enjoys playing rugby, fishing and most of all, spending time with family and friends. Photo: Catching my first lake trout in the North West Territories.

Sarah Moorey



Sarah Moorey joined the Department of Animal Science faculty in September of 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Her research program focuses to improve reproductive efficiency in beef cattle. Specifically, Dr. Moorey's lab is interested in better understanding the final stages of follicular development and how changes in management such as estrous synchronization or cow nutrition alter follicle and oocyte development. Additionally, Dr. Moorey's lab is investigating genetic differences among beef cows or heifers with high or low fertility to help develop a more reliable means to select beef replacements with high reproductive potential. In addition to her research program, Dr. Moorey teaches ANSC 624 – Advanced Mammalian Reproduction and ANSC 515 – Endocrinology.

Dr. Moorey was raised in Citronelle, Alabama on her family's cattle farm. She actively exhibited Simmental cattle at various livestock shows across the Southeast and nation while growing up and retains a small number of

Southeast and nation while growing up and retains a small number of Simmental cattle with her family's herd in Alabama. Dr. Moorey began her training at Auburn University, where she earned a B.S. in Animal Sciences in 2014. She then earned a M.S. in Animal Sciences, focusing on Reproductive Physiology, at the University of Missouri in 2016, before completing her PhD in Animal Sciences, focusing on Reproductive Physiology and Genomics, at Auburn University in 2019. Dr. Moorey also worked for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as a Regional Extension Agent for Animal Science and Forages for a brief time between completing her M.S. and PhD degrees.

Dr. Moorey currently resides in Knoxville with her husband Josh and their Corgi Jenny. They plan to expand the family to include a Golden Retriever this fall and hope to eventually purchase land to relocate her cattle herd to the Knoxville area. Dr. Moorey is excited to continue developing her research and teaching appointments within our Department, and she looks forward to making a positive impact on beef cattle production and student lives within our University, state, and country.

Dr. Amanda McLean started working at the UT Animal Science department in a temporary capacity in January 2020 to cover teaching ANSC 280 (Livestock Handling and Management), ANSC 395 (Careers in Animal Agriculture), the beef section of ANSC 160 (Introduction to Animal Science), and the beef nutrition section of ANSC 481 (Beef Cattle Management) for the Spring semester. In May 2020, she was brought on full-time as a Lecturer. Her duties include teaching ANSC 395, ANSC 330 (Comparative Animal Nutrition; Spring semesters only), as well as co-instructing ANSC 150 (Global Animal Agriculture Systems & Society) and ANSC 250 (Introduction to Animal Handling and Management).

Like many of our students today, Amanda came from a non-agriculture background. However, she rode and showed horses growing up and always had a passion for agriculture and teaching. In 2012, she completed her B.S. in Animal Science with a concentration in Animal Biology at Michigan State University. Having found a love for animal nutrition during undergrad, Amanda decided to pursue a M.S. degree in Animal & Food Science at the University of Kentucky with a focus on ruminant nutrition, which she earned in 2014. Since a career in teaching at the college level was her ultimate goal, Amanda continued her education at the University of

Amanda McLean



Kentucky earning a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching & Learning in May 2017 and a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition in April 2019.

Amanda is married to Dr. Kyle McLean, Assistant Professor in our department who studies beef cattle reproduction. Together, they have a one-year-old baby girl, Ridley Marie, who keeps them very busy and entertained. Amanda enjoys spending time on their small farm, caring for their cattle and horses, gardening, and competing in barrel racing events.



Abigayle Pollock

Abigayle Pollock joined the Animal Science faculty in January as the head coach of the livestock judging team. Pollock recently graduated from University of Tennessee this past May with a degree in Animal Science and will be pursuing a master's degree in reproductive physiology under co-mentors Dr. Lannett Edwards and Dr. Neal Schrick. While coaching the team, Abigayle will also be instructing the livestock portion of ANSC 360: Equine/Food Animal Evaluation. She grew up on a small beef cattle operation in Taft, Tennessee and was very active in Tennessee 4-H and FFA programs. Abigayle is an alumnus of the UT Livestock Judging Team (2019) and was recognized as a Collegiate Livestock Judging All American at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Pollock is excited to continue to develop the program that shaped her undergraduate career and looks forward to training students in livestock evaluation.



Liesel Schneider

Liesel Schneider is an assistant professor in the ANSC department who began her tenure-track position in January 2018. Dr. Schneider was born and raised in Troy, Tennessee and grew up raising and showing cattle on her grandparents' Century Farm. Dr. Schneider's appointment at UTIA consists of

40% independent research centered around beef cattle health, 40% collaborative research stemming from statistical contribution, and 20% teaching. Dr. Schneider is working on projects related to detection methods, nasopharyngeal microbiomes, and immune markers related to naturally-occurring bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in recently received stocker cattle. Liesel enjoys her ability to use statistics as a way to work across various disciplines of agriculture and loves working with graduate students. When she is not at the office, she enjoys playing outside with her son, husband, and their two dogs.



Amber Rayborn

Amber grew up in Alexandria, Alabama, a small, rural community about halfway between Birmingham and Atlanta. Despite being the first in her family to graduate from high school (let alone college), Amber decided to attend the University of Alabama, where she graduated with a BS in Human Environmental Science in 2008 and an MA in Higher Education Administration in 2010. Her experience as a first-generation college student, and the struggles that come along with that, inspired her to pursue a career in advising and student success so that she could help students in ways that she wasn't helped.

Amber joined the Department of Animal Science as a Student Success Advisor in August 2017 and was recently promoted to Advising Coordinator. In addition to providing comprehensive academic advising to undergraduate students in Animal Science, Amber also teaches ANSC 100, coordinates New Student Orientation for the Herbert College of Agriculture, and serves as Chapter Advisor for Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority.

When she's not advising or teaching, Amber enjoys doing nothing (just kidding--a little). She enjoys listening to music, watching true-crime documentaries, and spending time with her husband (Rob), daughter (Olivia), and miniature dachshund (Pebbles).

UT Animal Science Extension Update

By Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Reproductive Management

It would be difficult to write an update about UT Animal Science Extension activities without first recognizing that the beginning of 2020 brought more than a few changes to the way we deliver educational material to livestock producers and owners. At the time of writing this update, we have not delivered a face-to-face meeting for several months. So, we have been working to deliver timely information to UT Extension Agents and livestock producers in creative ways.

I hope you take the time to read the section of this newsletter devoted to David Kirkpatrick's retirement. Doc's mentoring has been a blessing to me personally, and his work to create, maintain, and continually improve the central bull testing program has provided real economic improvement opportunity for thousands of seedstock and commercial cattle producers. We will be dividing those responsibilities between our department (Justin Rhinehart and the new nutrition specialist, Dr. Katie Mason) and the Middle TN AgResearch & Education staff (Kevin Thompson, Matt Backus, Nolan Rinks). We look forward to continuing the positive impact of the Bull Test program from the foundation Dr. Kirkpatrick has so steadily established.

If you are interested in learning more about the UT Animal Science Extension programs mentioned here, or the others linked below, remember that the local UT Extension office in your county will be glad to provide more details or connect you to us. And, as always, our departmental Extension Specialists will be delighted to visit with you over the phone or in person. Our priority is to help you make a better living with your livestock, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Equine Extension Programs

By Jennie Ivey, Extension Equine Specialist

The UT Equine Extension Program is gearing up for an exciting year and 2020 has brought new research, teaching, and extension opportunities. Kelly Melvin, an MS student in the Animal Science Department studying under Dr. Jennie Ivey (Assistant Professor; Extension Equine Specialist), presented her ongoing research on 'Public Perceptions of Equine Processing and Welfare' at the 2020 American Society of Animal Science Southern Section Meeting. A continuing education conference on equine nutrition and health coordinated by Dr. Ivey and Dr. Lew Strickland (Associate Professor; Extension Veterinarian) was held for veterinarians, Extension personnel, Tennessee Department of Agriculture Employees, and students alike in Murfreesboro, TN. The program and upcoming Animal Handling Series were showcased at the Southern Equine Expo where equine welfare, low-stress handling, and veteran resources at the Southern Equine Expo sessions were presented by Dr. Ivey, Kevin Thompson (Station Director, Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center), and Jenni Goodrich (County Director, Morgan County) presented throughout the three-day event.



UT Equine Extension Program at the Southern Equine Expo in Murfreesboro, TN

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Focusing on youth education and involvement, Dr. Ivey taught two, week long sessions for an online Hippology Academy in collaboration with Extension Horses, a national group of Equine Extension Specialists and industry members. In late winter, over 250 4-H youth competed in the State 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest, with top Senior level teams from Lawrence and Jefferson Counties qualifying to represent Tennessee at the Eastern National Horse Roundup in November. Further, Extension agents, students, and Animal Science Faculty represented Tennessee at the American Youth Horse Council Symposium, learning new ways to elevate youth programming and educator training throughout the state.

Like the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic altered traditional program efforts, yet allowed for new ways to impact those interested in horses. The UT Equine Extension program, in collaboration with Middle Tennessee State University Horse Science Center offered a ‘Horse Judging from Home’ series, reaching over 1100 people live and over 1000 views on recorded sessions. The Extension Horses group hosted online webinars to share information on financial resources, facility sanitation and boarding contracts, with several sessions hosted and supported by Dr. Ivey and the UT Equine Program. Upcoming online and in-person programs, recorded judging and COVID-19 resources, and numerous resources covering equine health, nutrition and management can be found at UTHorse.com.

Dairy Extension Programs

By Liz Eckelkamp, Extension Dairy Specialist

The Dairy Extension Program at the University of Tennessee serves the dairy farmers and interested youth across Tennessee. Dr. Liz Eckelkamp, who joined UT in November of 2017, provides education, youth opportunities, on-farm consultations, and conducts applied research. She also advises UT’s Dairy Club, who’s members attended both the Southern Regional and Virtual National American Dairy Science Association meetings. Many new features have been added to our traditional programs including our UT Dairy website (utdairy.utk.edu), the TNDairyDiscuss email group, and our social media outlets on Facebook (@utiadairy) and Instagram (#utdairy). This has allowed the program to continue serving our farm communities during COVID-19.

The dairy industry has experienced several challenging events over the past few years. In 2019, Dean Foods Inc., one of the largest purchasers and processors of milk, filled Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring. To provide resources for farmers who needed financial, mental, and informational assistance, the Market Outlook section was added to UTDairy.

The UTDairy site was updated with timely information about the Chapter 11, changes that may impact dairy farmers, and sales updates. When Borden Dairy filled Chapter 11 in 2020, resources focused on Borden information for dairy farmers were added. During COVID-19, Dr. Eckelkamp (in cooperation with waste management specialist Dr. Shawn Hawkins, a team of agriculture economists, and industry specialists) provided resources on dump milk, biosecurity and employee safety, and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act programs. To provide additional timely information and continuing education opportunities, the Weekly Webinar Wednesday program was initiated. During April and May, 8 webinars were given addressing issues like milk dumping, employee safety training in Spanish, CARES Act programs, and animal health. This program will be continued with Webinar Wednesdays on the second Wednesday of each month.

The UT Equine Extension Program is excited to announce that the UT Equestrian IHSA Team has a new home and coach. Both the Hunt Seat and Western teams will be coached out of in a new partnership with Elder’s Last Lap Ranch in Maryville, TN. Delaney Rostad, an incoming MS student under Dr. Jennie Ivey, will serve as the head coach. Delaney brings an impressive equitation and judging background from her time in the TN 4 H program and while completing her undergraduate degree at MTSU. She also possesses industry experience while working as an assistant trainer for Kevin Dukes Performance Horses. Her recent accomplishments include: 2019 L1 Ranch Riding 4th place horse in nation point standings and 2019 Finalist All American Quarter Horse Congress Senior Hunter Under Saddle, along with numerous circuit championships in Ranch Riding and Hunter Under Saddle classes. Keep an eye out for the team this Fall and wish them luck!



Delaney Rostad
New head coach of the UT Equestrian IHSA Team

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Even though the 2020 June Dairy Month kick-off was cancelled due to COVID-19, youth programs have still been ongoing. We have 37 youth June Dairy Month Chairpersons representing their home counties across Tennessee. Dr. Eckelkamp has been updating the youth dairy curriculum for the first time in several years. Our new Youth Livestock and Equine specialist, Aaron Fisher, has been instrumental in helping provide new materials for the dairy program. Mr. Fisher and Dr. Eckelkamp have been creating short YouTube videos providing skillathon study materials for youth interested in the dairy program. Dr. Eckelkamp also provided material for UT's virtual "Academic Un-conference" to involve youth across the state in dairy learning activities.



UT Dairy Webpage - UTDairy.utk.edu

During these unprecedented times, UT Dairy extension is here to provide learning activities, community, farmer resources, and lots of cow pictures. Stay safe, take care, and Go VOLS!

Beef Extension Programs

By Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Reproductive Management

This past year, we pulled back on delivery of the Master Beef Producer program and worked with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to temporarily accommodate producers that need certification to meet requirements of the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program (TAEP) for cost share reimbursement. UT Extension Agents continue to develop plans for catching these producers up on the educational requirements as soon as we are able to resume face-to-face delivery. We expect to have more opportunities for accelerated certification through the Master Beef and Beef Quality Assurance programs after meeting with our Beef Workgroup to determine the most effective and responsible ways to incorporate them.

Dr. Katie Mason was hired for the Beef Cattle Nutrition Extension Specialist position formerly held by Jason Smith who departed to accept a position at Texas A&M University. We wish Jason all the best in TX and thank him for everything he did to help Tennessee cattle producers while he was here. We are also excited about continuing to enhance our educational materials for beef cattle nutritional management with Dr. Mason. She will also teach our undergraduate course in Beef Cattle Management.

The Tennessee Beef Heifer Development program has continued growing, both in the number of heifers we custom develop for producers and with regard to the educational programming associated with it. Even approaching 200 total heifers, we have still have room to accept more nominations. One of the more interesting developments over the last two years is that the fall-born group of heifers consigned to the program has become larger than the group of spring-born heifers.

As always, will be delighted to visit with you over the phone or in person. Our priority is to help beef cattle producers in Tennessee make a better living with their cattle, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need information or have suggestions that will help us do that better.



Small Ruminant Extension Programs

By Jessy Shanks

New Small Ruminant & Youth Programs Extension Specialist

For the past several years the UT Small Ruminant Program has been carried out by Extension agents, various specialists, and members of the small ruminant workgroup. As of January 1st, 2020, I made the transition from teaching and assumed a new role as the Small Ruminant & Youth Programs Extension Specialist. This is a new position within Animal Science and one that is very needed in our state to support our multitude of small ruminant producers. I plan to take our small ruminant program to the next level and make it a one-stop shop for all things small ruminant based. Our extension agents in Tennessee are a great resource for producers, and I plan to support and empower them to help deliver research-based information straight to the small ruminant producers in their counties. I am excited to take on this position and cannot wait to resume in-person meetings and truly get to know producers across Tennessee. My husband, young daughter, and I raise Southdown sheep in Lenoir City, TN on my husband's family farm. We currently have around 30 mature ewes. This is the number I tell folks because as you know sheep multiply quickly and the actual number might make some wonder about our sanity! My husband's family has raised Southdowns for over 30 years and we plan to continue the tradition while also venturing into some new breeds and possibly species in the next few years. My 4-year old daughter says she is going to show everything possible and that could not make us happier! I enjoy spending time with my family, raising sheep, running, lifting weights, quilting, reading, and just about anything else that involves agriculture. That is just a little bit about myself but if you ever have any questions or want to talk sheep or goats just give me a call or email! Also visit the UT Small Ruminant web page for up to date information and events, as well as the Small Ruminant Programs at the University of Tennessee Facebook page!



Jessy Shanks



Jessy Shanks' Southdown yearlings grazing in their pasture at the farm in Lenoir City, TN

Department Notables

Lacey Johnston (Lecturer) joined the United States Army Reserve as a 68R Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist in 2019, in addition to her Animal Science duties. Her Reserve unit also provides the opportunity to cross-train as a 68T Animal Care Specialist. With this Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), she plans to utilize the Army values, leadership development, training, and opportunities to show her students there are many different capacities in which to serve others.

William "Bill" Ivey, UTIA Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries graduate (BS 2019) and husband to Dr. Jennie Ivey (Assistant Professor; Equine Extension) was promoted in October 2019 to Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Congratulations!

Dr. Henry "Hank" Kattesh (Professor Emeritus) has a new addition to his family. Jack Austin Kattesh was welcomed into the world in May 2020. Jack weighed 6 lb 14.6 oz. and was 21 in. long. This is the fifth grandchild for Hank and his wife Julie.

Dr. Lew Strickland (Associate Professor; Extension Veterinarian) is now a proud grandpa! Thomas Anthony Dressen was born May 11, 2020, weighed 8 lb. 10 oz., and was 21 in. long.

In 2019, the Department of Animal Science dedicated the Brehm Honors Room in honor of Michael O. Smith (Professor Emeritus). The inscription on the Honors Room's plaque describes Smith's career with UTIA well. "(Smith) devoted 30 years to education, science, and student development. ...Through his extensive career, Dr. Smith made a tremendously positive impact on students, staff, faculty, and the University of Tennessee as a whole."



Lacey Johnston performing a body composition score on a Military Working Dog



Dr. Michael O. Smith
(Photo by Tory Salvador of UTIA Marketing and Communications)

Animal Science Graduating Seniors

December 2019

Allison, Christopher
Baker, Pari
Baldauf, Maegan
Boals, Ashlyn
Cable, Rebecca
Creekmore, Tara
Diaz, Rubi
Diaz, Victoria
Fish, Lauren
Hall, Kassie
Heath, Lauren
Honey, Ashley
Hurst, Amilia
Johnson, Christopher
Kaul, Alexandra
Martin, Madison
Miller, Kendra
Monroe, Autumn
Pelletier, Emily
Phillips, Abby
Prince, John
Shelby, Hailey
Snipes, Morgan
Spadola, Jennifer
Stricker, Annika
Yake, Hannah

Summer 2020

Berinobis, Kaia M.
Bolton, Morgan R.
Braden, Jessica M.
Brewer, Anna G.
Brooks, Natalie K.
Brown, Kristen N.
Bunstine, Morgan N.
Campbell, Ashley G.

Campbell, Ellie M.
Carter, Brianna R.
Chapman, Kelsey E.
Chubb, Aaron S.
Coane, Ashley A.
Collins, Audrey N.
Condon, Megan
Cracchiola, Kaitland
Crateau, Emilee A.
Daniel, Bethany R.
Darnell, Jarred T.
Davis, Emily C.
Dixon, Hayley V.
Duarte, Lacey M.
Edwards, Charles S.
Erickson, Hailey E.
Fannon, Danielle J.
Fiedler, Sarah E.
Fortner, Chelsey D.
Galloway, Samantha M.
Garland, Bethany G.
Gentry, Amber M.
Good, Samuel C.
Gorman, Myranda S.
Griffis, Garrett P.
Hall, Jordan R.
Hall, Madeline G.
Harris, Chase A.
Hartwig, Alexandra S.
Hayes, Elizabeth L.
Hetu, Janie E.
Hodges, Annalese C.
Holt, Hannah B.
Hoover, Kevin J.
Horn, Emma J.
Hughes, Victoria A

Hunt, Alecia R.
Ivens, Krista E.
Jaggard, Jessica H.
Johnson, Madeline G.
Ketcherside, Talishia G.
Leber, Abigail
Lightner, Kayla
Long, Nathan S.
Mcbride, Miranda G.
Mcculley, Trinity D.
Minnick, Sarah A.
Mosher, Macie K.
Nelson, Ashley N.
O'Shana, Madyson
Pollock, Abigayle B.
Porter, Laura A.
Raimondi, Melissa N.
Roba, Tamara
Romanowski, Samantha L.
Rowland, Morgan L.
Salter, Rachel A.
Schmitt, Allison R.
Seligstein, Rachel S.
Snoddy, John R.
Stokes, Charis N.
Tester, Shawn A.
Thomas, Teyanna L.
Vancuren, Molly R.
Wade, Jakob K.
Wholihan, Olivia J.
Williams, Courtney D.
Williamson, Haley K.
Williamson, Taryn J.
Winter, Heather L.
Zaring, Caitlin S.
Zwinkler, Collette A.

2019-2020 Scholarship Recipients

We had an outstanding group of students and scholarships awarded this spring. Unfortunately, in 2020 we couldn't award and recognize everyone with a banquet as in past years. However, Animal Science departmental scholarships totaling \$109,850 were presented to one hundred and six students this academic year. This included honors that were awarded to students based on their outstanding academic performance. These animal science based-scholarships are given in addition to scholarships that may be awarded through the Herbert College of Agriculture.

Bruce C. and Cleo G. Cox Scholarship

Mst Afroza Akter
Courtne Lynnette Carter
Elizabeth Marie Chaney
Bret Michael Gittleson
Taylor Dawn Harrison
Ashton Leigh Kelly
Jessica Lauren Bradford Klabnik
Juan Fernando Cordero Larena
Taylor Brianna (Ault) Seay
Casey Christine Read
Abigayle Brooke Pollock
Kelly Rashell Melvin
Megan Danielle Mills
Wyatt Allen Haley
Ethan Reid Niles
Christine Marie McCollum
Samantha Rene Roberts
Mary Annalyse Leach
MaKenzie Danielle Sharp

Henry L. Ford Scholarship

Miranda Gabrielle Martin
Samantha Rene Roberts
Will Garrison Dalton

Laurence Gardiner Scholarship

James Lyle Ozburn

Animal Husbandry Scholarship Award

Jake Thomas Watts

Beverly Shrode Memorial Scholarship

Emma Graf
Olivia June Berrier

Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Hobbs Scholarship

Tarrah Lee Ivy

"Prof" Duncan Angus Scholarship

Cora Beth Key
Shawn A. Dillard
Megan Danielle Mills

Clyde and Laura Taylor Agriculture Scholarship

Caroline Morgan Briggs
Sydney Ann Craig
Taryn Rae Harris
Jordan Leigh Mackdanz
Alysa Brianna Nix
Claire C. Yolitz
Isabella C. Fahrenholz
Celina Ann Copeland
Allie Brianna Ashbury
Victoria Michel
Makensie R. Jones
Taylor J. Van Hout
Selina Marie Brown
Sydney C. Goodsell
Amanda Kay Young
Rebecca Jane Collins
Jesus Eduardo Guevara Hernandez
Alison Marie Posadas

Dr. R. L. and Alice K. Murphree Scholarship

Hannah Marie Sylaidis
Emily Elizabeth Travis

James T. Granbery Memorial Scholarship

Loren Elisabeth Foley
Matthew Tyler Schrick
Rachel Leigh Hamilton
Emma Graf
Shawn A. Dillard
Abby Nicole McCalmon
Amanda Kay Young

Kenneth and Christine Edds Scholarship

Marlo Kieren Black
Sarah L. Clabo
Garrett Lee Franklin
Kimberly Mae Kaufman
Savannah Ryley Marlin
Alexis Dakota Wells
Jon Caleb Newman
Mallory S. Morris
Caroline Elizabeth Sims
Chelsea Marie Maguire
Emma Annemarie Hessock
Hannah Gail Norton
Caitlin Emily Priester
Bryanna N. Fayne
Mollie Grace-Yi Black
Cydney Elizabeth Babione
Dalton Miller Smith
Elizabeth James Jewell

Beville Hal Reagan Scholarship in Animal Science

Miranda Gabrielle Martin
Megan Danielle Mills
Samantha Rene Roberts
Garrett Lee Franklin
Eli Dotson
Ethan Reid Niles
Cora Beth Key
Emma Graf
Jake Thomas Watts
Wyatt Allen Haley
Emily Caroline Patterson
Olivia June Berrier

Tom and Patti Wade Scholarship

Mary Ali Oliver
Ashley F. Hillard

Glenn G. Summers Scholarship
Benti Deresa Gelalcha
Hannah Lacy Martin Malcomson
Arup Ratan Sen
Zhantao Yu

Charles S. Simms Scholarship
Matthew Tyler Schrick
Elle Marie Mlsna
Adella B. Lonas
Emma Annemarie Hessock

Oliver J. Hubbard Memorial Poultry
Science Scholarship
Jake Thomas Watts

Dr. John D. Smalling Memorial Award
Abigayle Brooke Pollock

Dr. Ollie E. and Wilma B. Goff Graduate
Student Award
Usuk Jung
Minjeong Kim
Huiwen Wang

M. Jacob Award (from Madden Memorial
Award Fund)
Macie Kaye Mosher

The Dee W. and Dorothy Coley
Memorial Stockman's Award
Nathan S. Long

Ralph W. Thomas, Jr. And Family
Veterinary Medicine Endowed
Scholarship
Jarred Thomas Darnell

UT Livestock Judging Team

By Abigayle Pollock, Head Coach

The 2020 University of Tennessee Livestock Judging Team enjoyed a great summer traveling the country to evaluate livestock and meet outstanding producers! Starting in January, the team traveled to Denver, Colorado to compete at the 114th annual National Western Stock Show under new coach, Abigayle Pollock. Throughout the 9-day trip, the team enjoyed numerous practice workouts at feedlots, cow-calf operations, and universities throughout the Midwest. This was a great learning experience for the team and set the stage for the rest of the semester!

In February 2020, the team headed to Jackson, Mississippi to compete at Dixie Nationals. This year, the contest had record-breaking participation, with over 250 competitors. In the contest, the team placed 9th overall.

Also in February, the UT LJT hit the road to compete at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. This was the first time a UT team has ever competed in the San Antonio Livestock Judging Contest. The team engaged in practice workouts throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In the contest, the team came home with a 10th overall finish.

To round out the semester, the team competed in Montgomery, AL at the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and came home with a 2nd overall finish. Within the team, Megan Mills led the way placing 5th in sheep and goats, 6th in beef, 4th in reasons, and 5th overall. Jake Watts placed 7th in swine, 9th in beef, 9th in reasons, and 10th overall. Additionally, Kasey Harmon was 2nd in swine and 10th in reasons.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spring 2020 season was unfortunately cut short and resulted in the cancellation of the final contest of the semester, All East. Despite these setbacks, the team continued to prepare for the fall semester through online practices and also prepared to host our virtual livestock judging camp on July 31st-August 2nd! The team is excited to virtually interact with many young evaluators this summer and is looking forward to an even better semesters!



UT Animal Science at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo



UT Animal Science at the Southeastern Livestock Exposition in Montgomery, AL

Youth Animal Science Program Update

By Aaron Fisher, Youth Livestock and Equine Specialist

The purpose of youth animal science programs is to provide real-life educational opportunities that allow youth to develop animal skills, learn about animal related careers and to learn what it means to be responsible for something other than themselves. These programs do an exceptional job teaching about animals. However, animals are the teaching tool that we use to engage youth to learn life skills related to communication and public speaking, decision-making, critical thinking and team work. These important life skills are essential regardless of the career path that a youth chooses and even just in life in general and they are a direct result of their youth animal science experiences.

The youth animal science program in Tennessee is thriving. In 2019, a total of 1,001 youth exhibited 2,406 animals in the state youth shows.

Show	Youth	Animals
Swine Show	284	560
Knoxville Spring Beef Expo	69	125
Horse Show	191	267
Beef Expo	182	389
Sheep Expo	157	667
Meat Goat Show	54	190
Dairy Show	64	208
Total	1001	2406

The 2020 year has certainly been one for the ages. Due to the pandemic, we have had to alter many of the youth animal science events. The Knoxville Spring Junior Cattle Expo and the State 4-H Horse Show were cancelled. The state 4-H horse advisory committee has developed 4-H Horse Summer Challenges, where 4-H horse members will have the opportunity to learn about their horse project and while riding during the summer of 2020. They will be given riding challenges and asked to record themselves riding certain patterns and will have the opportunity to receive feedback in order to improve their riding skills.

Additionally, the 4-H Academic Conference in which animal science plays a major role with projects for beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, sheep, swine, and vet science has been moved to a virtual conference. Youth will still have the opportunity to learn about their animal project by completing activities with their animals as well as meet with their subject matter specialists. They will however miss out on the trip to Dollywood.

Sheep Expo was rescheduled for August 7-8 in Cookeville, State Goat Show was still planned for August 15 in Lebanon and Beef Expo was rescheduled for August 28-29 in Murfreesboro. Additionally, the state 4-H dairy (August 20) and livestock judging (August 22) contests were to be held in August and the state 4-H horse judging contest will be held September 15 in conjunction with FFA.

(Continued on next page)



The 2019 Tennessee Youth Livestock All-Star Banquet

The Tennessee Youth Livestock All-Star Banquet was held on October 11, 2019 in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the University of Tennessee campus. The purpose of this banquet was to highlight the accomplishments of youth involved in the youth livestock projects over the past year. Youth (89 total) were selected based on their performance at:

- State swine, beef, sheep and goat shows relative to animal placing, showmanship, skillathon and premier exhibitor
- State 4-H livestock, meat and dairy judging contests
- State 4-H livestock and dairy quiz bowl contests
- State 4-H beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goat and vet science projects



Coach Kellie Harper
Head Coach of Tennessee Lady Volunteers Basketball

The keynote speaker was Coach Kellie Harper, who challenged the youth to continue to strive for excellence even after a very successful year. This evening was made possible by the below sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative

Division Winner Society

Dr. Dwight and Rita Loveday

Class Winner Society

Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
 Tennessee Pork Producers
 UT Department of Animal Science
 UT Department of Food Science
 UT Herbert College of Agriculture

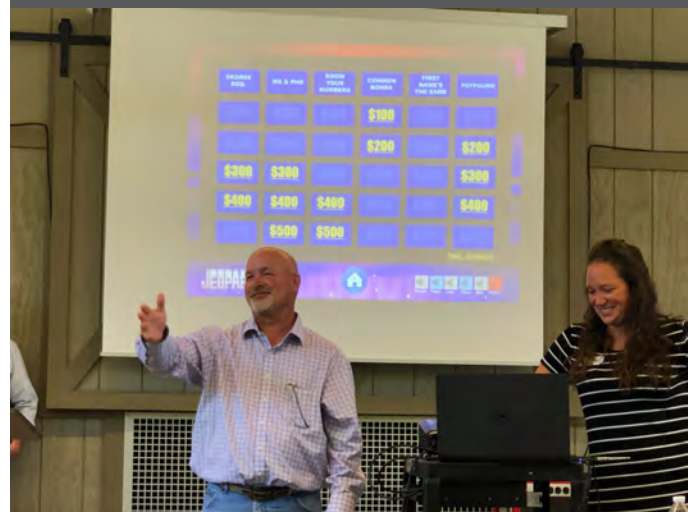
Supporters

Tennessee Livestock Producers
 UT Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics



Animal Science Graduating Graduate Students

- Jeffrey Kaufman, PhD, Fall 2019
 Connor Biehler, MS, Spring 2020
 Kiernan Brandt, MS, Spring 2020
 Kamille Piacquadio, MS, Spring 2020
 Brooke Clemmons, PhD, Summer 2020
 Madison Henniger, MS, Summer 2020
 Amanda Lee, PhD, Summer, 2020
 Hunter Liles, MS, Summer 2020
 Julia Rowinski, MS, Summer, 2020



Dairy Club

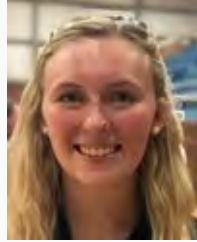
By Liz Eckelkamp, Club Advisor

The Dairy Club at the University of Tennessee has a long tradition of providing opportunities for undergraduate students, promoting the dairy industry, and involvement with the ag campus. In 2019, the Dairy Club opened up their membership to graduate students as well, providing an inclusive experience for all students interested in the dairy industry. At the end of the school year, we had 40 dues paying members.

Our club would not be possible without our dedicated team of officers. See below for pictures & titles of our 2019 officer team!



Alec Tester
President



Emma Graf
Vice President



Abby McCalmon
Secretary/Treasurer



Shawn Dillard
Historian/Treasurer



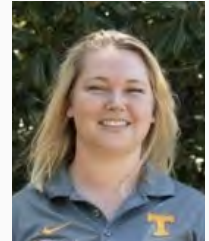
Anna Brewer
Social Chair



Jake Watts
Round-Up Chair



Jarred Darnell
Treasurer



Dr. Liz Eckelkamp
Club Advisor

Our club has been involved in several events. We had a booth at the Annual Animal Science Smoker and the Carni-Vol kick-off. Our club historian even got a pie in the face to promote Dairy Club! We also participated in several fundraisers/promotional events including an open house at the Little River Dairy Research and Education Center, Ag in the Foothills, AgDay, and the State Dairy Show. Club members sold milkshakes, maned a dunk booth, handed out ice cream sandwiches, and sold hats and t-shirts to fundraise.

Dairy Club was also involved in Southern and National Dairy Challenge. This competition teaches students how to critically evaluate a working dairy farm and present their findings to dairy farmers. Dairy Club also participated in the Southern and National American Dairy Science Association Student Affiliate Division contests. We went to Clemson, SC in February 2020. Shawn Dillard and Macie Mosher both presented and placed in the dairy foods and dairy production presentation contests. One of our incoming freshmen, Jamie Ozburn, also joined the Southern ADSA officer team. At National ADSA in June 2020, Macie Mosher presented at the Virtual Conference. We are excited to say she placed second overall in her category of dairy production discussing nutritional control of Sub-Acute Ruminant Acidosis in Fresh Cows. Go Macie!



Dairy Club at the 2020 American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Southern Student Affiliate Division Meeting at Clemson University



Retiring 2020: Dr. David Kirkpatrick



Dr. David Kirkpatrick, a native of Shattuck, Oklahoma, earned his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University, master's from New Mexico State University, and doctorate from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Kirkpatrick dedicated his entire career as genetics extension leader for the University of Tennessee.

A seasoned leader, David has served in several industry leadership roles. While serving as the superintendent of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, he was responsible for including performance data on judging classes. David has served as director of the Tennessee Bull Evaluation Station for nearly four decades and established the criteria for "genetically superior" bulls in each breed for the three categories of calving ease, balance and terminal sires. In addition, he developed Extension educational programs to teach producers how to use expected progeny differences (EPDs) and conducted Extension training sessions and producer meetings across Tennessee.

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) was established by the Tennessee legislature and included major funding for beef cattle genetics; in 2016, Dr. Kirkpatrick worked with TAEP administrators to increase funding for bulls with genomically enhanced (GE) EPDs, allowing producers to receive 25% more funding to purchase bulls with GE EPDs. In 2018, he developed an online bull calculator to determine cost share eligibility.

Dr. David Kirkpatrick has proudly served UTIA and the Department of Animal Science for 53 years. He will be missed, but we wish him the best on this next step! Happy retirement!

Portions of this article were sourced from the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Continuing Service Award, which Dr. Kirkpatrick was awarded in 2020. For more information on this great achievement, please see:

https://beefimprovement.org/library2/pressreleases/kirkpatrick_continuingservice

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Service
to the
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We want to hear from you!
ansci@utk.edu



UT Animal Science alumni are spread across the country and around the world - making enormous contributions to so many fields - in production agriculture, scientific research, academia, veterinary medicine, and more. Let us know where you are, what you're doing, and how UT Animal Science has influenced your work.

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