



Department of ANIMAL SCIENCE

Summer

A Biannual Newsletter for Friends and Alumni

2014

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Department Head's Notes

This summer has been a busy one for our department with plenty of youth livestock activities already underway and more to come before the end of July. The Brehm Arena has some sort of activity almost every weekend. The cattle sale, in conjunction with our Livestock Merchandising course (ANSC 361), the East Tennessee Angus Association and the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, was a great success thanks to an excellent job by Jessy Shanks and her students, along with Bobby Simpson, Brandon Beavers and the rest of the Blount crew in getting everything prepared for and loaded up after the sale (fabulous teamwork!).

We continue to grow as a department — in student numbers only. We are expecting close to 140 freshmen this fall for a total of well over 500 students. Our faculty numbers are not growing at the same pace, however, putting additional workloads on our faculty

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since most also have high research appointments. The UT Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) administration is working closely with us on resolving some of these issues, and I still see a bright future for the department in research, teaching and extension activities. We have outstanding clientele (producers, students, 4-H'ers and others) to work with, so our jobs are fun 99.9 percent of the time!

Our new faculty members are off and running. Travis Mulliniks is producing data for his GrowSafe system at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center from a set of heifers from Justin Rhinehart's fetal programming studies. Rhinehart's steers from the same project are now generating carcass and performance data after being finished at a feedlot in Iowa. Agustin Rius has been working with Bobby Simpson at the new Little River Dairy to have Calan gates installed so he can begin evaluating the effects of heat stress on lactating dairy cows that are fed various rations. Peter Krawczel was just awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to perform research in Croatia this coming year on their dairy system. Lew Strickland has received funding from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to determine the incidence of trichomoniasis in beef bulls across the state and provide recommendations for control. Our five most recent faculty hires have all guns blazing!

We are currently in negotiations with the administration to hire several faculty with research/teaching appointments in the areas of beef cattle reproduction (my former position), dairy health (Steve Oliver's position before becoming assistant dean of AgResearch), beef cattle nutrition (John Waller's former position) and another in Extension as a beef cattle nutritionist. As many may not be aware, with the retirements of Waller, Clyde Lane and Warren Gill as well as my promotion to department head, there is a need to rebuild our beef cattle faculty. After all, beef cattle is the top livestock agricultural commodity in the state. A little "nudge" from our alumni and friends is always beneficial if you see any of our UTIA administration around the state!

The Livestock Judging Team continues to practice and prepare for this fall's events. Did you know that we had a Wool Judging Team this year composed primarily of freshmen? David Roper proposed that we counter the "junior college lead teams" (Oklahoma State, Kansas State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, etc.) with freshmen judging wool, then changing to meat judging with

Dwight Loveday as sophomores, and finally to judging livestock as juniors/seniors. We'll see how this system works as we continue to improve in this area. I know that having a meat lab would be very beneficial for teaching activities and the meats team. That is still our top priority for development in the department. If you have an interest in this development activity, please contact me at your earliest convenience!

In conclusion, we are growing and may soon be outgrowing our renovated building. Our largest classrooms hold 150 students. This was reasonable in 2004 when planning began. Now we may have a freshman class of 140! We held a teaching summit in June to discuss our curriculum. Be ready to receive some questionnaires regarding what we could be doing better for our students in terms of employment preparation. We will be soliciting input from employers and former students alike. We also discussed changes in our demographics with the start of Tennessee Promise next year. Our freshman classes may decrease a bit, but we expect our junior and senior classes to increase. There is still a lot to be determined under the new initiative from the governor.

Please stop in and visit if you're in town. We'll be happy to give you a tour if you haven't already seen the new building! And stay tuned — we're planning some fun events for Ag Day on Oct. 4, which just happens to coincide with the Florida game this year.



F. Neal Schrick
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science

Cattle Sale Held in Brehm Animal Science Building

On March 22, 2014, the Department of Animal Science hosted the East Tennessee Angus Association (ETAA) Show and Sale in the Brehm Animal Science Arena. This is the first time the sale was hosted by Animal Science since the building's renovation. Not only did the ETAA have a wonderful venue to host their sale, but the Beef Cattle Merchandising (ANSC 361) class, taught by Jessy Shanks, also got the chance to participate and help plan the sale. Students in this class are animal science and agricultural and resource economics majors and study topics such as sale management, health requirements for sale animals, retained ownership and marketing/advertising. They were responsible for preparing the arena and holding area, getting cattle through the sale ring, loading cattle after the sale, and helping with the show. The UT Institute of Agriculture also included 23 bulls, heifers and cow/calf pairs in the sale that averaged \$3,526.00 per head. The East Tennessee Angus Association sold 55 head of bulls, heifers and cow/calf pairs, with an average of \$2,894.00 each.



UT Institute of Agriculture Animal Scientist Named Top BQA Educator

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) has selected a UT Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) animal scientist as the recipient of the 2014 BQA National Educator Award.

Clyde Lane, UT Extension professor emeritus, was honored at a reception and ceremony at the 2014 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Nashville. BQA is a nationally coordinated program that provides information to U.S. beef producers on how to raise cattle under optimum conditions. Each year, the National Educator Award is presented to one outstanding educator who has instructed others in the BQA principles of proper management and product safety.

Lane, who has recently retired from the Department of Animal Science, spent nearly 40 years as a UT Extension beef specialist. He implemented the BQA program in Tennessee, which has trained more than 18,000 individuals since its inception. He remains involved in planning and coordinating UTIA's educational outreach programs.

Through innovative training techniques, Lane has educated producers on building proper handling facilities, appropriately assessing cow and calf health, and transporting cattle the BQA way.



From left to right: John Rhinehart, Clyde Lane, Clyde's wife Jane Ann Lane, and Neal Schrick.

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“I feel that education of producers is the first step in promoting the positive image of the beef industry,” says Lane. “With producers doing things right, consumers have a better product.” In addition to training the state’s producers, Lane has worked with students from 4-H to the college level to promote agriculture and encourage career development within the industry. Another legacy of Lane’s tenure with UT Extension is his work as a videographer. As a one-man crew, he produced a video series titled “Tennessee Cattle Lane,” which includes more than 70 episodes. These instructional videos can be viewed at tncattlelane.org.

The annual winner of the National BQA Educator Award is selected by representatives from universities, state beef councils and affiliated groups. The award is sponsored in part by The Beef Checkoff Program with additional financial support provided by Safeway’s Rancher’s Reserve, Cargill Meat Solutions and Boehringer Ingelheim.

Typically, beef cattle are Tennessee’s top agricultural commodity. In 2012, the sale of beef cattle and calves accounted for more than 20 percent of the state’s total agricultural cash receipts.

Jared Bruhin Named Smokey’s Handler

Jared Bruhin, a native of Sevier County, Tennessee, and a junior in animal science with a concentration in bioscience, has been named handler for the Tennessee Volunteers’ mascot, Smokey.

“Growing up so close to Knoxville, UT sports has been very important to me. When I learned of the opportunity to become Smokey’s handler after I joined the Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity, I knew I had to apply,” says Bruhin.

As Smokey’s handler, Bruhin will be in charge of caring for Smokey during gameday weekends. “I will attend all home and away football games to be with Smokey as he howls for our Volunteers. It is my job to run through the Power T with Smokey before every home game and stand with him on the sidelines. It will also be my responsibility to take Smokey to the Friday night Food City Tailgates in Knoxville and the surrounding area.”

Bruhin will serve as Smokey’s handler for two years, starting in fall 2014. “It’s an honor to have been selected as Smokey’s handler, and I am very excited to be a part of such a great UT tradition,” he says.



Equestrian Team Update

The 2013-2014 competition season was a very good one for the UT Equestrian Team! The year started off on a high note, with the introduction of the team’s new coaches and a tremendous amount of excitement about the future of the program. That excitement continued to build throughout the season as the team’s performance improved with every competition.

The Western team, coached by Carol Hodge of Hidden Hollow Farm, established itself as a serious contender within the region from the very first weekend of competition. In eight days of competition throughout the season, the team earned five Reserve High Point Team awards,

finishing the year in second place overall in the region. Four team members – Ally Woodall, Evie Rush, Jessie Kern and Sarah Smith – qualified for Regional Finals at the end of the season. Smith went on to represent the team at National Semifinals in Canyon, Texas, in March.

The Hunt Seat Team, coached by Brandon and Jocelyn Gibson of Select Sport Horses, also enjoyed a year of growth and success. The team opened the season in a tie for Reserve High Point Team on the first day of competition for the year and then wrapped up the season by winning Reserve High Point Team at the final regular season horse show. Six riders – Catherine Meehan, Bethany Worsham, Laura Galloway, Caroline Allen, Garrett Wells and Leila Owen – qualified for Regional Finals. Galloway, Allen and Wells continued on to Zone Finals, and both Allen and Wells represented the team at National Finals in May. Wells earned fifth place honors in Walk-Trot Equitation at Nationals!

In addition to their success in competition, the team also had a stellar year academically. Six riders received Intercollegiate Horse Show Association All-Academic honors for the 2013-2014 season. All-Academic Second Team (3.5-3.8 GPA) recipients were Holly Evans, Madeline Thompson, Sarah Templeton and Zara Saponja. Bethany Worsham and Leila Owen were named to the All-Academic First Team (3.8+ GPA). We are very proud of all the hard work these students have put into both their riding and their studies. The 2014-2015 season promises to be a very exciting one!



From left to right: Ally Woodall, Sarah Smith and Evie Rush.



From left to right: Caroline Allen, Garrett Wells and Laura Galloway.

2014 Junior Livestock Judging Team Update

The 2014 Junior Livestock Judging Team began their judging careers as many other past teams have — with a trip to Oklahoma and Texas following fall semester finals. The team traveled to several operations, practicing in preparation for spring contests. The team competed at the Griswold Classic Cattle Contest in Oklahoma during the fall 2013 semester and then returned to Tennessee for Christmas break. During the spring semester, the team traveled to three other contests. The first was held at the Dixie National in Jackson, Mississippi, followed by a trip to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, Texas. They made a final stop in Lafayette, Indiana, at the All-East Contest hosted by Purdue University. There, they finished fifth in Sheep

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and seventh overall. The team members were challenged in new and unique ways, and their livestock evaluation skills were tested this spring. During the summer, the team will compete in the state livestock contest and the Volunteer Classic Judging Camp. The 2014 team members include Amelia Woods, Emma Bishop, Johnna Davis, Rachel Bush and Tyler Trowbridge and are coached by David Roper.



From left to right: Johnna Davis, Emma Bishop, Rachel Bush, Amelia Woods, Tyler Trowbridge and David Roper.



From left to right: Emma Bishop, Amelia Woods, Tyler Trowbridge, Johnna Davis and Rachel Bush.

Wool Judging Team Update

This year marked the inception of the Wool Judging Program at UT and quite possibly the first such team from the Southeast to compete on the national intercollegiate level. A total of eight students from varying classes comprised the team this year and began preparation in the fall for the spring judging season. Wool judging contests are different from livestock in that team



From left to right: Shelby Mendoza, Melinda Perkins, John Edwards, Jessi Tipton, Magen Shedden, Megan Moore, Craig Winger and Sarah MaCarro.



members judge six classes of fleeces with one 15-fleece grading rail. In addition, only three contests exist nationally, and the 2014 team competed in two of these, the National Western in Denver, Colorado, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, Texas. The team had a very eye-opening and educational experience on the Denver trip and then turned things around with a very competitive day at Houston where they finished eighth and roughly 50 points away from the top five. The Wool Judging Program will mark another first in UT history next year with the formation of the wool evaluation class to prepare team members for the spring contests. Many of these team members will play a role in teaching and coaching next year's team as well as becoming future livestock team members. The 2014 Wool Team members included Shelby Mendoza, Megan Moore, Sarah Macarro, Magen Shedden, Melinda Perkins, Jessie Tipton, Craig Wininger and John Edwards. The team was coached by David Roper.

First B&B Roundup Held in Brehm Animal Science Building

2014 marks the first year that the Block and Bridle Club was able to revive the tradition of B&B Roundup in the newly renovated Brehm Animal Science Building. For several years, the arena was not available due to construction and remodeling. Last year B&B hosted the Roundup judging contest for 4-H and FFA members in Brehm for the first time since 2008 but did not host the collegiate showmanship contest because of incomplete construction. That changed this year with the completion of the animal holding area. Now animals can be housed in this location with ease, and the tradition of Roundup can live on!

This year B&B hosted the judging contest, which included livestock, meats and dairy judging as well as the traditional Roundup that everyone remembers so well. Students in B&B had the chance to work with and train an animal for two weeks prior to the March 1 event. They could choose a market lamb, beef heifer, dairy heifer or hog to work with, and the event was well-received by students. Jessy Shanks, adviser for B&B, was eager to have the showmanship contest again because it teaches students so many things that cannot be learned in a classroom. She graduated from the Department of Animal Science in 2009 and was part of the last class to participate in B&B Roundup at Brehm. Students in this year's competition got a small taste of what Roundup used to be like, but Shanks and the B&B Club have plans to make it bigger and better next year. "Students in Animal Science today never saw Roundup the way I did during my undergraduate career," says Shanks. "I want them to make lifelong memories and learn a little something along the way, just like the students who passed through the old Brehm. Memories and friends like that stay with you forever!"



*From left to right: Rachel Bush and Amelia Woods.
Judge: Shane Williams.*



From left to right: Brandon Cobble (Judge), Lindsey Cuellar and Kristen Walker.

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Congratulations to all of the teams and students who participated in Roundup (results can be found on our website at ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience). The B&B Club would like to thank David Roper and the UT Livestock Judging Team for putting together the livestock judging contest and serving as officials. We would also like to thank Jeff Mitchell, Charlie Young, Gina Pighetti and the UT Dairy Club for putting together the dairy judging contest, and Dwight Loveday for organizing and implementing the meats judging contest. Without them, Roundup would not be possible!

Thank you also to our collegiate showmanship judges who are all alumni of the Department of Animal Science:

Dairy Judge: Julie Walker

Beef Judge: Shane Williams

Hog Judge: Brandon Cobble

Sheep Judge: Mark Powell

Plans for next year's Roundup include an alumni gathering and Alumni Judging Contest, so mark your calendars for March 7, 2015!



Sheep Champions. From left to right: Neal Schrick, Kristen Walker and Kaitlyn Hess.



Round-Up Champion Kristen Walker.

Faculty and Staff Awards

Ellington Teaching Award, Greater Than 10 Years

Arnold Saxton

Ellington Teaching Award, Less Than 10 Years

Justin Rhinehart

Animal Science Staff Award

Eddie Jarboe

CASNR Faculty Awards

2013 W.F. and Golda Moss Outstanding Teacher Ten or Fewer Years of Experience

David Roper

2013 Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award

Grey Parks

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit

Megan Goodwin

Distinguished Alumni Award

Charlie Goan

BS Dairy Science '66

MS Poultry Science '68

Gamma Sigma Delta Award Winners, Fall 2013

Excellence in Research

Brynn Voy

Excellence in Teaching

David Roper

Faculty Team Award

Tennessee Quality Milk Laboratory

Raul Almeida

Barbara Gillespie

Susan Headrick

Oudessa Kerro-Dego

Stephen Oliver

CASNR Student Awards 2013-2014

Award in Academic Majors

Lindsey Pokrzywinski, *Outstanding Freshman*

Kaitlyn Hess, *Outstanding Sophomore*

Ashton Daniel, *Outstanding Junior*

Alexis Burnham, *Outstanding Senior*

College Outstanding Students

John Edwards, *Outstanding Freshman*

Amy Berger, *Outstanding Sophomore*

Amelia Woods, *Outstanding Sophomore*

Sarah Hargrove, *Outstanding Junior*

Alyssa Clements, *Outstanding Senior*

Spring 2013 - Spring 2014 Graduates

Seniors (December 2013)

Sarah Bowen

Cayman Carroll

Leanne Fowler

Brenna Goodwin

Alyssa Helms

Sarah Howard

Tyler Hunt

Karly Hurst

Cole Jackson

Casey Langley

Meredith Mayfield

Morgan McPheeters

Sara Nash

Douglas Ramsey

Olivia Thornton

Kayla Wright

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Seniors (May 2014)

Jamie Allison	Noelle Herrera	Tiffany Nawa
Anna Baltensperger	Stephanie Honore	Caroline O'Connell
Laura Beard	Rachel Jackson	Rachel O'Rear
Whitney Bell	Paige Jared	Christina Peck
Samantha Brown	Kaysie Jennings	Elizabeth Pistole
Ashley Buchanan	Sarah Justice	Jeffrey Raines
Asti Budicahyani	Jessica Kern	James Reynolds
Aaron Bush	Wesley Kinchen	Lacy Robertson
Sarah Childers	Rebecca Kocak	Ryan Rohling
Alyssa Clements	Emily Kraft	Emily Shearin
Olivia Crisp	Stephanie Lancaster	Kaitlin Siegfried
Nicole DelFraino	Karina Licon	Morgan Smith
Christopher Duke	Alexandria Logan	Sarah Templeton
Kathryn Duncan	Megan Long	Karyn Threet
Jaclyn Earle	Melissa MacConnell	Olivia Walker
Kendra Flynn	Mary McGuire	Lauren Scott
Ethan Gossett	Britanny Miller	Nathan Wilhite
Halee Gregory	Kayla Miller	Victoria Ysidro
Valencia Guein	Chandler Moats	

Graduate Students

Spring 2013

Elizabeth Hill
Katie Smith

Summer 2013

Bo Ji
Lindsay Jones

Fall 2013

Bryan Bastin
Autumn Gray-Stewart
Rodney Ray
Jason Shultz
Joseph Summers

Spring 2014

Christa Kurman

2014 Animal Science Calendar of Events

Date	Event Title	Location
July 7-9	Tennessee Junior Livestock Exposition Beef Events	Tennessee Livestock Center Murfreesboro, Tennessee
July 14-16	Tennessee Junior Livestock Exposition Sheep Events	Hyder-Burks Pavilion Cookeville, Tennessee
July 21-24	4-H Roundup	University of Tennessee at Martin Martin, Tennessee
July 25-27	Volunteer Classic Livestock Judging Camp	Brehm Animal Science Arena Knoxville, Tennessee
July 28-Aug. 1	Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships	Hunt Horse Complex Raleigh, North Carolina
Aug. 16	Junior Meat Goat Show	Wilson County Fairgrounds Lebanon, Tennessee
Dec. 6	Rocky Top Classic	Brehm Animal Science Arena Knoxville, Tennessee
Dec. 17	UT Beef and Forage Center Update	UT Entomology and Plant Pathology Building Rooms 156-157 Knoxville, Tennessee

Animal Science Alumni Spotlight

Animal Science Alumni, you are a valued member of our departmental family! Furthermore, your success is indicative of the quality of our department's programs. In this respect, we are very proud of all of our alumni located all over the world, enjoying careers as leaders in government, academia, and in animal and biomedical industries.

Be a part of our Animal Science Alumni Spotlight Profile and see your name appear on our front page, too! Send us an email including your name, mailing address, phone number, and year of graduation, along with a picture and brief bio of what you are doing today to ansc@utk.edu. In return, we will be sure to keep you informed of upcoming activities and send you our departmental newsletter, Animal Science.

ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience/Pages/alumni.aspx#

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Save the Date!

Ag Day

October 4, 2014

**Starts 4 hours before
the UT Vols take on
the Florida Gators.**



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