

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

SUMMER

A BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

2016

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DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NOTES

Here's wishing that all our Animal Science alumni and students are having an excellent summer and looking forward to the fall semester. During the first part of summer, I was busy putting up hay and repairing equipment, followed by a forced rest period sitting with my foot elevated after surgery. Unfortunately, I can't attend livestock shows, can't be on the tractor or working the farm, and am not able to spend time with my "on the go" teenagers. But this down time has also given me some insight as to what we, as a department, should be looking toward in the future. When I read the reviews of our classes, students always mention how much they like hands-on lab sections. Seldom, if ever, have I read a review of a class where the lectures were as enjoyable. All but a few of our classes have a hands-on component with labs in Brehm, at the farms, visiting industry, or at a producer's farm. I feel good—not great—about the lab/farm experiences our students receive. But can we improve

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classroom lectures to make that learning experience better for students? Are there alternatives that we should consider in terms of classroom lectures or mini online lectures? These are the challenges that I'll be asking our undergraduate committee to investigate over the coming academic year. Much of this depends on the material that must be covered in the particular class, but this "down time" has given me the opportunity to reflect on how we do what we do and has led to a lot of questions.

Our student numbers continue to grow—recently reaching 600 undergraduates—yet our faculty numbers have remained the same or fewer since 2011 in terms of teaching FTEs. Our faculty work very hard to put their best foot forward in teaching our students, and our alumni would be proud of their efforts. Our livestock judging coach continues to push his team in preparation for the fall schedule, and he has an excellent group following as well. We continue to evaluate our curriculum and make adjustments in order to get our students ready for the career of their choice. Sometimes, a student may not be a good fit for their first career choice, so we do our best to coach them so they have other options.

Our Extension folks are hitting the road hard this summer with several activities already under their belts. Dr. Kirkpatrick and I enjoy watching these young faculty develop their programs and charge forward with advice from agents and producers. Dr. Ivey is in the final stages of her new Tennessee Master Horse Program and will begin training agents on the material this fall. I believe our horse owners will appreciate the information being developed and hope to see it as part of the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program in the future.

Drs. Rhinehart and Jason Smith have also been busy this spring and summer developing new material for the Advanced Master Beef Producer Program that will be rolled out in spring 2017. Most of this information will be targeted to those who have not completed the original Master Beef Program, or who want a refresher in certain areas of beef production, or are new producers to the beef industry. Also, if you haven't seen it yet, the new UT Beef Cattle Repro app developed by Brad Greenfield and Dr. Rhinehart is a "must have" with current market values, breeding calendars, and a great records system for calving, etc. You can download the app by searching "UT Beef" in the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

In the most recent and exciting news, UT Extension was funded for a dairy Extension specialist. That search will begin soon. This is our first new Extension position (not a replacement due to retirement) since I became department head. I want to thank the Tennessee Dairy Producers Association for working to include this in the governor's budget. The association went above and beyond to push this request for funding. I would welcome the opportunity for a poultry Extension specialist to be hired in the very near future if funding can be garnered.

We continue to work on improving the 4-H Youth Livestock programs, but staying within budget continues to be an issue. These activities tax our limited 4-H youth budget, and we continue to look for ways to reduce costs. I always welcome feedback on this issue. A Tennessee 4-H Youth Livestock Endowment is being initiated with the hard work of Dr. Neel and UTIA Advancement, and we look forward to support from that endowment in future years to make our programs better.

With all our new faculty, research is booming again, and I enjoy seeing all the collaborations within and outside the department. Our Animal Health and the Reproduction groups continue to lead the charge on garnering funds to support their research activities. We are down one reproduction faculty member with the retirement of Dr. Godkin and look forward to filling that position soon. The Nutrition faculty continue to build their programs, and I see nothing but excellence coming from that group in the very near future. Research across beef, dairy, and poultry is the primary focus of our faculty with a small portion targeted toward swine. Be sure to discuss your research needs or issues with any of our faculty, and it will be shared with the appropriate faculty member.

It's been a busy summer and we're excited about our future. Don't forget to come to Ag Day festivities in the Brehm Animal Science Arena on September 24 and visit with us before the game!



F. Neal Schrick
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science


WE WANT YOU!

It is a pretty safe bet that if you are reading this, you or someone in your family is an Animal Science alum. We would love to hear from you and help you connect with other Animal Science alumni. It is fascinating to see who you have become and where you are today.


We have an Alumni Profiles section on our website for this very reason, and we would love to profile you! Visit us at animalscience.utk.edu and click the "Alumni & Friends" tab for a listing of alumni who have contributed.

Send us your information via email (asnews@utk.edu), including a photo, your name, Animal Science degree and year, your current position, and a short bio of yourself today. We will add this to our website rotation and, just like our newest addition Sharon Ann Latham Davis, you could be featured on our front page the next time you visit us.

If you have submitted your information in the past, please take a moment and review your profile. Send us any updates or corrections using the above email address.



Alumni Profiles



Sharon Ann Latham Davis
B.S. 1994
UT Knox County Extension Agent, 4-H

Sharon graduated from the University of Tennessee Animal Science Department in 1994 with a B.S. in Animal Science. She then earned a M.S. in 1997 in Agricultural and Extension Education from UT Knoxville as well. She began her career in Extension in 1998 serving as a 4-H agent in Blount and Knox Counties. She is currently one of the 4-H agents in Knox County which has over 7,000 4-H members. She enjoys working with youth in their projects to develop communication, decision making, leadership, and citizenship skills. She lives with her husband of 21 years, Matt, their son, Matthew (8) and two great nephe... [More](#)

COMMITTING TO THE U.S. ARMY VETERINARY MEDICAL CORPS BRINGS GREAT REWARDS

Application to the United States' Army Health Professions Scholarship Program as a veterinary student is a very rigorous and competitive process; however, it is one that comes with high stakes rewards. What does it mean to be selected for commission to serve as an officer in the Veterinary Medical Corps?

As first-year veterinary students selected for the program, Emrick Whitfield and Caroline Sosebee, 2015 Animal Science graduates, commission as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army Reserve, a position they will hold for the duration of their studies until graduation. They will spend ten weeks during the summer in San Antonio, Texas, learning the "ins" and "outs" of being an army officer. Upon graduation with a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree, they will be promoted to the position of captain and commit three years of active duty service and five years of reserve service.

What then? What are the responsibilities of an army veterinarian? An army veterinarian serves a critical and dynamic role in the military, and their duties may include caring for military working dogs, ceremonial horses, and pets owned by service members. They also provide food safety and security inspections for all of the armed services.

Additionally, army veterinarians contribute their expertise to military biomedical research and development efforts regarding infectious disease, as well as the innovation of life-saving medical products. Furthermore, Whitfield and Sosebee will be trained and equipped to respond to natural disasters and support humanitarian aid missions.

They are humbled for the privilege to serve and eagerly look forward to the future.



Caroline Sosebee has been selected for commission with the US Army Veterinary Corps.

ANIMAL SCIENCE SCOUTING STUDENT ELECTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE



This past December, Hunter Jones was elected to serve as the 2016 National Chief of the Order of the Arrow, the highest elected youth leadership position in the Boy Scouts of America, representing more than 161,000 members of the Order of the Arrow and 3.5 million Boy Scouts nationwide. As a part of his duties, he will travel extensively as the youth ambassador for the Order of the Arrow and Scouting. Jones represented Scouting when he traveled to the White House in February, where he met with President Obama and delivered the Report to the Nation on Scouting. In addition, he will also lead several leadership development trainings and activities across the United States, and he will lead the planning and execution of the Order of the Arrow's national event for the summer—"NEXT: A New Century." Jones is an Animal Science major and member of the All Campus Events Committee, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and Student Alumni Associates at the University.

2016-2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Animal Science departmental scholarships totaling \$82,300 were presented to eighty-six students at our annual banquet this past April. This included \$40,000 that was 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 College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

BRUCE C. AND CLEO G. COX SCHOLARSHIP

Emily Rebecca Cope
Jeremy Daniel Hobbs
Sierra Ashley Lockwood
Hannah Noel McDonald
Zachary David McFarlane
Sydney Reese
Katelynn Elizabeth Zechiel

"PROF" DUNCAN ANGUS SCHOLARSHIP

George Aaron Loy

KENNETH AND CHRISTINE EDDS SCHOLARSHIP

Catherine Alean Hargett Albert
Courtney Beasley
Nicole Michele Bissonnette
Jared Bruhin
Tara Llewellyn Creekmore
Catherine Elizabeth Donnell
Zachary Timothy Dye
Jodie Michelle Espy
Naomi Falconnier

Ashley Hand
Jacob Adam Daniel Harris
Kristy Renee Hatcher
Madison Taylor Henniger
Kaitlyn Marie Hess
Kaitlin Rose Hynek
Allison Johnson
Kristina Ivan Kravchenko
Taylor Mclean Lashlee
Erin McGinnis
Brittany Nettles
Paxton Ann Parker
Clay Alexander Smith
Kathleen Susanne Stanford
Shelby Elizabeth Wallace

CLYDE & LAURA TAYLOR AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP

Sarah Hague Bell
Ashley Danielle Campeaux
Emily Elizabeth Doub
Courtney Brooke Evans
Emily June Freeman
Brian Christopher Gleaves
Nicole Danielle Gulley

Rachel Rebekah Jones
McKenzie Kaitlin Kimbrough
Brianna Jane Lounsbury
Angela Lea Marsee
Megan Leigh McCarty
Laura Morse
Faith Caitlin Mountain
Megan Rogers
Michelle Marie Untch
Sarah Wingo

HENRY L. FORD SCHOLARSHIP

Jacob Adam Daniel Harris
Kristen Blake Walker

LAURENCE GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP

Dustie Elizabeth Strasser

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JAMES T. GRANBERRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chelsey Lynea Avina
Alexandra Marie Eacott
Jamie Guarrera
Christopher Mikhail Johnson
Faith Caitlin Mountain
Austin Seal
Clay Alexander Smith

C.E. WYLIE SCHOLARSHIP

Sydney Michelle Dean

DR. R.L. AND ALICE K. MURPHREE SCHOLARSHIP

Tara Llewellyn Creekmore
Samantha Michelle Thomas

BELVILLE HAL REAGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Morgan Danielle Cox
Alicia Marie Davis
Emily C. Davis
Kyla-Jo Roan Farmer
Jacob Austin Lay
Denton Clay Prater
Kristen L. Sommerfeld
Christina Breanne Welch

BEVERLY SHRODE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Alicia Marie Davis

GLEN G. SUMMERS SCHOLARSHIP

Jeff D. Kaufmann
Jessie Ann Kull
Lydia Jean Siebert

TOM AND PATTI WADE SCHOLARSHIP

Mary Alington Oliver

CHARLES S. SIMMS SCHOLARSHIP

Zachary Timothy Dye
Holly Caroline Evans
Richard Cole Kaufman
Katilyn N. Lewter
Megan E. Rogers

DR. AND MRS. CHARLES S. HOBBS SCHOLARSHIP

Jacob Austin Lay

OLIVER J. HUBBARD MEMORIAL POULTRY SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Jamie Leigh Devoe

DR. JOHN D. SMALLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew L. Sanford

M. JACOBS AWARD (MADDEN MEMORIAL AWARD FUND)

Clay B. Kesterson

DEE W. AND DOROTHY COLEY MEMORIAL STOCKMAN'S AWARD

Shelby L. Mendoza

DAUGHERTY (FARM CREDIT)

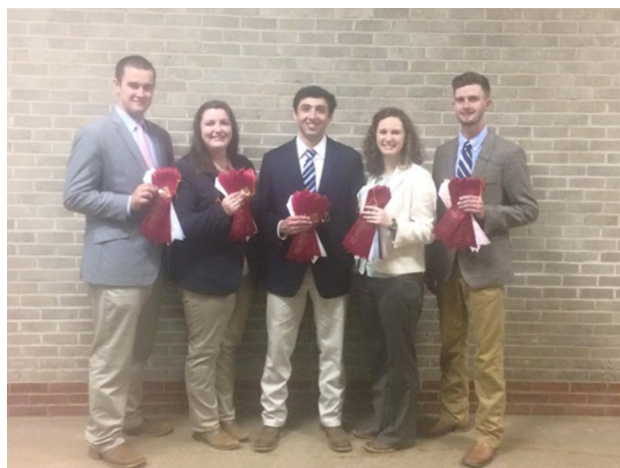
Kaitlyn Marie Hess

UT LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

The 2016 UT Livestock Judging Team had a successful spring competing in five different contests including the National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado; Dixie National, Jackson, Mississippi; Southeastern Livestock Exposition, Montgomery, Alabama; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston, Texas; and All East Livestock Judging Contest, West Lafayette, Indiana.

The team had several highlights and continually improved with each contest. Most notably, the team placed a high of second overall at the 2016 Southeastern Livestock Exposition livestock judging contest. Although competitions are finished for the spring semester, the team is still preparing for the upcoming fall, along with hosting a livestock judging camp on July 29-31 for high school students looking to enhance their skills. During the fall semester, students will travel to competitions ranging from Austin, Minnesota, for the National Barrow Show; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for Keystone International; Kansas City, Missouri, for American Royal; and Louisville, Kentucky, for the North American.

Be sure to stay tuned on the Livestock Judging Team's website and Facebook page for updates throughout the fall. If you are interested in being a part of the team or supporting their efforts, please contact Zach Bartenslager at **865-974-**



Livestock Judging Team members (l.-r.) Lane Davis, Christina Welch, John Grant, Susan Cowley, and Aaron Loy

ANIMAL SCIENCE GRADUATING SENIORS

SPRING 2016

Albert, Catherine A.
Anderson, Jennifer N.
Angel, Jasun E.
Atkins, Brandon M.
Barber, Nicole E.
Barie, Megan
Beard, Sabrina D.
Beckner, Sarah E.
Bell, Rexanna L.
Bell, Sarah H.
Berger, Amy M.
Bissonnette, Nicole M.
Black, Gage J.
Bledsoe, Randi L.
Bowers, Kenneth T.
Bowling, Emma M.
Boylan, Meredith E.
Bragg, Morgan T.
Bruhin, Jared M.
Carney, Angelina
Carter, Ashton G.
Chewning, Sarah K.
Clark, Jennie K.
Cleghorn, Amber C.
Coates, Desmond X.
Coffman, Quanique L.
Coke, Erika L.
Courtney, Karrol E.
Crawford, Morgan A.
Creekmore, Tara L.
Cuellar, Lindsey N.
Damron, Keri L.
Darrow, Ethan R.
Dean, Sydney M.
Devoe, Jamie L.
Donaldson, Kristy L.
Dougherty, Katherine B.
Dressel, Elizabeth S.
Drexler, Allison P.
Drummer, Katelyn D.
Dulac, Andrew R.
Duncan, Kiyomi L.
Dye, Zachary T.
Eacott, Alexandra M.
Echeverri, Vanessa
Edwards, Brooke L.
Edwards, Terey C.
Eldahaby, Silvia A.
Ellefson, Natalie L.
Ellis, Macye D.
Espy, Jodie M.
Evans, Courtney B.
Evans, Holly C.
Everton, Ingrid M.
Falconnier, Naomi G.
Faulkner, Olivia P.

Fly, Aaron P.
Follman, Courtney N.
Foster, Lauren
Fraker, Thomas B.
Freeman, Emily J.
Gambrell, Haley J.
Gill, Mackenzie B.
Gipson, Katlyn M.
Gordon, Kristen I.
Gregg, Brittany A.
Griffin, Haley B.
Grigg, Anna L.
Gulley, Nicole D.
Hall, Kayley A.
Hand, Ashley R.
Hanog, Trevor D.
Harris, Jacob A.
Hatcher, Kristy R.
Hawkins, Ambriell D.
Hess, Kaitlyn M.
Hill Hoskins, Jennifer L.
Hill, Shannon
Hoffer, Alyssa N.
Hurst, Alexandria J.
Jemison, Jessica D.
Jenkins, Sarah
Jernigan, Hannah M.
Johnson, Samantha J.
Kaiser, Rebecca J.
Kaufman, Richard C.
Kozak, Kaiya M.
Kravchenko, Kristina I.
Leber, Abigail
Lee, Mautrice D.
Lounsbury, Brianna J.
Lyles, Jonathan M.
Marino, Joseph
Marsee, Angela L.
Matthews, Colleen B.
Mayer, Erica B.
McGinnis, Erin M.
McKenzie, Stuart R.
Meador, Heather N.
Mikos, Michaela L.
Moore, Mackenzie R.
Morse, Laura C.
Murchison, John F.
Nash, Stephanie N.
Needles, Danielle N.
Nettles, Brittany N.
Norris, Jaime L.
Owens, Justice
Parfaite, Azariah
Parker, Paxton A.
Parnell, Sara E.
Patterson, Trevor C.

Paynter, Andrea R.
Person, Kelsey N.
Peters, Kobi B.
Pokrzywinski, Lindsey J.
Price, Brittany M.
Raustler, Marlene D.
Ray, Jonathan R.
Reeves, William C.
Rice, Margo E.
Ricketts, Katarina
Riffe, Cody I.
Rogers, Megan E.
Sandoe, Amanda J.
Seal, Austin C.
Seidman, Jordan B.
Selzer, Kristina
Semirosum, Amber E.
Shayer, Alexander
Sheets, Ciara N.
Shotts, Emily A.
Skelton, Seth L.
Sliger, Kaitlyn E.
Smith, Anne J.
Smith, Katherine N.
Smith, Sarah R.
Smith, Sayge M.
Sommerfeld, Kristen L.
Staley, Sarah A.
Statom, Kayela L.
Steinhaus, Shannon N.
Stubblefield, Mary E.
Summers, Courtney M.
Taylor, Callie O.
Thomas, Samantha M.
Turner, Alexander L.
Underwood, Alyssa N.
Untch, Michelle M.
Vargas, Alyssa D.
Walker, Kristen B.
Ward, Haley R.
Warden, Jacklyn G.
White, Molly S.
Wilson, Travis P.
Wininger, Craig
Wright, Rebecca D.

ANIMAL SCIENCE GRADUATING GRADUATE STUDENTS

FALL 2015-SUMMER 2016

FALL 2015:

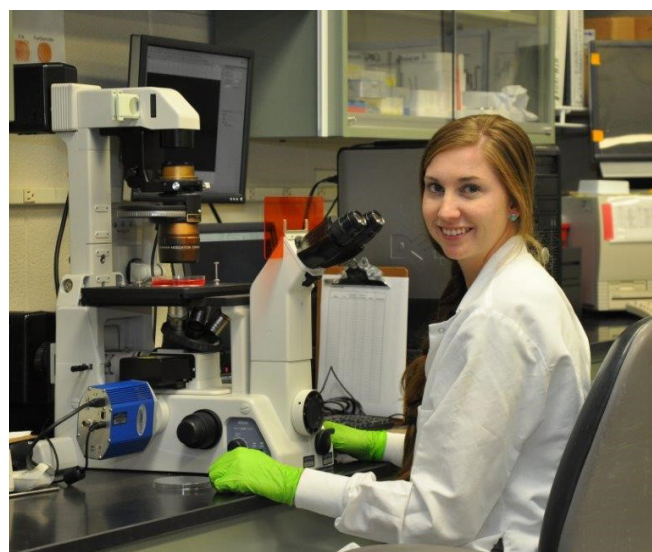
Ashley Carter, MS
Sarah Edwards, MS
Heather Ingle, MS
Sarah Orr, MS
Charles Young, PhD

SUMMER 2016:

Chandler Blakely, MS
Nicole Eberhart, MS
Sarah Howard, MS
Kaysie Jennings, MS
Kimberly Kassube, MS
Jeffrey Kaufman, MS
John McAfee, MS
Randi Black, PhD

KY POHLER'S LAB COMPLETES BUSY FIRST YEAR

With one year complete at the University of Tennessee, Assistant Professor Ky Pohler has gotten his lab up and running as graduate students have been starting research projects across the state. Currently, his lab group is made up of his lab manager Becca Payton (long-time member of the Animal Science family and Edwards' Lab), Sydney Reese (master's student by way of Texas A&M), Gessica Franco (master's student by way of Brazil), and Felipe Dantas (master's student by way of Brazil), along with a cohort of undergraduates. The group as a whole has been working on different projects related to reproductive failure in cattle and, more specifically, embryonic mortality. The main focus of the lab has been evaluating pregnancy loss and embryonic mortality between day seventeen to sixty of gestation and developing management strategies to overcome these losses both from the cow and bull side. This area is extremely critical to cattle producers, because it represents an area of high, unexplained losses. During pregnancy the placenta secretes a pregnancy-specific protein called pregnancy associated glycoproteins, or PAGs, into the maternal circulation, which is the basis for blood-based pregnancy testing in cattle. Using this technology, Pohler's group has been trying to identify pregnancies earlier and determine the viability of those pregnancies. Sydney Reese and Felipe Dantas have been focusing mainly on the female contributions to pregnancy failure and reproductive inefficiency, while Gessica Franco is taking a similar approach from the bull side of the equation. All the students have been hard at work collecting samples across the state and in Brazil.



Master's student Sydney Reese works on a research project in Assistant Professor Ky Pohler's Lab.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LACEY JOHNSTON



Lacey Johnston joined the Animal Science faculty in August of last year as a lecturer focusing on equine science. She instructs the equine portions of the undergraduate classes and is developing a new course, ANSC 281: Equine, Companion, and Exotic Animal Management for the fall 2016 semester. Originally from Sevierville, Tennessee, Johnston developed an interest in animals through 4-H, FFA, and working at a small local zoo, Rainforest Adventures. She recently purchased a small farm outside of Maryville and has an Appaloosa gelding, Gemini; two miniature Schnauzers, Pixie and Chloe; and two turtles, Bubba and Steve.

Johnston attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned her bachelor of science degree in animal science (2008), where she was actively involved with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team. Interested in equine reproductive physiology, she interned at Peterson & Smith's Equine Reproduction Center in Summerfield, Florida (2009). Upon completion of the internship, she returned to East Tennessee and was employed as an emergency veterinary technician at a mixed practice clinic. Her strong interest in horses led her to Middle Tennessee State University where she earned a master of science degree in horse science (2013) under the

direction of Warren Gill and Rhonda Hoffman. Concentrating on education, extension, and coaching, Johnston's research explored the effects of extracurricular activities on student success and retention.

After completing her master's degree, she moved to Fort Drum, New York, with her late husband, Staff Sergeant James Johnston. There, she worked at Honey Dew Acres as a riding instructor while also volunteering as the Jefferson County 4-H Horse Club leader. After moving back to Fort Campbell, Johnston worked for Vanderbilt University's Division of Animal Care, also volunteering as the Montgomery County 4-H Horse Club leader. As an active member of the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics, she has presented at conferences for both NAEAA and the International Society for Equitation Science. She obtained her Western and English with Jumping Riding Instructor certification from the Certified Horsemanship Association in May and is a member of the Appaloosa Horse Club.

As coach of the UT Horse Judging Team, Johnston looks forward to an exciting fall season. The team will be hosting their first youth and intercollegiate horse judging contest on September 16, 2016, at the Elder's Last Lap Ranch in Maryville, Tennessee. The contest will prepare team members for the All American Quarter Horse Congress Contest in Ohio this fall and serve as a fundraiser to support team travel. The team may also have an opportunity to compete at the AQHA World Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, or the Arabian National Horse Judging Contest in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Johnston advises the Zone 5, Region 1 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Equestrian Club teams, which compete in both Western and Hunt Seat disciplines. The team will be hosting their second Western show October 1-2, 2016, at the Elder's Last Lap Ranch in Maryville, Tennessee. She also serves as advisor for the Tennessee Collegiate Horsemen's Association, which provides students with hands-on exposure to the equine industry through guest lectures and industry tours.



The Mayfield family celebrates Thanksgiving on their farm in Pulaski, Tennessee.

MAYFIELD FAMILY HAS STRONG ROOTS IN AGRICULTURE

While the Mayfield family's blood runs orange, their hearts are strongly rooted in agriculture. Children Will, Ben, and Meredith have had the opportunity to grow up on a third generation family farm in Middle Tennessee, the same farm on which their father, Mike, lived as a child. Heavily involved in 4-H and FFA, livestock won their hearts at very young ages.

Over the course of the last thirty-three years, the Mayfields have been fortunate to have three graduates of the University of Tennessee Animal Science department. Mike graduated in 1983; Will graduated in 2010 and received his master's in reproductive physiology in 2012; and Meredith graduated in December of 2013, after squeezing one more football season into her college career. All three had the opportunity to be on the University of Tennessee Livestock Judging Team. Even now, on their registered Angus and Hereford operation in Pulaski, Tennessee, they stand around the pasture and pens together, evaluating heifers they would like to keep and selecting bulls they plan to sell. Their educational backgrounds have assuredly played major roles in their success as beef producers.

The Animal Science degrees the Mayfields have earned have been put to use in various ways. Mike has served as a county executive director for the Farm Service Agency for thirty years. Will works for Select Sires Inc. as beef coordinator and reproductive management specialist for the Southeast. Meredith is currently pursuing her doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Younger brother, Ben, is just starting high school, but it's safe to say he will be another Tennessee Vol in training! The Mayfield family loves the University of Tennessee hopes to carry on the tradition for many years to come.



ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT KEEPS ON GROWING!

We have welcomed many new students to the Department of Animal Science this summer at orientation. A strong employment outlook, as well as the continued success of our students who earn acceptance into veterinary school, medical school, law school, and other professional programs, have caught the attention of prospective students and their families. The word is out, and students from all over the country have chosen Animal Science at the University of Tennessee as their undergraduate degree program.

The numbers are impressive! We are on track to add 140 students (about 17 percent of whom are transfer students) this fall, and our total student body is expected to be approximately 575 students, once again shattering previous enrollment records within our department.

We are becoming a more diverse department in many ways as well. Almost 20 percent of our new students are from outside of Tennessee, from as far away as California, Washington, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Those who identify as one of the underrepresented minorities (African American, Native American, Hawai'ian/Pacific Islander, or Asian) make up roughly 17 percent of our new students.

We have students with backgrounds and interests in animal agriculture, companion animals, exotic animals, nursing, law, physical therapy, and political science. According to our Senior Exit Survey given to graduating seniors, more than 50 percent of our graduating seniors plan on pursuing postbaccalaureate professional study in veterinary school, medical school, graduate school, law school, pharmacy school, as well as physician assistant, physical therapy, and nursing programs. Typically, about half of those students had already been accepted into those programs at the time the survey was taken.

We are excited to have so many backgrounds, cultures, perspectives, and career goals within our department and look forward to many engaged discussions as we prepare these students for their chosen career paths and charge them with the feeding, health, and well-being of the estimated 9 billion people (and their animals!) who will exist during their lifetimes.



TENNESSEE MASTER HORSE PROGRAM TO LAUNCH IN OCTOBER

UT Extension and the Animal Science department are excited to announce the launch of a new Extension program. The Tennessee Master Horse Program (TMHP) is an educational program designed to provide a foundation of science-based equine nutrition, management, and environmental information applicable to all horse owners and those interested in equine well-being. Using a combination of classroom discussion and hands-on teaching to cover a wide variety of equine-related topics, attendees will be equipped with the knowledge needed to implement best management practices on their operations and improve equine care.

According to the 2012 USDA Census, Tennessee is home to more than 110,000 horses, donkeys, burros, mules, and ponies. Each of these equines requires proper nutrition, care, management, and shelter, independent of their breed or current use. The TMHP targets each of these areas, along with additional information on behavior, fundamental training, equine youth program development, law, and liability.

The driving force behind the TMHP is to raise the level of education and improve overall success of horse owners and producers within the state. Additionally, by improving management practices and providing the opportunity for intellectual growth, equine producers and business owners can continue to expand this vital portion of Tennessee agriculture. By providing science-based, objective information, families, youth, and the community can generate or continue to build upon their existing knowledge base and ensure success of the equine industry for years to come.

The Tennessee Master Horse Program will be delivered within each region of Tennessee during 2016 and will continue in successive years. Each attendee will receive a minimum of sixteen hours of training, a TMHP manual written by experts at UT, Middle Tennessee State University, and additional universities, along with other incentives upon completion of the program. If you are interested attending, please visit UTHorse.com to register, or contact your local county Extension office.

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DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
2506 River Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

AG DAY

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2016



UT VOLUNTEERS VS. FLORIDA GATORS

AG.TENNESSEE.EDU/ANIMALSCIENCE

3.4M 08/16 16-0185

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