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Animal Science Newsletter, Fall 1988

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ANIMAL SCIENCES BUILDING
DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

The Animal Sciences building was dedicated on April 22, and the following day an open house was held for the public. Both events attracted nearly 1,000 alumni, students, former staff and friends of the University.

The dedication featured speeches by special guests including Max Lennon, President of Clemson University; Clifton Baile, Director of Animal Science Research, Monsanto; C. Eugene Allen, Dean of Agriculture, University of Minnesota; and Jack Maddux, Livestock Producer, Wauneta, Nebraska. A reception in the Animal Science Student Commons brought the day to a close.

During the open house on Saturday, guests participated in guided tours of the building and a scrumptious noon buffet luncheon served by Roger Mandigo. After lunch, Animal Science Alums tried their hand at livestock judging and evaluation followed by the staff and alumni cow pony bingo races. Proceeds generated from the bingo races went to Animal Science scholarships and the judging team fund. The Animal Science Alumni Association was reorganized on Saturday afternoon. That evening, the annual Block and Bridle banquet honored Jim Roberts of Lexington and the big day ended with a dance in the Student Commons area of the new Animal Sciences building.

The new Animal Sciences building consolidates all on-campus teaching, research and extension programs for the Department into one facility. The new building joins both Marvel Baker Hall and Loeffel Meat Laboratory. Both will retain their names as a part of the Animal Sciences building. The new building and major remodeling of Loeffel and Baker provides modern classrooms, animal units for teaching livestock management and research facilities with updated equipment which enhances the capability of the department.

Animal programs began at the University in the late
1800's. The first reference to experimentation with livestock was in 1891. The Department of Animal Husbandry was established in 1898. The Department was originally housed in Ag Hall and moved to Animal Husbandry Hall (Miller Hall since 1972) in 1917. The meat laboratory was a converted blacksmith shop until the new meat lab was finished in 1953 (named Loeffel Meat Laboratory in 1954).

The term "Science" replaced "Husbandry" in the department title in 1964. Then a research, teaching and office building was built in 1968 and dedicated as Marvel Baker Hall in 1969.

Dairy Husbandry and Poultry Husbandry Departments were established in 1902 and 1922, respectively. In 1967, the Animal Science and Dairy Science Departments were merged and later both moved into Marvel Baker Hall. In 1977, the Poultry Science Department joined Animal Science. The poultry staff were housed in Mussehl Hall until moving to the Animal Sciences building.
THANKS FOR SUPPORT

We appreciate the financial support from many alumni and friends of the department through gifts to the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Gifts can be directed to specific uses in the Department by designating they be deposited in different accounts in the Foundation. Animal Science accounts in the Foundation to which alumni may wish to designate gifts include:

**#1409, Animal Science Department Research Fund** - Gifts are used to support the research program in the Department.

**#2047, Animal Science Discretionary Fund** - Funds are directed toward scholarships, student travel, and employee and student recognitions.

**#3231, Vincent H. Arthaud Memorial Fund** - This is an endowment; the principal is invested and the earnings are used as travel fellowships for graduate students to present research papers at professional meetings.

**#3503, Animal Science Judging Team Endowment** - Earnings are used to support student travel expenses to participate in intercollegiate judging contests.

ANIMAL SCIENCE NEWS

**NEW FACULTY**

H. Edward Grotjan, Jr., joined the Department as Associate Professor February 1, 1988. Ed, originally from Missouri, received his B.S. Degree in Biochemistry and his M.S. in Animal Physiology from the University of Missouri, and his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas Medical Center in Reproductive Endocrinology. He served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Reproductive Medicine and Biology, University of Texas Medical School at Houston from 1975-1977 and a member of the faculty from 1977-83. He came to Nebraska from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, where he was Associate Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology. His responsibilities at the University of Nebraska include a research program in cellular physiology of animals and teaching graduate courses in systemic physiology of domestic animals.

L. Dale Van Vleck has recently joined the staff of the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and the Animal Science Department. Dale, a native of Clearwater, received his B.S. in Agriculture and M.S. in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska. His Ph.D. in Animal Breeding was obtained from Cornell University. He had been on the staff at Cornell University since 1959 except for two periods when he served as Visiting Professor at the University of Nebraska (1973) and the Agricultural University of Sweden (1975). Since 1976, he served as Professor of Animal Science and Leader of the Division of Animal Breeding. Dale is Animal Research Geneticist in the MARC Genetics and Breeding Unit and offices in the Animal Science Department. He also carries an appointment as Professor of the Animal Science Department. Dale's research efforts will focus on development of statistical methodology needed to increase rate of genetic improvement for reproduction and maternal traits of beef cattle and sheep. His responsibilities in the Animal Science Department will include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and advising graduate students.

**RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS**

**FACULTY RECOGNITION**

Ted Doane - Selected as the 1988 L. K. Crowe Outstanding Student Advisor in the College of Agriculture.

Jim Gosey - This year's recipient of the Walnut-Grove Livestock Service Award.

Rodger Johnson - Received the Animal Breeding and Genetics Award of the American Society of Animal Science.

Austin Lewis - Was the recipient of the American Feed Industry Association Nutrition Award of the American Society of Animal Science. He was also selected as the 1987 recipient of the Nebraska Chapter, Gamma Sigma Delta, Research Award.

Irv Omtvedt - Was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science. Also, Dr.
Omtvedt was elevated from Director of the Experiment Station to Vice Chancellor of IANR in January.

Ernie Peo - Was also made Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science.

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION

Graduate students received awards for their excellence in studies, research or teaching assistantships as follows:

Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Awards — Lee Chiba, Steve Christianson, Jihad Douglas and Mike Wolfe.

National Feed Ingredient Scholarships — Lee Chiba, Steve Christianson, Mark Giesemann.

Arthaud Travel Fellowships and Scholarships — Jim Drouillard, Ronnie Green and Mike Wolfe.

Animal Breeding and Genetic Grants — Luis Gama, Ronnie Green, Tom Long.

Excellence in Poultry Science (Mussehl) — Jihad Douglas.

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship — Nancy Irlebeck

Outstanding Graduate Student (Holly Farms Corp.) — Ryan Sander.

Midwest ASAS Graduate Student Competition First Place — Terry Radke.

American Meat Science Assn. Graduate Student Poster Competition First Place — J. Brad Morgan

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Ernest R. Peo, Jr., was appointed Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from the University effective July 1, 1988. Ernie served on the Animal Science faculty since 1956 and established a distinguished career in swine nutrition. After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1946, he and his wife, Mary, farmed in Oklahoma, from 1946 to 1949. In 1949, Ernie entered Syracuse University and then transferred to Oklahoma State University where he received his B.S. Degree in 1952 and a Master’s Degree in beef cattle nutrition in 1953. In 1953, Dr. Peo accepted a research associate position at Iowa State University working in the swine nutrition area. He received his Ph.D. Degree in Swine Nutrition from Iowa State in 1956. After graduation, he began his long and productive career at the University of Nebraska. He has been a spokesman for animal agriculture and the University, a mentor to younger faculty and a valued counselor.

Foster G. Owen retired from his faculty position in the Animal Science Department and was appointed Professor Emeritus effective July 1, 1988. Foster’s career at the University of Nebraska began in 1957 preceded by various jobs including Inspector, USDA Bureau of Entomology, Dairy Farm Manager, Feed Salesman, Naval Officer during the Korean War and Assistant Professor of Animal Industry at the University of Arkansas. Foster received his B.S. from Auburn University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. His tenure with the University of Nebraska began with a faculty appointment in the Department of Dairy Science where he served until 1968 when the dairy program merged with animal science and he became Professor of Animal Science. With a teaching, research and extension appointment, Foster has participated in numerous activities and programs in the Animal Science Department. He has made significant contributions to Nebraska through his efforts in nutrition of the dairy cow and also nutrition and management of the dairy calf. Although he is “officially” retired, several ongoing research and extension activities in the dairy area require Dr. Owen’s input for successful completion. Therefore, he has contracted to work in the Department until January 31, 1989.

DEATHS IN THE ANIMAL SCIENCE FAMILY

Professor Frank E. Mussehl, Professor and Head of the University of Nebraska Poultry Science Department for 40 years, died December 29, 1987. He was 96. When he came to the University of Nebraska in 1917, he organized the Poultry Science Department and served as its first chairman. He retained that position until he retired in 1957. Professor Mussehl was born in Jefferson, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1915. He was an instructor at Kansas State College in 1915-16 and then at the University of Wisconsin while doing graduate work there in 1916-17. He is survived by his wife, the former Inez Clough. The couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last year. Memorials to Professor Mussehl may be sent to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the Mussehl Scholarship Fund, established by the Mussehls, to benefit students in the Animal Science program.

Mrs. Hazel Loeffel died July 12, 1988, at West Lafayette, Indiana. She was 91. Mrs. Loeffel was the widow of William J. Loeffel, Chairman of the Animal Husbandry Department from 1938-1959. Professor Loeffel was one of the pioneer meats scientists in the country and was a member of the group who helped found what is now the American Meat Science Association. Mrs. Loeffel is survived by two sons, William living in Arkansas, and Frank who lives in Indiana. For the last few years, Mrs. Loeffel had resided in West Lafayette, Indiana, but continued her long-standing love and concern for the Animal Science Department and family. Memorials to Mrs. Loeffel may be sent to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the Loeffel Scholarship Fund, in honor of the many years of devoted service Professor Loeffel gave to the University.
NEW PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Chemistry of Gonadotropic Hormones
Dr. Ed Grotjan will head a new research program which will examine the chemistry of gonadotropic hormones. These hormones are made up of sub-units which are glycoproteins. One aspect of the research will involve studying the processes involved in the synthesis and combination of these glycoproteins to functional hormones. Another involves examining changes in structure which affects their stimulation of target tissues and survival in circulation. The goal is to discover new technologies to improve reproductive efficiency.

Non-infectious Disorders of Livestock
Edd Clemens, who joined the department in July of 1987, has been conducting research in line with his earlier efforts within the Department of Veterinary Science. His major research direction is in the area of noninfectious gastrointestinal disorders including studies of acute gastric dilatation, the weak calf syndrome and large bowel disorders. Additional research emphasis is also placed upon stress physiology as determined by hematology and blood chemistry analysis.

Beef Cattlemen Roundups to go Statewide
Beef Cattlemen Roundups, traditionally held in western Nebraska, will be held this year at locations all across the state. The program will include a summary of the Integrated Reproductive Management (IRM) Project and topics that will address questions concerning grazing management, beef cow nutrition, calf losses and production and financial records. The IRM Project is in its fifth and final year of monitoring production and financial data in nine cooperating herds across the state.

Animal Breeding and Genetics Educational Fund
From the proceeds of the 3rd World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production, which was held in Lincoln in July, 1986, $32,000 has been contributed to the UN Foundation to endow this fund. Interest from the fund will support educational experiences for graduate students and faculty in breeding and genetics. Funds were used in 1988 to subscribe to several genetic publications and for grants to three graduate students presenting papers at national or international meetings.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Undergraduate student enrollment in the University of Nebraska has steadily declined since 1982. While the undergraduate enrollment at the University is only down 5% from 1982, the College of Agriculture (1,173 students) and the Department of Animal Science (184 students) enrollment has declined by 37% and 41%, respectively.

ALUMNI NEWS

At a meeting of Alumni during the open house, Suzy Kowalski (81) and Jenny Lees (83) were elected co-chairs of the UNL Animal Science Alumni Association. A letter of greetings from Suzy and Jenny is included in this newsletter. It is hoped that under their guidance the Alumni Association will flourish to new prominence. Did you know there are some 2,441 living graduates of this department (2,118 of these obtained their Bachelor of Science degree, 404 with Masters and/or Doctorate degrees, and 81 with both the B.S. and graduate degrees from this department)? To our knowledge, Wilfred Grandy (Colorado Springs, CO) and Glenn Hunt (Spokane, WA) are the two oldest Alumni members. They are both graduates of the Class of 1923. If you have any news or information of interest, we would very much like to hear from you.

BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB

James Roberts
1988 Block and Bridle Honoree

James Roberts, a Lexington, Nebraska livestock producer was selected as the 53rd Block and Bridle Hall of Fame Honoree. Mr. Roberts' portrait has been added to the Hall of Fame Gallery in the Animal Sciences building.
Jim Roberts has been successful in all aspects of the livestock industry, including cattle feeding, cow-calf production, stock/grazer operations, packing plant manager, commodities broker, grain company operator, farmer and consultant to investors and money lending organizations. Mr. Roberts has developed a feedlot operation, Roberts Cattle Company at Lexington, Nebraska, that has grown to a 10,000 head capacity. Jim has served as director for Cattle-Fax, an advisor for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and was appointed to the Interstate Agricultural Grain Marketing Commission. In addition, he is a member of the University of Nebraska Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Agriculture 2001 Committee, Chancellor’s Advisory Committee, Ag Builders, Ag 40 Group and was a strong force in gaining approval for the Animal Science completion project.

In addition to this honor from Block and Bridle, Mr. Roberts has previously won numerous awards including: Dawson County Outstanding Young Farmer, Public Service to Agriculture Award, Ak-Sar-Ben Agricultural Achievement, Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, Honorary Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and National Cattlemen’s Association Businessman of the Year.

Nebraska Chapter Receives National Awards

Our Nebraska Block and Bridle Club had another great year and continues to be an active club on campus. This year the club received recognition from the National Block and Bridle Club in that Nebraska was third in the Published Chapter Yearbook and Sally Hircok was third nationally in the Junior Scholarship Competition.

Activities sponsored by the Club include:

- Little Ak-Sar-Ben and Queen Coronation Kid’s Day
- Meats Contest and Livestock Judging Contest
- Livestock Symposium and Tour
- Ham Sales
- Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon
- Beef Show
- Quarter Horse Show
- Regional Meeting, Manhattan, Kansas
- Honors Banquet

JUDGING TEAMS HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Junior and Senior Livestock teams; Junior and Senior Meats teams; and the Horse Judging Team tested their abilities in many contests during the 1987-88 academic year.

The Senior Livestock team participated in the Mid-South, the Northern International Livestock Exposition, the American Royal and the North American Livestock Exposition and placed, 7th, 1st, 4th and 24th, respectively.

The Junior Livestock team competed in the National Western - Livestock, the National Western - Carload, and the Ak-Sar-Ben Meat Animal Evaluation Contest and placed 4th, 5th and 8th, respectively. Team members were Jerry Gross, Doug Sterkel, Karna Anderson, Jason Kuhlmann, Kevin Wagner, Jason Berg, Craig Dethlefs, Mark Kroeger, and Susan Loseke.

The Senior Meats Team competed in the Excel High Plains Contest, the Iowa State University Contest, the American Royal Contest and the International Meat Judging Contest and placed 5th, 1st, 7th and 8th, respectively.

The Junior Meats Team participated in two contests, the National Western and Southwestern and placed 5th in both contests. Team members were Eric Munson, Teresa Downy, Rich Renken and Ivan Holeman. Bucky Gwartney coached the team.

The Horse Judging Team participated in the Quarter Horse Congress and the World Quarter Horse Contest and placed 22nd and 11th, respectively. Team members were Harold Hesseltine, Hershey; Jeff Ehreinfried, Norfolk; Trudy Anderson, Elwood; Dan Seberger, Cozad; Scott Friberg, Bancroft; Robert Jones, Stapleton; John Fischer, Humboldt and Regina Rakin, Spalding. Professor R.B. Warren coached the team.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 14  -  Block and Bridle Little Ak-Sar-Ben, Animal Science Building, Lincoln
October 15  -  Animal Science Brunch/Ernie Peo Retirement Reception, Lincoln
November 18, 19  -  Sheep Symposium, Lincoln
December 1, 2, 3  -  Siouxland Ag. Expo, Sioux City
January 13, 14  -  Nebraska Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting, Grand Island
February 8  -  Nebraska Pork Producers Association Awards Banquet, Columbus
March 5  -  Block & Bridle Beef Show, Omaha
March 8, 9  -  Nebraska Poultry Industries Convention, Columbus
April 9  -  Block and Bridle Horse Show, Fremont
April 29  -  Block and Bridle Honors Banquet, Lincoln

RECEPTION/BRUNCH FOR DR. ERNIE R. PEO, JR.
RECOGNITION OF HIS RETIREMENT

A recognition reception/brunch is being planned for Ernie Peo on October 15, 1988, prior to the Oklahoma State University football game. The reception is planned to start at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Commons area of the new Animal Sciences building with brunch to follow. The activity will be completed by 11:00 a.m. in time for all to get to other activities of the day.

Ernie has asked that no gifts be involved, but the committee feels it would be very appropriate to present him with a book of letters from his friends. If you wish to provide a letter for the book, please send them to us at the address listed below. It would be best if the letters were not folded but sent flat in a large envelope.

Come and wish Mary and Ernie the best on their new work schedule, see the building and meet and greet old friends, enjoy brunch and the game (if you have tickets). In order to help us plan for the brunch ($2.00/person), please clip, fill out and return the form prior to October 10, 1988. We look forward to this send-off for Mary and Ernie.

The Committee

Austin Lewis  Roger Mandigo
Duane Reese  Dwane Zimmerman

------------------------- (Cut here and return) -----------------------

RETURN TO:
Roger Mandigo
A213 Animal Sciences
Lincoln, NE 68583-0908

We will be there for brunch (_______ people).

Name

Address

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Greetings Animal Science Alumni!

We recently celebrated the completion of the Animal Sciences Building which make us think about the future of the Animal Science program. As Animal Science alumni we need to give direction to the University of Nebraska Animal Science program and provide support into the next century.

In order to do that, a group of alumni met to organize the Animal Science Alumni Association. A Board of Directors was established to set down objectives and organize the association.

The Directors: Ralph Hild, Plattsmouth; Doug Brand, Seward; Scott Beckman, Elgin; Dr. Edd Clemens, Lincoln; Jenny Lees, Harrison; Suzy Kowalski, Seneca; and Doug Wenz, Holdrege, set down these objectives for our organization:

1. Draw Animal Science alumni together and provide opportunities for alumni to network through social functions and periodic newsletter mailings.
2. Provide an avenue for alumni to contribute input towards the University of Nebraska Animal Science program.
3. Aid faculty and staff of UNL in the recruitment of students.
4. Provide moral and financial support for Animal Science programs.
5. Establish a recognition award for Animal Science alumni.

We would like to invite you to join our organization and help by providing leadership, support, and ideas for the future. We are planning to hold a fall meeting. Details will be forthcoming.

We encourage alumni in areas outside of Lincoln to organize group functions for gathering ideas, networking, and having fun.

Once again, we invite you to take a part in our association. Together we can strengthen the University of Nebraska Animal Science program into the best in the nation.

Sincerely,

Suzy Kowalski
Co-chairman UNL
Animal Science Alumni Assoc.

Jenny Lees
Co-chairman UNL
Animal Science Alumni Assoc.

P.S. Those wishing to forward ideas, leadership or financial support, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Edd Clemens at the UNL Animal Science Dept., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908.

Animal Science Department
Institute of Agriculture and
Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0908