January 2006

Animal Science Alumni Newsletter, Winter 2006

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/animalscinews

Part of the Animal Sciences Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/animalscinews/21

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Animal Science Department at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Animal Science Department News by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
Nielsen Named Kermit Wagner Distinguished Professor of Animal Science

Merlyn Nielsen was recently named the Kermit Wagner Professor of Animal Science. This distinguished professorship includes a $10,000 professorial stipend. The award was established in the University of Nebraska Foundation in memory of the late NU regent from Schuyler.

Merlyn teaches undergraduate animal breeding and graduate courses in quantitative genetics. His research includes studies using beef cattle, as well as mice, the latter in pilot studies yielding results for subsequent livestock applications. Merlyn’s beef studies have evaluated life-cycle efficiency for cattle that differ in level of milk production, evidence of genetic variation in reproduction, and crossbreeding systems. His mice studies have centered on novel selection methods to increase litter size, and more recently, on selection to reduce maintenance feed requirements of animals. Merlyn’s research efforts have benefited Nebraska’s beef producers and have contributed greatly to our understanding of critical relationships between important quantitative traits.

Animal Science Alumnus is UNL Masters Week Recipient

Five distinguished University of Nebraska–Lincoln alumni returned to campus November 1-4 for Masters Week, an annual event that connects University graduates with students. Among this year’s UNL Masters was: Dr. Kent Andersen, an alumnus of Animal Science. Andersen, originally from Lexington, is the Executive Vice President for the North American Limousin Foundation in Englewood, Colorado. Kent and wife Wendy and daughter Claire live in Littleton, Colorado. During his tenure at the Foundation, Andersen has been active in various beef industry organizations, including the Beef Improvement Federation, National Pedigree Livestock Council, U.S. Beef Breeds Council and International Limousin Council. He began his work with the Foundation in 1990 as the Director of Education and Research. Andersen graduated from UNL in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree, and earned his Master’s and Ph.D. from Colorado State University in 1987 and 1990. He remains active in his family’s cow-calf operation in Nebraska.

UNL faculty members nominate alumni each winter for the next year’s program. Masters are selected by a committee appointed by the Chancellor. Masters Week is sponsored by the Chancellor’s Office, the Student Alumni Association, Innocents (continued on page 3)
The year 2006 has come and gone. Many significant accomplishments and happenings during the first half of 2006 were described in our summer newsletter, but the last six months also brought other exciting events and activities to share. First, we achieved a very desirable response to our undergraduate recruitment efforts. Thanks go to all faculty and staff, alumni, Extension Educators, and friends who helped. Fifty eight new students came in as Animal Science majors last fall. This is 10 more than one year earlier (+21%) and 15 more than our five-year average between 2000 and 2005. The sixth-day census of our total Animal Science majors increased from 164 to 192 (+17%) and total enrollment in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources increased by 39 students, or three percent. The new scholarship support provided by alumni and others was influential in achieving this result. Three new scholarship funds were added for 2007: the Dr. Robert H. Hatch Fund, the NE Cattlemen’s Excellence Fund, and the Richard and Joyce Frahm Scholarship Fund. Contributions to the RB Warren Scholarship Fund achieved the $20,000 threshold, and that allowed us to rename the Animal Science Arena the “RB Warren Arena.” Details about the dedication celebration are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

We express deep gratitude to the Nebraska Cattlemen who, through their Research and Education Foundation, are raising funds to fulfill a three-year commitment to support the Nebraska Beef Industry needs within the University of Nebraska. The Nebraska Cattlemen already support a named professorship in Animal Science, but this year they signed an agreement to provide $150,000 to the University each year for the next three years to provide scholarships for new Animal Science and Grazing Livestock Systems majors with emphasis on beef production, scholarships for the Beef Feedlot Management Internship program, scholarships for students with beef interest who transfer from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis, and scholarships and support for the UNL Livestock and Meat Judging Teams. The first $50,000 was presented to the Department at the NC Research and Education Foundation luncheon at the NC annual meeting in Lincoln on November 30, 2006. This support will be very influential in assisting students prepare for gratifying careers in the beef industry in Nebraska.

New faces keep appearing in the Department. Dr. Jennifer Wood and Dr. Tom Burkey joined the Department last summer, and notes about their education and research backgrounds are included in this newsletter. Dr. Wood is responsible for coordinating efforts to provide the two-semester Animal Physiology course for the new Veterinary Education curriculum which will begin next fall. Other faculty who will teach the curriculum are Drs. Burkey, Cupp and Miner. Dr. Don Levis was appointed to the Animal Science Swine Specialist research and extension position at the Haskell Ag Lab near Concord, effective December 15, 2006. The position was vacated last summer when Dr. Mike Brumm resigned his position and moved to Minnesota. Dr. Aaron Stalker accepted our offer of the Assistant Professor Animal Nutritionist Beef/Range Production Systems position at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte. He joined the Department January 1, 2007.

A search is underway to fill the Beef Geneticist extension and teaching position vacated when Dr. Jim Gosey retired December 30, 2005. Jim graciously agreed to teach the Beef Cattle Merchandising course again this spring semester. Dr. Rick Rasby assumed the task of teaching the Beef Cow-Calf Management course. We expect to interview three candidates in February and March for the new Extension Educator position which was created to provide more continuity for coaching the Livestock Judging Team. An Animal Science Feedlot Nutritionist tenure-leading faculty position at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center was released. We requested the release of a physiology faculty position to accommodate the departure of Dr. Mary Beck, who left at the end of January to become Chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University, and the retirement of Dr. Larry Larson on June 30, 2007. Larry teaches our sophomore Anatomy and Physiology course each semester. The requested position includes responsibilities for both undergraduate and graduate teaching plus research in reproductive physiology.

Fall semester is always a busy time in the Department, especially with assimilating new students into the program, assisting the Block and Bridle Club with their steak fry and other events, and accommodating a variety of ongoing extension activities. One special program has become an annual event, the Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium for high school students. This fall several new activities also required our attention. Galen Erickson and other faculty partnered with the Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Corn Board to organize a first-ever Cattle, Corn and Ethanol Summit held in the Animal Science Complex. Representatives from the NE Department of Agriculture and other commodity associations, producers, consultants, and business representatives participated to discuss ramifications of the rapid expansion of the ethanol industry in Nebraska and the upper Midwest.

Contracts were let to start renovations for accommodating the Veterinary Education program. Architectural Design Associates and Farris Engineering staff worked with us and UNL Facilities Management and Planning personnel to develop a program statement, an itemized budget, and a schedule for the LB 605 renovations in the Animal Science Complex. This project is funded by a twenty million dollar appropriation from the State Legislature to replace all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in the complex, replace the metal roofs, and install a sprinkler system and enclose stairwells to bring the building into compliance with fire safety codes. The construction phase is scheduled to begin in March 2008, and must be completed by 2011.

Late last summer, faculty members who use the dairy and swine facilities at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Ithaca developed justification, description, and estimated costs for replacing the very old and outdated animal...
Animal Science Alumnus is UNL Masters Week Recipient (continued from page 1)

Society and Mortar Board. The program brings successful alumni into contact with students through class visitations, campus tours, and meetings with clubs and organizations. Merlyn Nielsen, who nominated Andersen for the honor, coordinated Kent’s schedule and served as his host. UNL Masters Week was founded in 1964 by Chancellor Clifford Hardin. More than 200 alumni have returned to campus as Masters since the program’s inception. Other alumni selected for the honor this year were an astrophysicist, a British retail executive, an Omaha attorney, and a Hallmark advertising executive.

Animal Breeding Symposium Honors Dr. Dale Van Vleck

Some reading this newsletter may not recognize the name of Dale Van Vleck. Dale is one of the top Animal Breeders and Applied Statisticians in the world. For those of you who make a living from livestock, dairy, beef, swine or sheep, you have used the expertise of Dr. Van Vleck when you select artificial insemination as a means of genetic improvement. Dale pioneered many of the statistical techniques and procedures that are used today worldwide in the Animal Breeding field.

Dale was born in Clearwater, Nebraska and raised on a corn and rye farm where his parents raised registered Herefords. Dale received his B.S. in 1954 and M.S. in 1955 from the University of Nebraska. Dale graduated with a Ph.D. in 1960 from Cornell University. He then joined the faculty at Cornell where he taught and conducted Animal Breeding research from 1959 to 1988.

In 1988 Dale and his wife, Dee, moved back to Lincoln where he accepted a joint appointment as a scientist at the US Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska, and a teaching and research appointment in the Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska.

Among several of the many accomplishments that Dale has achieved are: authored 14 books, 11 book chapters, 376 refereed articles, and served as a leader in numerous national and international organizations. Dale’s research has contributed significantly to the advancement of animal breeding and genetics. His work has resulted in improved production of livestock, increased productivity, and enhanced profitability of animal agriculture.

You will find many other interesting and insightful articles in this newsletter that address a new appointment to the Kermit Wagner Distinguished Professorship, a symposium honoring a member of our faculty, Dr. Dale VanVleck, a distinguished Animal Science alum’s invitation to participate in UNL Masters Week, faculty and student awards, international activities and news from alumni. Enjoy and please come pay us a visit. We are still very committed to increasing undergraduate enrollment, and we ask for your support and participation to bring more students to UNL. One in three jobs in Nebraska is related to agriculture in general, and animal agricultural receipts account for over 65% of total farm cash receipts. Animal agriculture is alive and well in Nebraska, but factors influencing availability of feedstuffs, consumer demands or expectations, water issues, and demographics of the state all indicate we have challenges to face, potential problems to solve, and opportunities to enhance profitability and sustainability of food animal production. Education and research are the foundation for meeting these challenges and for achieving these goals. We appreciate your continued support in helping us provide the best education possible and conduct the most meaningful and beneficial research.

(continued on page 4)
Animal Breeding Symposium Honors Dr. Dale Val Vleck (continued from page 3)

articles; 377 proceedings and abstracts; mentored 31 M.S. and 41 Ph.D. graduate students; 77 research associates and visitors; and 144 magazines and popular press articles.

Dale has garnered every regional, national, and international award that can be given in his field. Several of these awards and honors are as listed: Alpha Zeta Memorial Graduate Fellowship; National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship; ASAS Animal Breeding and Genetics Award; ADSA National Association of Animal Breeders Award; Jay L. Lush Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics; University of Nebraska Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree; First Chapter Research Award of Gamma Sigma Delta of Cornell; Chapter Research Award Gamma Sigma Delta of Nebraska; T. W. Edminster Postdoctoral Associate Award; Pioneer Award from Beef Improvement Federation; A. B. Chapman Lecturer in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the University of Wisconsin; ASAS Morrison Award; International Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture Award.

Because of Dale’s many achievements, 135 former students, colleagues, friends and family gathered in Lincoln on Saturday, October 7, for a symposium to honor him for his contributions to the Animal Breeding field. A picture of those who attended the symposium is shown on the previous page. Many are fellow Nebraska undergraduate and graduate students – how many do you recognize? Not only has Dale been very prolific in his writings but he has also been a friend and mentor to all he has encountered during his career.

I am certain that not many of you know that Dale, a fellow Nebraskan, had achieved so much recognition during his career. Indeed, Dale made a remarkable trip from Clearwater and back to Lincoln!!

(Contributed by Jeff Keown)

New Faces for Old Places

The face of the Animal Science Arena received a significant “makeover” last year that included new paint, new student team and club banners, and new “academic Ns” on the walls. The arena received a new name as well, commemorating the long-term contributions of the late Richard B. (RB) Warren. The dedication renaming the arena “The R.B. Warren Arena” commenced at 4:30 pm on September 8, 2006. Dr. Beermann welcomed over 120 guests and introduced members of the family. Doris Warren and daughter Gale Reininger provided humorous and insightful recollections of their experiences and memories of RB’s animal science career and how that impacted the family. Disciplined, outstanding work ethic, full of horse savvy, competitive, and dedicated father were some of the characteristics remembered and shared. Dr. Irv Omtvedt, former Department Head, Dean, and IANR Vice Chancellor, commented on RB’s professional accomplishments. Former Judging Team members Scott Langemeier, Dr. Sandy Johnson, David Oldfather, Lin Jeffres, and Dr. Al Svajgr also shared memories and plenty of praises of RB’s ability to impart important lessons on life. Former Department Head Abe Aberle wrote the following: “RB was a tough taskmaster – fair, focused, demanding, scrupulously honest, highly ethical, insightful, and in many ways a visionary in his approach as a coach.” The positive impact that RB had on the life and development of students cannot be overstated.

Dr. Bryan Reiling presented the first RB Warren Fund scholarship to current judging team member Jeremi Wurtz, and he expressed his thanks for the financial support and the opportunity to participate as a judging team member. The tradition of judging team achievements were noted when Dr. Beermann announced that a Nebraska team member has been selected one of the “Top Ten All-American Team” members each of the last three years.

Two of the Warren grandchildren then assisted Dr. Beermann in “unveiling” the plaque proclaiming our fond memories of “Richard B. Warren, Coach, Teacher, Leader and Horseman.” The plaque hangs next to the RB Warren display case and the entrance to the RB Warren Arena. Thanks are expressed to Doyle Wolverton, Professor Emeritus, and to Ann Bruntz, University of Nebraska Foundation Development Director – IANR, for their important leadership and assistance in solicitation of contributions and organizing this joyful celebration. Approval of the renaming depended upon the $20,000 threshold in the RB Warren Scholarship Fund. Thanks goes to Vicky Kobes and Deb DeWald for their preparation of the dedication program and scrapbook, and to Clyde Naber and Roger Mandigo for other arrangements. Please stop by and take note of the “new face” on the RB Warren Arena, and the other great facilities we have available for use in our teaching and extension programs. Also consider making a contribution to the RB Warren Scholarship Fund.

(Contributed by Don Beermann)

New Faculty

Thomas E. Burkey joined our faculty on July 1, 2006 filling the Nonruminant Nutrition position left vacant when Austin Lewis retired. Tom grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and attended Lincoln East High School before departing Lincoln to attend Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois. Tom earned his B.A. degree (1996) in Biology, with minors in chemistry, physics and secondary education from Rockford College. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, Tom taught secondary science (biology, chemistry and physics) for five years in three different Illinois high schools. Upon making the decision to attend graduate school, Tom enrolled as a Graduate Teaching/
Research Assistant at Kansas State University. While at Kansas State, Tom received training in animal nutrition, immunology and physiology. Under the guidance of his major professor, Dr. J.E. Minton, Tom received his Master’s (2003) in Animal Science, and Ph.D. (2006) in Animal Physiology from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

At UNL, Tom’s teaching responsibilities will include contributions to a systems physiology course in the new cooperative program in veterinary medical education that UNL has entered into with Iowa State University. Tom’s contribution to the systems physiology course will include the teaching of digestive physiology and metabolism. In addition, Tom will also be responsible for teaching a graduate level course in protein and amino acid nutrition. Tom plans to develop a research program utilizing both applied and basic techniques to investigate how nutrient intake and absorption are influenced by gastrointestinal stress (e.g., disease, subclinical pathogenic challenges, nutrient deprivation) as well as adaptive changes in gut cellularity, cell characteristics and enterocyte metabolism. Currently, Tom is involved in a research project that is designed to investigate the effects of dam parity on progeny health status and growth performance in swine.

Jennifer R. Wood was recently hired as the Department’s Molecular Reproductive Physiologist. Jennifer earned her B.A. (1992) from Indiana University, Bloomington, in the field of Microbiology. After receiving her B.A., she was a Licensed Cytogenetic Technician in the Medical Genetics Department at Indiana University Medical Center at Indianapolis. In 1994, Jennifer decided to further her education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There she earned her M.S. (1996) in Molecular and Integrative Physiology, and in 2000 she earned her Ph.D. in the same field. As a graduate student, Jennifer defined the role of DNA sequence on estrogen receptor conformation; compared the affinity of estrogen receptor alpha and estrogen receptor beta for different estrogen response elements; taught two classes, one on Human Physiology and the other on Ecology and Organismic Biology. Before coming to Nebraska she did postdoctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania at the Center for Research on Reproduction and Women’s Health. During this time she used microarray analysis to determine differences in the gene expression profile of normal and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) theca cells and oocytes. These analyses identified novel signal transduction pathways and gene networks which play a role in ovarian steroidogenesis and folliculogenesis. The focus of Jennifer’s research at UNL will be to define how sex steroids and metabolic hormones regulate oocyte maturation and quality, early embryonic development, and establishment of the placenta. The effect of endocrine disrupting chemicals and poor nutritional status (i.e. malnutrition and obesity) on these processes will also be examined. In addition to her research goals, Jennifer will be contributing to the Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine. Specifically, she will coordinate and teach the Animal Physiology (ASCI 845 and ASCI 846) course which will be offered to first year veterinary medicine students as well as graduate students.

**Larry Larson to Retire**

Larry Larson will retire from the University of Nebraska June 30, 2007 after 35 years of service to the University. Larry came to the University of Nebraska in 1972 from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York where he was an NIH Post-doctoral Fellow and served as an extension specialist in reproductive physiology of dairy cattle. He received his B.S. (1962) in Agriculture Education and his M.S. (1965) and Ph.D. (1968) in Reproductive Physiology from Kansas State University.

Larry was the Undergraduate Teaching and Advising Coordinator for the Animal Science Department for 21 years. He was heavily involved in recruitment of new students, worked with new student enrollment and curriculum issues, and developed many materials used in advising of undergraduates at both the department and college levels. He taught courses in Dairy Cattle Management for 32 years, Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals for 18 years, Physiology of Lactation for 13 years and has assisted in several college introductory courses. He was a Block and Bridle Adviser for 6 years. He has received the CASNR Outstanding Teacher Award and the L. K. Crowe Outstanding Undergraduate Student Adviser Award.

Larry served as the supervisor and later as a co-supervisor of the Dairy Research Farm. His research emphasis was on reproductive physiology of dairy cattle. Estrus detection, estrous cycle control, and nutritional factors and management procedures to improve reproduction in lactating dairy cows were of specific emphasis.

Last year, Larry and his wife, Gloria, enjoyed a cruise of the inside passage and land tour of Alaska. A native of Effingham, Kansas, Larry and his wife, Gloria, have two sons and four grandchildren. They plan to remain in Lincoln and enjoy their grandchildren.

**2006 SSR New Investigator Award**

Andrea Cupp is the recipient of the 2006 SSR New Investigator Award, given by the Society for the Study of Reproduction at their 39th Annual Meeting in Omaha, July 29-August 1, 2006. Dr. Cupp is a young investigator who has contributed significantly to the field of reproductive biology. She is a researcher, mentor and teacher poised to become a leader in her field.

Dr. Cupp received her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1994 and during the next 10 years published 29 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Her Ph.D.
research with Dr. Jim Kinder addressed differential sensitivity of gonadotropin secretion to estradiol modulation during the bovine estrous cycle. She joined the faculty of the Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska in 2000.

Dr. Cupp is not only committed to advancing the field of reproductive biology and training of future scientists but is already accomplished in these areas. She displays her independence as a new investigator by her ongoing list of invited lectureships, her mentoring of graduate students, and her ability to establish collaborations on a variety of her projects. SSR found her a worthy choice for the SSR New Investigator Award.

As a “perk” of the award, Dr. Cupp will serve as the SSR representative in an exchange lecture series at the British Fertility meetings at the University of York, York, England in April 2007.

UNL Animal Science Students Benefit from the NC/NCW Annual Convention in More Ways than One

Several UNL Animal Science students and faculty attended the Nebraska Cattlemen/Nebraska Cattlemen’s Annual Convention, held November 29 & 30 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. This year’s convention marked the success of growing cooperative efforts between UNL and the NC Research & Education Foundation to expand beef research and education in the state.

Chris Skrdla is a current Animal Science student from Atkinson, NE who attended the convention. “For me, as a college student with the goal of returning to farming and ranching, this was a great way to learn what Nebraska Cattlemen is all about,” said Skrdla. “Also I got the chance to meet and visit with individuals, such as Michael Kelsey (NC Executive Vice President) and Jay Wolf (2007 NC President), which was a great experience.”

Skrdla is one Animal Science student who says he especially benefited from attending this year’s Cattlemen’s College at the NC/NCW Convention. The college featured sessions by Dr. Rick Funston, Dr. Terry Klopfenstein and Dr. Chris Calkins of UNL’s Animal Science Department; Dr. Gary Smith of Colorado State University’s Animal Science Department; and several more presenters. “The Cattlemen’s College was an excellent opportunity to share timely information with producers in a focused format,” said Calkins. “There was excellent interaction and the presentations set the stage for some great informal discussions throughout the convention.”

Making this year’s NC/NCW Convention particularly special was the NCR&E Foundation Luncheon. Dr. Don Beermann, Animal Science Department Head, gave the keynote address, in which he highlighted Animal Science programs supporting the Nebraska beef industry and thanked NC and NCW for their continued support. George Cooksley, Treasurer of the NCR&E Foundation, presented Dr. Beermann with the first of three $50,000 donations comprising the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Excellence Fund. “We are grateful the Nebraska Cattlemen recognize how our teaching, research and extension programs support the many segments of the beef industry in Nebraska and prepare students for gainful careers anchored to the beef industry,” said Beermann. “They recognize the importance of assisting students in furthering their education, and their financial support will provide scholarships to many beef-interest students pursuing majors in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) here at UNL.”

The Nebraska Cattlemen’s Excellence Fund will provide scholarships for students in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program, the UNL Feedlot Management Internship Program, and the Grazing Livestock Systems Program. Also students on the UNL Livestock and Meats Judging Teams, and students transferring from NCTA (Curtis) will have the opportunity to receive scholarships through this fund.

*Students interested in finding out more about UNL Animal Science may contact Anita Ferrell at aferrell2@unl.edu or (402)472-0204.

(Contributed by Anita Ferrell)

Block & Bridle Activities

Block and Bridle started off its semester at the Nebraska State Fair. During the two weeks at the State Fair, Block and Bridle members gave barn tours. These tours are designed to inform the public about beef, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbit, and dairy projects and what they mean to the animal production industry in Nebraska. This was a great opportunity for members to promote animal agriculture. Block and Bridle members also volunteered at the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Pit at the State Fair. Block and Bridle was honored to once again be able to help out.

The next event for the Block and Bridle Club was the Steak Fry. This year the Steak Fry was held in conjunction with the R.B. Warren Arena dedication and was the biggest steak fry ever with over 320 steaks served. The steaks were donated by Cargill Fresh Meat Solutions and Dr. Roger Mandigo once again lent a hand in helping with the preparation of the meal.

On November 10, the Arena was filled with beef cattle, hogs, sheep, dairy cattle, horses, mice, chickens, and newly hatched.
Ambassador Activities

The Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska is proud to continue the Ambassador recruitment programs with a diversity of student ambassadors from various backgrounds. Ambassadors for 2006-2007 include Kate Jess from Des Moines, Iowa; Mallory Becker from McClellandtown, Pennsylvania; Shantille Kruse from Tecumseh, Nebraska; Lindsay Salestrom from Tekamah, Nebraska; Jeremi Wurtz from Valley, Nebraska; and Josh VanDeWalle from Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. This team of students is one of the driving forces for recruitment for the Animal Science Department and regularly talks with prospective students about becoming Animal Science students at UNL. They are also involved with planning events for prospective students including the Animal Science Overnight, “Going the Distance” programs, and school and FFA tours. Talking with parents, visiting high schools and community colleges, organizing information on student requests, mailing campaigns and participating in CASNR events such as Experience the Power of Red Day are also regular responsibilities of the Ambassadors.

This year’s Animal Science Overnight was again a great success with 17 high school seniors attending. The events started November 9 with a Career and Internship Fair, accompanied by pizza in the evening. The internship fair included UNL Animal Science students giving presentations about internships in which they had participated. Presentations were over a vast array of experiences including internships at the Henry Doorly Zoo, a dairy operation in Canada, veterinarian clinic, and at various additional businesses. The evening was capped off with the Pork Industry Student Panel and Dr. Jim Pillen of Progressive Swine Technologies (PST) speaking and a drawing for a plasma TV and a video IPOD, courtesy of PST. After spending the evening in University housing with current Animal Science students, the next morning students were allowed to experience the Animal Science 100 lecture and lab. Activities in the lab included: ration determination for various species, condition scoring cows, market hog evaluations, a processed meats taste panel and egg grading.

Experience the Power of Red Day, an open house type of event sponsored by CASNR, was on October 7. The Animal Science booth was very popular with many visitors. Admissions Coordinator Anita Ferrell, Ambassadors Jeremi Wurtz and Shantille Kruse along with help from faculty members entertained the crowd’s questions with thoughtful answers and packets of information about UNL Animal Science. The next phase of Experience the Power of Red Day was sessions with prospective students. Ferrell led a power point presentation about the options and extra-curricular activities while Dr. Rosie Nold, Wurtz, and Kruse added their own input on their areas of expertise.

Ambassadors are also a large reason for increased tours and campus visits with prospective Animal Science students. Phone calls and letters encouraging students to visit campus have been rewarded with high numbers of high school and possible transfer students to visit East Campus. A unique advantage that Ambassadors bring to recruiting is that they can easily relate to students that are close to their age and know how a prospective student feels when visiting campus. They can readily give information on student life and activities on campus and what it feels like to live and go to school in Lincoln. The Ambassadors’ job is to make prospective students feel at home. Students thinking about coming to UNL can be sure that they will be part of a great group within the Animal Science Department and not be just a number on campus.

(Contributed by Jeremi Wurtz)

2007 Upcoming Activities
April 20 Block and Bridle Banquet
April 21 Little Aksarben

(Contributed by Jackie Snyder, President)
**Beermann and Calkins Attend Congress in Ireland**

Don Beermann and Chris Calkins attended the 52nd International Congress of Meat Science and Technology in Dublin, Ireland. This meeting brought together meat scientists from over 50 countries and addressed issues of international significance. During the meeting Dr. Beermann and Dr. Calkins were able to tour research facilities related to beef production and food research. They met with scientists from other nations concerning opportunities for collaborative research.

**Mexico 2006 – A Trip to Remember**

In August of 2006, CASNR again sponsored a trip of IANR students to Mexico. The trip consisted of 17 students and three faculty who spent August 5-15 in Mexico. The trip, which is under a Department of Education-funded grant, enables us to take students to Mexico to study their life, culture and agriculture.

Our trip this year, as usual, started in Mexico City where we visited the Museum of Anthropology at Chapultepec, attended the Ballet Folklorico at the Opera House in Mexico City, Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Plaza de los Tres Cultures, and the Zocalo in Central Mexico City. The visit to the Zocalo was especially exciting this year since the demonstrations by the losing party in the presidential elections were taking place at the Zocalo as we visited the Metropolitan Cathedral. It was good for the students to see the 300,000 Mexicans peacefully protesting the election results in the square. Being in a group of 300,000 people is a real adventure for those of us familiar with the wide open spaces of Nebraska!

We also visited with Representatives from the U.S. Embassy and U.S. AID personnel in Mexico City. The topics were all timely, given the current climate in the U.S. Topics covered were: Immigration, NAFTA and U.S. Aid efforts in Central America.

These topics given by the U.S. Representatives were eye-opening to our students. These same three topics were also discussed by Mexican professors when we visited the University of Chapingo. The students received a clear understanding of these topics from both perspectives.

From Mexico City, we traveled and spent three nights at the University of Chapingo in Texcoco. We spent time touring the University as well as spending a day at CIMMYT, the major corn (maize) and wheat research center in the world. The visit to the center gave the students an understanding of the history of maize and wheat research over the centuries. They were also given a tour of their germplasm center – a real treat for our students.

Of course, no trip to Mexico would be complete without spending a day at the Pyramids. A picture of the students standing on top of the Pyramid of the Sun is shown in this article.

From Texcoco, we traveled by bus to Veracruz. The trip of approximately 5 hours traversed a varied landscape of mountains and deserts until we finally entered the tropical landscape of Veracruz. Our trip was especially beautiful since the weather was perfect – clear as Nebraska! The bus driver even commented on the lack of rain and fog as we traveled by the volcanos outside of Mexico City.

While in Veracruz, we visited the University of Chapingo coffee research center located in Huatusco (a beautiful Mexican village located in the highlands of Veracruz). The students were interested in seeing the labor involved in planting and harvesting their morning “caffeine fix.”

We also spent a day exploring Xalapa before spending two nights in the city of Veracruz. We experienced all the sights of this vibrant port town along the Gulf of Mexico. The Mexican Department of Agriculture’s Tropical Animal and Plant Research Center is located in Veracruz and it was interesting for our students to see how beef cattle are reared in a tropical environment.

Enjoying the view of the Mexican countryside from the top of the Pyramid of the Sun.

A highlight of our visit to Veracruz was a day spent at a cooperative pineapple plantation. Ever eaten an entire pineapple right out of the field? It will be difficult to appreciate the pineapple from a store after eating one right from the field!

From Veracruz we traveled back to Mexico City where we departed for our trip back to Nebraska. Imagine seeing all these sites in only ten days. The students enjoyed the trip and I am certain they arrived back home with a better understanding of Mexico.

This is just one of the many experiences offered to our students to learn more about their world. What a wonderful opportunity our students have to discover and learn about other cultures.

We are planning another trip to Mexico August 9-21, 2007. If you know of any students that may be interested, please contact me at: Professor Jeffrey Keown, A218 Animal Science, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908, (402) 472-6453 Fax (402) 472-6362, jkeown1@unl.edu

*(Contributed by Jeff Keown)*
Former Student Fernando Lagos Experiences

I arrived in the United States from Argentina on January 24, 1956 when General Dwight Eisenhower was President. It was a very cold and windy morning when the boat arrived at the New York port with ice chunks floating on the water. I had left Buenos Aires eighteen days before with a temperature of 95 degrees and 80% humidity.

My father was a retired three star general in the Argentina Army. He had been Commander in Chief of the Army, and was now serving as Chief of the Argentina Delegation to the InterAmerican Defense Board in Washington, D.C. My mother came from a traditional ranching family of many generations. When my father was appointed to Washington, however, I saw the opportunity to study agriculture in the United States. Since Nebraska is similar in several ways to Central Argentina, I applied to and was accepted to the University of Nebraska.

In three and a half years I got my Bachelor’s degree in General Agriculture in 1961 with a strong emphasis on Animal Husbandry. I was a member of the Block and Bridle Club, the Rodeo Club, Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta.

The first of the three summers while at the University I worked as a ranch hand, a “tender foot” as they called me, putting up hay on the Bar Eleven Ranch owned by Frank and Edna Reece, about 25 miles south of Valentine. I had classes with their son Bud and we became very good friends, and Frank and Edna became my “second parents.”

That summer, and in many following visits, I learned to calve cows, many times in the snow (something not experienced in mild Argentina), feed cows in winter (not necessary down here unless severe drought), castrate, dehorn, milk and separate cream from milk in a hand operated centrifuge. I learned to dynamite beaver dams that flooded the wet meadows where we had to mow grass for hay.

In Nebraska I learned the real American way of life – your ranch meals, breakfasts including eggs, bacon, pancakes, corn syrup, half and half on the cereal, hot donuts, the inevitable glass of milk at every dinner – so different from our way of eating. I made many friends with the kind Midwest people.

Among my accomplishments that first summer of 1958, I swam across Big Alkali Lake (about ten miles long – according to the Valentine paper) and I built a small sailing boat with an old fishing boat and a bed sheet for a sail. My second summer (1959) I spent at a 240-acre farm in Galva, Iowa, near Holstein. There I learned to feed pigs and steers, and plant soybeans and corn. I also attended the Iowa State Fair.

The third summer I traveled to Claverack and Rhinebeck, New York, to work on the famous Ankony Angus Farm. I belonged to the Nebraska Livestock Judging Team and won the Block and Bridle Judging Contest of 1959 and placed 6th overall at Fort Worth, Texas.

I got my M.S. in Animal Breeding at Texas A&M in 1962. In Argentina, I worked as a geneticist for ten years for the King Ranch, founded a consulting breeding company, and returned to Texas A&M for a Ph.D. which I did not complete.

I managed a 100,000 acre breeding ranch in northern subtropical Argentina where there was flooding. We dealt with mud and lots of mosquitoes, ticks, flies of all kinds, plus needing to continuously burn the tough grass in high ground. I held that position for 20 years. Simultaneously, I helped found the Argentina Brangus Association, and was its Technical Director for 20 years.

I was Technical Director of the Argentina Angus Association for four years. I fought strongly against the idea of the new type, absolutely unsuited to produce and fatten on grass. Then the Leachman Cattle Company of Billings, Montana, hired me to be their technical consultant (1996 to 2004) in South America.

With my brother-in-law I ran my family’s 12,000 acre ranch (mainly cropping) from 1996 to 2004. Today I am a consultant to the continuators of Leachman Cattle Co. in South America. Finally I was cattle judge five times at the Palermo Show and five times in Brazilian and Paraguayan shows.

I am now 68 and my wife Elisa Uribelarrea and I have a 33 year old son.

Warm regards to everyone.

(Contributed by Fernando Lagos)

Former Graduates Receive CASNR Awards

The CASNR Alumni Association recently awarded Former Nebraska Governor Norbert Tiemann (BS Animal Science 1949) their 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award, and also recognized was Kelly Lechtenberg, (BS ’83), DVM & PhD, co-owner of the Swine Biomedical Resource Centre and owner of a commercial cattle feeding operation, who received the 2006 Achievement Award.
Recent Department Awards and Recognitions

Faculty

Mark Allan – Adjunct Faculty Member
Dennis Brink – Gamma Sigma Delta President-Elect and currently Secretary
Jim Gosey – Nebraska Cattlemen’s Industry Service Award
Rick Koelsch – Excellence in Extension Award from the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and Blue Ribbon Award from American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
Terry Mader – Distinguished Specialist Award from UNL Extension
Ivan Rush – Nebraska Cattlemen’s Industry Service Award
Dale Van Vleck – Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture Award

Graduate Students

Michelle Baltes – Graduate Student Award for her paper presentation at the Nebraska Physiological Society meeting
Jared Bates – William G. Whitmore Travel Grant
Crystal Buckner – William G. Whitmore Travel Grant
C. Y. Chen – Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award
Mark Corrigan – Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award
Zachary Hall – John & Louise Skala Fellowship
Blaine Jenschke – Milton E. Mohr Fellowship in Agriculture
Jeremy Martin – Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award
Jennifer McDonald – Shear-Miles Fellowship

Undergraduate Students

Jeffry Faimon – Gamma Sigma Delta Member
Aaron Kavan – Gamma Sigma Delta Member
Christopher Skrdla – Gamma Sigma Delta Member
Stephanie Swearingin – Gamma Sigma Delta Member
Josie Waterbury – Gamma Sigma Delta Member

University Service Awards

25 years
Matt Anderson (ARDC Swine Unit Employee)
Chris Calkins (Faculty Member)
Terry Mader (Faculty Member)
Karl Moline (ARDC Cow-Calf Unit Employee)
Darryl Barnhill (ARDC Swine Unit Employee)
Bob Meduna (Extension Educator Affiliate)
Rick Rasby (Faculty Member)
Bud Stolzenburg (Extension Educator Affiliate)

15 years
Kathy Anderson (Faculty Member)

10 years
Tim Carr (Courtesy Faculty Member)
Jess Miner (Faculty Member)
Troy Walz (Extension Educator Affiliate)
Alan Zinn (Computer Support Employee)

5 years
Ana Jelavic (Department Office Employee)
Kelsey Rhynalds (ARDC Dairy Unit Employee)
Matt Sullivan (ARDC Feedlot Employee)
Rick Stowell (Faculty Member)
Jack Weber (Faculty Member)

JUDGING ACTIVITIES

Meats Judging Team

The Fall 2006 UNL Meats Judging Team consisted of Jerome Danner, Jessie Bauman and Mallory Becker, and was coached by Lauren Grimes. The team attended three contests this fall, but was ineligible to receive team awards, as it consisted only of three people; four students are required to make a full team.
First, the team traveled to the Iowa State Invitational Contest in Ames, IA. Then, they traveled to the American Royal in Emporia, KS. At the American Royal, Mallory Becker placed 6th overall in placings, tied for 7th overall in pork judging, tied for 18th overall in lamb judging, and finished 25th in the contest out of 81 contestants. Also, Jerome Danner tied for 8th overall in the placings division. Next, the team traveled to Dakota City, NE for the International Contest, which is the last contest of the season. Though we never had a full team, the students still worked hard and put forth the effort to represent the University of Nebraska–Lincoln well. Judging teams are not just about winning and taking a break from school for contests. At these contests, students interact with industry people, those individuals who could possibly be a future employer. These students also toured beef, pork, and lamb packing plants, as well as other major industry companies to get insight to how companies in the meat science industry actually operate. We thank those who have supported us, and please congratulate these students.

(Contributed by Lauren Grimes)
Your Newsletter Leadership

Earl Ellington (Chair), Ted Doane, Jeff Keown, Duane Reese, Nancy Savery, and Minnie Stephens serve as the current departmental newsletter committee. The Animal Science Department has a long history of providing newsletters to its alumni and friends. Each year we hear words of satisfaction from several of you. We certainly encourage you to send us news items and any comments on how we might improve the newsletter.

Emeriti News

Mike Brumm has survived his move to Minnesota and his daughter, Liz, is settling in very well. The opportunities for her are much better in Minnesota than in Wayne, NE. There are many resources available for her at school and they are really pushing her to terms of life skills, something that wasn’t possible in Wayne. Mike is overwhelmed with opportunities for consulting. He says that there aren’t enough hours in a day to get everything done.

Call for Information for the 2007 Summer Issue of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter

All of us enjoy learning about classmates and other alumni from the Animal Science Department. We ask that you send information about yourself for the next issue of our alumni newsletter. You might include memorable events from your college days, such as classes, club activities, employment, teachers, friends and other items of interest. You might include what you have been doing since leaving campus, such as employment (when and where), participation in community activities, hobbies and other personal details that may be of interest. Please see back page for more information and how you may obtain additional departmental information and activity notices via e-mail.

Answers to Animal Science Trivia

Picture 1. 1999 Horse Judging Team — Thad Jackson (coach), Susan Locke

Picture 2. Ronnie Morgan, Burwell, NE.

Roy Leonard Carlson was born on February 13, 1922 to Fritz L. and Ester M. (Bystrom) Carlson on a farm near Port Wing, Wisconsin and passed away in Lincoln on September 3, 2006. He grew up in Elbert County, Colorado, and graduated from Kiowa High School. His father was a farmer and Roy helped his dad farm after graduation from high school. He left the family farm and in his bachelor days, he worked manufacturing army trailers and installing telephone exchanges in Denver, Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah.

In the spring of 1949 he met Helen M. Rudloff and in 1951 they married in Battle Creek, Nebraska. After he married, he worked for a short time on a dairy farm near Sterling, Colorado, and then began his career working for the University of Nebraska as a herdsman at the Scottsbluff Experiment Station, near Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Their four children, Michael, Patricia, Richard, and Robert were all born in Scottsbluff. In July 1966 they moved to Lincoln, Nebraska.

After moving to Lincoln, Roy started working at the University of Nebraska swine farm across Adams Street where Mahoney Golf Course is now located. Then he became a research technician for animal scientists in the Department of Animal Science who studied swine nutrition and swine reproductive physiology. He retired from that job in 1987.

After Roy retired, he was able to spend more time pursuing his woodworking and leaded glass hobbies. He made many pieces of furniture for family and friends, including numerous baby cradles. His most significant pieces of leaded glass are located in St. John the Apostle Church and the American Lutheran Church, in Lincoln. He was especially proud of the windows in the American Lutheran Church.

Roy kept up with many other activities in which he participated after retirement which included delivering meals for Meals on Wheels and helping to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of Kiwanis International and was very active in support of local credit unions in Scottsbluff and Lincoln. Roy was an avid gardener and enjoyed classical music, especially organ music. A quote that fits Roy best is, “Measure once, cut twice or was that measure twice, cut once?”
Dave Gocken (B.S. ’85) recently joined Boehringer-Ingleheim Vetmedica as National Sales Manager – Swine Segment. He is responsible for leading the sales organization in delivering animal health solutions to their customers.

1990’s

Dick E. Travis (B.S. ’90) works for Micro Beef Technologies in Amarillo, TX. He has worked for Micro Beef for 14 years. He is married and has two children. His son is currently serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army. Dick works in sales with Micro Beef and lives in Elm Creek, NE.

2000’s

Danilo Franco (Ph.D. ’02) has recently moved to Southern California to take a position at California Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA. Danilo previously worked at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

ALUMNI NEWS

1970’s

David Buchanan, M.S. ’77, Ph.D. ’79, Stillwater, Oklahoma – Dave is a member of the faculty at Oklahoma State University and Past-President of the American Society of Animal Science. Dave received the 2006 Southern Region Teaching Award at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference, which was held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The NACTA regional award is a competitive, prestigious award that is presented annually to one recipient in each of the five regions. To be eligible for the award, nominees must have previously received the NACTA Teacher Fellow Award and must continue to show excellence in teaching as well as dedication to students and the educational process.

1980’s

Linda Kay Barton (B.S. ’82) works for the Dawson Public Power in Lexington in Consumer Accounting. Linda has two boys who are serving in the military.

Tom Burnell (B.S. ’84; M.S. ’85) was named Chief Executive Officer for both the Nebraska Heart Institute and Nebraska Heart Hospital. Tom assumed duties as CEO for the seven-office practice, which is based in Lincoln, as well as the Heart Hospital, which is located in Lincoln.

Animal Science Trivia

(Subject to Error)

Picture #1 ➤
Do you know these people?

➤ Picture #2
Do you recognize this cowboy?

See page 11 for answers to the Animal Science Trivia
Contributions to Animal Science Programs

The ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT is dedicated to providing quality educational opportunities and leadership to students and clientele with diversity in training and experience. Please help us in continuing to provide these opportunities by contributing to one of these funds.

Animal Science Discretionary Fund #2047
This fund was developed to provide a flexible source of funding to enrich and enhance our Animal Science programs. These enhancements help to ensure that our teaching, research, and extension programs remain at the cutting edge of science and are responsive to the needs of our students and stakeholders.

Animal Science Scholarship Fund #8110
The Animal Science Department has been fortunate to have a number of named funds contributed by alumni and friends that benefit our undergraduate and graduate students. These funds have been very instrumental in enabling our students to complete their education. As part of the Department’s recruitment efforts, the Department’s scholarship program has been expanded to include Freshman Scholarships. This fund was established to assist in funding the Freshman Scholarships.

Animal Science Judging Team Fund #2194
The Animal Science Department is proud of the accomplishments and tradition our judging teams have established. Judging teams are an essential component of our undergraduate teaching program. Judging teaches many critical career skills beyond the techniques of animal or product evaluation. Judging team participation allows students to meet the leaders in our industry, visit outstanding livestock and horse operations and packing plants, and obtain excellent knowledge of U.S. animal agriculture. Professor R.B. Warren established this fund approximately 25 years ago, and it has been an invaluable source of financial support for the program. All funds contributed directly benefit the students who are members of our teams through reimbursement of a part of their direct travel costs, meals, and lodging for workouts and contests.

Equestrian Team Development Fund #8774
The UNL Equestrian Team is a Student Recognized Organization now directed by the Department of Animal Science. The program prepares students to compete in regional and national Intercollegiate Horse Show Association events. The UNL Equestrian Team Development Fund is used to help defray transportation, equipment, student enrichment and competition expenses incurred by the 28 students who comprise the team.

University of Nebraska Contribution Card

Please direct my gift to:

$___________ Animal Science Discretionary Fund #2047
$___________ Animal Science Scholarships Fund #8110
$___________ Livestock & Judging Team Travel & Scholarship Fund #2194
$___________ Equestrian Team Development Fund #8774

Please mail your gift to: University of Nebraska Foundation
P.O. Box 82555
Lincoln, NE 68501-2555

☐ I pledge $___________ payable over _______ years (not to exceed five years) beginning __________ (month) of __________ (year).

Signature if making a pledge by credit card:_________________________________________

☐ My check for $_______________, payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation, is enclosed.

Please charge by: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover Card Number: __________________________ Exp. Date____________

Name ________________________________________________________________________________
PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to improve our contact with alumni, the Department of Animal Science is in the process of developing an alumni e-mail listserv. If you would like to receive more frequent updates and news about the Department including upcoming events, please send us your e-mail address.

To keep us informed of your location, professional involvement and items of interest, please complete the following information sheet and return it to Vicky Kobes, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, C203 Animal Sciences, P.O. Box 830908, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908; e-mail: vkobes1@unl.edu. Should you know of Animal Science Alumni who are not receiving this newsletter, please let us know how we may contact them.

Name ____________________________________________________________ Date of Graduation __________________

Address________________________________________________________ City______________________

State ____________________________________________________________ Zip Code __________________

E-mail__________________________________________________________

Position, Company, Address:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

News Items, Comments, etc.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________