Letter from President

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends:

This has been another successful and exciting year for Block and Bridle. This success is due to the dedication of the officers and members; without them, Block and Bridle could not function.

Another major asset contributing to the success of our club are the advisors. The Block and Bridle club would like to thank Dr. Steve Jones, Dr. Phil Miller, and Dr. Paul Kononoff for their guidance and support this year. They are a great resource for any questions and I appreciate their help and support throughout the year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Block and Bridle President this past year. As a freshman agricultural education major, I came to campus missing both home and being on the farm. When I heard about the Block and Bridle Club, I was excited to join this organization because I would be able continue to be active in the livestock industry, without being at home. By being active in Block and Bridle, I have gained many friends who share the same interests, outside of those that share my same major. Block and Bridle also gave me the opportunity to become involved with the Animal Science Department. I was able to meet great faculty and staff and learn about the opportunities the department has to offer, such as Meat Animal Evaluation and Livestock Judging. I have made many memories and friends through this organization that will last a lifetime.

I extend the best of luck to the club for the future. I challenge you to continue being an active member, to take a leadership role, and make a difference in this organization. This old saying holds true for me, “You get out of something, what you put into it”. I wish you the best of luck as you continue through your college career and pursue your desired career. With representatives like the members of Block and Bridle advocating for the livestock industry, I am excited for the future of agriculture.

Sincerely,

Annie J. Doerr
2007-2008 President
April 2, 2008

Dear Block and Bridle Club Members:

Congratulations to all members of the Block and Bridle Club for a year of education, friendship, and leadership. The Animal Science Department greatly appreciates your contributions to our academic program and your sponsored activities. Events such as Kids’ Day are very important outreach activities that help to educate the public about our programs and livestock industries. Members of B&B should be proud of your accomplishments. I would also like to express appreciation to your faculty advisors, Drs. Steve Jones, Phil Miller, and Paul Kononoff, for their contributions and leadership to the Club.

Your selection of Jay Wolf as this year’s Block and Bridle Honoree continues the Club’s legacy of recognizing key leadership in Nebraska’s livestock and poultry industries. I hope the Club learns from this process and about the importance of future leadership for our programs from our present and past honorees.

The time and efforts you contribute as a member of Block and Bridle is time well spent. I wish all of you the best as you continue your academic and professional endeavors.

Sincerely,

Sheila E. Scheideler
Professor & Interim Department Head
Letter From Historian

Dear Members, Supporters, Family and Friends:

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by and we are beginning to wrap up the year. As I began to put this annual together, I was amazed at all the hard work the members and officers had put into this year. It has once again been a successful year for Block & Bridle due to the work of these people. I know Block & Bridle will continue to be a great club because of the hard work of the members.

I would like to thank the advisors for all of their work this year. Without their support and help this annual would not be what it is. Dr. Jones, Dr. Miller, and Dr. Kononoff have devoted their time and knowledge to the club, and we can not thank them enough.

It has been a pleasure to work on this annual. As I struggled to come up with a theme, I turned to the club for ideas. I would like to thank Brigham Scott for his idea for a theme and allowing us to use it. Help like this is never far in Block & Bridle and it is this extraordinary help that has made Block & Bridle such an amazing club to be a part of. This annual shows devotion to helping others and the commitment of the members, along with a deep love of agriculture. This love is the driving force for all of our members and shapes this club. With these ideas in mind, it seemed that "Best of Show" was the perfect theme for this year's annual. The amount of work and dedication each and every member has displayed during the year has truly made them the best of show among this university. Without their commitment and drive, this club could not make the strides it has made this year.

I hope this annual reflects everything that we have done. It is not without the help of several people that this annual has come about. I would like to thank Annie Doerr for her help and commitment to making this annual happen. I would like to thank Dr. Jones for pushing to make sure this annual was completed.

Thank you to all the sponsors without your contributions this annual would not have happened. Their continued support is important to Block & Bridle and we look forward a long continued relationship with them.

Again, thank you for all the support to help make this annual happen.

Sincerely,

Jessalyn Schrock
2007-2008 Historian
Our 2008 honoree, Jay Wolf, is a true leader in today's agricultural industry as he has unselfishly dedicated himself to improving agriculture. Jay's contributions to the cattle industry and agriculture have been tremendous. We are proud to honor Jay as a progressive cattleman and business man who has offered much of his time to the industry and continuing education.

The operation Jay now runs was founded by his grandfather and great uncle, Julius and Max Wolf. They emigrated from Germany and began their businesses by importing draft horses, and after World War I they became cattle traders. When the drought of the 1930's hit, they saw the grazing potential of the Sandhills and put together the ground that now makes up Wagonhammer Ranch near Bartlett. Jay's father, Jim, followed his grandfather's footsteps and became a state and national leader in agriculture, public service, and charitable organizations. After World War II, Jim converted the ranch from a stocker to a cow-calf operation and added the Registered Angus herd in 1960. Currently in the operation there is a registered Angus herd, and a commercial cattle herd with top quality cows being bred to raise club calves. In addition to the cow/calf operation, they have a 5,000 head feedlot.
The Wagonhammer Ranch derived its brand from the wagonhammer used on the Conestoga wagons that brought settlers to Nebraska. The wagonhammer was the wagon’s lynch pin, but also served as a lug nut wrench and as a hammer. It is a symbol of strength, efficiency and ingenuity, and provides lessons from the past.

Jay graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in Agriculture in 1980. Following graduation, he moved to Denver and worked as a loan officer for the oil and gas industry. Jay and his wife Susie, have three children, Mitchell, Alex, and Hillary. He returned in 1984, following his father’s retirement. Jay brought with him managerial, accounting and finance skills. He attributes a large part of the operation’s success to dedicated long-term employees.

Jay is a past president of the Nebraska Cattleman and has been involved with the association since 1988. In addition to serving at the committee level, Jay has served as president of the Nebraska Corn-Fed Beef program. He also is a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen Veterinary Science Task Force, and the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska Inc. He has also helped support continuing education at UNL and also at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture through the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage. His family has been instrumental in the building of the new teaching laboratory building at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman, Nebraska.

Jay is a progressive rancher who has implemented rotational grazing and has plans to use fence-line grazing. He uses these techniques to better utilize the grass, increase production and make transition at weaning easier. In addition to these methods he has also used a limited corn and distillers ration to develop heifers and maintain cows on winter range.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle Club is proud to honor Jay Wolfe for his outstanding contributions to agriculture in Nebraska.
Animal Science Faculty

Dr. Kathy Anderson  Dr. Don Beermann  Dr. Dennis Brink  Dr. Tom Burkey  Dr. Dennis Burson  Dr. Chris Calkins

Dr. Andrea Cupp  Mr. Matt Ellicott  Dr. Galen Erikson  Dr. Kathy Hanford  Dr. Rodger Johnson  Dr. Steve Jones

Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal  Dr. Jeff Keown  Dr. Terry Klopfenstein  Dr. Paul Kononoff  Ms. Libby Lugar

Dr. Roger Mandigo  Dr. Phil Miller  Dr. Jesse Miner  Dr. Merlyn Nielsen  Dr. Rick Rasby

Dr. Duane Reese  Dr. Bryan Reiling  Dr. Sheila Scheideler  Dr. Matt Spangler  Dr. Brett White  Dr. Jennifer Wood
Freshman

Emily Arkfeld
Kimberly Behrends
Jessica Clowser
Kyle Clymer
Kayla Clymer
Cody Dvorak
Azureen Erdman
Brandon Hilger
Sarah Knutson
Tacy Langemeier
Amanda Lawyer
Laura Murray
Derrick Rocker
Nic Schilling
Aaron Smith
Matt Snyder
Brandon Sorensen
Amanda Thaler
Andrew Uden
Lisa Watermeier
Sarah Werner
Liz Wilhelm
Jared Williams
Taylor Yaw

Sophomore

Christina Brezack
Stephanie Bryant
Corey Cable
Casey Collins
Whitney Davis
Anna Geis
Stacey Guthard
Christina Heine
Kelli Kwapioski
Laura Marie
Stefani Mark
Tiffany Meyer
Clint Mickey
Eric Miller
Amanda Pflasterer
Michelle Prothman
Asia Sabatka
Andrea Siedel
Cassandra
Stephenson
Amanda Uden
Kasey Wagner
Laura Witte
John Walrath

Junior

Trenton Bohling
McKenzie Chambers
Dana Christensen
Tami Cullen
Quentin Dailey
Annie Doerr
Matt Dolch
Kyle Dorn
Jacob Geis
Amber Gieselmann
Jeremy Haack
Laura Joy
Meredith Jordan
Garret Koester
Brett Kreifels
Shantille Kruse
Ryan Large
Krista Rassmussan
Paul Schmid
Briham Scott
Jessalyn Schrock
Brenda Walla
Jason Warner

Senior

Janae Althouse
Mallory Becker
Maria Dorn
Aaron Dinklage
Jeff Epp
Andrew Fullerton
Bryce Gerlach
MaKayla Hirschman
Kyle Kohout
Heather Mitchell
Brent Nollette
Mitch Novacek
Mikki Schmidt
Jackie Snyder
Josh VanDeWalle
Bryttni Westlake
Block & Bridle Officers

President: Annie Doerr
Vice President: Garrett Koester
Treasurer: Jake Geis
Secretary: MaKayla Hirschman
Ambassador: Janae Althouse
Marshall: Shantille Kruse
Assistant Marshall: Andrea Siedel
News Reporter: Laura Witte
Historian: Jessalyn Schrock
Program Chair: Reesa Hoffschneider
Block & Bridle Initiates

2008 Initiates

Matt Snyder            Amanda Uden
Kyle Clymer            Amanda Thaler
Kyle Dorn              Amanda Lawyer
Cody Dvorak            Mitch Novacek
John Walrath           Jeremy Haack
Lisa Watermeier        Brigham Scott
Kayla Clymer           Brandon Sorensen
Sarah Werner           Nic Schilling
Azureen Erdman         Aaron Smith
Laura Murray           Merideth Jordan
Liz Wilhelm            Taylor Yaw
Kim Behrends           Sarah Knutson
Emily Arkfeld
Jessica Clowser
Jared Williams
Dr. Steve Jones joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska in 1984. He now teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including Animal Products and Animal Biological Systems. Dr. Jones received his B.S. from the University of Utah, M.S. from the University of Arizona, and Ph.D. from Purdue University. Dr. Jones has helped institute 3-D imagining to teach the anatomy of bovine and porcine animals. When not busy teaching, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Dr. Steve Jones—Senior Advisor

Dr. Phil Miller earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. He joined the University of Nebraska faculty in 1990. Dr. Miller is a swine nutritionist and spends his time teaching, Animal Nutrition and Feeding and Nutritional Energetics, and advising students. Dr. Miller’s hobby is golfing.

Dr. Phil Miller—Junior Advisor

Dr. Paul Kononoff received his B.S and M.S. from the University of Saskatchewan and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in Dairy and Animal Science. Dr. Kononoff is fairly new to campus, as he joined the UNL Animal Science faculty in 2005. He teaches graduate courses and assists several students with UCARE projects. Dr. Kononoff enjoys spending time with his family, fishing and camping.

Dr. Paul Kononoff—Freshman Advisor
Block & Bridle Senior Tributes

Janae Althouse is a senior Agri-Business major from Eagle, Nebraska. She is the daughter of Raymond and Judy Althouse. She has accepted a position with John Deere as a Marketing Representative following graduation. Her favorite Block and Bridle memory was running a successful Big Red Beef Show.

Maria Dorn is the daughter of Mike and Sandra Dorn from Auburn, Nebraska. She is majoring in Animal Science and plans to find a job as an Extension Assistant and continue working with the 4-H club following graduation. She always enjoyed helping with the State FFA Contests, but her favorite Block and Bridle event is the Steak Fry, because it is a great time to get to know everyone. Her advice to other Block and Bridle members is to have fun and get involved in as many B&B events as possible. She also advises students to have fun in college because the time goes by quickly.
**Bryce Gerlach** is the son of Mark and Laura Gerlach from Wilber, Nebraska. After graduating from UNL, he plans to pursue his Master's Degree in Meat Science. His advice for underclassman is to be as active in Block & Bridle as you possibly can.

**MaKayla Hirschman** is the daughter of Bob and Kathy Hirschman from Saint Paul, Nebraska. Her career plan is to work as an Extension Assistant in Nebraska while working on her Master's Degree. She will continue to raise her Charlois and Red Angus Cattle. Her favorite memory from Block & Bridle was Little Ak-Sar-Ben during her freshman year. After washing livestock she and her friends went back to the dorms with extremely wet shoes. She said you could here the squishing of her shoes down the hallway.

**Bryttni Westlake** is the daughter of Bryce Westlake and Laurie Marquardt-Westlake from Kinnear, Wyoming. Her career plan is to work for Cargill Meat Solutions as a Human Resources Associate. Bryttni really enjoyed working at the Nebraska State Fair helping with Barn Tours and the Beef Pit. She worked with other Block and Bridle members, but also interacted with leaders in the agricultural industry at the Beef Pit. Her time in the barns was spent informing citizens not familiar with agriculture about the industry.
2007 Block & Bridle Awards

Senior Workhorse and Outstanding Senior Award: Jackie Snyder

Mike Cull Scholarship: Bryttni Westlake

Outstanding Sophomore: Annie Doerr

Outstanding Junior: Janae Althouse

Outstanding Initiate: Laura Witte
2007-2008 Calendar of Events

State Fair Beef Pit August 25, 2007
Big Red Welcome August 26, 2007
4-H Herdsmanship September 1 & 2, 2007
State Fair Barn Tours August 25 & 26, September 1 & 2, 2007
Steak Fry September 7, 2007
Homecoming Parade October 12, 2007
National Block & Bridle Convention October 18 – 21, 2007
Little Aksarben November 16, 2007
Kid’s Day November 9, 2007
Holiday Gathering December 14, 2007
Kearney Classic Livestock Judging Contest February 23, 2008
Big Red Beef Show March 30, 2008
State FFA Contest April 3 & 4, 2008
Honoree Trip April 5, 2008
Honors Banquet April 25, 2008

"Creating higher quality individuals by encouraging a personal connection to the animal husbandry industry."
Treasurer’s Report
Submitted by: Jake Geis

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Initial Meeting Secretary’s Report
Submitted by: MaKayla Hirschman

The Block and Bridle Club held its first meeting of the year on August 30th. The meeting came to order at 7:01 pm. While eating pizza, President Annie Doerr asked each of the officers to do an introduction of themselves and then the members did the same. No secretary’s report was given.

The following are the items of new business that were discussed. The first item of business was the first initiate meeting coming up on Sept. 13th at 6:30 pm. Anyone wanting to join the Block and Bridle Club was advised to come. Then, Janae discussed State Fair herdsmanship by explaining what was needed in the process and asked for volunteers for Labor Day weekend. Next, Andrea reminded everyone that the annual B and B Steak Fry was coming up on September 8th and asked for volunteers to help set up. Steak Fry tickets could be purchased from any officer or at the door. After that, Jake talked about the State Fair barn tours that the club was helping with and that volunteers were needed. The next item of business was the discussion of B and B Nationals in Kansas City at the end of October. Jessalyn needed to know by the 5th who wanted to go on the trip so registration could be sent in. Then the club approved the motion of dues being $15 for members and $25 for initiates. Next the club passed the motion of giving a donation to Prairie Stomp. The final item of business was Dr. Jones discussing the New Zealand study tour over winter break (Dec 27-Jan 20) at Lincoln University. Anyone interested should go talk to Dr. Jones by mid September. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.
Programs

Block and Bridle members had the opportunity to meet with Duane Gangwish from the Nebraska Cattlemen on November 8, 2007. Mr. Gangwish is the Vice President of Environmental Affairs for the association. Members were informed about environmental issues affecting the livestock industry and his role in addressing these issues. Mr. Gangwish advised us to get involved with the livestock industry and find a way to voice our opinion.

Ann Marie Bosshamer from the Nebraska Beef Council came to speak at the Block and Bridle meeting on December 13, 2007. Ann Marie spoke about the purpose of the Nebraska Beef Council and explained the concepts of the Beef Checkoff Program. She also introduced us to the new voice of the Beef Council, Matthew McConaughey, and to the new images promoting beef. It was a great experience for members to learn more about the beef industry while networking with an industry professional.

Block and Bridle members, Janae Althouse, Jeff Epp, and Josh VanDeWalle shared their experiences from the New Zealand study abroad trip with other members. They described the differences in agriculture. Not only was it a learning experience for all, but also a great way to promote the study abroad programs.

On February 21, 2008, Josh VanDeWalle from AgCareers talked to the group about the job opportunities available through this organization. Members were introduced to ways to get involved in the career opportunities AgCareers has to offer and how to pursue them.
Socials

What would any year be without the fun of socials and the chance to get to know fellow members? This year Block & Bridle members enjoyed several activities. We started the year with a marshmallow roast and ended the year with a good old fashion chuck wagon cookout. In between, members played several rounds of sand volleyball and games of bowling. Socials are a great way to meet new members and make new friends. Members have the chance to spend time with each other without the stress of school and everything else in their lives.
Big Red Welcome

The first recruitment event for new members was on August 26, 2007. A display booth was set up at Big Red Welcome. The event offers students the opportunity to learn about many of the clubs and activities available at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. The Block and Bridle display consisted of pictures encompassing club activities. The primary goal was to gather information about students who may be interested in joining Block and Bridle.

State Fair Herdsmanship

Block & Bridle members served as herdsmanship judges during Labor Day weekend for the Nebraska State Fair. Members were responsible for judging how well 4-H livestock exhibitors kept their stalls or pens clean. Members also judged exhibitors on the appearance and well being of their animals while in the stall areas. Block & Bridle is always willing to support and cheer on outstanding youth livestock exhibitors. Janae Althouse was the chair for this event.

State Fair Barn Tours

Block & Bridle members were responsible for giving barn tours at the Nebraska State Fair. Members answered questions and showed the public around the livestock barns during the state fair. Members also played a fun game with children where they could win a prize for answering a question correctly about livestock. Block & Bridle members are always willing to talk to and educate the general public about livestock, the livestock industries and the importance of livestock to the state of Nebraska. Jake Geis recruited the workers for this event.
State Fair Beef Pit

The Block and Bridle Club worked in the Nebraska Cattlemen's' Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair on August 25, 2007. This barbeque restaurant was a great opportunity to promote the healthy and enjoyable experience of beef. This was a great way to kick off the year and meet new members. Many members find this a very fun way to meet beef industry members while lending a hand to serve meals to the many visitors at the fair. Reesa Hoffschneider was the chair for this event.
The Ninth Annual Steak Fry kicked off the fall semester on September 7th, 2007. Over 200 meals were served to students, faculty, and friends. The Steak Fry not only serves as a recruitment activity, but also provides an opportunity for students to meet faculty. Students help with setup and clean-up while the faculty and staff serve the meal that consists of steak, beans, a salad and drink. Andrea Siedel was the committee chair for this event.

A special thanks goes to the dedicated Animal Science Faculty members that volunteered to help grill and serve the steaks. Thank you to Cargill Meat Solutions for providing the steaks. Many Block and Bridle members also helped that day. All your help made this a fun and successful event to start off the year.
National Convention

Block & Bridle members had the chance to travel to Kansas City for the Block & Bridle National Meetings. Members had the chance to see some of the unique aspects of Kansas Agriculture and to see a little of the American Royal while there. Members also attended several business meetings for Block & Bridle. They had the chance to listen to several excellent speakers including former General Chief of Staff, Richard Meyers and agricultural consultant, Charlie Arnot. Both speakers talked about the importance of leadership and agriculture to the US. While in Kansas City, members traveled to Cabela’s and explored their wild sides and also spent an evening at the National Angus Hall of Fame. Jessalyn Schrock was in charge of arrangements for this event.

(L-R) Jake Geis, Will Davis, Annie Doerr, Jessalyn Schrock and Dr. Steve Jones (Advisor)
Little AK-SAR-BEN

Little AK-SAR-BEN is an opportunity for UNL students, regardless of major, to prepare and show beef, horses, sheep and/or swine. No prior experience is necessary and it is open to any undergraduate student regardless of major. The opportunity is given to be in the expert or novice division for all species. Expert division means you have prior showing experience in that particular species and novice division is no experience at all.

This year approximately 30 people participated in both divisions. Judges included: Eric Stelik for sheep; Todd Eggerling for beef; Clyde Naber for swine; and Emily Dukat for horse. A night of activity on November 16th was enjoyed by all, including many parents, peers and faculty who came to watch the event held in the R.B. Warren Memorial Arena. Chairperson for the event was MaKayla Hirschman.
Little AK-SAR-BEN Winners

Andrew Uden
Kyle Clymer
Andrew Uden & Maria Dorn

Kyle Clymer & Brett Kreifels

Mallory Becker & Jeremy Haack

Swine:

Andrew Uden & Maria Dorn

Maria Dorn & Molly Weiss

Jeremy Haack & Tacy Langmeier

Horse

Heather Mitchell

Champions: Jeremy Haack & Maria Dorn

Mitch Ngyacek & MaKayla Hirschman
Kid’s Day

Kid’s Day proved to be another huge success, as children swarmed the Animal Science building on November 9th to view the animals on display. Preschool and elementary students, along with daycares within the Lincoln area came to learn about the animals. Block and Bridle members were stationed by the various animals on display to ask and answer questions, and to teach the children. Children were excited to view the various animals, which included cattle, sheep, swine, chickens, mice, a horse, and a dairy calf.

After enjoying their time with the livestock and then having their picture taken, children left with a bag full of goodies from various agriculture industries. The packet included stickers, coloring books, pamphlets, and books promoting the agricultural industry. It was great to get support from industry leaders and associations, as they supplied the goodies for the bags. This activity continues to be a big hit, as it gives members the opportunity to get involved with the community and community members the chance to visit the campus to learn about the livestock industry.

Holiday Gathering

The Block and Bridle Holiday Gathering was held on December 14th, 2007 in the Animal Science Building. Members met on December 13th, 2007 to prepare the goodies for the gathering. This gathering was the perfect opportunity for students, faculty and staff to visit with each other while enjoying some holiday goodies. The Holiday Gathering gave the club a chance to show their appreciation for everything that the Animal Science Department does for the club throughout the year. Chairperson for this event was Laura Witte.
The Big Red Beef Show took place on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the York County Fairgrounds in York, NE. Nineteen members of Block and Bridle helped set up, check-in cattle, keep the show running smoothly, and tear down after the event was over. This year’s show was held in conjunction with the York-Hamilton County Cattlemen as part of a double points weekend to allow exhibitors to participate in two shows in the same weekend.

Shawn Varner of Maryville, MO, judged the 98 head of cattle entered in the show. The show ring was padded with Astroturf, making it excellent to evaluate feet and leg structure on, but a challenge to clean. Thanks to Circle 5 Beef, B & B members were able to serve the exhibitors and their families burgers for lunch, also the United Farmers Coop helped grill the beef. The Block and Bridle Club was able to award a new set of clippers to the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Champion showmen, as well as a $500 scholarship for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in the Intermediate and Senior Divisions.

The Grand Champion Breeding Heifer was exhibited by Cassie Hoblyn of York, NE, with her MainTainer heifer. Margaret Spencer of Gibbon, NE, showed the Reserve Grand Champion Heifer out of the Angus division. The Grand Champion Market Animal was shown by Amanda Schutz of Arapahoe, NE, with her crossbred steer. Emily Prinz of West Point, NE, exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion Market Animal with her Maine Anjou steer. Shantille Kruse and McKenzie Chambers were in charge of this event.
State FFA

Once again the blue jackets invaded the Animal Science Building on April 3rd and 4th, as the Block and Bridle helped facilitate the Livestock Judging and Livestock Management contests for State FFA. On Thursday, April 3rd, over 350 students from across Nebraska participated in the Livestock Judging contest. Block and Bridle members served as group leaders, livestock stirrers, and score tabulators. The Livestock Management contest was held on Friday, April 4th, which consisted of 6-member teams from 38 schools. Members assisted with registration, timing, and leading groups. These contests give high-school students an opportunity to visit campus and more specifically the Animal Science Department, in hopes of sparking interest in continuing their education at UNL. Jessalyn Schrock and Laura Witte were co-chairs for the event. They would like to thank all of those who volunteered to help run the contests; you were vital to the success of these events!
On April 5th, members and advisors had the privilege of meeting and talking with Jay Wolf and touring the Wagonhammer Ranch. It was interesting to learn more about Jay and the ranch's history.

Members (L-R): Mitch Novacek, Andrea Siedel, Laura Witte, Honoree Jay Wolf, Annie Doerr, Janae Althouse, Shantille Kruse, Garret Koester, Brigham Scott, and Jake Gies
Livestock Judging Team

Back Row: Matt Ellicott (Coach), Bryttni Westlake, Jackie Snyder, Jeff Epp, Makayla Hirschman, Maria Dorn, Mallory Becker; Front Row: Ben Williams (Assistant Coach), Russell Pedrett, Dirk Burken, Aaron Cooper (Coach)

The 2007-2008 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team finished a strong fall campaign highlighted by Dirk Burken being named Reserve National Champion Individual and Jackie Snyder adding a fifth All-American Livestock Judging recipient to UNL. However, the team was rewarded with numerous other achievements during the fall season. Direct success this season was highly correlated to their dedication and commitment to represent UNL both on the judging and academic stages.

The team started their fall season two weeks prior to classes beginning on campus. Austin, Minnesota was the site of the teams first fall contest. On Monday, September 10, the team competed at the National Barrow Show. UNL placed 6th out of 13 schools.

On September 21st, the team traveled to El Dorado, KS where they competed in the first ever Butler Flinthills Classic Judging Contest held by Butler Community College. The Team was second behind Kansas State University, Colorado State was third, Oklahoma State University was fourth and California State Chico was fifth. UNL was 2nd in sheep, 2nd in swine, 3rd in beef, and 3rd in reasons. Individually, several team members had good days. Jackie Snyder tied for 3rd in sheep and 6th in swine. Dirk Burken was 10th in sheep, 8th in swine, and 7th overall. Bryttni Westlake landed 9th in sheep, 4th in swine, 3rd in reasons, and 5th overall.

On October 6 the team traveled to Tulsa, OK and competed at the Tulsa State Fair and finished 5th. Jackie Snyder finished 10th overall individual in the contest. Two days later the team traveled to Dallas, TX and competed at the State Fair of Texas contest. The team finished 3rd in Cattle, 3rd in Swine, 3rd in Reasons, and 4th Overall.

One week later the team traveled to Kansas City, MO to compete in the American Royal contest. The team finished 10th in Cattle, 9th in Swine, 9th in Sheep, 7th in Reasons, and 9th Overall. Mallory Becker was named 7th in Swine judging.

On November 12, 2007 the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. This contest served as the final national contest for the 2007 team.

Overall the team finished 10th out of almost 30 teams. In Sheep judging the team finished 7th in swine & cattle judging the team finished 9th, and the team was 7th in reasons. Individually, Dirk Burken finished 2nd high point individual in sheep and 15th in swine and 4th in cattle, and 7th in reasons. Dirk Burken finished as the Reserve National Champion Judge posting an impressive score of 963 out of 1000.

The team is coached by graduate student Aaron Cooper of (Post, TX), Matt Ellicott (Extension Educator) and assisted by Meat Science Master’s student Ben Williams of Logansport, IN.
Meats Judging Team

Back Row: Dr. Dennis Burson (Advisor); John Person; Bryce Gerlach; Brian Peterson; Ace VanDeWalle (Coach). Front Row: Derek Schroder; Mallory Becker (Assistant Coach); Jess-salyn Schrock; Amber Gieselmann; McKenzie Chambers; Dr. Shelia Scheideler (Interim Department Head).

This spring, the 2008 Junior Meats Judging Team traveled to JBS Swift in Greeley, CO for the National Western Meat Judging Contest and to Columbia Packing Company in Dallas, TX for the Southwestern Meat Judging Contest. The team worked extremely hard giving up nights and weekends to practice.

Starting off with the spring contests at the National Western, the team placed 3rd in pork judging, 4th in specifications, and 5th in total placings. Individually, Derek Schroeder was 3rd in lamb judging, 6th in total placings, and 17th in reasons. Bryce Gerlach was 5th high individual, placing 4th in specifications, 8th in pork judging, 11th in beef judging, 12th in reasons, and 13th in total placings.

At the Southwestern Contest, the team placed 4th in specifications and 6th overall. Individually, Bryce Gerlach was 12th overall, placing 7th in beef judging, 14th in beef grading, 12th in overall beef, 12th in total placings, 10th in reasons, and 9th in pork judging. John Person placed 12th in lamb judging. Brian Petersen was 17th in specifications, and Derek Schroeder placed 14th in total placings. The team is excited to get back this fall and start practicing so they can have a successful fall season representing UNL.
MAEC Team

From Left to Right: Dr. Bryan Reiling (Coach), Casey Collins, Kerri Koch, Jeff Epp, Christina Heine, Corey Cable, Jason Star, Michelle Prothman, Paige Moser, Travis Sterner, Cassandra Stephenson, Andrea Seidel, Clint Mickey.

The National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest is a unique, comprehensive, two-day competition that combines components of meats judging, livestock judging, and real-world evaluation and pricing of commercial livestock and meat products. In addition, there is a fourth division within the competition where teams are provided a communications challenge. When presented with a current issue related to the livestock and meats industries, the team had one hour to develop an oral presentation or skit designed to address the topic incorporating viewpoints of the meat industry, livestock producer, and consumer. This year, the contest conducted March 27-29, was hosted by Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma National Stockyards served as a backdrop for much of the competition.

Although the team did not place as high they may have desired, ranking 14th overall, this group of students learned much about the livestock and meats industries. In practice and competition, they saw more variation than they may have ever realized even existed. They were able to visit with seedstock producers; to hear their opinions of where the livestock industry is headed. They learned the basics of yield and quality grading and evaluation of our meat products. In practice, they were provided an in-depth tour of the beef processing facility in Schuyler, NE, so they might truly gain an appreciation for how the animal is utilized and merchandised once it reaches market weight. In Oklahoma City, after competition, the team toured the National Western Heritage and Cowboy Museum; an awesome experience where we could feel and witness our heritage.
Equine Teams

Equestrian Team

This year, the Husker Equestrians again earned the title of Regional Champion Team, making it four years in a row! In addition, Chelsea Leatherwood of Lincoln finished the Reserve High Point Rider in the region, while Alicia Wittwer of Dawson finished in 3rd. Through regular season competition, riders compete individually to earn points and designated riders compete to earn points for the team. This year, 20 riders on the UNL Equestrian Team earned enough points to qualify for Regional Championships, held in Brookings, SD.

2007-2008 team members include: Natalie Becher, Platte Center; Kim Behrends, Jansen; Megan Boone, Ashland; Samantha Cajka, Lincoln; Maria Cammack, Lincoln; Kim Corradi, Phillips; Shannon Cosgrove, Lincoln; Tami Cullen, Sycamore, IL; Cally Frahm, Oakland; Amy Greenwood, Wood River; Maggie Holub, Scribner; Kelsey Horner, Kearney; Lindsey Horner, Kearney; Emily Houdersheldt, Shelby; Krystl Knabe, Nehawka; Mindy Leach, Malcolm; Chelsea Leatherwood, Lincoln; Haze Lockee, Lincoln; Reenie McCormick, Omaha; Laura Murray, LaVista; Morgan Oborny, Seward; Brandon Sorensen, Harvard; Whitney Sprout, Elgin; Lauren Waller, Lincoln, and Alicia Wittwer, Dawson. The team is coached by Libby Lugar.

Horse Judging Team

The 2007 Horse Judging season started off in the spring with the North American College Teachers of Agriculture contest, held in Hutchinson, KS. At this contest, the team finished 4th in Halter, 1st in Performance, 3rd in Reasons, and 2nd Overall.

During the fall semester, UNL fielded a junior team at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, as well as two individuals in the Senior competition. The junior team consisted of Morgan Marshall, Malcolm; Mindy Leach, Malcolm; Cassie Krueger, Lincoln; and Kelli Kwapnioski, Wayne. These four students competed against 14 other teams to bring home 4th place in Halter, 4th place in Performance, 3rd place in Reasons, and 4th place Overall. In addition, Cassie Krueger and Mindy Leach finished 7th and 14th, respectively, in Halter. Morgan Marshall and Mindy Leach both brought home top ten finishes in Performance with 6th and 9th, while Mindy, Morgan, and Cassie all finished in the top 20 in Reasons. Finally, Mindy Leach finished 9th High Individual Overall where Morgan Marshall and Cassie Krueger both followed up with top 20 placings.

In the Senior Collegiate Competition, Katy Cockerill, Granger, IN finished in the top third of all competitors in all divisions, while Mikki Schmidt, Gurley, in her first judging competition ever, finished in the top half. The Horse Judging Team is coached by Libby Lugar.
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