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Animal Science Alumni Newsletter, Summer/Fall 2009

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From the Interim Department Head’s Desk

Another school year has passed for the Animal Science Department at UNL and with it came many successes and awards for our faculty, staff and students. In this newsletter, you will find articles featuring our faculty and student accomplishments in all phases of our work here at UNL — extension, teaching and research. We have much to be proud of — a growing student body, significant research accomplishments, and important extension impacts. The Department of Animal Science at UNL continues to refine its mission to reach out to our stakeholders in the livestock and poultry sectors of Nebraska, the Midwest and throughout the country in important program areas such as Beef Systems, Swine Nutrition, Genetics and Reproduction, Meats, Basic Reproduction and Genetics. Our faculty are busy putting together a “Beef Excellence Initiative” plan for our Department and the University statewide to be the National leader in Beef Research, Extension and Teaching well into the future. During these tough economic times, we are seriously reviewing our priorities as a department and our commitment to the industries we serve. How we serve these industries is constantly changing with new technologies and regionalization of programs such as the Midwest Poultry Consortium and the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence. Faculty and students benefit from these program changes and hopefully our alumni and clientele will also realize the benefits of such changes.

Summer time here in the Department finds us busy with youth activities: a Livestock Judging Camp, PASE, State Livestock Judging Competition, District and State 4-H Horse Shows, Scientific Meetings, and many other important youth activities. I hope you can attend one of these activities as alumni of UNL Animal Science and talk to youth about the careers and opportunities for students in Animal Science. Our 09-10 pre-enrollment figures look strong for Animal Science and we appreciate your sustained efforts to assist with recruitment. Yet, we need everyone’s continued help with recruitment as we head into a challenging future of decreased high school graduates in the State of Nebraska. If you are interested in helping a potential student get to know more about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact our offices for information. We want to work together for a bright future for our industries, students and alumni.

This is the last time I’ll be writing an article as Interim Department Head and I would like to thank all of you for your support, guidance and assistance during the past 2 years. I am anxious to resume full-time activities as a Professor in our Department and look forward to a continued relationship with many of you well into the future.

Kind Regards,
Sheila Scheideler

Student Activities

Block & Bridle Club

2009 Block & Bridle Honoree

Family: Wife: Darla
Children: Chad, Tara

The University of Nebraska Block and Bridle Club takes great pride in honoring Mr. Homer Buell as our 2009 Honoree. Homer is the fourth-generation co-owner of the Shovel Dot Ranch near Rose, Nebraska. He has been an advocate for agriculture and the cattle industry by serving in leadership roles in trade organizations as well as testifying on behalf of the University before the Unicameral. Homer has been a strong supporter of youth activities and has worked with the University for the benefit of our students and research programs.

The Shovel Dot Ranch Homer co-owns with his brother, Larry, was founded in 1883 by Homer’s great grandfather Benjamin Franklin Buell. He was a cigar maker and school teacher from Michigan who passed through the Sandhills on his way to Washington State. After working as a bookkeeper for a logging company in Washington, he came back to the Sandhills and homesteaded. This was only the beginning, as the ranch has expanded with each generation to its present size of 25,000 acres.
Benjamin continued to operate the ranch until the 1920s when he passed on ownership to his son, Homer L. Buell. Homer L. passed on the ranch to his son Barney in the 1940s, who managed the ranch until he, in turn, passed it on to his sons, including our Honoree, Homer, in the 1970s. Today, Homer and his brother, Larry, co-operate the Shovel Dot in a partnership, but they are looking to pass it on to their children and grandchildren.

The Shovel Dot Ranch is a 1,400 head cow/calf and yearling operation that uses a cross of Hereford and Angus cattle. Homer informed Block & Bridle members that he looks at his role as a cattle producer - not just a rancher, but a grass farmer. By carefully managing the grass resources on the Shovel Dot, cattle can graze nearly year around and, thereby, consume less harvested forage.

Homer graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1971 with a degree in Business Administration. He went to college originally looking to become a lawyer, but decided that he wanted to return home to the family ranch. He credits much of his success on the ranch to the principles he learned in business management.

Homer’s involvement in trade organizations, as well as many other organizations, has been a great asset to agriculture. He has served in many leadership positions for our state such as President of the Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Hereford Association. He has served at the national level in the American Hereford Association and as a member of the Board for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

The University of Nebraska Block and Bridle Club thanks Homer for his efforts in promoting agriculture and helping the youth of Nebraska. We are proud to name him our 2009 Honoree!

Rick Rasby

Other Block and Bridle Activities

The Block and Bridle Club recognized club member with awards that were presented at the annual Block and Bridle Banquet held on April 24, 2009. Receiving the Outstanding Initiate award was Kayla Peterson, Nebraska City. Jared Williams, Fairbury, received the Outstanding Sophomore Award and the Mike Cull Activities Award. Receiving the Junior Activity Award was Matt Dolch, Villisci, IA, and Andrew Uden, Lexington, was recognized with the Outstanding Junior Scholarship Award. McKenzie Chambers, Platteville, CO, received the Senior Workhorse Award. Jake Geis, Newcastle, received the Senior Scholarship-Parr Young Merit Award.

Rick Rasby

The Block and Bridle Club sent four members to the National Block and Bridle Convention in San Antonio, Texas, February 12 through the 14, 2009. Members attending were Stephanie Bryant, Anna Geis, Jake Geis, and Jessalyn Schrock. Students listened to speakers from across the nation about the importance of agriculture and animal agriculture in the United States. The keynote speaker was Trent Loos from Nebraska. They also had the chance to see Texas agriculture up close while out touring different parts of Texas. Highlights of the tours included the Circle Y Saddle Factory of Yoakum, TX, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the San Antonio Livestock Show. While in San Antonio, students took in the sights and sounds of the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. They also had the opportunity to explore San Antonio and the Riverwalk. Also attending was Justin Bundy, Non-Ruminant Graduate Student.

The 75th Annual Animal Science Block and Bridle Honors Banquet held Friday, April 24, 2009, at the East Campus Union. Two hundred twenty guests, students, and faculty enjoyed the grilled sirloin and chicken entrees. Powerpoints were run of the Club’s yearly activities and Garret Koester was Master of Ceremonies. The special presentation of the evening was made to Mr. Homer Buell, Bassett, who was selected the 2009 Honoree, and pictures and response followed. Many students were recognized for awards and scholarships. Student awards and scholarships are posted on the Animal Science Department’s web site. The evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Nancy Savery

Companion Animal Club

SEECA: Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals

With one full year completed, SEECA has had a successful first year. The organization was put in place to provide an opportunity for students with an interest in companion and exotic animals to become acquainted with one another as well as to improve knowledge and understanding of these animals.

They put on a dog training class which prepared nine dog/handler teams to be ready for their Canine Good Citizen test. The club asked dog trainer Jill Morstad to conduct the class while the club members attended all classes and were aids to the trainer in any way that was needed. The students learned the basics of dog training and plan on putting on a dog training class each semester for the public. Along with the dog training class, they also found time to volunteer at the Dog Expo at the Lancaster Event Center.

The first year has been a building year and they hope to expand even more next year with more volunteer events and bringing in more speakers at the monthly meetings.

The 2009–2010 officers for SEECA are as follows:

President — Kristin Norwood, Kearney
Vice President — Allison Leimer, Mead
Treasurer — Laura Murray, La Vista
Secretary — Amanda Young, Holdrege
Service Chair — Allie Knoell, Crete
Historian — Becky Zelada, Lincoln
Faculty Advisor — Lisa Karr-Lilienthal

Lisa Karr-Lilienthal
**Student Teams**

**Meats Judging Team**

The 2009 UNL Junior Meat Judging Team coached by Ace VanDeWalle and Derek Schroeder competed at the National Western Meat Judging Contest in Greeley, CO; Southwestern Meat Judging Contest in Forth Worth, TX; and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Houston, TX. Team members include: Jared Williams, Broken Bow; Jessica Cornelius, Madrid; Dan Leiser, Grand Island; Lisa Watermeier, Burr; Spencer Bolte, McCool Junction; Jessica Clowser, Milford; Kyle Clymer, David City; Tacy Langemeier, Stromsburg; Elizabeth Wilhelm, Falls City; and Emily Arkfeld, Dunbar.

At the National Western, the team finished 6th in Specifications, 4th in Lamb Judging, 5th in Pork Judging, 2nd in Total Placings, 5th in Reasons, 1st in Beef Judging, and 6th Overall. Individually, Emily Arkfeld was 12th in Specifications and 13th in Reasons. Jessica Cornelius was 11th in Beef Judging. Dan Leiser was 5th in Lamb and Beef Judging, 7th in Placings and 9th in Reasons. Lisa Watermeier was 12th in Beef Judging and 10th in Placings. In the alternate division, Jared Williams finished 9th and Jessica Clowser finished 12th.

The team finished 4th Overall in the Southwestern contest, placing 3rd in Specifications, 3rd in Beef Grading, 6th in Beef Judging, 4th in Overall Beef, 6th in Lamb Judging, 5th in Pork Judging, and 5th in Total Placing. Individually, Dan Leiser was 5th Overall, placing 3rd in Beef Grading, 4th in Overall Beef, 4th in Pork Judging, and 11th in Placings. Lisa Watermeier was 9th in Lamb Judging, 11th in Pork Judging, and 12th in Total Placing. Jared Williams was 5th in Specifications. Jessica Cornelius finished 15th Overall. In the alternate division, Tacy Langemeier finished 11th, Jessica Clowser was 12th, and Emily Arkfeld was 13th.

Nineteen teams representing 12 different universities competed in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest. Schools were able to enter two teams,

**2009 Junior Meats Judging Team**

**Horse Judging Team**

Members of the current team prepared diligently for the first contest of the season in Fort Worth, TX. On April 21, 2009, the University of Nebraska Horse Judging Team competed at

**2009 Senior Meats Judging Team**

respectively. The University of Nebraska was represented by the UNL Red team and the UNL White team. The UNL Red team finished 7th Overall, placing 4th in Beef Grading, 4th in Beef Judging, 3rd in Overall Beef, and 7th in Reasons. The UNL White team finished 10th Overall, placing 7th in Specs, 8th in Lamb Judging, 8th in Pork Judging, and 5th in Total Placing.

Individually, Jessica Clowser placed 18th in Beef Judging and 15th in Overall Beef. Jessica Cornelius placed 4th in Beef Judging and 16th in Reasons. Lisa Watermeier was 11th in Beef Grading. Jared Williams was 7th in Beef Grading, 6th in Overall Beef, and 20th in Total Placing. Spencer Bolte placed 19th in Specs, and 15th in Total Placing. Tacy Langemeier placed 19th in Total Placing. This was the team’s last spring contest.

**2009 Horse Judging Team**

Back Row: Dennis Burson (advisor), Jeff Epp, Derek Schroeder
Front Row: Shelia Scheideler (interim department head), McKenzie Chambers, Jessalyn Schrock, Ace VanDeWalle (coach).

Back Row: Hali Jorgensen, Aleah German, Paige Moser
Front Row: Heath Weichel, Kim Behrends, Maria Cammack, Adam Pinkerton
the Paint Horse Sweepstakes in Fort Worth, TX. The team was represented very well for the first competition of the year. Hali Jorgensen led the team overall with a 13th place finish out of 125 contestants.

In Halter, the team finished 6th. Individually, Hali Jorgensen finished 11th Overall. In Performance, the team finished 14th. Individually, Maria Cammack finished 26th. In Oral Reasons, the team finished 11th. Individually, Hali Jorgensen was 11th. Overall the team finished 11th out of 24 teams. This marks the team's highest finish at the Sweepstakes since 2005.

Looking to the fall semester, the team looks forward to improving their skills and team awards by traveling to the All American Quarter Horse Congress, AQHA World Horse Show and the NRHA Futurity for further competition.

The team is coached by Matt Ellicott and assisted by Lori Jaixen.

2008-2009 Livestock Judging Teams

On November 17, 2008, 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 2008 team. Shantille Kruse was named Honorable Mention to the All-American Team. In Performance Sheep judging, the team finished 3rd and individually, Annie Doerr finished 25th. In Swine judging, the team finished 15th. In Cattle judging, the team was 10th. In Reasons, the team finished 12th. Overall, the team finished 12th out of 27 teams. Kyle Dorn led the team with a 34th place finish. Other team members finishing their judging careers include: Garret Koester, Roger Morgan, Tony Roubal and Jason Warner.

The 2009 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team has had a great spring with many individual awards and two team contest wins. Team members include McKenzie Chambers, Mead, CO; Stacey Guthard, Litchfield; Shellie Intermill, Alliance; Trey Kellner, Stockton, KS; Clint Mickey, Aurora; Tom Murphy, Elkhorn; Jay Nordhausen, Ogallala; Mitch Novacek, Schuyler; Todd Ostermiller, La Grange, WY; Carrie Saur, Gillette, WY; Jason Star, North Platte.

On January 16, 2009, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. This served as the first national contest for the 2009 team. UNL was well represented with several top finishes. In Sheep judging, the team finished 5th. Jay Nordhausen finished 5th Overall. In Swine judging, the team finished 6th. Individually, Jay Nordhausen finished 6th. In Cattle judging, the team finished 6th. Individually, Shellie Intermill was 5th Overall and Jay Nordhausen placed 9th in Beef Reasons. In Oral Reasons, the team finished 6th. Individually, Jay Nordhausen placed 9th and Shellie Intermill placed 11th Overall. Overall, the team finished 5th out of 23 schools. This accomplishment marks the first time UNL has placed in the top five Overall at the National Western in more than 17 years. Jay Nordhausen led the team with a 5th place finish and Shellie Intermill placed 6th out of 112 total contestants. In the carload contest, five UNL students had a great day placing pens of cattle. Stacey Guthard led the team with a 17th place finish and Tom Murphy was 23rd out of 112 contestants. Overall, the team finished 5th out of 23 schools in the carload contest.

On January 31, 2009, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Sioux Empire Farm Show in Sioux Falls, SD. UNL recorded a second straight top five finish in as many contests. In Sheep judging, the team finished 3rd. Individually, Trey Kellner tied for 10th High Individual Overall. In Swine judging, the team finished 4th. Individually, Trey Kellner finished 10th High Individual Overall. In Cattle judging, the team finished 6th. Individually, McKenzie Chambers finished 11th High Individual Overall. In Oral Reasons, the team finished 3rd. Individually, Trey Kellner placed 8th and Shellie Intermill placed 11th Overall. Overall, the team finished 5th, Jay Nordhausen led the team placing 8th and McKenzie Chambers was 15th High Individual Overall.

On February 8th, 2009, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Iowa Beef Expo in Des Moines, IA. Todd Ostermiller led the team in Placings, posting an impressive

Senior Livestock Judging Team

Back Row: Annie Doerr, Matt Ellicott (coach/faculty), Garret Koester, Kyle Dorn, Shantille Kruse
Front Row: Roger Morgan, Ben Williams (assistant coach), Sheila Scheideler (Interim Department Head), Jason Warner, Tony Roubal

Junior Livestock Judging Team

Back Row: Stacey Guthard, Mitch Novacek, Jason Star, Jay Nordhausen, Trey Kellner, Tom Murphy
Front Row: Clint Mickey, Shellie Intermill, Todd Ostermiller, McKenzie Chambers, Carrie Saur
478 points out of a possible 500. This performance paved the way to UNL being named Champion Team at the 2009 Iowa Beef Expo. In addition to Todd, Trey Kellner finished 16th in Placings and the team finished 1st Overall in Placings. In Reasons, the team had a consistent day placing four members in the top 20. Shellie Internmill was 11th, Todd Ostermiller was 13th, Jay Nordhausen was 15th and Trey Kellner was 19th. In Reasons, the team was 4th. Todd Ostermiller led the team with a 2nd place Overall Individual finish and Trey Kellner was 13th Overall.

On February 21st, the UNL Livestock Judging Team competed at the 2nd Annual Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic livestock judging contest. UNL had a contest leading performance collecting the top two spots in the senior college division. In Placings, McKenzie Chambers was 1st, Jay Nordhausen was 3rd, Todd Ostermiller was 4th, Mitch Novacek was 5th and Trey Kellner was 10th. In Reasons, Jay Nordhausen was 1st, Todd Ostermiller was 2nd, Trey Kellner was 3rd, Shellie Internmill was 4th, McKenzie Chambers was 5th, Jason Star was 9th and Tom Murphy was 10th. Overall, Jay Nordhausen was the High Individual, Todd Ostermiller was 2nd, McKenzie Chambers was 3rd, Trey Kellner was 4th, and Mitch Novacek was 7th. The two teams both finished 1st and 2nd in Placings and Reasons, respectively, paving the way to being named Champion and Reserve Champion Teams.

On March 18, 2009, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Houston Livestock Stock Show & Rodeo in Houston, TX. This served as the final spring contest for the 2009 team. UNL was well represented with several top finishes in Sheep judging, the team finished 4th. Individually, Trey Kellner finished 5th and Todd Ostermiller finished 7th Overall. In Swine judging, the team finished 14th. In Goat judging, the team finished 2nd. In Cattle judging, the team finished 8th. Individually, Todd Ostermiller finished 10th and Trey Kellner was 13th Overall. In Oral Reasons, the team finished 8th. Individually, Todd Ostermiller placed 25th. Overall, the team finished 11th. Trey Kellner led the team with a 20th place finish and Todd Ostermiller placed 24th Overall out of 150 contestants.

The team members and I are looking forward to the contests coming up in the fall. Without question, these accomplishments listed would not be possible without the support of others. We would like to thank all producers, supporters and contributors of the UNL Livestock Judging Team including the Kimmel Foundation, Nebraska Farm Bureau Services Inc., the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Research and Education Foundation, and numerous others who make it possible to have this great program.

The team is coached by Matt Ellicott.

Equestrian Team

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Equestrian Team was regional champions in Zone 7, Region 1 of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). In addition, Mindy Leach of Malcolm finished as regional high point rider and Megan Boone of Ashland finished the year as the region’s reserve high point rider. As the regional high point rider, Mindy continued on to IHSA National Finals and competed against the top rider from each of the 21 other regions.

Through the regular season competition, riders compete individually to earn points to qualify for regional competition, and designated riders earn points towards the team qualifying for regionals. Riders placing in the top two of their class at regionals as well as the regional championship team qualified for Semi-Nationals held at West Texas A & M University in Canyon, TX. This year, seven team members qualified as individual competitors for Semi-Nationals along with the team qualifying. The team finished a strong fourth place, one spot away from continuing on to Nationals.

Teams are comprised of riders of all different experience levels from beginner riders who have never shown horses to open riders who have competed at a national level. Riders do not need their own horses. Teams show at events hosted by member schools where each school provides the horses to be used in the event and the rider draws a horse at random. This tests the riders’ ability to adapt to different horses and evaluates their horsemanship skills. Currently, the UNL team competes in only the western riding division, but looks to expand to an English riding team for next season. An informational meeting about joining the team will be held on September 1 in the East Campus Union with tryouts in the UNL Animal Science Complex on September 2 and 3. The team is open to any currently enrolled UNL undergraduate student. Student team members practice their riding skills each week, host IHSA shows in both the fall and spring semesters, and are responsible for fundraising to offset the costs of their travel expenses when they attend shows.

The 2008-2009 team members include: Natalie Becher, Platte Center; Alix Benoit, Grand Rapids, MI; Megan Boone, Ashland; Megan Brincks, Litterdale, IA; Samantha Cajka, Lincoln; Maria Cammack, Lincoln; Courtney Carter, McCook; Kim Corradi, Phillips; Shannon Cosgrove, Lincoln; Tamara Cullen, Sycamore, IL; Cally Frahm, Oakland; Maggie Holub, Scribner; Kelsey Horner, Kearney; Lindsey Horner, Kearney; Hali Jorgensen, Omaha; Bailey Kobs, Blair; Mindy Leach, Malcolm; Monique Lemon, Omaha; Haze Locke, Walton;
Paige Moser, Bennet; Cassie Sell, Lincoln; Gweneth Talley, Crete; Shawna Tibbetts, Palmer; Lauren Waller, Lincoln; Alicia Wittwer, Dawson; and Molly Wolfe, Palmer.

If you are interested in learning more about the UNL Equestrian team or ways you can support the team, please contact Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or 402-472-6458.

**Beef Merchandising Class**

The UNL bull sale, held every spring, merchandises approximately 40 bulls, in addition to those sold to other UNL herds, to commercial producers. This event, made possible by the teaching herd resources at ARDC, supplies solid genetic resources to commercial producers in Nebraska and surrounding states, provides a unique educational experience for students, and an opportunity to educate producers about breeding practices and tools for genetic improvement. The Beef Cattle Merchandising class is responsible for all facets of the sale including advertising, preparation of the bulls, putting together the sale catalog, and conducting the sale. The class also benefits from multiple invited speakers during the semester representing seedstock producers who share their knowledge and experiences with the students.

*Dr. Matt Spangler, Instructor*

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**Ambassadors**

It has been a busy year, filled with mailings, events, tours and school visits for the Animal Science Ambassadors! This group of students serves the Animal Science Department by helping with recruitment efforts. During the 2008-2009 academic year, Amanda Pflasterer (junior in the pre-veterinary medicine option from Grand Island, NE) and Jessalyn Schrock (junior in the production and management option from Bennett, NE) were second-year ambassadors. Maria Lewis (junior in the companion animal option from Arko, ID) and Emily Arkfeld (sophomore in the meat science option from Dunbar, NE) were first-year ambassadors.

Among the group’s most ambitious projects were the Animal Science Internship Fair and Overnight and the “Animal Science News”. The 27 high school students who attended the 6th Annual Internship Fair and Overnight were able to meet current students and faculty, learn about career areas in animal industries, enjoy a friendly match at Lanes & Games Bowling in the East Campus Union, spend the night in the dorms and attend a special session of the Introduction to Animal Science course. These students really got a first hand glimpse of what they can look forward to as a UNL Animal Science student! The 2009 Animal Science Overnight promises to once again be a great event for prospective students, and will be held during the fall semester. The “Animal Science News” is a publication created by the Animal Science Ambassadors to keep high school students up-to-date on current events in the Animal Science Department. For archives go to [http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/undergraduate/prospective.html](http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/undergraduate/prospective.html). Look for new issues to come out this year during the fall and spring semesters!

The Ambassadors are looking forward to another great year for 2009-2010. Brandon Sorensen (junior in the production and management option from Harvard, NE) and Molly Wolfe (sophomore in the equine science option from Palmer, NE) will join Maria and Emily on the Ambassador team. We hope to see you at an event or have you for a visit to the Animal Science Department in the near future!
New Faculty

Dr. Karla (Hollingsworth) Jenkins joined the faculty at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center in Scottsbluff on July 1, 2009. She is the new Range Management Cow/Calf Specialist at the rank of Assistant Professor of Animal Science. Karla will provide leadership for range management research and extension programs in western Nebraska focused on range resource use and sustainable livestock production on rangelands.

Karla previously held the position of Assistant Research Scientist with Texas AgriLife Research in Bushland, Texas, where her responsibilities included managing the research feedlot, overseeing the research program, managing herd health and native and annual pasture resources, coordinating federal and state research endeavors, and training graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Jenkins is a native of Claude, Texas, and received her B.S. in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M University. She also has ties with Nebraska where she received her M.S. and Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition in 1992 and 1994, respectively. After graduation, Karla served a few years as Assistant Professor of Animal Science at the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Deb Hamernik is helping to lead the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) as Associate Dean, since joining the University of Nebraska in April, 2009. Dr. Gary Cunningham, ARD Dean, said Hamernik will help UNL build on its stature as an internationally recognized research and education institution by boosting efforts to attract external research funding, particularly from federal agencies. She will also play a key role in promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among units, tracking accountability for ARD research and helping with faculty development. Dr. Hamernik’s appointment also carries the rank of Professor of Animal Science and includes a small teaching FTE to give her opportunity to teach Animal Science undergraduate and graduate courses.

Hamernik, a native of Columbus, Nebraska, previously held the position of National Program Leader (Animal Physiology) in the Plant & Animal Systems Unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). She has also served as USDA’s Program Director for the National Research Initiative’s (NRI) Bovine Genome Sequencing and Porcine Genome Sequencing competitive grants programs as well as the NRI Animal Reproduction and Animal Growth, Development and Nutrient Utilization competitive grants programs. Deb also was a scientific review administrator with the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review where she administered study sections for Biochemical Endocrinology and SBIR applications dealing with endocrine-based therapies for human diseases. She also held faculty positions at the University of Arizona and UNL where she trained graduate students and conducted research to understand endocrine regulation of gene expression in the reproductive system. Funding for her research was supported by grants from the USDA-CSREES-NRI.

Hamernik received a B.S. degree in Animal Science from UNL, an M.S. in Animal Science from Washington State University and a Ph.D. in Reproductive Endocrinology from Colorado State University.

Emeriti Faculty

Catching Up with Abe Aberle (UNL Animal Science Department Head from 1983-1998)

Last February, Carrie and I spent three weeks in Hawaii, on the big island of Hawaii. It was great! Warm all the time, mostly sunny, little rain, lots of golf, sitting on the patio in a tee shirt, shorts and bare feet, watching whales from the patio. What a life! Then we returned to Madison, Wisconsin, to wait for it to warm up! By the time we returned from Hawaii, Madison had received 58 inches of snow and winter was not yet over! We also spent two weeks in Florida with Carrie’s sister. This retired life is really tough!

Have I been doing anything professionally? Just a bit, but only what I want to do.

The Animal Sciences Department here at the University of Wisconsin drafted me to coordinate the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame. Dennis Buege, the meat extension specialist, was doing it when he retired three years ago. Then he developed lung cancer and died in just a few months. Some of us retirees have picked it up so the department did not have to saddle a new faculty member with it right away. It looks like I have another couple years to go before handing it over.

For the past three years (at least, maybe more), I have been on the National Research Council committee that is doing an assessment of research doctorate programs in the U.S. The National Research Council has been doing these studies about every decade. They have never included the agricultural sciences in past studies, but this time they decided to do so at the urging of the deans of agriculture across the country. I ended up on a committee to re-design the methodology for a study of research doctorate programs in 2000-03. Then I agreed to be on the committee to actually do the study. That has taken more than three years. We are winding it up now and it will be published in the near future.
In January, 2008, I began working with KANSAS WHEAT (a combination of the Kansas Wheat Board and the Kansas Wheat Growers Association) and Kansas State University on the planning and design of a Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design. They got a planning grant in late 2007 from the Kansas Biosciences Authority to plan an innovation center for genetic design of plants, concentrating on grain sorghum and wheat. My role was coordinator of the planning process to design the Center and submit a large grant to the Kansas Biosciences Authority to actually fund the center for five years. How did an animal guy end up with a bunch of plant scientists?? It was interesting, to say the least, and a bit frustrating at times. The agriculture dean and director at Kansas State, Fred Cholick, talked me into getting involved. The final grant proposal was submitted last February and I am finished with the whole process.

Abe Aberle

Awards and Recognitions

Faculty

Dennis Brink — University of Nebraska–Lincoln Parents Association/Teaching Council Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students.
Chris Calkins — North American Meat Processors Association Harry L. Rudnick Educator’s Award.
Galen Erickson — Midwest Section of American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association Young Researcher Award.
Galen Erickson — American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award.
Terry Klopfenstein — American Society of Animal Science Morrison Award.
Phil Miller — Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources Holling Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.
Bryan Reiling — North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teacher Fellow Award.

Students

In order to reduce the length of this Newsletter, the student awards are not included. Go to the Animal Science Web page for a complete listing of student awards and scholarships.

Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty

Dr. Steve Waller, Dean of the College of Ag Sciences & Natural Resources, had the opportunity to speak at an emeriti faculty luncheon and was reminded of the willing participants and rich resource emeriti can be in the College. As a result, CASNR emeriti were made honorary life members of the College Alumni Association. Additionally, the Dean initiated an annual College-wide departmental award sponsored by the College and the Alumni Association to recognize the unit most involved in engaging emeriti faculty. The Animal Science Department was recipient of the inaugural award that was presented during the CASNR Week Banquet on April 19, 2009.

Accepting the Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty at the April 19 CASNR Week Banquet are Earl Ellington, Sheila Scheideler, and Ted Doane.

Alumni News

Deaths

Dr. Ann Hollingsworth, age 52, of Carrollton, Georgia, passed away May 17, 2009. She was born March 6, 1957, in Carroll County, Georgia. Dr. Hollingsworth graduated with her Bachelor’s degree from Auburn University in 1979 and she received her Masters and Ph.D. in meat science from the University of Nebraska in 1981 and 1984, respectively. Upon completion of her education, she went on to be the president/owner of Better Built Foods in Carrollton, Georgia. In her short life, Ann achieved great success in her career. She held administrative positions in the meat industry and served in a number of important roles in the American Meat Science Association, including leading the organization as their first female President. Ann will be missed greatly by all those who knew her.

Thad Ita, age 43, was tragically killed on May 30, 2009, in a vehicular accident near Broken Bow that also took the lives of his son and wife. Thad received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska in 1989. During his college years, Thad was a member of the Horse Judging Team and the Rodeo Club.

Vance Uden passed away on April 18, 2009. The next time you hear a new-born calf bawl or see cattle in green pastures, think of Vance. He will be doing this right beside you from heaven’s green pastures. Vance was born May 21, 1940, in Bruning, Nebraska, and purchased his first Angus heifer at age 12. From then on through his teenage years, he faithfully waited by the mail box for his Angus Journal. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.S. degree in Animal Science. While in college, he was on the livestock judging team, which
had a major impact on his life. In 1963, he married Constance Sterner and moved to Franklin, Nebraska, where he continued his love for cattle and established the TC Ranch. For Vance, TC stood for Total Commitment. He thoroughly enjoyed his work and never planned to retire, always striving to produce better cattle. He was a strong supporter of youth, and helped many get their start in the Angus business. Vance’s passing has left a bereaving family and extended family of worldwide cattle friends.

Updates

Joseph Baumert, B.S. ’01, M.S. ’04 — Since receiving an M.S. in Animal Science, there have been quite a few changes in his career. In December, 2008, Joe received his Ph.D. from UNL (area of specialization was food allergies). In January, 2009, he became a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Food Science & Technology working with Steve Taylor conducting research that dealt with determination of threshold doses for peanut and aspects of risk assessment for the food industry. His postdoc was short lived, however, lasting only until May 31. In April, Joe interviewed for a vacant faculty position in Food Science & Technology specializing in food allergen research, was extended an offer and, as of June 1, became an Assistant Professor in the Department. His appointment involves areas of research, extension, and teaching. Things have been quite busy the last few months and look to stay that way for some time, but Joe loves the challenge that lies ahead.

Betsy Booren, M.S. ’02 — Named Director of Scientific Affairs for the American Meat Institute Foundation.

Bucky Gwartney, M.S. ’90, Ph.D. ’93 — After “10 great years with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association,” Bucky accepted a position in Washington, D.C., with the USDA-Ag Marketing Services as an Ag Marketing Specialist where his responsibilities have an international focus as well as various issues/projects within the Standard, Analysis & Technology Branch.

Larry Hand, Ph.D. ’86 — Director of Process Improvement, Tyson Foods, received the 2009 American Meat Science Association Meat Processing Award.

Jim Pillen, B.S. ’83 — Owner of Progressive Swine Technologies headquartered in Columbus, Nebraska, was recipient of the CASNR Alumni Association’s Achievement Award presented at the CASNR Week Banquet on April 19, 2009.

Jerry Reeves, Ph.D. ’69 — Animal Science Emeritus Professor from Washington State University, received the 2009 American Society of Animal Science L.E. Casida Award which recognizes excellence in the education of graduate and/or post-doctoral students to conduct research in the area of reproductive physiology and endocrinology.

Willard Waldo, B.S. ’34 — Along with Waldo Farms, was inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame on February 5, 2009, in recognition of his long-term commitment to growing the pork industry and to agriculture, in general.

Roger Wehrbein, B.S. ’60 — Former State Senator who served 20 years in the Nebraska Legislature and family farmer, was named Nebraskan of the Year by the Rotary Clubs of Nebraska and was honored at a luncheon in Lincoln on January 20, 2009.

Katherine (Kit) Powell Wijnstein, B.S. is in Business Administration (’83) but Kit is a Block & Bridle alum! Her husband, two sons, and she live in Ashburn, Virginia. She was recently promoted to Senior Recruiter for the Civil Sector of STG, Inc., 11710 Plaza America Drive, Suite #1200, Reston, VA 20190. Kit’s recruiting efforts cover, but are not limited to, these government agencies: Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, National Climatic Data Control (N.O.A.A.), Veteran’s Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture. If there is anyone who would like to explore opportunities with her company, please e-mail or call at: 703/691-2480, ext. 178, kitt.wijnstein@stginc.com.

50 Year Reunion Comes to the Animal Science Department

Do you remember the year 1959? Many graduated from the University of Nebraska. One of the graduates was Carolyn Hall from Bassett. She came to the University in 1955 to study Animal Science. She became a member of the Meats Judging Team in 1957.

Carolyn’s mother, Louise Genung, was on the Meats Team in 1927.

Carolyn was one of the many who visited the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources for their 50th reunion. The group toured the Animal Science Department and saw new technology and reminisced on what it is and what it was. Next year will be another opportunity to see what has happened in the last 50 years. The Animal Science Department welcomes the 1960 graduates in April to visit old and new professors as well as the new facilities which have developed since that time.

Mark your calendar for the 2010 – 50th year reunion. It will be April 2010 same day as the first home game not yet determined. Hope to see you then and here.

Ted Doane
Dalbey-Halleck Farm History

1944-Present

The Dalbey-Halleck Farm consists of all of section 35, the east 1/2 of section 26 and the northwest 1/4 of section 36 in Sherman Township of Gage County, Nebraska. The “home place” is located on the west side of quarter section 36.

From 1944 through 1958, it was known as the Dalbey Farm and consisted of the 640 acres of section 35. This section of ground was given to the University of Nebraska Foundation in January of 1944 by Dwight Stout Dalbey as a memorial to his deceased wife, Hannah Virginia Dalbey, and to her late father, Ford Lewis. The section of ground had remained untouched by the plow, and the condition of the gift of the land was to never plow, but keep as native prairie, as a remembrance of our past. The University was entitled to use the section for experimental projects. From 1944 through 1958, the Dalbey Farm was administered by the Department of Agronomy.

Due to needs for cattle research areas away from the growing city of Lincoln, the half and quarter sections were added in 1959 to make the presently known Dalbey-Halleck Farm. At this time, administration of the Farm was assumed by the Department of Animal Science. Land in Hamilton County near Nordville had previously been given to the University of Nebraska Foundation by Milo M. and Emily Halleck. Sale of this land provided the funds to purchase the additional 480 acres. The quarter of section 36 was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. George Wignall. The east half of section 26 was purchased from Aller and Pease, Inc.

This additional land was seeded to cool-season grasses to provide the balance with warm-season grasses of the Dalbey section for keeping a breeding herd of cattle at the location. The quarter section also provided the necessary buildings and the residence for the on-site manager. At this time, the unit was renamed the Dalbey-Halleck Farm to reflect the gifts of the section of native prairie by Mr. Dalbey and the other land, converted to the quarter and half sections, by Mr. and Mrs. Halleck. Without these generous gifts, the contributions to the future of Nebraska citizens by the presence and activities of the Dalbey-Halleck Farm would never have been realized.

During the years 1944-1958, the west half of the Dalbey Section was used primarily for hay studies, and the east half was rented for pasture usage. Studies on the effect of time of cutting on the yield and nutritional value of the hay were carried out for several years. Hay was trucked to East Campus for feeding studies with cattle. Botanical composition studies were also carried out on the meadow, the southwest corner of the section.

With the addition of the cool-season pastures in 1959, cattle were placed on the Farm utilizing all of the Dalbey Section for pasture, except the 90-acre meadow which was maintained for production of hay and agronomic studies. Hay produced on the Farm is used for winter feed at the Farm, but additional hay is also purchased from producers in the area to support the needs of the cow herd.

From 1959 through 1969, a selection study with Angus cattle was the primary activity at the Farm. Weaning weights increased 5.5 pounds per year; mature weights and birth weights also increased. In 1969, about three fourths of the registered Angus females were transferred to the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska. In return, 150 grade Angus heifers were transferred to the Farm. Offspring from these cows were used in growth performance and carcass studies from 1970-77. Different sexes, as well as short-scrotum (calves with testes filled-retained in the body cavity to render them sterile) bulls have been compared. Short-scrotum bulls were essentially the same as bulls in growth and carcass characteristics. The efficient growth of bulls compared to steers was demonstrated.

From 1977-87, three groups of crossbred cows that differed in level of milk production, but not in body size, were evaluated for efficiency of beef production at the Farm. The medium and high milk level cows provided 30-45 percent, respectively, more milk to their calves than the low level cows. At weaning, the calves from the high milk group averaged 37 pounds heavier than the low, and 30 pounds of this advantage was maintained to slaughter after a 280-day feeding period. Calf-crop percentages (calves weaned relative to cows exposed to breeding the previous year) were 89, 86 and 85%, respectively, for the low, medium and high milk groups. Total life-cycle evaluations of energetic and economic efficiencies favored the low and medium groups.

In 1989 the registered Angus herd was moved to the University of Nebraska Cow/Calf Unit near Mead, Nebraska. The MARC II cows that Dr. John Ward used in his research were moved to the Dalbey-Halleck Farm. Dr. Ward retired that same year and Dr. Rick Rasby began conducting research at the Dalbey-Halleck Farm. The first research project was to evaluate genetic resources to produce highly marbled, lean beef. More recent research includes evaluation of age of calf at weaning on production and economic parameters from calving to harvest and evaluation of beef systems (calf-fed and yearling, using calves from the same breeding program, from birth to harvest. With the increased availability of grain by-products from the ethanol industry, research began to determine the use of distillers grain as supplements for cows grazing corn residue in the winter and in heifer development diet.

In 1993, the first set of Angus bulls was purchased from the Animal Science Teaching Herd to use in the breeding program. In 1995, Hereford x Angus hybrid bulls were purchased from the teaching herd to use in the breeding program. In 1997, the first set of Husker Blacks (Angus and either Gelbvieh or Simmental combinations) was purchased from the teaching herd to breed to mature cows and Angus bull mated to replacement heifers.

Animal Science faculty supervisors of the Dalbey-Halleck Farm have been Prof. Vincent Arthaud (1959-77), Dr. Merlyn Nielsen (1977-89), and Dr. Rick Rasby (1989-present). The current manager of the Dalbey-Halleck Farm is Mark Dragastin; Mr. Dragastin has held this responsibility since 1985.

Rick Rasby
25 Years Ago in Animal Science...

1984 Quadrathlon Winners

The Rabbit Barn Team (Anderson, Borgelt, Katz & Reynolds)

1984 Senior Livestock Judging Team

Seated: Jeff Menke, Kendall Schlake, Scott Anderson, Marc Bauer, Paul Berger.
Standing: Dr. Aberle, Department Head, Bryce Ritz, Tim Arkfeld, Greg Crawford, Mike Sindt, Terry Maul, R.B. Warren, Coach.

1984 Dairy Judging Team

Seated: Tracy Mohr, Beth Mohr.
Standing: Randy Martinsen, Coach Dr. Eldridge, Rick Carson.

1984 Animal Science Faculty

Second Row: Elton Aberle, Department Head; Franklin Eldridge, Charles Adams, Dwight Stephens, Keith Gilster, Ernest Peo, Jr.
Fourth Row: Chris Calkins, Dwane Zimmermann, James Kinder, Robert Fritsch, Earl Gleaves, Bill Ahlschwede.
Fifth Row: Roger Kittok, Dennis Brink, Ted Doane, Tom Sullivan, Rodger Johnson, Merlyn Nielsen, Austin Lewis, Terry Klopfenstein.
Alumni Information

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 Science, 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________________________

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