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Animal Science Alumni Newsletter: Winter 2009/ Spring 2010

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Animal Science

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Winter 2009/Spring 2010

From the Department Head's Desk

Greetings! It is with great delight and anticipation that I am introducing myself as the new Marvel L. Baker Head of the Department of Animal Science at UNL. I started August 17, 2009, so this is the first opportunity to contribute to the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter. Although I have met many alumni since I arrived, I know there are many readers whom I have not met, so I would like to introduce myself.



Larry Berger

I grew up on a diversified farm near Marysville, Kansas. We had beef cattle, pigs, poultry, horses and even a family dairy cow that got milked by hand. I am the oldest of seven children and attended a one-room country school through sixth grade. Our involvement with 4-H and FFA gave me the opportunity to develop skills and interests beyond what I was exposed to on the farm. As I look back, my experiences of showing cattle and pigs, being on 4-H and FFA livestock judging teams, competing in public speaking and state parliamentary procedure contests, and being exposed to Kansas State University's Animal Science faculty were building blocks in the foundation of my professional development. I majored in Animal Science at KSU thinking I might want to be a county agent. During my senior year, I was encouraged to enroll in graduate school to get a Master's Degree, so I could apply for an area livestock extension specialist position that was going to be available. In graduate school, the opportunity to develop original and creative solutions to real-world problems was very exciting. I then decided to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska under the direction of Dr. Terry Klopfenstein. Those three years were a time of great professional and personal growth. I was then on the faculty at the University of Illinois for 31 years as a professor of beef cattle nutrition.

My wife, Sue, and I were married just before starting my Ph.D. in 1975, so we have been married for 34 years. We have been blessed with three children, a son who is a lawyer in New York City, a daughter who is a family therapist in Danville, Illinois, and our youngest son who is a senior in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois.

As the new Head, many people have asked about my goals for the Department. My overarching goal is to build on the legacy of excellence that has characterized the Department of

Animal Science. Excellence is a term that can have many definitions. I like the simple definition of doing the common in an uncommonly good way. My goal is that our teaching, research and extension programs would be characterized by excellence. Fortunately, this Department has a culture of pursuing excellence. For example, Dr. Bryan Reiling's teaching excellence was recognized by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture in granting him their Teacher Fellow Award. Dr. Terry Klopfenstein received the Morrison Award, the highest award offered by the American Society of Animal Science, for his long-term excellence in research. Dr. Galen Erickson received the American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award for his excellence in research and extension. And finally, Dr. Rick Rasby received the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Wendell Burgher Beef Industry Award for excellence in extension. These four awards, all which were received within the last year, reflect this faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching, research and extension.

Fall is an exciting time because of the energy and passion our students bring to the Department. That said, the excitement around here is unprecedented because we have the highest undergraduate enrollment ever at 275. CASNR also had a 7.1% increase, bringing the total enrollment to 1,758 students. This milestone has been accomplished, in large part, due to the support of our alumni, commodity organizations, and private individuals who have helped recruit students or have contributed to our scholarship program. We greatly appreciate the support and donations we have received from our alumni during these difficult financial times. I can assure you we are making every effort to utilize these resources wisely with the goal of maximizing the benefit to the Nebraska livestock industry. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Anita Ferrell who recently resigned her position as Recruitment Coordinator to continue her graduate studies. She did an outstanding job and will be missed. If you have a prospective student in mind, please contact the Department and our new Recruitment Coordinator will follow-up on any lead.

We are committed to developing the next generation of leaders for the livestock and poultry industries. Many of these leadership skills are developed through participation in extra-curricular activities. Our coaches, advisors, teachers, and mentors are committed to providing high-quality learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. The opportunities for students to grow professionally and personally are endless in our Department.

In summary, there are several reasons why I feel the future is bright for this Department and for Nebraska animal agriculture. First, we are dealing with the most fundamental of human



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needs, food production. Due to an increased population growth and an increased standard of living, we will need to double our food production in the next 50 years. Secondly, Nebraska has been blessed with the natural resources, resulting in a competitive advantage with the rest of the High Plains. Water will become an increasingly prized commodity that will limit livestock production in many low-rainfall areas of the U.S. Nebraska already has the processing plants, highways, railroads and other infrastructure needed to continue to be the leading red meat producing state in the Nation. Another reason I am optimistic is that this Department has and will continue to develop technologies that create synergies benefiting all of Nebraska agriculture. For example, the utilization of distiller grain and gluten feed is beneficial to beef, dairy, pork, and poultry producers, to ethanol plants, to corn growers and, ultimately, to consumers. I believe there already exists, and we can continue to foster, an attitude of cooperation and mutual support between the commodity groups, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the State's regulatory agencies with the ultimate goal of helping animal agriculture grow and prosper in this state in an environmentally sustainable manner. And, finally, I am optimistic because of each of you alumni and the excellence you bring to your leadership roles. This bodes well for the future of this Department, this College, and all of Nebraska agriculture. I truly believe our best days do lie ahead of us.

If you are ever in Lincoln, I would be delighted to meet you. My door is always open.

Larry L. Berger
Marvel L. Baker Head
Department of Animal Science

The Marvel L. Baker Head of Animal Science

The Marvel L. Baker Head, Department of Animal Science, is supported by an endowment generously created by Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Ardis) James of Chappaqua, NY, to commemorate the life of Marvel Baker and his contributions to the University of Nebraska and Animal Science. Dr. Baker (1895-1977) began his career in Nebraska in 1924 as an Instructor at the institution that is today's Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Subsequently, he served as Animal Husbandman at the North Platte Experiment Station, Professor of Animal Science (Lincoln), Assistant and Associate Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Dean of the University of Nebraska Group in Turkey where the University of Erzurum, Turkey, was established under his leadership. Baker participated in developing North Central Regional projects in swine and beef cattle breeding and beef breeding projects at Fort Robinson and the U.S. Meat Animal



Marvel L. Baker

Research Center at Clay Center. He also served his profession in a leadership role when he was elected President of the American Society of Animal Science in 1953. Although Baker retired in 1962, he is still recognized as a pioneer contributor to the UNL Animal Science Department and to Nebraska's agricultural industries. Baker was a dedicated teacher, researcher, and administrator and was widely respected for his integrity and sound judgment. Mrs. Ardis James worked for Baker at UNL after graduating from high school, and he was a positive force in her experience at the University of Nebraska.

Faculty Activities

Current Faculty

Donald G. Levis will retire on January 31, 2010, after serving 34 years as an Extension Swine Specialist at the University of Nebraska, The Ohio State University and North Carolina State University. Dr. Levis was born in Chariton, Iowa. He received a B.S. degree (Agriculture) in 1971 from Northeast Missouri State University, an M.S. degree (Animal Science) in 1972 from Northwest Missouri State University and Ph.D. degree (Reproductive Physiology) in 1976 from South Dakota State. He spent a sabbatical in Australia conducting research in reproductive physiology at the Victorian Institute of Animal Science (Werribee, Victoria), and Western Australian Department of Agriculture (Perth, Western Australia). While at Nebraska his major job was to provide educational support in the subject matter area of swine reproductive physiology to the pork industry. He is nationally and internationally known for designing the LEVIS Swine Breeding facility and his work with artificial insemination (A.I.) of pigs. His educational information on breeding facility design, A.I., and reproductive management of the breeding herd has gained state, national and international exposure through published articles and pork industry meetings. Dr. Levis has traveled to many foreign countries to present seminars and conduct farm visits. He published many extension articles on A.I. and reproductive management of pigs. He personally designed numerous swine breeding facilities for individual pork producers. During his tenure at Nebraska he received the Distinguished Extension Specialist Award from the University of Nebraska in 1988, the Dedicated Service to Pork Industry from the Nebraska Pork Producers Association in 1988, the Livestock Service Award from the University of Nebraska in 1991 and 1994, and in 1998 he received the Extension Award from the American Society of Animal Science. He published many articles in trade journals, proceedings and other extension publications. He will continue affiliation with the Department and University as Professor Emeritus of Animal Science.



Donald G. Levis

UNL-developed Idea Introduced into Animal Science Class 3D Teaching

Anyone who has seen a 3D movie recently knows how much more intense the experience can be compared with a traditional flat-screen film. Now, UNL has taken that premise and applied it to the classroom.

Fall semester of 2009, UNL animal science students were the first to use a sophisticated, interactive computer program designed to help them understand the intricate elements of bovine anatomy — in three dimensions.

“We’ve created a virtual instrument to study and reinforce our lessons (in meat science),” said Steven Jones, a UNL Animal Science professor whose 200-level course, Animal Products, relies upon detailed visuals of dozens of bovine muscles. “For this class, and for this subject, I think we’ve built a nearly perfect tool.”

When students arrive for Jones’ twice-weekly course in the two-story auditorium in the Animal Science Complex on East Campus, they’re handed a pair of 50-cent cardboard glasses similar to the ones used in many of today’s 3D movies. With lights dimmed, a big screen at the front of the room glows with a blurry, rotating image of a beef carcass. A navigation bar, featuring the names of dozens of bovine muscles, is on the left side of the screen.



Students in Steven Jones’ Animal Products course use 3D glasses during a lecture on Oct. 8. Jones, an Animal Science professor, developed the technology with Vishal Singh, a multimedia design specialist, and others in UNL’s Communications and Instructional Technology team. Photo by Craig Chandler/University communications.

As students’ glasses go on, they witness giant red-meat muscles coming off the carcass and floating in the air before them. As he lectures, Jones clicks and drags a computer mouse over the images — allowing him to rotate, flip or zoom in on the carcass, isolate specific muscles and bring them into three-dimensional life from endless angles and perspectives. With another click of the mouse, information about the muscle appears on the screen. Up to 80 muscles are featured, from rump roasts to rib-eyes. All appear close enough — and realistic enough — to touch.

“The first time we used the program in a class setting, we literally had students reaching out into the air toward the screen,” Jones said. “That’s when we knew (this interface) had a lot of potential as a powerful teaching tool.” Jones said the interactive 3D experience will help students better recognize where cuts of meat are located, making them more comfortable as they move

into a real-life lab setting where they are responsible for cutting certain muscles from a carcass. “Now, before (students) even set foot into the lab, they’ll have a foundation of knowledge they just didn’t have before,” he said.

The classroom feature is an offshoot of the department’s well-established Bovine Myology and Muscle Profiling Web site (<http://bovine.unl.edu>). Created by Jones, Vishal Singh, a multimedia design specialist and others within UNL’s Communications and Instructional Technology team, the site charted and illustrated the various muscle and bone structures of a beef carcass.



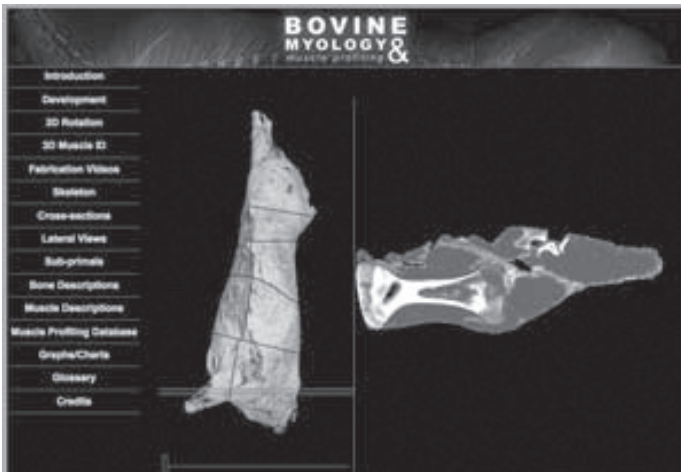
Steve Jones teaches in an Animal Science classroom fitted to feature three-dimensional images.

The site quickly became the pre-eminent worldwide reference tool in the field — today, more than a third of its traffic comes from the beef meatpacking industry. There is also interest from those in the culinary arts field as they develop new and interesting ways to use the various muscles of a beef carcass. It didn’t take long for thoughts to turn toward pushing the site’s premise into the classroom and taking the leap into the third dimension. Aaron Hosier, an information technology analyst with UNL Information Services, worked with Jones and Singh to help make the 3D classroom a reality.

It took nearly two years to fund, adapt and build the project — it would not have been possible without the support of the Beef Checkoff and the Nebraska Beef Council — and then implement the 3D projection system in the lecture hall. The system is activated by specialized stereoscopic projectors, which create the three-dimensional illusion.

Jones, Singh and Hosier also made sure to make the technology portable. If students miss a class or want to review a specific area of muscles, they can take a DVD version of the technology home, where they can use it in either 3D or 2D mode, Singh said.

As exciting as it is to see the system in action in a classroom setting, plans are already emerging for version 2.0, the developers said. Hosier said he is investigating haptic technology, which can make use of hand-held devices to create virtual forces, vibrations or motions for users. Applying haptic devices no bigger than a pen means students could virtually probe, poke and cut on the 3D bovine images and actually feel what they’re doing at the same time.



“Pushing against (virtual) muscle, for example, would create a different sensation for the user than, say, pushing against bone,” he said.

For now, Jones is pleased with the capabilities that he has in the 3D classroom — and sees applications well beyond its walls. He’s spoken with a number of industry representatives about using the technology as a training device for their employees. “There are many learning and training applications, on campus and off,” he said. Whoever may take advantage of the interface, Hosier said, there’s little debate surrounding the effectiveness of the three-dimensional experience.

“There’s a Chinese proverb that goes ‘I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand,’” Hosier said. “That pretty much sums up this technology. That sums up what we all hoped to accomplish.”

— *By Steve Smith, University Communications*

Emeriti Faculty

Dr. Ernest “Ernie” R. Peo Jr., 84, died Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in Lincoln. Dr. Peo was born April 21, 1925, in Watertown, New York, to Ernest Sr. and Mattie (Oney) Peo. He joined the Animal Science faculty at UNL as a Professor in 1956 and continued affiliation with the Department as Professor Emeritus after his retirement in 1988. His teaching at UNL was at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Peo’s efforts in his profession were recognized numerous times. He received the All-University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1972; the Distinguished Teaching and Service Awards in 1972 and 1977, respectively, from the Nebraska Chapter of the agriculture honor society, Gamma Sigma Delta; the Nebraska Livestock Service Award in 1976; the L.K. Crowe Outstanding Undergraduate Student Advising Award in 1985, and the Burlington Northern Foundation Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award in 1987. In 1986, Dr. Peo was selected the Graduate of Distinction in Animal Science, Oklahoma State University. He was awarded the title of Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science in 1984.



E.R. Peo, Jr.

Dr. Peo served as a major advisor for 15 Ph.D. and 27 Mas-

ters degree candidates. Through those individuals, Ernie lives on. Below are some reflections on Ernie that we received from his former students.

- I took monogastric nutrition from Dr. Peo in 1977. He was an outstanding instructor who took a personal interest in his students. He had a way of simplifying complex concepts into easily understood segments that fit together. He challenged us to strive for the best, to be all we could be. Ernie was a man who influenced others by being a role model and an encourager. The Department of Animal Science and the students he impacted are the true beneficiaries of Ernie Peo’s investment in others.
— *Larry Berger, Marvel L. Baker Animal Science Department Head, University of Nebraska.*
- Ernie was pretty much responsible for so many of our personal and professional lives. He will never be forgotten.
— *Thomas W. Burnell, Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Heart Institute & Heart Hospital.*
- I took my first nutrition class from Ernie in the fall of 1975 and he had a good deal of influence on my career interests. He really did have an impact on the careers of a number of graduate students who have gone on to be very successful and provide leadership in academia and industry. When you cut through everything that we do, I believe that our greatest legacy lies in the ways we influence the students that we work with and Ernie’s legacy is one that the Department at Nebraska can be proud of.
— *Neal Merchen, Animal Sciences Department Head, University of Illinois.*
- I had several classes from him when I did my graduate work at Nebraska. He was truly a great professor.
— *Jim W. Kuhlman, Mason City, Iowa.*
- We all will miss Ernie.he was a great role model for many of us.if we all lived our life like Ernie, the world would be a much better place!
— *Steve Pollmann, Murphy Brown.*
- He was a great leader. He had a major impact on my life and instilled a lot of great memories.
— *Tommy Crenshaw, University of Wisconsin.*

Last year we published an update on Ernie and Mary in the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter. You can access that article at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/animalscinews/11/>

Survivors include his wife, Mary; son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Gail Peo, all of Lincoln; grandsons, Nate Peo of Temecula, California, Jared Peo of Hiroasaki City, Japan; granddaughter and spouse, Kelly and David Berkheim of Omaha; great grandson, David Patrick Berkheim; brother, Frank Peo of West Winfield, New York. Interment was at Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln. Personal reflections may be sent to peo@windstream.net.

Faculty Awards

Kathy Anderson — National eXtension Outstanding Community of Practice Team Award to HorseQuest.

Charles Adams — Nebraska Agribusiness Club Public Service to Agriculture Award (posthumously).

Rick Rasby — Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources Wendell Burgher Beef Industry Award.

Ivan Rush — Nebraska Agribusiness Club Public Service to Agriculture Award.

Student Activities

Block and Bridle Club

The 2009-2010 Block and Bridle is off and running with activities to engage members to gain knowledge and promote the livestock industry. The officer team is President **Stacey Guthard**, Litchfield; Vice President **Matt Dolch**, Villisca, IA; Treasurer **Jessica Clowser**, Seward; Secretary **Asia Sabatka**, Weston; Historian **Rebecca Engler**, Nevada, IA; **Marshall Anna Geis**, Maskell; Assistant Marshall **Ashley Blum**, Gretna; News Reporter **Kayla Peterson**, Nebraska City; Program Chair **Jay Nordhausen** Ogallala; Assistant Historian **Andrea Seidel**, Burwell; Female Ambassador **Laura Witte**, Scribner; Male Ambassador **Kyle Clymer**, David City; and Social Chair **Jacie Ochsner**, Hastings. The Club helped with the Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit at the 2009 Nebraska State Fair. The Steak Fry was held September 11. Around 300 students and faculty enjoyed a steak with all the trimmings. The Club appreciates and thanks Cargill for their support of the Steak Fry and helping to cook the steaks. We also appreciate the companies, commodity groups and others that support our Steak Fry. The Club provided personnel to judge Herdsmanship at the 2009 Nebraska State Fair. For Homecoming weekend, we put together a float. It went well and was well received by our alumni who watched the parade. We avoided the rain, for the most part. Kids' Day was held November 6. The target audiences for this event are children who are in preschool and the lower elementary grades. There were about 200 children who attended. Little AKSARBEN was a great opportunity for those with and without livestock showing experience to test their skills. We had Dr. Berger visit with the Club on opportunities in the livestock industry and his perspective on a balanced college life. He also visited with us on his philosophy and the direction he would like to lead the Department to best serve the livestock industry in Nebraska. The Big Red Beef Show is scheduled for March 28, 2010, in York. The Block and Bridle Honors Banquet will be held April 23, 2010, at the East Campus Union.

SEECA: Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals

SEECA is looking forward to a successful second 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. The start of a

new year has provided many opportunities for SEECA. Membership in this club has increased and speakers have been scheduled for regular meetings. In October, a representative from Domesti-PUPS, Carolyn Nash, demonstrated a few of the basic commands a service dog is taught. In addition, she explained a few of the ways in which this nonprofit organization impacts the community of Lincoln. Future speakers range from an officer of the Nebraska State Patrol K-9 Unit to a Veterinarian from the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

The leaders of SEECA once again put on dog training classes which enrolled 8-10 dogs/handler teams per 4 week session. Dog trainer, Dr. Jill Morstad, agreed to conduct the class while the club members attended all classes and aided the trainer in any way that was needed. The students learned the basics of dog training and plan on putting on another Canine Good Citizen training session in the spring. In addition to the dog training classes, the club went on a trip in early October. The group of participating students had the opportunity to tour the Nestle Purina testing facility in Crete, NE, and then traveled to the Kansas City Zoo where they explored the Asia and Australia exhibits.

This year will continue to be a building year for the organization. During each meeting, members continue to explore ways in which they can become a larger part of the UNL campus.

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

Student Teams

Livestock Judging Team



Back Row: Mitch Novacek, Todd Ostermiller, Jay Nordhausen, Jason Star, Tom Murphy, Dr. Berger (Dept. Head). **Front Row:** Matt Ellicott (Coach), McKenzie Chambers, Shellie Intermill, Clint Mickey, Carrie Saur, Trey Kellner

The 2009 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team finished a strong fall campaign highlighted by UNL being named Champion Team at the Northern Lights Contest, 3rd

overall at the North American, and **Trey Kellner** was recognized as one of ten All-American Livestock Judges. In addition, the team and individuals were rewarded with numerous other achievements during the fall season.

Since classes began this fall, the University of Nebraska's Livestock Judging Team has competed in two contests. The team gathered for their first fall workout on August 15th to begin preparing for the fall run. On September 11th, the team competed in the first ever Northern Lights Judging Contest in Jackson, MN. The team had contest leading day being named Champion Team Overall out of 7 Teams. Individually, several team members finished well. **Todd Ostermiller** was 3rd in beef, 10th in sheep, 1st in swine, 5th in reasons and named High Individual. **Shellie Intermill** was 4th in swine, 3rd in reasons and 3rd overall. **Jay Nordhausen** was 3rd in swine, 4th in reasons and 4th overall. **Trey Kellner** was 1st in sheep, 6th in reasons and 10th overall. **Tom Murphy** was 2nd in sheep and 12th overall. **Mitch Novacek** was 9th in swine and 13th overall. **Jason Star** was 4th in cattle and **Carrie Saur** was 10th. The team finished 2nd in cattle, 1st in sheep, 1st in swine, and 1st in oral reasons along the way to being named Champion Team.

The team continued their travel on September 14th, in Austin, MN, judging at the National Barrow Show. The team completed a solid day finishing 10th out of 18 teams from across the nation. This year recorded the largest contest in the history of the barrow show with record numbers in both college divisions. In total, 34 schools and 246 contestants participated in the event. Individually, **Shellie Intermill** was 1st in placings, 11th in reasons and placed 3rd overall. Also, **Mitch Novacek** was 12th in placings and **Trey Kellner** was 13th in placings.

After the NBS and Northern Lights contests, the University of Nebraska's Livestock Judging Team competed at the Flint Hills Classic and the Premier Stockman. On September 25th, the team traveled to El Dorado, KS, for the Flint Hills Classic and finished 6th out of 12 teams from across the nation. **Jay Nordhausen** led the team with a 3rd overall finish.

UNL was 4th in sheep, 7th in swine, 8th in cattle, and 6th in reasons. Individually, several team members had good days. **Jay Nordhausen** was 3rd in cattle, 10th in swine, 6th in sheep and 7th in reasons. Three other team members were recognized for their accomplishments; **McKenzie Chambers** tied for 10th in sheep, **Trey Kellner** was 11th in cattle and **Shellie Intermill** was 11th in reasons.

On October 15th, the team traveled to Frankfort, IN, to compete in the Premier Stockman Judging Contest. More than 80 contestants competed in the contest representing teams from as far east and west as Penn State and Chico State (California). There is no team competition at the contest, only individual recognition. Several UNL team members had good days. **Todd Ostermiller** led the team finishing 2nd high individual overall. Along with this, Todd was 1st in placings, 3rd in cattle, 5th in swine and 11th in sheep. **Jay Nordhausen** also had a great day finishing 4th overall, 3rd in cattle, 5th in sheep and 5th in reasons. Two other team members were recognized for their achievements; **Trey Kellner** was 3rd in sheep and **McKenzie Chambers** was 9th in cattle.

On October 31st, the team traveled to Kansas City, MO, to compete at the American Royal. At one of the highest scoring contests in recent history, the UNL team finished solid in cattle and was named high team in swine, only to fall short because of sheep in the most competitive contest of the year.

Individually, **Shellie Intermill** finished 2nd in cattle, 6th in swine and 15th in reasons. **Jay Nordhausen** finished 16th in cattle and 23rd overall. **Todd Ostermiller** finished 6th in swine and 19th overall. The team finished 6th in cattle, 1st in swine, 21st in sheep, 8th in reasons, and tied for 8th overall out of 24 schools.

On November 16th, the team traveled to Louisville, KY, to compete at the NAILE. UNL had a great final contest finishing third overall out of 27 schools and winning swine for the second straight national contest. This accomplishment is the highest for the judging team in almost two decades! Along with this, **Trey Kellner** was named to the All-American Team (which is comprised of only 10 collegiate students and takes into account academics along with judging accomplishments). UNL has now placed a student on the All-American Team seven times out of the nine years since the inception of this prestigious award.

Individually, **McKenzie Chambers** finished 7th in swine and 25th overall. **Shellie Intermill** finished 2nd in cattle reasons, 17th in cattle, 17th in reasons and 20th overall. **Trey Kellner** finished 9th in swine, 4th in swine reasons, 13th in cattle, 5th in performance cattle, 11th in reasons and 12th overall. **Jay Nordhausen** finished 6th in swine, 12th in cattle and 8th overall. **Todd Ostermiller** finished 26th in cattle, 28th in oral reasons and 36th overall. The team finished 2nd in cattle, 2nd in performance cattle, 2nd in total performance, 1st in swine, 9th in sheep, 5th in reasons, and 3rd overall out of 27 schools.

This contest was the final competition for the senior team. Team members finishing a great season include: **McKenzie Chambers**, Colorado; **Shellie Intermill**, Alliance; **Trey Kellner**, Kansas; **Clint Mickey**, Aurora; **Tom Murphy**, Elkhorn; **Jay Nordhausen**, Ogallala; **Mitch Novacek**, Schuyler; **Todd Ostermiller**, Wyoming; **Carrie Saur**, Wyoming; **Jason Star**, North Platte.

As the 2009 team season concludes, the accomplishments, travels, livestock contacts and friendships gained will remain with the team members for many years to come. I am very proud of this year's team and their outstanding accomplishments. All members of the livestock judging team would like to recognize the support and generosity of the contributors and sponsors that make this program possible each and every season. A sincere thank you from the UNL Livestock Judging Team goes out to the major sponsors: the **Kimmel Foundation**, **Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc.**, and the **Nebraska Cattlemen's Research and Education Foundation**.

Looking to the National Western Stock Show in January 2010, the University of Nebraska will be represented by 12 outstanding students from across the state that look to begin their senior college judging season strong.

— Matt Ellicott, Coach

Meats Judging Team



Back Row: Left to right: **Derek Schroeder** (assistant Coach) **Emily Arkfeld**, **Tacy Langemeier**, **Jared Williams**. **Front Row:** Left to right: **Jessica Corneilus**, **Jessica Clowser**, **Lisa Watermeier**, **Elizabeth Wilhelm**, **Ace VanDeWalle** (coach)

The 2009 UNL Senior Meat Judging Team coached by Ace VanDeWalle and Derek Schroeder represented the University of Nebraska at four different competitions this fall. Team members include: **Jared Williams**, Broken Bow; **Jessica Corneilus**, Madrid; **Lisa Watermeier**, Burr; **Jessica Clowser**, Seward; **Tacy Langemeier**, Stromsburg; **Elizabeth Wilhelm**, Falls City; and **Emily Arkfeld**, Dunbar.

The team started off the fall season on October 10 at the Iowa State Invitational Contest in Ames, IA. The team finished 5th overall, placing 1st in specifications, 4th in beef grading, 5th in beef judging, 4th in lamb judging, 5th in pork judging, and 5th in reasons. Individually, **Jessica Corneilus** placed 8th overall, placing 3rd in specifications and 15th in beef judging. **Tacy Langemeier** was 13th in specifications and **Elizabeth Wilhelm** was 10th in lamb judging. **Lisa Watermeier** placed 13th overall, placing 9th in specifications, 13th in lamb judging, and 14th in beef judging. **Jared Williams** finished 15th overall, placing 5th in specifications.

On October 18, the team competed at the American Royal Contest held at Nebraska Beef in Omaha. The team finished 9th overall and again placed 1st in specifications. Individually, **Jessica Clowser** finished 15th overall, placing 9th in lamb judging, 9th in specifications, and 8th in total placings. **Tacy Langemeier** placed 13th overall in the alternate division.

On November 1, the team competed at the Cargill Meat Solutions High Plains Contest in Plainview, TX. The team had an outstanding day, finishing 3rd overall and placed in the top five in each division. The team was 3rd in beef grading, 5th in beef judging, 2nd in overall beef, 4th in lamb judging, 5th in specifications, 5th in pork judging, and 5th in total placings. Individual highlights include **Jessica Clowser** placing 4th in lamb judging and finishing 20th overall. **Tacy Langemeier** was 2nd in beef grading, 4th in overall beef and placed 14th overall. **Lisa Watermeier** was 3rd in lamb judging, 3rd in reasons, 7th in overall beef and finished 10th overall. **Jessica Corneilus** was 3rd in overall beef, 4th in beef grading, and finished 5th overall. In the alternate division, **Emily Arkfeld** was 9th, **Elizabeth Wilhelm** was 13th and **Jared Williams** finished 17th overall.

On November 15, the team finished their season at the International Meat Judging Contest held at Tyson in Dakota City, NE. The team finished 7th overall, placing 5th in specifications, 6th in total placings, 7th in reasons, and 1st in pork judging. Individual highlights include **Lisa Watermeier** placing 7th in beef grading, **Emily Arkfeld** placed 11th in specifications, 13th in reasons and 14th in pork judging. **Jessica Corneilus** placed 16th in reasons. **Tacy Langemeier** was the 5th high individual, placing 5th in overall beef, 13th in beef grading, 13th in beef judging, 7th in pork judging and 6th in total placings. In the alternate division, **Jessica Clowser** finished 9th and **Jared Williams** placed 10th overall.

The members of the Senior Meat Judging Team worked and practiced extremely hard this fall for many hours to achieve the success they did. Along the way, they learned many valuable skills, which will greatly go on to help them in their future careers. I, along with Derek Schroeder, am extremely proud of the accomplishments of this year's team.

Jerilyn Hergenreder from Longmont, CO, will be coaching the 2010 UNL Meat Judging Team. The 2010 team will start the spring season on January 17, 2010, at the National Western Contest in Greeley, CO. Team members include **Austin Zimmerman**, Beatrice; **Michael Olsen**, Harrisburg; **Brandon Koch**, Lincoln, and **Rebecca Engler**, Nevada, IA.

— Ace VanDeWalle, Coach

Equestrian Teams

The Equestrian Team began its showing season with a new coach and a new team. For the first time, UNL has a hunt seat team as well as the western team, which was named regional champions in Zone 7, Region 1, of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) for the 2008-2009 Season. This was the team's fifth consecutive regional champion title.

Lori Jaixen is the first-year coach for both teams and is excited about how the season has gone so far. She started showing horses at a young age and started training professionally in 1990. She does a lot of work with youth and amateurs in the AQHA and the NRHA. Jaixen received her bachelor's in psychology with a minor in communication studies from UNL.

In the past, the Equestrian Team has only competed in the western divisions, but this year they are expanding to the hunt seat (English) side of IHSA. Although Nebraska is traditionally thought of for western riding, over 100 riders tried out for the two teams and they were able to put together complete western and hunt seat teams of riders. The hunt seat team competes in both equitation divisions where riders only ride "on the flat," or without jumping and jumping divisions once the riders have achieved a certain skill level.

Through the regular season competition, riders compete individually to earn points to qualify for regional competition and designated riders earn points towards the team qualification for regionals. The team competes against schools in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming before the regional competitions in March hosted at UNL.

The western riding team currently is leading in the regional high point team standings and has finished as high point team in 4 of the 6 shows so far. This takes very consistent rides from

team members across all levels. If the team finishes the season as the high point regional team, they will qualify as a team for semi-nationals in Ithaca, NY. In addition, the UNL team currently has 10 western horsemanship riders qualified for regionals including: **Mindy Leach** (open reining), **Kim Corradi** (open rail), **Kelsey Horner** (advanced), **Sam Cajka** (advanced), **Hali Jorgensen** (novice), **Lauren Waller** (novice), **Cassie Sell** (novice), **Jillian Andreasen** (novice), **Courtney Carter** (intermediate), and **Paige Moser** (beginner). The hunt seat team had a strong start in their first set of shows as well, but have had some competitions postponed due to snow.

The next show for the western team is February 20 and is hosted at UNL in the R.B. Warren Arena. The next scheduled show for the hunt seat team is January 23 and 24 in Omaha.

IHSA teams are comprised of riders of all 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. Host schools provide the horses, and the rider draws a horse at random to ride. This tests the riders' ability to adapt to different horses and evaluates their horsemanship skills. The team is open to any currently enrolled UNL undergraduate student.

Because the team is a club sport, the majority of the team's funding comes from team fundraisers and outside sponsorships. Although the IHSA is committed to making competing affordable through low yearly dues, team expenses include travel and entry fees. The UNL Equestrian Team relies on outside support to continue showing at such an outstanding level.

The 2009-2010 western team members include: **Jillian Andreasen** (Hastings), **Linsey Bode** (Elgin), **Megan Brincks** (Lidderdale, IA), **Samantha Cajka** (Lincoln), **Courtney Carter** (McCook), **Kimberly Corradi** (Phillips), **Elise Edgar** (Firth), **Brandon Essink** (Syracuse), **Holley Field** (Eagle), **Katrin Gubser** (Fredricksburg, VA.), **Kelsey Horner**, **Hali Jorgensen** (Omaha), **Mindy Leach**, **Monique Lemon** (Omaha), **Kelly McCormick** (Omaha), **Lauren Mellor** (Valley), **Elizabeth Moore**, **Paige Moser**, **Virginia Noyes** (Kearney), **Abbie Oswald** (Wisner), **Brooke Preston** (Firth), **Amanda Schardt**, **Cassandra Sell**, **Gwyneth Talley** (Crete), **Paige Walla**, **Lauren Waller** (Lincoln), **Maren Weismuller** (Hannover, Germany), **Molly Wolfe** (Palmer).

The 2009-2010 hunt seat team members include: **Natalie Becher** (Columbus), **Renee Berger** (West Chicago, IL.), **Megan Brincks** (Lidderdale, IA), **Samantha Cajka** (Lincoln), **Courtney Carter** (McCook), **Kimberly Corradi** (Phillips), **Nicole D'Angelo** (San Jose, CA.), **Kelly Davis** (Omaha), **Anna DeNell**, **Rachael Fithian** (Elkhorn), **Laura Hahn** (Lincoln), **Kelsey Horner**, **Hali Jorgensen** (Omaha), **Caroline Kilday** (Lincoln), **Katherine Koch** (Crofton), **Mindy Leach**, **Kelly McCormick** (Omaha), **Elizabeth Moore**, **Cara Peters** (Firth), **Cassandra Sell**, **Molly Weiss** (Lincoln), **Lauren Wondra** (Bellevue).

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

Alumni News

Updates

Joe Cassidy, M.S. '95, Ph.D. '99 — Joe is Associate Professor of Animal Science at North Carolina State University, where his research interests are in quantitative and molecular genetic applications to improve food animal production, including feed efficiency in beef cattle. In addition, he took the reins as Executive Director of the Beef Improvement Federation during the organization's mid-year board meeting in Saint Joseph on November 9. More information about this new assignment can be found at <http://www.angus.org/pub/newsroom/releases/CssadyRelease11%2011%2009.aspx>.

Joe and his wife, Beverly, live just outside of Raleigh, North Carolina. They have two sons, Tyler (6 yrs.), and Cody (5 yrs.). Beverly (originally from Valentine, Nebraska) works as a veterinarian (UNO, '94 and KSU, CVM '99) for the North Carolina - Spay, Neuter Assistance Program.

Paul Engler, B.S. '51 — In recognition of vision, inspirational efforts and leadership that has helped shape today's cattle feeding industry, Paul Engler, of Amarillo, Texas, was one of two individuals honored as the inaugural inductees into the newly established Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame. While Paul has a list of accomplishments that spans decades, he is most recognized as founder and chairman of Cactus Feeders, the largest privately owned fed-cattle producer in the U.S. Engler was chosen for the honor by fellow cattle feeders.

Nancy Irlbeck, Ph.D. '90 — Associate Dean for Academics in the College of Ag Sciences at Colorado State University, received the 2009 American Society of Animal Science Corbin Award in Companion Animal Biology.

Mark A. Keller, B.S. '47 — Greetings to all my fellow classmates! I am enjoying the retirement life in Columbus, Nebraska. Thanks for the updates of the Ag College and Animal Science Department.

Steve Lonergan, Ph.D. '95 — Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University, received the 2009 American Society of Animal Science Meats Research Award.

Bobby Moser, Ph.D. '72 — Lead administrator in the College of Food, Ag, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, received the 2009 American Society of Animal Science Administration Fellow Award.

Brandy (Janicek) O'Neill, M.S. '07 — Brandy is a Histology Tech at Pathology Medical Services in Lincoln. She got married in September, 2007, and had a baby boy, Connor, in January, 2009.

Paula S. (Hall) Pokorny, B.S. '93 — Paula and her husband are involved in ranching (Hall Red Angus, Bartlett, Nebraska) with her parents.

Richard E. Spangler, B.S. '38 — Dick is retired and celebrated his 96th birthday on September 27. He follows all NU sports on the computer using Husker N Side. Dick says thanks to our good friend Tom Osborne, he will see two or three Husker games on

Pay Per View. Dick enjoys seeing the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter!

Todd Whitney, B.S. (Ani. Sci.) '85 / (Ag. Ed.) '87 UNL; M.S. (Agron.) '08 KSU—Todd is an ag extension agent for the 4-County River Valley District in Kansas (Cloud/Concordia, Clay/Center, Republic/Belleville, & Washington Counties). Work e-mail: twhitney@ksu.edu. Wife, Dora (B.S. Hort. '86 UNL), is applying to graduate school at KSU in new distance Horticultural Therapy certification/masters program. She substitute teaches in area schools. Daughter, Larissa, graduated from Concordia High School in May '08. She graduated with honors from their local Cloud County Community College (Associate Degree in Elementary Education) this May '09, thanks to a dual-credit program. Her parents recently helped her move to Hays, where she'll work toward Bachelor/Master's Degrees. Son, Logan, will be a freshman in high school. He's an athletic, gifted, spiritual, and social leader.

Hansen Agricultural Ties Important in His Legislative Service

Tom Hansen went from working on his family's century-owned ranch to working in the Nebraska Legislature, and he made sure to bring his agricultural ties with him. Hansen serves Nebraska's 42nd legislative district, encompassing all of Lincoln County. It is a job that made sense for Hansen, who understands the importance of having a state senator with agricultural ties helping lead a state where agriculture is the top industry.



Tom Hansen

The 1970 University of Nebraska animal science graduate was raised on his family's 131-year-old ranch, the Hansen 77 Ranch, seven miles north of North Platte. The ranch was started by Hansen's great-grandfather, Hans Hansen. His father, Wes, and grandfather, Henry, also worked on the ranch, which raises about 1,200 calves every spring and sells them in the fall. Tom Hansen started working on the ranch when he was in eighth grade, spending most of his evenings and summer vacation taking care of the cattle. "It's been part of my life since I've been around," he said.

Since he was accustomed to and enjoyed working with livestock, he decided to come to the University to study animal science to get a more formal education. It was at the University while working in laboratories where he learned more about the value of research, and that contributed to the family's decision to allow the use of the ranch in beef research projects. "When you see what those researchers do, that meant a lot to me," Hansen said. "It gave me a good background on the value of research."

After graduation Hansen returned to ranch, where he worked full time until 1999, when his son took over. Hansen had some back problems at the time and decided to work part time.

A few years later, Hansen decided to run for the Legislature. His grandfather had been a state senator in the 1920s and 1930s, and his father was active in supporting political candidates. The

political itch transferred to Hansen. While going through some files his grandfather had, he read about his grandfather's experience in the Legislature. Hansen thought that would be a good fit for him. Hansen, past president of the Nebraska Cattlemen, was elected to the Legislature in 2006. He came to the body touting his desire to work to support agriculture. Even though his committee assignments haven't included agricultural issues, he strives to use his agricultural background to serve the state. "We're still an agriculture state. We can raise more corn, feed more cattle, and become a world leader in food production," he said.

Hansen, who still works for the ranch part time as secretary-treasurer, said his experience at the University and in the Legislature has contributed significantly to his life. He attributes the Legislature for helping him understand more about the diversity of the state and the various topics that need to be addressed. He is grateful for the large number of contacts he made while in college, many of which he still has today.

An article published in IANR's "The Leading Object" written by Lori McGinnis.

Scott Brady Retires

Scott Brady, UNL Extension Educator in the Central IV Area and a member of the Animal Science Alumni (M.S. 1976), retired in October, 2009. A consistent part of Scott's Extension work was the time and effort he put into working with 4-H youth in the many different aspects of 4-H livestock programs. From livestock judging to showing cattle, to newer events such as livestock quiz bowl and skillathon, Scott generated interest in kids and parents alike. The short-term result was a lot of success in 4-H competitions, but the long term result was having a lot of youth choose to become involved in some aspect of the livestock industry for their careers.



Scott Brady

Deaths

Jack E. Eberspacher age 55, Vienna, Virginia., passed away on July 5, 2009, following a brief but courageous battle with brain cancer. Jack was born February 13, 1954, in Seward. He graduated with a B.S. in Animal Science in 1976 and was a member of the 1976 Livestock Judging Team. After several years working in various agribusiness positions throughout the U.S., Jack was named CEO of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association headquartered in Lubbock, Texas. Nine years later, in 1998, he accepted the position of CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers in Washington, D.C. In 2001, Jack was appointed president and CEO of the Agricultural Retailers Association, where he remained until his death. Among his many accomplishments Jack served as a member of the Bush/Cheney Ag Transition Team. He was an active member of the Bennett Roundtable of the Farm Foundation of Chicago and recipient of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Brother of the Century Award.

Brian Brandt, age 47, of Plymouth, died on July 8, 2009, due to complications from a head injury sustained in a farming accident. Brian was a 1983 B.S. graduate of Agricultural Economics, was a member of the 1982 Livestock Judging Team and

was a member of Ag Men. He was a feed salesman for Continental Grain Company in Iowa and Illinois until he and his family moved back to Plymouth in 1990, where he farmed and was in livestock production.

Animal Science History

History of Animal and Poultry Science Research at the Rogers Memorial Farm



The Rogers Memorial Farm in Eastern Lancaster County came to the University through a bequest in 1947. The farm consists of 320 acres and was originally assigned by the College of Agriculture to the Department of Animal Science for cattle breeding experiments. The Department developed a comprehensive soil and water conservation program in the 1950's that continues its legacy today as a "Conservation Demonstration Farm" managed by the Department of Biological Systems Engineering in collaboration with a U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) agreement dating back to 1985. Since the farm was on a relative scale too small for a cattle breeding station, the Department only managed the Rogers Farm from 1947 to 1966 at which time management was given to the Department of Agricultural Engineering (now the Biological Systems Engineering Department). From 1966 to 1973, the Poultry Science Department conducted range turkey trials at the Farm under the guidance of Dr. Thomas W. Sullivan. Studies were also conducted on wildlife habitats. Dr. Sullivan collaborated with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to investigate methods to keep Great Horned Owls from predateding the range turkey flocks.

Today, the Rogers Memorial Farm provides a unique farm system for research during a time of reducing resources. IANR research plots in Southeast Nebraska are very limited and valuable. The foresight to convert this farm to a Conservation Demonstration Farm has served IANR well.

— Sheila E. Scheideler

67 Years Ago

1942 Judging Team



M.A. Alexander (Coach), Keith King, Harold Stevens, Harold Hansen, Don Roth, Ronald Gerould, William Loeffel (Department Chairman), Marvel Baker (Professor), Charlie Johnson (Herdsman).

Trivia Question

What year did UNL win all three species at Denver?

If you know the answer, e-mail Doyle Wolverton (dwolverton1@unl.edu). Prize to be announced later!

Call for Information for the 2010 Summer/Fall Issue of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter

Rick Rasby (Chair), Doyle Wolverton, Vicky Kobes, Sheila Scheideler, Duane Reese, Terri Behl, and Linda White 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.

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.

(email vkobes1@unl.edu)

You've always said
someday you'll give
something back to
the college that
gave you so much.

How about now?

Please contact Ann Bruntz
IANR Director of Development
402-458-1176
abruntz@nufoundation.org





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 listserve. 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 news letter, please let us know how we may contact them.

Name _____ Date of Graduation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please Update ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ E-Mail _____

Position, Company, Address:

News Items, Comments, etc.

