Block and Bridle Annual 2011

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A Bold Step Toward the Future
2010-2011 Block & Bridle Annual

University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Department of Animal Science
Block and Bridle
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*Cover photo by Danton McDiffett
On December 2, 1919, student representatives from animal husbandry clubs from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri met in Chicago, Ill., and formed Block & Bridle. Colleges across the United States now have their own Block & Bridle chapters that are affiliated with the national organization. Together Block & Bridle students interested in animal agriculture work to promote the following objectives:

- to promote a higher scholastic standard among students of animal husbandry.
- to promote animal husbandry, especially all phases of student animal husbandry work in colleges and universities
- to bring about a closer relationship among the men and women pursuing some phase of animal husbandry as a profession

The Block & Bridle emblem is significant to club members. It represents the principles on which the club is built. The straight perpendicular lines of the “B” depict the character, sincerity and moral life of members. The curves of the “B” are symbolic of the social pleasure, mental energy and determination of the members.

Inside the “B,” the meat block represents the material aspects of our life and the bridle stands for the behavior of members, the control they try to maintain, the mannerisms and respect they show toward others and the way they treat animals.
March 2011

Dear Block and Bridle Club Members:

Congratulations to all members of the Block and Bridle Club for having another successful year. You are a member of an organization with a long and proud history. The National Block and Bridle Club was founded on December 2, 1919, in Chicago by Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska. Today, Block and Bridle has 92 college chapters in the U.S. The objectives of Block and Bridle are: (1) To promote a higher scholastic standard among students of animal science, (2) To promote animal science, especially all phases of student animal science work in colleges and universities, and (3) To bring about a closer relationship between students, faculty and others engaged in animal science. Although these objectives were developed almost 100 years ago and the organization has changed through the years, I am pleased the Nebraska club has continued to pursue these goals.

On behalf of the Animal Science Department, I thank you for your assistance with our programs and events. Your activities throughout the year bring recognition to the Department and are a very important recruitment tool. I also thank your faculty advisors, Drs. Bryan Reiling, Tom Burkey, and Dennis Brink, for the guidance they provided the Club this past year.

Your selection of Mr. Paul Engler as the 77th Block and Bridle Honoree continues the Club’s legacy of honoring key leaders who have had a great impact on the livestock industries. Coincidentally, Mr. Engler was a member of the University of Nebraska Block and Bridle during his college years. His photograph will be added to the Hall of Fame Gallery in the Animal Sciences building with the other honorees from industry, academia, and government.

Again, I thank each of you for your contributions to the Block and Bridle Club and to the Animal Science Department. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be returning next fall. And for those of you who are graduating, I wish you success in your career path. Perhaps someday, your photograph will be added to the Hall of Fame Gallery! The Mission of the Block and Bridle Club is “to unite its members in the bonds of sincere and lasting friendship, to stimulate one another in the pursuit of knowledge, to promote the moral and social culture of its members, and to develop plans for guidance and unity in action.” I hope that in future years, you will look back on your college days and you will feel like you accomplished that mission.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Berger, Ph.D.  
Marvel L. Baker Head  
Department of Animal Science  
University of Nebraska
Dear members, supporters, family and friends,

During the past year, the Block & Bridle Club has had a significant amount of accomplishments and successful events. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and thank all of the officers and members that have risen above their obligations to guarantee another successful year. I would also like to thank the Animal Science faculty and staff for their support and guidance throughout the year. The advisers for Block & Bridle are unlike any other; they are our support system and the drive behind our success. Thank you senior adviser, Dr. Reiling; junior adviser, Dr. Burkey; freshman adviser, Dr. Brink; and club secretary, Andi Hallberg. I would also like to give a special thanks to Kyle Clymer. You have been my savior this year. Thank you for your drive and passion for Block & Bridle. Without advisers, officers and members, our club would fail to exist. Thank you.

Throughout my education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Block & Bridle has served as a way to keep my ties with the world of livestock and the promotion of several industries close to my heart. It is my belief that education not only encompasses classroom learning, but also includes the experiences you gain in collegiate activities. Block & Bridle has pushed me to be a leader and provided me with the opportunity to grow as a livestock producer. It is my sincere hope that this past year has allowed the club members to gain experiences not provided by classroom learning as well as friends that they will keep for a lifetime.

It has been my honor to serve as the 2010 – 2011 Block & Bridle President. I wish to commend the members of this organization for being a talented, driven and hardworking group of individuals. In my eyes, they have shown a great amount of dedication to production agriculture and take pride in Block & Bridle; with this in mind, I believe this organization will prosper and continue on its path of success in the future. I want to wish future club members, officers and presidents the best of luck as they continue to promote and build the traditions of the Block & Bridle Club.

Sincerely,

Jacie Ochsner
2010 – 2011 Block & Bridle President
Dear members, supporters, family and friends,

Like years before, this year has flown by and classes are beginning to wrap up. Block & Bridle had a successful year, and it was only possible because of the hard work members put into every event. With help from our advisors, we were able to put on many great events and programs supporting animal agriculture.

I would like to thank the advisors for their support this year. Dr. Bryan Reiling, Dr. Tom Burkey and Dr. Dennis Brink have devoted their time and knowledge to the club, and we cannot thank them enough. I would also like to thank our secretary Andi Hallberg for her patience with us and for managing our materials.

Agriculture is changing with technology, and consumers are questioning these changes. Everyone involved with agriculture is challenged with the task of informing the public about what they do and what this means for the consumer. With this in mind, “A Bold Step Toward the Future” developed into a great theme for this year’s annual. Each member is working toward making a bold step toward agriculture’s future by promoting agriculture’s story to the public.

I hope this annual can be a guide to show people what Block & Bridle does and accurately captures the personality of the club. I would like to thank members who took pictures at events for the annual, people who attended events and those who have and continue to support our club.

Thank you to all of the sponsors. Without your contributions this annual would not exist. Continued support is important to Block & Bridle, and we look forward to a long relationship with sponsors, friends, members and alumni.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smolek
2011-2011 Block & Bridle Historian
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
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<td>August 22</td>
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<td>Beef Pit</td>
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<td>Steak Fry</td>
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<td>Kids’ Day</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
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Paul Engler started out in the livestock industry purchasing and managing his first cattle herd of 100 head at age 13, and it has just evolved from there. Engler paid to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln using the sales through his cattle herd and graduated with an animal science degree. Engler is now the proud owner of Cactus Feeders, which is the largest privately owned fed cattle producer in the world! This 750 million dollar commercial-cattle feeding company has a one time feeding capacity of 520,000 head. Cactus Feeders covers 140,000 acres spread over 11 locations throughout the Texas Panhandle and Southwest Kansas. Cactus Argentina was created in 1998, which was the first large scale commercial cattle operation in that country. It produces beef for local consumption and export to Europe and Asia.

Engler has received numerous awards over the years for his contributions to the livestock industry. Some include: Cattle Business of the Century Award, Top 40 Beef Industry Giant, Industry Advancement Award and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Vision Award. He was an initial inductee to Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and was the first recipient for the Industry Achievement Award. To receive these awards, Engler has contributed operational and technical innovations to the livestock industry.

In 1987, Engler created a “formula” or “value-based” method for beef marketing, which is the precursor to the “grid system” used today. This system changed the way in which cattle were valued creating a more profound final product and re-establishing beef’s dominance on the dinner plate. Engler also established the first stock ownership plan in the fed cattle industry. Today his employees have 40 percent stake in Cactus Feeders. Technical innovations he has contributed to include: large-scale feed trucks, computer-controlled feed batching and commercial-scale continuous feed mixing system. He also received a U.S. Patent for automated feed grain processing.

Engler credits his experiences as a student and graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln as an incentive for the “many things I have accomplished in my career”. Engler has been a guest lecturer for various classes over the years and has offered feedlot internships at Cactus Feeders in Amarillo, Texas. Recently, Engler has worked with UNL to set up the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program. This program includes scholarships, summer camps, courses developed to create an entrepreneurship minor in CASNR, the Engler Lecture Series and more that will be implemented in the future.

—Ashley Blum
Larry Berger
Kathy Anderson
Donald Beermann
Dennis Brink
Thomas Burkey
Dennis Burson
Chris Calkins
Daniel Ciobanu
Andrea Cupp
Matt Ellicott
Galen Erickson
Rick Funston
Ronnie Green
Deb Hamernik
Kathy Hanford
Karla Jenkins
Rodger Johnson
Officers:
President: Jacie Ochsner
Vice President: Ashley Blum
Secretary: Jessica Clowser
Treasurer: Kyle Clymer
Marshall: Kellie Wise
Assistant Marshall: Maxwell Rasmussen
Historian: Stephanie Smolek
Assistant Historian: Ellie Hoffschneider
News Reporter: Emily Arkfeld
Female Ambassador: Alissa Doerr
Male Ambassador: Kelby Sudbeck
Program Chair: Melissa Matulka
Social Chair: Kristin Witte

Members:
Cashley Ahlberg
Emily Arkfeld
Ashley Blum
Jessica Clowser
Kyle Clymer
Katie Cornelius
Robert Cumming
Alissa Doerr
Allison Dubs
Amanda Elwess
Matt Fleischman
Chelsea Fullerton
Jaime Hanson
Max Henn
Ellie Hoffschneider
Evan Ibach
Grant Jones
Justina Kassik
Sharmayne Katzberg
Tessa Klein
Lindsay Long
Alyse Lysgaard
Melissa Matulka
Eric Miller
Kelsie Musil
Jacie Ochsner
Ross Pinkelman
Jared Pinkerton
Maxwell Rasmussen
Kristin Renk
Dustin Renken
Lacey Sbardt
Stephanie Smolek
Kelby Sudbeck
Lisa Temme
Andrew Uden
Alma Wellensiek
Kelsey Wetovich
Elizabeth Wilhelm
Jared Williams
Kellie Wise
Kristin Witte
Debra Wray
Chelsea Fullerton
Ross Pinkelman
Jaime Hanson
Sharmayne Katzberg
Allison Dubs
Alyse Lysgaard
Matt Fleischman
Dustin Renken
Tessa Klein
Lindsay Long
Lisa Temme
Cashley Ahlberg
Katie Cornelius
Eric Miller
Emily Arkfeld is an Animal Science major from Dunbar, Neb. She is the daughter of Timothy and Luanne Arkfeld. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in meat science. Her favorite Block & Bridle memories will always be of Little AkSarBen and Little MAEC. Her advice to underclassmen is to not be hesitant and get involved on campus whether with Block & Bridle or any other club.

Kellie Wise is an Animal Science Veterinary Medicine option major from Ashland, Neb. She is the daughter of Bruce and Kristie Rogers and Dean Wise. After graduation, she plans to attend UNL/ISU Veterinary School with plans to open a large and small animal clinic in rural Neb. Her favorite Block & Bridle memory will always be the root beer pong tournaments. Her advice to underclassmen is to not be afraid to get involved in clubs. “I know it seems like its hard to find the time to fit it in with your school work, but my high school FFA Advisor always told me ‘Don’t let schoolwork get in the way of your education.’ Involvement in clubs and activities will teach you things that a classroom never can.”

Kyle Clymer is an Animal Science Veterinary Medicine option major from David City, Neb. He is the son of Kent and Gina Clymer. After graduation, he plans to attend Kansas State University to pursue a veterinary medicine and master of public health degree. His favorite Block & Bridle memory will always be seeing everyone again at the steak fry after summer break. Clymer wants underclassmen to remember this quote, “I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious,” by Albert Einstein.
Jacie Ochsner is a textile and apparel design major from Hastings, Neb. She is the daughter of Randy and Julie Ochsner. After graduation, she plans to open a retail shop. Her favorite Block & Bridle memory will always be this year's summer officer meeting and getting to know everyone over the course of the year. Ochsner wants underclassmen to “Dig in! If you spend all of your time studying verses getting involved, having fun and getting to know people, your college experience won’t be

Jared Williams is an Animal Science Veterinary Medicine option major from Broken Bow, Neb. He is the son of Justin and Kris Williams. After graduation, he plans to attend veterinary school. His favorite Block & Bridle memory will always be of the Big Red Beef Show. Williams wants underclassmen to ask older students for advice about their classes.

Jessica Clowser is an Animal Science major from Milford, Neb. She is the daughter of Blaine and Sharon Clowser. After graduation, she plans to attend law school with an emphasis in Ag Law, while staying active in production agriculture through her family’s Registered Angus farm. Her favorite Block & Bridle memory will always be of the Big Red Beef Show this year because there was a great group of club members helping, the show ran smooth and it was a blast! She advises underclassmen to “take the initiative to achieve your goals by asking questions and remaining active in organizations. Network with your fellow peers, professors and industry leaders, you never know who can help you in your future endeavors.”

Elizabeth Wilhelm is an Animal Science Business option major from Falls City, Neb. She is the daughter of Tom and Susan Wilhelm. After graduation, she hopes to work promoting agriculture and educating its consumers. “Today’s society is filled with so much negative information about livestock production and agriculture in general. I would love to have the opportunity to be a positive voice for agriculture, and for the people who devote their lives to agricultural production.” Her favorite Block & Bridle memories will always be meeting new people and expanding her knowledge on the livestock industry. She advises underclassmen to do what makes them happy, be proud of where they came from and work hard for what they have.
The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Block and Bridle Club has once again had a very successful and productive year. We are excited to report this year we have initiated 35 new members who have actively participated in numerous club activities and events. Our year started off great beginning at the State Fair in Grand Island where we volunteered to help work the Beef Pit. To welcome back new and returning students to the Animal Science Department, we hosted the 12th annual Steak Fry where we had a turnout of 275 people. In October, we hosted Little AkSarBen which was open to all UNL students to participate in a friendly livestock showmanship competition. To finish out the fall, Block and Bridle organized Kids’ Day, where we hosted local elementary students from the Lincoln Public School system to offer a “hands-on” learning experience in the area of livestock.

To kick-off the 2011 Block and Bridle events, club members volunteered to assist in cattle showing at the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic Livestock Judging contest. We had great representation and received numerous complements from officials and participants. On April 2nd, the club hosted the 35th Annual Big Red Beef Show. We were excited to announce the show was held at the new State Fair Grounds in Grand Island. To maximize the outstanding facilities, we ran our first ever two ring show to allow youth the opportunity to compete twice. The show was sanctioned by the Junior Nebraska Cattlemen and is open to youth outside of the state. This event was educational and competitive for all 4-H and FFA members. Finally, to wrap up our spring events, Block and Bridle volunteered and assisted during the State FFA Convention April 7th and 8th. Many of the club members participated in the convention as FFA members, and it was a great opportunity to give back to such a great organization.

This has been an exciting and event filled year for UNL Block and Bridle. New faces and new events certainly allowed the club to grow and become more active on campus. With the addition of our new initiates, active members and a strong officer team, Block and Bridle was able to be successful throughout the entire year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Clowser
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Beginning Balance: 7016.68
Ending Balance: 7,248.41
This year Block and Bridle's goal was to have a diverse group of speakers. The club accomplished this by inviting Dr. Larry Berger, Michael Kelsey, Dave Hamilton, Dr. Ronnie Green and Kyla Wize.

To kick this year off, Block and Bridle had Dr. Larry Berger be its first speaker. Dr. Larry Berger is the Department Head for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Animal Science Department. Dr. Berger described to the members the opportunities that are available to them within the Animal Science Department as well as the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He enjoyed getting the opportunity to interact with students in an informal setting.

In November, the club invited Michael Kelsey of the Nebraska Cattlemen to present to members. Michael Kelsey is the Executive Vice President for the Nebraska Cattlemen. He talked with students about the issues facing the beef industry today. He also told the students some of the new government areas that the Nebraska Cattlemen were working on.

In February, the club welcomed Dave Hamilton. Hamilton is alumni of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Animal Science Department. Hamilton has been highly involved in the Nebraska Cattlemen and Nebraska Beef Board. He was a past member of Nebraska Beef Council, serving two years as Chairman, was past chairman of several Nebraska Cattlemen committees and is a current member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Sandhills Cattle Association. Dave encouraged members to be involved in the beef industry, especially if they wanted to become a part of the progress of the industry. He described how at the university, students are able to accomplish that and other programs that are available.

This year, Dr. Ronnie Green became the Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In March, club members had the opportunity to talk to him. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Animal Science from Virginia Tech and Colorado State University, respectively. Dr. Green's Ph.D. program in animal breeding was completed jointly at the University of Nebraska and the USDA U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in 1988. He has served on the animal science faculties of Texas Tech University (1989-1994) and Colorado State University (1994-2000), reaching the rank of full professor in 1997. He has been recognized with a number of distinguished local, regional and national teaching and research awards for the work he led with 25 Ph.D. and M.S. students and colleagues in beef cattle breeding and genetics. Dr. Green is currently serving as President of the American Society of Animal Science and has served as a board member, recording secretary, and member of the executive committee, in addition to serving in a number of other industry leadership positions for the Beef Improvement Federation, NCBA, National Pork Board, DISCOVER Conferences and the National Block and Bridle Club (serving as national president in 1998). He talked to students about being involved and staying current on the information in the beef industry. He also mentioned how students’ involvement in Block and Bridle did not have to end with college graduation and mentioned some of the new projects that CASNR is considering to promote agriculture.

The last speaker the club invited was Kyla Wize. Wize is the Nebraska Pork Producers Youth Leader and Events Specialist. She is in charge of the Mentoring Program which several members are involved in. The club learned about the changes in pork promotion, the pork industry and how we can become more involved.

—Melissa Matulka
Block & Bridle has many socials throughout the year so members can take a break from usual activities and get to know each other better through fun and engaging activities. This year we had a root beer pong tournament with pop and ice cream refreshments. With double elimination, teams had the chance to come from the “losers” bracket to win the title of “Root Beer Pong Champions” and a gift card to Raising Canes. A Pitch tournament was open to teams of two, and the champions received Dairy Queen gift cards. This winter, Block & Bridle members played sand volleyball in the Animal Science Arena to escape the snow and cold. Club members also took a break from studying to gear up and develop game strategies for laser tag. Every spring, club members wrap up the year with their softball intramural team.

—Kristen Witte
At the beginning of the year the University of Nebraska–Lincoln hosts Big Red Welcome in the Stadium Loop. This fair allows students to interact with one another and with people from outside the student body that share the same interests as them. The Block & Bridle Club interacted with other individuals interested in the livestock industry and is a key tool in the recruitment of new members. The event allows the club to gain recognition among those that are interested in an agricultural related major. This year, the Block and Bridle Club was represented at the event by the ambassador’s Alissa Doerr and Kelby Sudbeck.

—Kelby Sudbeck

Block and Bridle kicked off it’s year by helping the Nebraska Cattlemen in the Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair. This was the first year for the new Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Grand Island, and we enjoyed being one of the first groups to help out in the new establishment. We had a very busy, yet successful day serving food, taking orders and cleaning tables. To no one’s surprise, a lot of new friendships were built during our shift in the Beef Pit, and being the first event of the year, it serves as a good icebreaker between members, advisers and officers.

—Jacie Ochsner
On September 9th Block and Bridle held their 12th annual steak fry. This was another great opportunity for the staff and students to interact outside of the classroom. The event was a success, with the officers selling over 120 tickets in advance. Not only was the event attended by faculty, staff, and students, but there were many people from the local community also present. The steak was provided, seasoned and prepared by Cargill. This year, the Meats’ Judging Team with the guidance of Jerilyn Hergenreder processed the meat into 360 steaks. The Animal Science Department’s staff also assisted in preparation by setting up bales. The Block & Bridle Club thanks everyone who helped with the Steak Fry.

—Melissa Matulka
This year’s Little AkSarBen showmanship contest was held Thursday October 7th. Not only was this year’s contest successful, but the Huskers beat Kansas State that night as well! Luckily, we were able to project the game in one of the teaching labs to keep up with the action. Fifteen exhibitors competed in the expert and novice divisions of this year’s contest, showing off their skills in beef, lamb, swine and horse showmanship. The winners in each division received an embroidered Block & Bridle/Little AkSarBen boot bag, and the round robin winners received an embroidered fleece blanket. Little AkSarBen is always a fun event, and this year was no different. It’s a great event for students to relive their livestock exhibiting days and even to try their show skills with new species. I would like to thank Kent Clymer and Lori Jaixen for judging, Kristin Witte for helping line up classes, Stephanie Smolek for taking pictures and Clyde Naber for lining up animals and show equipment.

—Kyle Clymer

2010 Little AkSarBen Results

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<tr>
<td>Kent Clymer (Beef, Lamb, Swine)</td>
<td>Expert 1st</td>
<td>Derek Dam</td>
<td>Expert 2nd</td>
<td>Amanda Elwess</td>
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<td>Lori Jaixen (Horse)</td>
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21: Little AkSarBen
ABOVE: Little AkSarBen winners with Block and Bridle chair Kyle Cylmer and Judge Kent Clymer.

BELOW: Lamb showmanship 1st & 2nd place winners: Nick Hanson, Jessica Wallander, Cashley Ahlburg & Dustin Renken.

ABOVE: Round robin 1st & 2nd place winners: Derek Dam, Melinda Rathman, Dustin Renken & Nick Hansen.


BELOW: Beef showmanship 1st & 2nd place winners: Derek Dam, Amanda Elwess, Melinda Rathman & Stephanie Smolek.

BELOW: Swine showmanship 1st & 2nd place winners: Derek Dam, Allison Brady, Debra Wray & Jeremy Vonasek.
Kids’ Day was a success yet again. It was held on November 5th, and around 250 kids scrambled around the Animal Science arena. Preschool students, children from care centers around Lincoln, and home-schooled students came to learn about various species of animals. Block and Bridle members led the students around the arena to different animal pens answering questions and explaining the animals’ importance. The children were excited to see the sheep, pigs, dairy cow and calf, steers, mice, laying hens, tractors and the horse Blues that we had available for them.

Each child also received a bag with a coloring book, crayons, pencils, tattoos, and agricultural education materials. We were very thankful to the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board, Nebraska Pork Producers, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and CASNR for providing all of these materials.

This event was a great opportunity for Block and Bridle members to share their knowledge about animal agriculture with the community and supports Block and Bridle’s goal of telling agriculture’s story.

—Stephanie Smolek
The annual Block and Bridle Holiday Gathering was held Thursday, December 9th. Fortunately, the weather cooperated this year. The holiday gathering provides an opportunity for Block and Bridle members to thank the Animal Science faculty and staff. It is an open house where students and faculty come grab goodies and interact with one another. Preparing for the event was almost as fun as the actual event. A number of members gathered at Kristin Witte’s house to make a variety of delicious treats the evening before the holiday gathering. It was a great study break for students during dead week. We were thankful that Alpha Gamma Rho allowed us to use their ovens to bake some of the cookies; otherwise, we might have been up all night. Overall, the holiday gathering was a great success.

—Alissa Doerr

On April 7th and 8th, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Block and Bridle hosted FFA students from around the state to participate in livestock judging and livestock management contests during the 84th Nebraska State FFA Convention. The Animal Science Department and Block and Bridle helped with both of these contests, hosting hundreds of students donning blue jackets. Block and Bridle members registered teams, handled livestock, were group leaders, recorded and tabulated scores and monitored the events with the help of faculty and Animal Science undergraduate students. Both events ran very smoothly and are a great way for Block and Bridle members to interact with high school students and promote the Block and Bridle Club.

—Kellie Wise
This year, Block and Bridle hosted the 35th Annual Big Red Beef Show on April 1st and 2nd at the new State Fair Park in Grand Island, Neb. The show was a huge success with 55 exhibitors showing 90 head of cattle. There were 30 Block and Bridle members who helped check in cattle, set up and tear down the show rings, announce, work in the ring and line up cattle.

In order to utilize the new facilities in Grand Island, the club ran a two-ring, one day show. We had two rings, Ring A and Ring B, in order for exhibitors to have the chance to show under two judges on the same day. In Ring A, Jerry Grund, from Sharon Springs, Kan., evaluated the cattle, and in Ring B, Jake Scott, from Whitestone – Krebs in Gordan, Neb., was our judge.

We also greatly appreciate the generosity from our donors who included: Nebraska Farm Bureau, Central Valley Ag, Wagonhammer Cattle Co., Darr Feedlot, Huss Livestock Market, LLC, R.J. Ochsner Farms, Julie’s Xpressions and Tractor Supply Co. – Grand Island. Without the support of these charitable donors, the Big Red Beef Show would not be possible.

The Supreme Breeding Heifer in Ring A was exhibited by Beau Bremmer with his Champion Commercial heifer, Reserve Supreme Heifer went to Jesse Hoblyn– Champion Maine Anjou, third place to Michelle Keyes – Champion Angus, fourth place to Morgan Burke– Reserve Commercial, and fifth place overall heifer went to Rylee Stoltz – Champion Chianina.

In Ring B, Supreme Breeding Heifer was exhibited by Logan Plate with his Champion Shorthorn heifer, Reserve Supreme was exhibited by Kane Aegeter with his Shorthorn Plus, third place to Rylee Stoltz with her Champion Chianina, fourth place to Jaclyn Heinrich with her Champion Angus, and fifth to Taylor Stoltz with her Champion Maine Anjou heifer.

In Ring A, the Champion Overall Market Animal was exhibited by Tyler Peterson who had the Champion Crossbred steer, Reserve Overall Market was exhibited by Jesse Hoblyn – Champion Chianina steer, third place to Tyler Peterson– Reserve Champion Chianina steer, fourth place to Beau Bremer – Champion Maine Anjou steer, and fifth place went to Jessie Rudolph – Reserve Champion Crossbred steer.

The Champion Overall Market Animal in Ring B was exhibited by Tyler Peterson with his Champion Crossbred steer, Reserve Overall Market was exhibited by Jesse Hoblyn – Champion Chianina steer, third place to Cody Harms – Champion Maine Anjou steer, fourth place to Beau Bremer with his Reserve Champion Maine Anjou steer, and finally fifth to Stephanie Kersten with her Champion Market heifer.


Overall, the show was a success, and I am grateful for everyone's help throughout the weekend! It was exciting to host the show in Grand Island and use the new State Fair Grounds. It is my sincere wish for the Big Red Beef Show to continue to be in Grand Island and for Block and Bridle to make it a great event in the coming years.

—Jessica Clowser
At the Cattlemen’s Classic there is a Judging Contest for 4-H and FFA youth and college participants. The judging contest includes as many as eight classes with 4-Hers giving three sets of oral reasons and college participants giving five sets. The Block and Bridle Club provides group leaders, showmen, timekeepers and announcers. This event provides networking opportunities through the Nebraska Cattlemen who are showing and working at the Classic. It also provides great opportunities to get to know the Livestock Judging team better and build a familiarity with them. Club members without show experience might find themselves showing for the day, thus giving them confidence and maybe encouraging them to participate in other events such as Little AkSarBen or Little MAEC.

—Jacie Ochsner

27: Classic/ Little MAEC
Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic
Thirty-eight students competed in the UNL Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon competition on February 24th and 28th. Departments represented included: Animal Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education and the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Teams of four students competed in four different events including a lab practicum, written exam, oral presentation and a quiz bowl. The teams winning the individual events were as follows:

Written Exam: Erin Kascht, Maria Cammack, Tyler Pieper and Zach Adam

Lab Practicum and Oral Presentation: Lisa Watermeier, Emily Arkfeld, Jared Williams and Eric Post

Quiz Bowl: Dana Newtson, Tacy Langemeier, Jessica Clowser and Cashley Ahlberg

The team of Lisa Watermeier, Emily Arkfeld, Jared Williams and Eric Post were the overall champions for the 2011 UNL Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon competition. The overall champion team represented the UNL Animal Science Department at the Midwest Academic Quadrathlon competition that was held on March 13th and 14th, in conjunction with the American Society of Animal Science Midwest Sectional meetings in Des Moines, Iowa.

—Dr. Thomas E. Burkey, Faculty Coordinator
Academic Quadrathlon

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Dr. Thomas E. Burkey, Faculty Coordinator

The UNL bull sale, held every spring, merchandises approximately 40 bulls to commercial producers, in addition to those sold to other UNL herds. 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 is 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 speakers invited during the semester representing seedstock producers who share their knowledge and experiences with the students.

—Dr. Matt Spangler, Instructor

Front Row: Jessica Cornelius, Jessica Clowser, Melinda Rathman, Lisa Watermieier, Wes Pelster; Second Row: MariBeth Capek, Emily Arkfeld, Elizabeth Wihelm, Joseph Jrba, Aaron Smith; Back Row: Amanda Elwess, Jared Williams, Brandon Sorensen, Eric Miller; Not Pictured: Melissa Keyes
The National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest is a unique, comprehensive, two-day competition that combines components of meats and livestock judging with real-world evaluation and pricing of commercial livestock and meat products. In addition, students must understand a multitude of different issues faced by the livestock and meats industries. During the communications challenge, teams are presented a topic and given one hour to develop an oral presentation that must involve all members of the team and address the issue incorporating viewpoints of the meat industry, livestock producers and consumers. This year, five students accepted the challenge of preparing for this unique learning experience including Zach Adam from Wilcox, Emily Arkfeld from Dunbar, Jack Pudenz from Plainview, Chad Storm from Albion and Jared Williams from Broken Bow.

Individually, Zach and Emily placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively in sheep evaluation, and Emily placed 12th in total sheep across all three divisions (breeding, evaluation, and meats). Zach placed within the top 20 percent of all contestants in beef evaluation and overall evaluation. Similarly, Jared placed in the top 20 percent of the meats division. The team placed 8th in overall evaluation, 12th in breeding livestock, 7th in meats, 8th in the communications challenge and 8th overall. A total of 14 different universities competed in the competition. The Meat Animal Evaluation Team is coached by Dr. Bryan Reiling.

Front Row: Dept. Head Jack Pudenz, Emily Arkfeld, Chad Storm; Back Row: Coach Dr. Bryan Reiling, Jared Williams, Zachary Adams, Dr. Larry Berger
The UNL Horse Judging team had a highly successful year at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, and the AQHA World Championship Intercollegiate Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The UNL Horse Judging Team was named Reserve Champion Team in the senior college division of the Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, on October 13, 2010. The team finished 2nd overall out of 16 teams and was 4th in Halter Judging, 5th in Performance and 6th in Oral Reasons. Several individuals excelled. Hali Jorgensen was 6th place individual overall and Bailey Kobs was 13th place individual overall. Other individual highlights include: Halter Division - Hali Jorgensen 8th, Bailey Kobs 11th, Mindy Leach 12th; Performance Division- Aleah German 11th; Oral Reasons- Mindy Leach 9th.

Success for the team continued in November as they placed third overall in the AQHA World Championship Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla. on November 17, 2010. The team was third overall out of 13 senior college teams and finished third in halter, fifth in performance and ninth in reasons. Individual places were: Hali Jorgensen- 5th overall in the contest and 4th in performance, Aleah German- 9th in halter, and Kelsey Horner- 15th overall. This was the last contest in a very successful year for the Horse Judging Team, and we are looking forward to next year already. A huge thank you goes to assistant coach Anna Pesta for all her time and expertise.

Team members included: Aleah German, Lincoln; Bailey Kobs, Blair; Brooke Preston, Firth; Hali Jorgensen, Omaha; Kelsey Horner, Kearney; and Mindy Leach, Malcolm. The team was coached by Kathy Anderson, UNL Extension Horse Specialist and Anna Pesta, UNL Animal Science Graduate Student.
After a successful show season, the UNL Equestrian Team secured its seventh consecutive Western Regional Champion title in Zone 7, Region 1 of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Due to the Western Team’s status as Regional Champions, they also competed at Western Semi-Nationals as a team. The team placed third, which won them a spot to compete at Nationals as a team.

Lori Jaixen serves as coach for both teams and Lisa Karr-Lilienthal is the team’s faculty advisor.

Kelsey Horner, a senior elementary education major, won Western Regional High Point Rider, which comes with an automatic bid to compete in the AQHA High Point Western Rider event at the national competition in Lexington, Ky., in May.

“I remember watching the high point riders last year when I was at Nationals and thinking they were such good equitation riders,” Horner said. “That inspired me to work even harder in practices and lessons to get where I am now.”

Samantha Cajka, a senior physics major, took the title of Western Regional Reserve High Point Rider.

“I’m just really happy I was able to continue the legacy of UNL by qualifying for Regionals in both reining and open rail,” Cajka said. “The season went so well. It was such a good way to end my college experience.”

This is Lori Jaixen’s second year as UNL’s coach, and she said in comparison to last year she enjoyed seeing both the new and returning members grow as riders.

“I have loved watching the new team members evolve as well as watching returning team members continue to grow and become more competitive,” Jaixen said. “I am so proud of all the riders.”

The UNL Equestrian Team has about 45 riders split between the Western and Hunt Seat teams. Ten Western riders qualified for Regionals (Katrin Gubser and Paige Walla in Walk/Trot; Brooke Preston and Linsey Bode in Intermediate; Brandon Essink and Katrina Quick in Novice; Hali Jorgensen and Cassie Sell in Advanced; and Kelsey Horner and Samantha Cajka in both Open Rail and Reining). Preston, Essink, Quick and Horner qualified for Semi-Nationals, and Preston, Quick and Horner will advance to Nationals as individual competitors.

Seven Hunt Seat member competed at Regionals (Cara Peters, Megan Brincks and Natalie Becher in Walk/Trot/Canter; Kelsey Horner in Novice; Amanda Thaler in Intermediate; Nicole D’Angelo in Novice Fences; and Lynsey Whitacre in both Open Flat and Open Fences). Whitacre qualified for Zones in Open Fences and placed high enough to qualify for Nationals as well. She is the first UNL rider to qualify for Zones on the Hunt Seat Team. Overall, the Hunt Seat Team finished third in the region, which shows a growth and improvement of the team since last year.

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 teams’ funding comes from team fund-raisers 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 and fund-raising to continue showing at such an outstanding level. The team completed several successful events this season outside of competition including Boo at the U, gift wrapping at The Fort Western Stores, Noodles and Co. fund-raising night, and an Equestrian Team Clinic for high school students. The 2010-2011 western team members include: Jillian Andreasen (Hastings, Neb.), Linsey Bode (Elgin, Neb.), Samantha Cajka (Lincoln, Neb.), Kelsey Cartagena (Lincoln, Neb.), Brizett Cole (Otoe, Neb.), Lindsey Driggs (North Platte, Neb.), Brandon Essink (Syracuse, Neb.), Katrin Gubser (Fredricksburg, Va.), Katie Higgins (Lincoln, Neb.), Kelsey Horner (Kearney, Neb.), Hali Jorgensen (Omaha, Neb.), Melissa Matulka (Thedford, Neb.), Melisa McDonald (Lincoln, Neb.), Megan Merritt (Clarkson, Neb.), Cara Peters (Firth, Neb.), Brooke Preston (Firth, Neb.), Katrina Quick (Hordville, Neb.), Dustin Renken (Bertrand, Neb.), Jen Roncek (Lincoln, Neb.), Amanda Schardt (Deshler, Neb.), Hannah Scow (Firth, Neb.), Cassandra Sell (Lincoln, Neb.), Emily Taylor (Battle Creek, Neb.), Paige Walla (Morse Bluff, Neb.), Emily Waring (Omaha, Neb.), and Molly Wolfe (Palmer, Neb.). The 2010-2011 hunt seat team members include: Natalie Becher (Columbus, Neb.), Megan Brincks (Lidderdale, Iowa), Ardelle Buck (Lincoln, Neb.), Samantha Cajka (Lincoln, Neb.), Nicole D’ Angelo (San Jose, Calif.), Laura Hahn (Lincoln, Neb.), Kaitlin Halva (Amherst, Neb.), Kelsey Horner (Kearney, Neb.), Katherine Kurth (Lincoln, Neb.), Maria Luedtke (Lincoln, Neb.), Kelly McCormick (Omaha, Neb.), Cara Peters (Firth, Neb.), Katrina Quick (Hordville, Neb.), Amanda Thaler (Omaha, Neb.), Wyki Walstrom (Lincoln, Neb.), Molly Weiss (Lincoln, Neb.), Lynsey Whitacre (Saint Joseph, Missouri), and Lauren Wondra (Bellevue, Neb.).

The team first traveled to the National Barrow Show on September 13th, in Austin, Minn. The team completed a solid day finishing 9th out of 17 teams from across the nation. This year recorded the second largest contest in the history of the barrow show. Individually, Jessica Cornelius was 22nd in oral reasons. Emily Arkfeld was 19th in placings and placed 24th overall. As a team UNL was 5th in placings and 9th in oral reasons.

Next the team traveled to El Dorado, Kan., to compete in the 4th Annual Flinthills Classic Judging Contest held by Butler Community College. The team continued to gain ground on competition by placing 11th out of 23 teams. Although not the outcome the team wanted, the team was just 11 points from placing 7th overall. Individually, Emily Arkfeld was 8th in sheep.

UNL placed 3rd overall behind the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University. The team placed 2nd in swine, 3rd in cattle, 3rd in sheep, 3rd in placings and 4th in oral reasons. Individually, Emily Arkfeld was 3rd in sheep, 5th in oral reasons, 11th in placings and 5th overall. Jess Cornelius was 7th in placings, 8th in swine, 14th in cattle and 12th overall. Tacy Langemeier was 4th in sheep, 6th in placings and 13th overall. Sam Munderloh was 11th in sheep and 13th in swine. Cody Dvorak was 9th in sheep.

On November 16, 2010, 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 2010 team. UNL was represented very well. Emily Arkfeld was named to the All-American team (which is a comprised of only 10 and takes into account academics along with judging accomplishments). UNL has placed a student on the All-American team for a fourth straight year. Emily is also the eighth student in ten years to represent UNL as an All-American.

In sheep judging the team finished 15th and individually Jess Cornelius finished 29th. In swine judging the team finished 16th and individually Emily Arkfeld finished 33rd. In cattle judging the team was 17th and individually Sam Munderloh finished 22nd. In reasons the team finished 14th. Overall the team finished 15th out of 30 teams, and Sam Munderloh led all UNL judgers with a 37th place finish.

Each team member made great strides while competing on the team during the season. Experience on the team, will without question aid each member in their future endeavors. Four of the team members are planning to return home upon graduation to help their family operations. Three team members plan to enroll in graduate school, one will start vet school and the last one will start work as a high school teacher. The 2010 team members finishing their judging careers include: Emily Arkfeld, Dunbar; Jessica Cornelius, Madrid; Dex Driskell, Wakefield; Cody Dvorak, Stuart; Tacy Langemeier, Stromsburg; Sam Munderloh, Colby, Kan.; Tyson Narjes, Sidney; Lisa Watermeier, Syracuse; and Jarred Williams, Broken Bow. Jason and I enjoyed working with a great group of future livestock leaders and wish them the very best for their future.

On January 14, 2011, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. This served as the first national contest for the 2011 team. UNL had a solid initial contest finishing 13th out of 28 schools. The carload contest took place the next day. UNL students had another solid performance placing pens of cattle. Nick Hansen led the team with an 11th place finish out of 133 contestants. Overall the team finished 11th out of 28 schools in the carload contest.

UNL then traveled to Sioux Falls, S.D., for the Sioux Empire Show Contest on January 29, 2011. This contest was the first opportunity for all members of the current team to compete on the same day. The team
made great strides including finishing 4th overall in placings and 7th overall as a team. Individually, Andrew Uden had a team leading day placing 4th in placings, 8th in sheep, 15th in cattle and 4th overall. Brandon Koch was 20th in placings, 9th in beef and 24th overall. Cody Kester was 16th in placings, and 15th in sheep. Cashley Ahlberg was 9th in swine. Brodie Mackey was 3rd in sheep. Nick Hansen was 17th in placings, and Rebecca Engler was 12th in cattle.

On February 12th, 2011, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Dixie National Cattle Judging Contest in Jackson, Miss. The team continued a strong performance in their third contest of the spring. Individually Cashley Ahlberg lead the team with a 17th place overall finish.

The Dixie National Contest is divided into four divisions of cattle, based on breed type or market. Additionally, students are recognized in placings and reasons. In placings, four members of the team placed in the top ten, with Cashley Ahlberg placing 3rd, Brandon Koch placing 4th, Nick Hansen placing 7th and Austin Zimmerman placing 10th. In the English Division, Brandon Koch was 5th, Nick Hansen was 9th and the team was 3rd. In the Continental Division, Cashley Ahlberg and Jessica Clowser tied for 18th and the team was 5th. In the Brahman Influenced Division Brodie Mackey tied for 10th, Cashley Ahlberg was 16th and the team was 6th. In the Market Steer Division, Andrew Uden tied for 10th and the team was 4th. Overall Cashley Ahlberg, Brodie Mackey, Brandon Koch, Jessica Clowser and Andrew Uden all placed in the top 40 out of 109 contestants. Overall the team was 4th out of 17 schools.

The University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team has competed at two contests to finish the spring semester. On February 19th, 2011, the team competed at the 4th Annual Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic Judging Contest in Kearney, Neb. The team had a solid day obtaining 6th in placings and 3rd in oral reasons, effectively allowing the team to place 3rd overall. This year’s contest served as the largest ever senior college contest with 11 teams and 51 contestants.

Individually Andrew Uden was 7th in placings, Cody Kester was 9th and Rebecca Engler was 12th. In oral reasons, Brodie Mackey was 2nd overall. Individually overall, Brodie Mackey led the team placing 6th and Andrew Uden was 12th.

On March 15th, the team competed at the Houston Livestock Show in Houston, Texas. UNL continued to gain ground on the competition at a national level. The team was 5th in placings, 11th in cattle, 11th in sheep, 11th in swine, 13th in oral reasons and 9th overall. Individually Jessica Clowser was 16th in placings, 11th in goats, 6th in swine, 6th in sheep and placed 24th overall. Also, Brandon Koch was tied for 10th in cattle, Andrew Uden was 17th in placings and Cody Kester was 15th in the Alternate Division. In total there were 27 teams and 210 contestants in the contest.

The current team members are: Cashley Ahlberg, Longmont, Colo.; Jessica Clowser, Seward; Rebecca Engler, Nevada, Iowa; Nick Hansen, Laurel; Cody Kester, Clearwater; Brandon Koch, Lincoln; Brodie Mackey, Torrington, Wyo.; Andrew Uden, Elwood; and Austin Zimmerman, Beatrice. The team is coached by: Matt Ellicott who is assisted by Jay Nordhausen from Ogallala, a Master’s student under the direction of Dr. Steve Jones.

All members of the livestock judging program would like to recognize the support and generosity of the contributors and sponsors that make this possible each and every season. A sincere thank you from the UNL Livestock Judging Team goes out to the major sponsors including: Kimmel Foundation, Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc., and the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Research and Education Foundation.
Livestock Judging Team

2010 Team
Front Row: Tyson Narjes, Dex Driskell, Cody Dvorak, Jared Williams, Sam Munderloh; Back Row: Emily Arkfeld, Coach Matt Ellicott, Tacy Langemeier, Dept. Head Dr. Larry Berger, Lisa Watermeier, Assistant Coach Jason Warner, Jessica Cornelius
2010 Team
Front Row: Brandon Koch, Rebecca Engler, Coach Jerilyn Hergenreder, Austin Zimmerman; Back Row: Department Head Dr. Berger, Micheal Olsen, Faculty Adviser Dr. Burson

Meats Judging Team

2011 Team
Jared Schramm, Karen Buettner, Bailey Hartway, Assistant Coach Tacy Langemeier, Joelle Pillen, Coach Derek Schroeder
The 2010 Meats judging team competed in seven contests, two in the spring and five in the fall. The first contest was the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Meats judging contest held at JBS Swift in Greeley, Colo. The second contest was the Southwestern Intercollegiate Meats judging contest held at Columbia Packing in Dallas, Texas. The fall season started off with the Eastern Intercollegiate Meats Judging contest held at the Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Wyalusing, Pa. Then the Iowa State Invitational at the Iowa State University Meat lab in Ames, Iowa. The American Royal contest was held at the Nebraska Beef plant in Omaha, Neb. The High Plains contest in Plainview, Texas at the Cargill Meat Solutions beef plant. The season ended at the International in Dakota City, Neb., at the Tyson beef plant.

The team started off their season last January at the National Western Stock Show Intercollegiate Meats judging contest. They finished as the 7th high team overall, placing 7th in beef grading, 4th in beef judging, 7th in overall beef, 2nd in lamb judging, 1st in pork judging, 3rd in total placing, 2nd in total reasons and 8th in specifications. The team also had individuals finishing 1st in pork judging, lamb judging, total placings and reasons and one individual finishing 2nd overall. It finished its spring season at the Southwestern, finishing as the 4th high team overall, placing 6th in beef grading, 5th in beef judging, 5th in overall beef, 7th in lamb judging, 4th in pork judging, 3rd in total placing, 7th in total reasons and 4th in specifications. One individual placed 7th overall.

The team started their fall season at the Eastern in Wyalusing, Pa. They finished as the 4th high team overall, placing 8th in beef grading, 7th in beef judging, 6th in overall beef, 3rd in lamb judging, 3rd in pork judging, 5th in total placing, 4th in total reasons and 4th in specifications, with an individual finishing 6th overall. Then it went to the Iowa State Invitational where it finished 8th overall, and an individual finished 10th overall. Then the team went to the American Royal contest. The team finished as the 9th high team overall, placing 5th in beef grading, 9th in beef judging, 6th in overall beef, 6th in lamb judging, 11th in pork judging, 13th in total placing, 6th in total reasons and 9th in specifications. An individual was 4th high overall. The team then traveled to Texas for the High Plains contest where the team finished as the 7th high team overall, placing 8th in beef grading, 10th in beef judging, 9th in overall beef, 8th in lamb judging, 3rd in pork judging, 12th in total placing, 4th in total reasons, and 8th in specifications. An individual placed 4th overall, 1st in beef judging and 1st in overall beef. The team then went to the International, its last contest. It finished as the 11th high team overall, placing 14th in beef grading, 14th in beef judging, 13th in overall beef, 11th in lamb judging, 6th in pork judging, 13th in total placing, 12th in total reasons and 11th in specifications, with an individual placing 8th overall and 1st in placings. Michael Olsen was named to the All-American team, which is comprised of eight individuals and is determined by GPA and judging performance.

The 2010 University of Nebraska Meats judging team members are Rebecca Engler from Nevada, Iowa, Brandon Koch from Lincoln, Neb., Michael Olsen from Harrisburg, Neb., and Austin Zimmerman from Beatrice, Neb. They are coached by graduate student Jerilyn Hergenreder from Longmont, Colo. Overall, the team had a successful year.
The spring semester was full of learning experiences for the 2011 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Meat Judging team. We started the year off by attending the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo., on the 16th of January. Joelle Pillen had a good day placing classes, dropping 11 points total and ranking 11th in total placing division. Additionally, Jared Schramm was 15th in pork judging. Overall the team finished 10th. On January 29th the team traveled to Fort Worth, Texas to participate in the Southwestern Intercollegiate Meat judging contest. The team again finished in the 10th position. The final contest of the spring semester was the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on March 5th. Bailey Hartway finished 8th in total placings, dropping only 11 points. As a team, we finished 13th overall.

As a team, we are looking forward to continuing to work hard over the summer months to improve in every aspect of meat judging. The fall semester presents several opportunities to showcase those improvements and allows us to finish on a high note. October provides the first test of the fall as we will travel to Wyalusing, Pa., for the Eastern National, a two day contest. The following weekend we remain relatively close to home where we will compete at Iowa State. The very next weekend we compete in the American Royal Intercollegiate meat judging contest held at Nebraska Beef in Omaha, Neb. The third week of October provides our first break from action. The High Plains contest in Plainview, Texas will be held the last week of October. Finally, we compete at the National Championship, the International Intercollegiate Meat Judging contest held in Dakota City, Neb. Along the way, we get the unique opportunity to visit a variety of meat processing facilities that fabricate beef, pork and lamb, as well as hold practices in meat laboratories at other universities.

Members of the 2011 UNL meat judging team are Bailey Hartway, a sophomore Animal Science major from Barre, N.Y., Karen Buettner, a sophomore Fine Arts-Photography major from Grand Island, Neb. Joelle Pillen, a sophomore Animal Science major from Platte Center, Neb., and Jared Schramm, a junior Animal Science major from Moville, Iowa. Tacy Langemeier, senior animal science major from Stromsburg, Neb., serves as the assistant coach. Goals for next fall are to improve judging skills in each species, with the overall goal of becoming a top 5 team.

—Derek Schroeder and Tacy Langmeier Meat Judging Coaches
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