Block and Bridle Annual 2013

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GROW INTO THE FUTURE

Block and Bridle Annual 2012-2013

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Animal Science
Block and Bridle Club
# Table of Contents

- Block & Bridle History & Emblem ................................................................. 3
- Letter from Animal Science Department Head ........................................ 4
- Letter from Block & Bridle President ......................................................... 5
- Historian’s Comments ............................................................................. 6
- Calendar of Events .................................................................................. 7
- Guest Speaker List .................................................................................. 7
- 2013 Honoree ......................................................................................... 8
- Animal Science Faculty .......................................................................... 12
- Block & Bridle Members ........................................................................ 14
- Block & Bridle Initiates .......................................................................... 15
- Block & Bridle Officers and Advisors ..................................................... 16
- Senior Spotlight .................................................................................... 18
- Secretary’s Report ................................................................................ 20
- Treasurer’s Report ................................................................................ 21
- Big Red Welcome .................................................................................. 22
- Animal Science Welcome BBQ ............................................................... 22
- Beef Pit .................................................................................................. 23
- Steak Fry ............................................................................................... 24
- Ag Olympics .......................................................................................... 25
- Initiation Week ..................................................................................... 25
- Kids’ Day ............................................................................................... 26
- Semi Formal .......................................................................................... 27
- Holiday Gathering ................................................................................ 27
- Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic ................................................................. 28
- Big Red Beef Show .............................................................................. 30
- National Block & Bridle Convention ...................................................... 32
- Judging Dynasty .................................................................................... 33
- Academic Quadrathlon ......................................................................... 34
- Beef Merchandising Class ..................................................................... 35
- Meat Animal Evaluation Team .............................................................. 36
- Horse Judging Team ............................................................................. 37
- Equestrian Team .................................................................................. 38
- Livestock Judging Team ....................................................................... 39
- Meat Judging Teams ............................................................................ 42
- Advertisement Index ............................................................................ 43
History
On December 2, 1919, student representatives from four animal husbandry clubs met in Chicago, Illinois, and formed the National Block and Bridle Club. The local clubs became chapters in the new national organization. Nebraska was a charter chapter along with Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. During this meeting, the chapters formed a constitution which included a statement of the club’s 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.

Emblem

This symbol is very significant to Block and Bridle Club members, as it represents the principles upon which our club is built.

Character, sincerity, and a moral life are asked of members when they are initiated into the Block and Bridle Club. These attributes are depicted in the straight perpendicular of the “B.” The distinct curves of the “B” are symbolic of social pleasure, mental energy, and the determination of Block and Bridle Club members.

The meat block and cleaver inside the top half of the “B” represents the material aspects of our life and our profession. The bridle in the bottom half of the “B” stands for the behavior of Block and Bridle members, the control over ourselves that we try to maintain, the mannerisms and respect we show toward others, and the manner in which we treat our livestock.
March 18, 2013

Dear Block and Bridle Club Members:

Congratulations to all members of the Block and Bridle Club for having a truly great year. Having a well-rounded education is more than just the classroom experience. Taking advantage of opportunities through the Block and Bridle Club to enhance your leadership skills, to network with students who have similar interests and to work towards a common goal are all experiences that will benefit you for the rest of your life. I want to encourage you to continue to set high goals, to find your true passions and to be diligent to take advantage of the opportunities available through Block and Bridle.

The Animal Science Department appreciates your contributions to our academic programs and sponsored activities. The leadership you provide for Kids’ Day and the Big Red Beef Show gives the public the opportunity to learn more about our programs and the livestock industries we serve. On behalf of the Department, I also want to express appreciation to Drs. Dennis Brink, Steve Jones and Gary Sullivan for their leadership and oversight of the Club.

Your selection of Bill Dicke as this year’s Block and Bridle Honoree continues the Club’s legacy of honoring key leaders who have had great impact on Nebraska’s livestock industries. Bill’s commitment to supporting the Department of Animal Science, the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources and the agricultural industry in Nebraska is without question. Bill and Laurie Dicke have taken a leadership role in providing funds to support student scholarships. Investing in tomorrow’s leaders is their way of ensuring that animal agriculture has a bright future in Nebraska. It was a pleasure for me to see the sincerity, vision, and sense of purpose the leaders used in selecting Bill Dicke from an outstanding pool of candidates. This year’s recipient is a most worthy role model for all Block and Bridle members and one that you can be proud to have as your Honoree.

In summary, I want to congratulate each member of the Block and Bridle Club for a job well done. I wish you the very best as you continue your academic and professional careers.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Berger, Ph.D.
Marvel L. Baker Head
President’s Letter

Dear Members, Supporters, Family, and Friends,

Over the past school year, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Block and Bridle Club had tremendous goal breaking accomplishments, and hosted several successful events. It is my great pleasure to recognize and thank all of the officers and members that contributed a considerable amount of time to make it a fabulous year.

I would also like to thank the Animal Science Department faculty and staff for all of their support, time, and guidance throughout the year. Our advisors are a key component of our club and were crucial to the club’s success this year. They worked hard as our support system and are the driving force behind our success. Thank you Senior advisor, Dr. Dennis Brink, Junior advisor, Dr. Steven Jones, and Freshman advisor, Dr. Gary Sullivan. I would like to extend a special thank you to our club department contact, Andria Hallberg. She has been there helping to make sure the club stays on task and organized. Without our advisors, officers, club contact, and members, our club would fail to exist. Thank you all for your help.

Through my four years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Block and Bridle has provided me with many wonderful experiences. Through the club I have had the opportunity to meet many new people, develop leadership skills, and promote an industry that I fully believe in. I firmly believe that life skills are not only learned and developed in the classroom but that extracurricular college activities help to further the learning and skills students attain. It has been my goal this year to provide members with multiple opportunities to develop their own leadership and communication skills while also having a blast meeting other people who are just as excited about agriculture as they are.

My passion for the Block and Bridle Club started very early on in life because the organization was a huge part of my parents’ life when they were in college. It was prosperous back then, so I made it my goal to make sure it was prosperous this year as well. With that said, it has been my privilege to serve as the 2012-2013 Block and Bridle President. I wish to congratulate the members of this club for being dedicated, driven, and hardworking this last year. I have seen their dedication and pride in the Block and Bridle Club and the agriculture industry. As you read through the annual, I hope that you will also recognize all the hard work that the members have expended this year. I feel that with the success this year, the club will continue to grow and be prosperous. I also want to wish future club members, officers, and presidents the best of luck as they continue to promote, grow, and build on the traditions of the Nebraska Block and Bridle Club.

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Matulka
2012-2013 Block and Bridle Club President
Historian Comments

Dear Members, Supporters, Family and Friends,

Another year has come to a close. With all the Block and Bridle Club activities going this year, I hardly knew where the year went. It was awesome to see the club grow and to see new faces mixed with the old ones. Much of the success of this year would not have been possible without our hard-working members, advisors and support system.

“Grow into the Future” was selected as the theme for the annual this year and really reflects the mission of the officer team and advisors. Last year was a new beginning of sorts, and the officer team was very enthusiastic to help the club grow into something bigger. It isn’t all about increasing the number of people of the club either. With all the clubs activities, we strove to improve from years before and even added events, Semi-Formal and the Cake Auction! It was a goal the club’s leaders wanted the members, everyone in the Animal Science Department, and the community to see the value of the events and connections formed by the Block and Bridle Club. Our hope is the relationships formed between members, faculty, and the community will continue to benefit individuals and the agricultural industry down the road. The students you see in these pages are the future of the agricultural industry.

None of this would be possible without the guidance of our advisors. Dr. Dennis Brink, Dr. Steven Jones, and Dr. Gary Sullivan have devoted time and knowledge to the club. Speaking for the club, we truly cannot thank them enough. I would also like to thank our department contact, Andria Hallberg, for her patience with us and for managing our materials.

As historian, I had the opportunity to document the club’s activities. And yes, do we have a few! I enjoyed getting to know new and old members this year through the many events and meetings. I hope the annual reflects the excitement and dedication of all the Block and Bridle members. Please thumb through and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Lisa Temme
2012-2013 Block and Bridle Historian
Calendar of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Big Red Welcome</td>
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<td>Steak Fry</td>
<td>September 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ag Olympics</td>
<td>September 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiation Week</td>
<td>October 28th to November 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids’ Day</td>
<td>November 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-Formal</td>
<td>November 30th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Gathering Breakfast</td>
<td>December 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic</td>
<td>February 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Red Beef Show</td>
<td>March 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honoree Trip</td>
<td>March 8th &amp; 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State FFA Convention</td>
<td>April 3rd to 5th</td>
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<td>Block and Bridle National Convention</td>
<td>April 4th to 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judging Dynasty</td>
<td>April 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husker Food Connection</td>
<td>April 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoree Banquet and Cake Auction</td>
<td>April 26th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Guest Speakers

September: Anne Burkholder – Rancher and “Feedyard Foodie” blogger

October: Joel Johnston – Masters Student in Ruminant Nutrition in graduate school
          Dr. Lena Cottle – Youth Equine Extension Specialist on continuing your education

November: Deanna Karmazin – State Coordinator of Nebraska Ag in the Classroom
          Kari Gillespie- Masters Student in Ruminant Nutrition speaking on the UNL Feedlot Management Internship Program

December: Trent Loos – Radio Show Personality of “Loos Tails”

January: Kristen Hassebrook – Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies for Nebraska Cattlemen

February: Dr. Ty Schmidt – Assistant Professor of Muscle Biology and Physiology

March: Chris Schuetze – Director of New Sales and Marketing for Life Products

Bill Dicke was born October 22, 1949, in McCook, NE. He graduated from Wauneta High School in 1968. In 1972, Bill received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with double majors in Animal Science and Agricultural Economics. Bill continued his graduate education in Ruminant Nutrition and completed his Masters degree in 1974.

Bill began his professional career as Director of Technical Service and Assistant Nutritionist at ZIP Feed Mills in Sioux Falls, SD. He then progressed toward the nutritional consulting business having experience working for Scott Pro, Inc., in Scott City, KS, and Koers Consulting in Salina, KS. In 1981, Bill founded his own independent nutritional consulting firm, Cattlemen’s Nutrition Services. Today, Cattlemen’s Nutrition Services, LLC now headquartered in Lincoln, NE is one of the largest independent consulting firms in the United States. The company consults for about 130 clients in 13 states. Bill was a “primary influencer” in the development of ethanol byproduct feeding. Bill’s creativity provided recommendations that allowed feeders to use higher levels of wet byproducts in feedlot diets giving his clients significant economic advantages allowing them to be profitable as corn prices increased. During the past eight years, Bill has brought three young nutritionists, all University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduates, into his business. Bill also manages the Dicke Family farm in Dundy County in southwest Nebraska. The farm received the Ak-Sar-
Ben Pioneer Farm Award in 2009. This year Bill was nominated for the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

Bill is a member of the Ag Builders of Nebraska and served on its board from 2005-2010. He is a committee member of the Sustainable Animal Agriculture Campaign for Nebraska. Bill serves on the nominating committee for the National Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and the Education Committee of the Nebraska Cattlemen. In addition, Bill is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, Kansas Livestock Association, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, High Plains Nutrition Council, the UNL Alumni Association, and charter member of the CASNR Alumni Association. Bill has also served on nutrition advisory boards for several pharmaceutical companies and agri-business firms throughout the last three decades.

Bill is a devoted supporter of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Department of Animal Science. He believes the department is critical to Nebraska’s livestock industry, and his support for faculty and students has been demonstrated in many ways. He is an enthusiastic fundraiser for University of Nebraska-Lincoln research and teaching programs. Bill was an early supporter and promoter of the Feedlot Internship Program, Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium, Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars, Klopfenstein Student Excellence Fund, and Block and Bridle Steak Fry all with the goal of developing young leaders for the beef industry. Bill’s latest endeavor has raised almost $250,000 along with matching funds from the Kenneth and Caroline Eng Foundation, equaling almost half a million dollars to support ruminant nutrition research and teaching. Furthermore, Bill’s commitment to students is demonstrated by giving time to present lectures in graduate level feedlot nutrition classes. Bill and his wife, Laurie, are also regular participants in the annual Block and Bridle Steak Fry to interact with the undergraduate students.
Bill married his wife, Laurie, in 1975. They have two daughters, Javanah Weiler of Syracuse, NE and Sarah Naber of St. Joseph, MO and five grandchildren. Bill is very active with youth in the community. Both Bill and Laurie serve as TeamMate mentors for students in Lincoln Public Schools and have hosted several high school aged foreign exchange students. Bill is a former 4-H leader. Bill and Laurie are members of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Lincoln, NE, and former foster parents.

It is a great privilege for Block and Bridle to honor Bill Dicke as the 2013 Block and Bridle Honoree. His contributions to the Nebraska Livestock Industry, the University of Nebraska, and his community through his passion, devotion, and humble leadership are truly honorable.

On the Honoree Tour club members toured the feedlot of one of Bill’s clients to gain a better understanding of what he does as a nutrition consultant. The following day we visited Cattlemen’s Nutrition Services offices in Lincoln. Bill and Laurie invited the group into their home for a delicious home cooked meal. It was a wonderful chance to get to know Bill and his family.

The club is very thankful for Bill and Laurie’s hospitality and would like to congratulate Bill Dicke once again.
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Bull & Stallion Semen Freezing
Frozen semen Storage & Shipping
On-Farm Bull semen Testing
Stallion Cooled Collection—Mare Breeding
Sexed Bull semen in conjunction with Sexing Technologies

Current updates on Facebook
Ashland, NE—402-944-2584

voglersemen.com
Faculty

Larry Berger
Don Adams
Kathleen Anderson
Donald Beermann
Chris Calkins
Andrea Cupp
Dennis Burson
Dennis Brink
Thomas Burkey
Galen Erickson
Daniel Ciobanu
Archie Clutter
Lena Cottle
Samodha Fernando
Richard Funston
Ronald Green
Debra Hamernik
Members

Aaron Aldana
Kyra Baldwin
Nicole Barry
Lakin Beaver
Heidi Black
Casey Campbell
Samuel Cares
Roger Carpenter
Alissa Doerr
Adam Duensing
Danielle Elsom
Nate Fiene
Steven Fish
Matthew Fleischman
Kinsey Freemin
Lukas Fricke
Holly Fujan
Cole Geiser
Karli Glodowski
Laura Gorecki
Reah Green
Marissa Grooms
Molly Gruener
Ellan Hasenkamp
Alex Heine
Devin Heusinkvelt
Judson Hofschneider
Katie Husman
Alec Ibach
Grant Jones
Justina Kassik
Hannah Kesterson
Amanda Kimerling
Tessa Klein
Morgan Kobs
Melisa Konecky
Halsie Large
Maci Lienemann
Jourdan Matthies
Valerie Matulka
Melissa Matulka
Ashley McCoy
Cameron Menard
Eric Miller
Kathleen Ochsner
Jestin Ochsner
Seth Oliverius
Logan Peters
Ashley Probst
Will Rahjes
Maxwell Rasmussen
Justin Ross
Emily Sarbacker
Kolin Scheele
Patti Schlickbernd
Austin Schroeder
Ian Schuster
Payton Shankland
David Shields
Jessica Smith
Stephanie Smolek
Rebekah Spader
Korissah Spatz
Ashley Spilinak
Kelby Sudbeck
Lisa Temme
Lacey Uden
Rebecca Vinton
Claire Volk
Curtis Wetovick
Lauren Wielage
Adam Wolfe
Debra Wray
Kristin Witte
Block & Bridle
Initiates

Aaron Aldana
Kyra Baldwin
Lakin Beaver
Heidi Black
Casey Campbell
Samuel Cares
Roger Carpenter
Adam Duensing
Danielle Elsom
Nate Fiene
Steven Fish
Kinsey Freeman

Lukas Fricke
Holly Fujan
Cole Geiser
Karli Głowowski
Laura Gorecki
Marissa Grooms
Molly Gruener
Ellan Hasenkamp
Alex Heine
Devin Heusinkvelt
Katie Husman
Hannah Kesterson

Morgan Kobs
Halsie Large
Maci Lienemann
Jourdan Matthies
Ashley McCoy
Cameron Menard
Kathleen Ochsner
Seth Oliverius
Logan Peters
Will Rahjes
Justin Ross
Emily Sarbacker

Kolin Scheele
Patti Schlickbernd
Austin Schroeder
Ian Schuster
Payton Shankland
David Shields
Rebekah Spander
Korissah Spatz
Lacey Uden
Claire Volk
Curtis Wetovick
Adam Wolfe
Officers and Advisors

President: Melissa Matulka
Vice President: Lauren Wielage
Treasurer: Grant Jones
Secretary: Debra Wray
Marshall: Alec Ibach
Historian: Lisa Temme
Ambassador: Maxwell Rasmussen

Senior Advisor: Dr. Dennis Brink
Junior Advisor: Dr. Steven Jones
Freshman Advisor: Dr. Gary Sullivan

Back Row: Dr. Brink, Dr. Jones, Dr. Sullivan
Second Row: Lisa Temme, Melissa Matulka, Maxwell Rasmussen
Front Row: Grant Jones, Lauren Wielage, Debra Wray

Not Pictured: Alec Ibach
UNL’s Premier Agricultural Fraternity

Visit www.agrunl.org for contact information and photo updates of our recent building project

Making Better Men Since 1904
Senior Spotlight

Alissa Doerr
Major: Agriculture Economics
Parents: Dan and Neva Doerr
From: Creighton, Nebraska
After graduation plans: I will be attending Nebraska College of Law in the fall. After receiving my law degree, I hope to retain my rural roots by working for an agricultural company or practicing privately in rural Nebraska.
Favorite part of Block and Bridle: Kids’ Day and teaching Iowa State kids how to swing dance at National Convention
Advice for underclassmen: On campus involvement can open doors to endless opportunities. Stay classy kids!

Lauren Wielage
Major: Agribusiness - Banking and Finance
Parents: Richard and Janice Wielage
From: Mead, Nebraska
After graduation plans: I will be taking a marketing trainee position at Sandhills Publishing and traveling around the United States ensuring that Sandhills Publishing’s trade publications are being distributed accurately.
Favorite thing about Block & Bridle: My favorite part of Block & Bridle was meeting so many great people in animal agriculture. I was able to make many lifelong friendships and meet numerous people outside of my major. I loved the multiple opportunities I was given to volunteer and interact with individuals from all across the state.
Advice for underclassmen: Find something you are passionate about and excel in the opportunities that await you. Get involved with Block & Bridle, you never know who you will meet and what kind of effect they will have on the rest of your life. And never forget where you come from.
**Justina Kassik**
Major: Animal Science – Business  
Parents: Michael and Deborah Kassik  
From: Milligan, Nebraska  
After graduation plans: I plan to graduate in December of 2013 and go into sales. Right now I have an internship in beef sales, and if all goes well, I will continue with that company following graduation.  
Favorite part of Block & Bridle: Big Red Beef Show! It is awesome to see everything come together and our club be so successful.  
Advice for underclassmen: Get involved and stay involved – do not be afraid to voice your opinion!

**Maxwell Rasmussen**
Major: Animal Science - Production and Management  
Parents: Steve and Shirley Rasmussen  
From: Laurel, Nebraska  
After graduation plans: I will be enrolled in the Feedlot Management Specialization Program and will be interning at Winner Circle Feedlot in Winner, South Dakota.  
Favorite part of Block & Bridle: The Big Red Beef Show. Even though it was stressful and trying, the show always ended well and was a good time.  
Advice for underclassmen: When asked to interview for television, say no.

**Kristin Witte**
Major: Agricultural Education with a minor in Agricultural Economics  
Parents: Donald and Kelly Witte  
From: Scribner, Nebraska  
After graduation plans: I will be the Agriculture Education Instructor at Shickley Public Schools and advise the FFA chapter. Or become a bum!  
Favorite thing about Block & Bridle: The baking night for the Holiday Gathering and watching the guys try to make oreo balls.  
Advice for underclassmen: Hard work is a lot easier when you have fun doing what you have to.
Secretary Report

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle Club had an invigorating and exciting year full of learning, hard work, and fun! The club began its itinerary by traveling to Grand Island to serve hungry fair-goers in the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair. The club’s Annual Steak Fry event gave the club another opportunity to provide great food and the chance for students, Animal Science Department faculty and staff to meet outside the classroom. The club sold 271 tickets to the event and was also presented with a check from the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska for winning the Husker Food Connection participation challenge the previous spring.

At the end of November, club members invited daycare children from the area to see agriculture up close at the Kids’ Day event at Warren Arena at the Animal Science Complex. About 150 children eagerly looked upon livestock animals and learned about where food comes from with the help of the ASCI-100 students. The Semi Formal was a new event for the club. The dance was open to all CASNR students and held at the end of November. In December, the club showed our appreciation to the faculty and staff of the Animal Science Department by hosting a Holiday Gathering complete with breakfast goods. Additionally Block and Bridle welcomed 25 enthusiastic initiates into the club during the fall semester. Initiates did a wonderful job decorating their paddles and participating in Initiation Week. The week consisted of meeting faculty in the department and having have a select number of faculty members sign the decorated paddles.

Members started the spring semester by helping with the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic Livestock Judging Contest in Kearney. The contest gave members the chance to show off their showmanship skills before a group including 4-H, FFA, and colligate livestock judges. The next event allowed members to put on a contest of their own at the Block and Bridle Big Red Beef Show at the State Fair Grounds in Grand Island. The event was the biggest ever with over 200 head of cattle and was a wonderful fundraiser for the club. Club members did a great job of preparing for and running the show!

Club members also traveled to see this year’s Honoree Mr. Bill Dicke’s involvement as a nutritist consultant on a feedlot. Mr. Dicke also met with club members at his Lincoln office and invited them to lunch at his house. During the spring, the club hosted Livestock Dynasty, a livestock judging contest, helped with the Husker Food Connection (an agricultural awareness event), and participated in Community Night during CASNR Week. Additionally, the club has greatly benefited by having livestock industry leaders and educators speak to members at meetings all year long.

The club would like to thank the Department of Animal Science faculty and staff for their wonderful support and especially Drs. Brink, Jones, and Sullivan for serving as advisors to the club. The club is eager to build on what has been accomplished this year as it looks forward to another outstanding year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Wray
Block and Bridle Secretary
# Treasurer Report

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<th>Income ($)</th>
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**Beginning Balance:** $3,076.68  
**Ending Balance:** $10,172.32

Submitted by,

Grant Jones  
Treasurer
Big Red Welcome

At the beginning of every school year, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln hosts the Big Red Welcome in the Stadium Loop. This event allows students, ranging from incoming freshman to graduate students, to check out the university’s many clubs, meet some new people, and get plenty of free items. The Block and Bridle Club attended this event with the goal of gaining the interest of students to join our club. Melissa Matulka, Alec Ibach, and Maxwell Rasmussen represented the club this year. At our station, we had a poster board with pictures from the activities we’re involved in, general club information, our past annuals, and of course, free t-shirts and candy. Despite the very hot conditions, there was a good turn out. We recruited 48 students; the most we have had in recent years.

-Maxwell Rasmussen

Animal Science Welcome Back BBQ

At the start of the year, the Animal Science Department invited students to a BBQ for incoming and returning students. Representitves from Animal Science clubs were on hand to introduce their clubs. Club president Melissa Matulka represented the club by giving a short presentation and interacting with new students at the Block and Bridle booth.

-Lisa Temme
The Nebraska Cattlemen sponsors and operates a food stand at the Nebraska State Fair called the Beef Pit. Every year the Nebraska Cattlemen request that we send 14 members to help them fulfill one of their shifts. This year we helped make sandwiches, get drinks, take and put together orders. After the event we were responsible for cleaning up. During our shift, the Nebraska Cattlemen served over 3,000 sandwiches beating their record for the most sandwiches served for the second year in a row. We are proud our service to the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Pit contributed to their most successful year at the State Fair. Through this activity we were able to get new members involved in some of our activities early on. While participating in the event, we also get to meet and interact with some of the most highly involved Nebraska Cattlemen members and serve great beef.

-Melissa Matulka
Steak Fry

With the help of the Animal Science faculty, staff, Block & Bridle officers and members, the club was able to sell 271 steaks at the Steak Fry and all leftover steak was sold after the event on a first-come first-served basis. The Steak Fry proved to be an exceptional event with students having the opportunity to meet Animal Science faculty, staff, and other current students. The event was held on September 14, 2012, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Faculty that assisted with serving at the event were: Dr. Berger, Dr. Calkins, Dr. Erickson, Dr. Nielson, Dr. White, Dr. Jones, Dr. Brink, Dr. Sullivan, and Mr. Clyde Naber. Vice Chancellor Green was able to attend and Michael Kelsey from the Nebraska Cattlemen gave some opening remarks before the first steaks were served. For our outstanding involvement in the Husker Food Connection in 2012, the Block & Bridle Club was presented with a $1,000 check from Willow Holoubek with A-FAN, Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska. Lastly, we would like to thank all of our sponsors who made this event happen: Cargill, Nebraska Cattlemen’s Nutrition Services, LLC., Crop Production Services, Darr Feedlot Inc., Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Board, and Nebraska Farm Bureau.

-Lauren Wielage & Grant Jones
Students of UNL exercised their farming skills at the 2nd Annual Ag Olympics held on September 20th. With varying levels of experience, students competed in gunny sack racing, roping, tire flipping, cow milking, stick-horse barrel racing, hay bale stacking, tug-of-war, and a pie-eating contest for the grand finale. A mix of Block & Bridle members competed and helped with the event sponsored by East Campus Student Involvement.

-Lisa Temme

One of our club’s most important goals for this school year was to increase the number of initiates. After a lot of deliberation amongst the officers and advisors, we decided to try a new approach and have an initiation week. Traditionally, initiates are given paddles when they pay their dues, they decorate them, and at the end of the fall semester the officers and advisors sign them. This year, Alec Ibach and Maxwell Rasmussen chose 15 faculty members in the Animal Science department and came up with clues for each of them. The idea was for the initiates to match the clues to the faculty member and have them sign their paddle. This way, they can interact with a greater number of faculty. As a result, we did increase our number of initiates, and many of them were over achievers and got more than 15 faculty members to sign their paddles. We look forward to initiation week next year and for the opportunity to improve our club.

-Maxwell Rasmussen
Kids’ Day

The UNL Block and Bridle Club held their annual Kids’ Day on November 30th at the Animal Science Complex. Members guided over 150 children from area daycares and preschools through the arena showing and telling them about the different livestock animals present. Pigs, horses, a dairy cow and calf were provided by the Animal Science Department. Goats were also part of the day and were a huge hit with the kids. Additionally the kids had the opportunity to learn from interactive activities made and presented by Dr. Reiling’s Animal Science 100 students. Block and Bridle would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication and especially express appreciation to Deanna Karmazin with Ag in the Classroom for her great help!

-Debra Wray
Semi-Formal

This year to celebrate the end of the fall semester and all the members’ hard work, the Block and Bridle Club hosted a Semi-Formal dance on November 30th. The dance was held at the Cornhusker Social Hall and open to all College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) students. Members danced the night away to country music provided by Austin Zimmerman, a current University of Nebraska-Lincoln student. The dance was a great way for students to interact outside of the club activities. The Footloose dance became a show off of the members dancing skills. Despite the Big 10 Championship game the following day the brand new event was still a success for Block and Bridle students.

-Melissa Matulka

Holiday Gathering Breakfast

There is no better way to show our appreciation for the faculty, staff, and graduate students of Animal Science than to serve them breakfast. The Holiday Gathering Breakfast was held December 4th. Members enjoyed a new adventure of making and enjoying caramel rolls, lemon poppy seed bread, turnovers, and even chicken jalapeño crêpes. It was a great chance to thank the people who help Animal Science students every day.

-Lisa Temme
Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic

In February, the Block & Bridle Club made the trip out west for the Kearney Classic. At the Kearney Classic, Mr. Matt Ellicott hosted a Judging Competition for area schools to attend. This year the contest was the biggest it has been with 350 participants, one school coming from as far as California. Twelve Block and Bridle members were in charge of showing the cattle selected from the Classic in the different classes. This is always an interesting event because members never know if they are going to get an animal that has only been led once or twice. Block and Bridle members enjoyed being involved in this event because it is a great opportunity for members that have not shown cattle before to get some practice without worrying about being judged. By the end of the day members were covered in slobber but were full of stories about how their animal showed the best.

-Melissa Matulka
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Block and Bridle Annual 2012-2013
Big Red Beef Show

The University of Nebraska’s Block and Bridle club hosted its annual Big Red Beef Show on Saturday, March 2nd, 2013 at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Grand Island, NE. The event was sponsored by Aurora Cooperative, Nebraska Farm Bureau, S-E Ranch, Nebraska State Fair and many others. With their support the club was able to make this a successful event. The show welcomed exhibitors and 205 entries from 5 different states including Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and South Dakota; this was an increase from last year’s number of 123 entries. We utilized a two ring system and our judges were Dustin Frank from Colorado and Todd Ostermiller from Nebraska. Over 40 club members and initiates helped organize, set-up, and volunteer with the show! Along with the fantastic turnout the club raised over $8,000 dollars to help support the chapter’s finances. Overall this was an excellent year for the show!

-Alec Ibach
“Feed the Need, Ignite the Future” was the theme of the 93rd National Block and Bridle Convention hosted by Iowa State University. Schools arrived and participated in the Pride of Schools with booths showcasing the different clubs across the country. Early the next day, we hopped on a bus to spend the day touring the agriculture industry of Iowa. Lauren and Alissa’s ‘East Bound and Down’ tour highlight was Bill Couser’s feedlot where he tests new technology for John Deere and Monsanto. Grant and Lisa had a chance to ‘Tip It on Back’ and enjoyed seeing Hawkeye Breeder’s Bull Stock operation. The next day featured speakers and workshops. A workshop presented by the Iowa Farm Bureau was the favorite of the group; it stressed the best way to connect to consumers and provided tips and tricks to do so. At the banquet, member Maxwell Rasmussen was awarded 5th place Outstanding Junior Scholar. UNL’s 2011-2012 Annual also received 3rd place in the nation.

-Lisa Temme
Every year the Block and Bridle Club hosts a judging contest. The livestock and meats judging competition took place on Sunday, April 7th, in the R.B. Warren Arena. The intent of this contest is to provide a fun yet competitive atmosphere for students of all majors to test out their judging abilities. Contestants were divided into two categories: those that have been on a collegiate judging team, and those that have not. The contest incorporated two divisions: a meats portion and a livestock portion. In the meats judging division, contestants were asked to evaluate ribs, pork loins, pork carcasses, boneless hams, and retail cuts. The livestock judging division consisted of the competitors judging market lambs, rams, market steers, market barrows, and a class of horses. Following the competition, the club provided pop and a club mug to all who competed. A big thank you to Brandy Cleveland and Jessica Clowser, who were the official judges for the contest.

- Maxwell Rasmussen
The 2013 UNL Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon competition was conducted on Sunday, February 21, 2013. Ten 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:

The team of Lukas Fricke, Laura Gorecki, Kolin Scheele, and Travis Schiefelbein earned first place in the Lab Practicum and the team of Katie Bidne, Alex Rommelfanger, Elizabeth Keuter, and Jenae Martin earned first place in the Quiz Bowl competition.

The team of Katie Ochsner (Torrington, WY), Travis Line (Miller, NE), Wyatt Decker (Washington, KS), and Justin Taubenheim (Amherst, NE) were the Overall Champions for the 2013 UNL Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon competition. Katie, Travis, Wyatt, and Justin earned first in the Written Exam and the Oral Presentation on their way to the overall championship.
The UNL Bull Sale, held every spring, merchandises approximately 40 bulls to commercial producers. In addition to these 40, more bulls are 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. It 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 invited speakers during the semester representing seedstock producers who share their knowledge and experiences with the students.

Dr. Matt Spangler, Instructor
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 the multitude of different issues facing the livestock and meats industries. This year, twelve students accepted the challenge of preparing for this unique learning experience including Sam Cares (Dexter, MI), Wyatt Decker (Washington, KS), Kinsey Freeman (Cheyenne, WY), Nate Hanson (Wayne, NE), Alec Ibach (Sumner, NE), Evan Ibach (Sumner, NE), Travis Line (Miller, NE), Jackie McKenney (Big Timber, MT), Justin Nollette (Nenzel, NE), Katie Ochsner (Torrington, WY), Justin Taubenheim (Amherst, NE), and Mollie Wilken (Bloomfield, NE).

Within the Breeding Animal Division (across all three species; sheep, swine, and cattle), UNL ranked 5th as a team, while Katie Ochsner (12th), Travis Line (13th), and Alec Ibach all placed within the Top 20 individually. Within the Meats Division, a division of judging for which the team had minimal prior experience, the team ranked 8th, anchored by Wyatt Decker who placed 13th individually.

This competition also recognizes teams and individuals who excel at evaluating all aspects (breeding and market evaluation along with meat products) of a particular species. In beef, Jackie McKenney ranked 19th individually, and the team was 5th. UNL also placed 5th in sheep, where Justin Nollette just missed the Top 10, placing 11th. Within other divisions, UNL ranked 7th in swine and 9th in the market animal division.

The unique and really fun division of this competition is 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. To actively integrate twelve students into a 10-minutes presentation is difficult! This year’s
topic was “The Use of Growth Technologies in Meat Production” and their challenge was to develop a recommendation regarding the use of growth technologies in meat production. Within one hour, this team’s creativity sparked a spin-off from “The Wizard of Oz” complete with a “Red Meat Road”, the Almighty Oz, and a wicked witch! That creative skit, interspersed with good topic discussion points and recommendations, earned 3rd place in the communications division.

A total of fourteen universities and 120 individuals competed in this competition. Overall, UNL ranked 6th. More importantly, however, this team provides an opportunity for students interested in livestock production to better understand all aspects of the industry; from selection of replacement breeding stock to feeder calf grading to feedlot cattle and carcass pricing! The location of this year’s competition allowed us to further develop that understanding and appreciation of the industry and its history as the team visited with Mr. Chuck Schroeder of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, toured the Oklahoma National Stockyards, and visited Express Ranches along with numerous other interesting and educational visits in transit to the National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest. The team was coached by Mr. Jay Nordhausen and Dr. Bryan Reiling.

Horse Judging Team

Three students from this year’s Principles of Horse Evaluation class made up the Junior UNL Horse Judging team and traveled to Whitesboro, TX, for the first ever Spring Horse Judging contest hosted by Judging 101 and Julie Vogue on April 18, 2013. The students competed as individuals, and the highlight was Brittany Tisthammer placing 6th overall in oral reasons.

The two days prior to the contest were spent traveling with several other university judging teams to numerous horse farms in the north Texas area improving their horse judging skills while at the same time, visiting some of the elite quarter horse facilities. In the contest the team judged halter and performance classes including trail, western pleasure, western riding, western horsemanship, hunter under saddle and hunt seat equitation with oral reasons on several of them.

The team was coached by Anna Pesta, UNL Animal Science Graduate Student. The three will participate on the UNL Horse Judging team in the fall along with several others who were unable to make the spring trip. Everyone improved a lot and we are looking forward to a competitive fall. The fall team travels to the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, OH, and the AQHA World Championship Intercollegiate Contest in Oklahoma City, OK.
The Husker Equestrian Team experienced a very successful 2012-2013 season. Traveling to schools across the region and the country, the Huskers left their mark wherever they went. The Hunt Seat team competed at schools such as the University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, and Colorado College. The Western team traveled to Colby Community College and Laramie County Community College. Both teams also had the chance to compete at shows hosted right here at UNL. The team put on five separate Western shows and two Hunt shows this year. The Hunt shows, held in February, were especially exciting, as they were the inaugural hunt seat shows hosted by the Husker Equestrian Team.

After many noteworthy regular season performances, the Huskers qualified fourteen individual riders (both Western and Hunt) for Regionals, in addition to coming in first place as the Western Regional Champions for the ninth year in a row. This forwarded six Western team riders to the Team competition at Semi-Finals, held in Syracuse, NY, in addition to individual qualifiers from Regionals. There, the Huskers defended their title as Semi-National Champions for the second year in a row. Two Hunt Seat team riders also qualified for the Zone 8 Championships, hosted by our region at the Colorado Horse Park.

The Western team riders and individual Semis qualifiers will travel to Harrisburg, PA for the National Championships, held May 2-5.

Congratulations Huskers, on a successful year, and good luck at Nationals!
The University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team had a productive fall. Since the beginning of classes in August, the team has traveled to six contests throughout the country. The team continued to grow and improve as individuals and a team. Highlights from the fall started when the team traveled to El Dorado, KS, to compete in the 6th Annual Flint Hills Classic Judging Contest held by Butler Community College. The team gained ground by placing 10th out of 20 teams. Individually, Jackie McKenney was 5th in reasons, 9th in sheep, 9th in cattle and 9th overall. Jake Hoffschneider was 7th in sheep. The next day the team competed at the Mid-America Classic in Wichita, KS. The team finished 12th overall and Jake Hoffschneider was 6th in sheep.

The final weekend in September, the team judged at AK-SAR-BEN. UNL placed 6th overall with the team placing 6th in swine, 5th in cattle, 7th in sheep, 3rd in placings, and 7th in oral reasons. Individually, Jackie McKenney was 3rd in placings, 9th in sheep, 7th in cattle, 14th in reasons and 5th overall. Jake Hoffschneider was 6th in placings, 4th in cattle, 15th in reasons, 2nd in swine and 11th overall.

The Premier Stockman Contest in Auburn, IN, was the next destination for the team. It is an individual competition with no team recognition. Jackie McKenney had a contest leading day in swine giving one of the high sets and placing first in swine and 13th overall. Jake Hoffschneider talked the other high set in swine and finished 17th overall.

On November 3, 2012, the team competed at the American Royal Contest in Kansas City, MO. Out of 26 teams, Nebraska finished 19th. Jake Hoffschneider led the team overall placing 45th out of 129 contestants. On November 13, 2012, 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 2012 team. Jackie McKenney led the team placing 6th in sheep and 17th in reasons. Collectively the team placed 22nd out of 26 teams.

Team members finishing their careers are: Will Anderjaska, Palisade; Katie Bunde, Doniphan; Shelby Cunningham, Castle Rock, CO; Jake Hoffschneider, Arlington; Jackie McKenney, Big Timber, MT; Caleb McKeever, Wymore; Justin Nollette, Nenzel; and Alma Wellensiek, Syracuse. The team was coached by Matt Ellicott and assisted by Jay Nordhausen. Each team member made great strides while competing on the team during the season. Experience on the team, with no question, will aide in each of their future endeavors. Jay and Matt enjoyed working with a great group of future livestock leaders and wish them the very best for their future.

On January 17, 2013, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. This served as the first national contest for the 2013 team. UNL was well represented with a 5th place finish overall. In sheep judging, the team finished 9th and 13th in swine judging. Individually, Katie Ochsner finished 8th. In cattle judging, the team finished 4th. Individually, Wyatt Decker was 13th overall, and Kinsey Freeman placed 15th. In oral reasons, the team finished 10th. Overall the team finished 5th out of 26 schools.
This accomplishment marks the second time UNL has placed in the top five overall at the National Western in more than 17 years. In the carload contest, five UNL students had a solid day placing pens of cattle. Alec Ibach led the team with a 15th place finish out of 139 contestants. Overall the team finished 14th out of 28 schools in the carload contest.

On January 26, 2013, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Sioux Empire Farm Show in Sioux Falls, SD. UNL recorded a second straight top five finish. In sheep judging, the team finished 4th. Individually, Justin Taubenheim finished 10th high individual overall. In swine judging, the team finished 5th. Individually, Wyatt Decker finished 3rd high individual overall. In cattle judging, the team finished 4th. Individually, Kinsey Freeman finished 9th, and Katie Ochsner finished 10th high individual overall. In oral reasons, the team finished 6th. Overall the team finished 4th, Kinsey Freeman led the team placing 9th high individual overall.

On February 9th, 2013, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the Iowa Beef Expo in Des Moines, IA. Travis Line led the team in placings posting an impressive 481 points out of a possible 500. Travis finished 11th in placings, 4th in reasons, and was named the 8th high individual in the contest. Justin Taubenheim was 15th in reasons and ended up 16th overall. The team was 6th in placing and 4th in reasons. Together, the team added another top five finish placing 5th overall in the contest.

On February 23rd, the UNL Livestock Judging Team competed at the 6th Annual Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic livestock judging contest. UNL had a contest leading performance collecting the top two spots in placings and overall for the senior college division. Overall, Justin Taubenheim was the High Individual, Mollie Wilken was 2nd, Wyatt Decker was 4th, Travis Line was 5th, and Katie Ochsner was 8th.

The current team members are: Sam Cares, Dexter, MI; Wyatt Decker, Washington, KS; Alec Ibach, Sumner, NE; Kinsey Freeman, Cheyenne, WY; Travis Line, Miller, NE; Katie Ochsner, Torrington, WY; Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, NE and Mollie Wilken, Bloomfield, NE. The team was coached by Jay Nordhausen.
Livestock Judging Team

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: Kimmel Foundation, Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc., and the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Research and Education Foundation.

2013 Livestock Judging Team

Back Row: Justin Taubenheim, Wyatt Decker, Mollie Wilken, Sam Cares, Travis Line, Alec Ibach

Front Row: Katie Ochsner, Kinsey Freeman
The 2012 Senior Meat Judging Team consisted of Paul Hansen and Eric Miller and was coached by Derek Schroeder. The team competed in two contests in the fall of 2012. The first contest was the American Royal Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest hosted at Nebraska Beef in Omaha, NE. The second contest was the International Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest held at Tyson Fresh Meats in Dakota City, NE.

The 2013 Junior Meat Judging Team consists of Kelly McCarty, Anastasia Johnson, Colton Williams, Andrew McDonald, Robert Cumming, and Justin Dahlgren and coached by Brandy Cleveland. The team competed in four contests in the spring of 2013. At the National Western Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Greeley, Colorado, the team came away placing 5th in lamb judging. At the Southwestern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Ft. Worth, Texas, the team placed 8th overall, 2nd in beef grading, 3rd in placings, 4th in overall beef, and 5th in pork judging. Individually, Colton Williams placed 11th overall. At the Iowa State University Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Ames, Iowa, the team placed 6th overall, 3rd in lamb judging and 4th in total placings. Individually Andrew McDonald placed 14th overall. Finally, at the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Houston, Texas, Colton Williams was 5th high individual in both lamb judging and specifications. He was 14th high individual overall.
Advertising Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AgriSales Inc.</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Gamma Rho</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Well Co.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case-New Holland (CNH)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CowSense</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Production Services</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagath Irrigation, LLC.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV Supply</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockridge Angus</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLM Gelbvieh Bulls</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Platte Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quirk Land &amp; Cattle Co.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Hamilton Ranch/Antelope Valley Outfitters</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vogler Semen Centre, Inc.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARTING SHOTS