Block and Bridle Annual 2015

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History

The National Block and Bridle Club was formed on December 2, 1919 in Chicago, Illinois by student representatives from four animal husbandry clubs. These clubs from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri became the charter chapters of the new national organization. During their meeting, the chapters formed a constitution including a statement of the club’s objectives that have been revised over the years to read as follows:

- To promote a higher scholastic standard and a more complete understanding of Animal Science among student members.
- To promote animal agriculture through development of a program of activities that will supplement students’ study of the animal sciences in colleges and universities.
- To enhance professionalism of students who will one day be leaders in the animal agriculture industry.
- To bring about a closer relationship among all students pursuing some phase of animal agriculture as a profession.

Emblem

The Block and Bridle symbol represents the principles on which the 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 vertical line of the B. The distinct curves of the B are symbolic of social pleasure, mental energy, and the determination of Block and Bridle 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 stands for the behavior of members, the control over ourselves that we try to maintain, the mannerisms and respect we show towards others, and the manner in which we treat our livestock.
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 hands-on activities you provide for Lincoln Public Schools Science Fair 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 Dr. Gary Sullivan, Dr. Ty Schmidt and Brad Bennett for their leadership and oversight of the Club.

Your selection of Bill Rishel 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 Rishel is very involved in the livestock industry, having held a variety of leadership positions in many organizations. He began his journey with the American Angus Association and Certified Angus Beef where he sat on their Board of Directors for five years. Rishel was then Chairman of the Certified Angus Beef Board of Directors in 1995. More recently, Rishel has been involved with the Nebraska Cattlemen serving as their president in 2010. He has also been involved with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation, Ag Builders of Nebraska, NCTA statewide Advisory Council, NCBA working group on beef grading, Beef Focus Group at US MARC and 2015 Beef Industry Long Range Planning Task Force. It was a pleasure for me to hear about the sincerity, vision, and sense of purpose the leaders used in selecting Bill Rishel 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

P.O. Box 830908 / Lincoln, NE 68583-0908 / Phone (402) 472-3571 / FAX (402) 472-6362 / http://animalscience.unl.edu
Three objectives of the National Block and Bridle Club are to promote animal agriculture through the activities of the club, to supplement students’ study of the animal sciences, and to bring about a closer relationship among students who choose to be a part of the organization. I believe the Block and Bridle club at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln has been successful in accomplishing these goals over the past year and I sincerely thank all of the officers and members who have given their time and effort to make this possible. I am excited to say that our active membership has increased over the past school year and I hope to see this trend continue as we strive to make decisions that will benefit each member of the club.

I also thank the Animal Science faculty and staff who provide support and guidance both in regard to the club and on an individual basis. I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with faculty who are willing to make a personal investment in students; I believe this is one of the many benefits of being part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the East Campus community at UNL. I especially thank our advisors, Dr. Gary Sullivan, Dr. Ty Schmidt, and Brad Bennett, for encouraging our new ideas, working with us to plan and execute events, answering our many questions, and being available for anything else we needed. Thank you to Terri Behl for always working with us to distribute clothing, collect payments, print programs, and much more.

Over the past three years, Block and Bridle has provided me with the chance to learn from leaders who are passionate about many different sectors of the agricultural industry, to teach younger students about livestock production, and to meet people with a common interest, some of whom have become great friends. It is my hope that throughout this year, members have gained experiences and relationships that are meaningful to them and will continue to do so in coming years.

Again, thank you to all members, officers, and advisors for your dedication to Block and Bridle and your contributions that made this year a success. I thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2014 – 2015 President and I look forward to being a part of the officer team again next year. We will strive to continuously improve in all that we do, while upholding the traditions and principles of the Block and Bridle club.

Sincerely,

Hannah Kesterson

Hannah Kesterson
2014-2015 UNL Block and Bridle President
2015 Block and Bridle Honoree – Bill Rishel

The UNL Block and Bridle Club and Department of Animal Science are pleased to name Bill Rishel of North Platte, NE as the 2015 Block and Bridle Honoree.

The Block and Bridle Honoree award recognizes individuals who have made commendable contributions to Nebraska Agriculture through leadership, service, youth projects, community activities, and involvement with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rishel was raised on a livestock and crop farm near York, Pennsylvania. Bill Rishel and his family moved to North Platte, NE in 1975. Along with his wife Barb, Bill started Rishel Livestock Services, Inc., a sales management company, in 1977. He also began developing Rishel Angus, a registered herd of Angus cattle. Rishel’s herd genetics have played a dominant role in the artificial breeding companies American Breeders Service, Accelerated Genetics, and Select Sires.

Rishel is very involved in the livestock industry, having held a variety of leadership positions in many organizations. He began his journey with the American Angus Association and Certified Angus Beef where he sat on their Board of Directors for five years. Rishel was then Chairman of the Certified Angus Beef Board of Directors in 1995. More recently, Rishel has been involved with the Nebraska Cattlemen serving as their president in 2010. He has also been involved with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation, Ag Builders of Nebraska, NCTA statewide Advisory Council, NCBA working group on beef grading, Beef Focus Group at US MARC and 2015 Beef Industry Long Range Planning Task Force.
Rishel Angus is nationally and internationally recognized and has received special recognition for their commitment to identification and improvement of carcass merit. Bill has kept performance records on his herd and has identified outstanding seed stock for their operation from the beginning. Rishel Angus continues to be a leading breeder in terms of their commitment to identifying the carcass merit of cattle out of a belief that the real focus of the breeding program needed to be the acceptance of its product by consumers. Because of this, many of the leading individuals for carcass merit in the Angus breed carry the Rishel Angus, B/R, prefix.

Rishel graduated in 1967 from Penn State University with a B.S. in Animal Science and an M.S. in Animal Breeding in 1969. Bill and his wife have three daughters who all attended UNL: Jill and Ron Wolforth family reside in The Woodlands, TX; Joy and Tyler Brandt family reside in Ankeny, IA; and Judy and Ryan Terwilliger family reside in Lincoln, NE.
1938
Ashton Shallenberger
Governor and Congressman
Owner of Ashbourn Farms

1938
Samuel McKelvie
Livestock Breeder
and Exhibitor

1938
Everett Buckingham
General Manager of Union Stock Yards, Friend, Loyal Citizen, Man of Vision and Action, Builder of the West

1939
Bruce McCullooch
Editor of Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman

1940
Sam Hudson
Producer of Feeder Cattle

1941
Edgar A. Burnett
Educator, Investigator
Administrator at the University of Nebraska

1942
Elmer E. Youngs
Farmer, Feeder,
Herford Cattle Breeder

1947
Arthur Thompson
Nationally Recognized Livestock Auctioneer, Friend, Admirer of Young People

1948
Leunis Van Es
Scientist, Teacher, Author,
Chairman of the Department of Animal Pathology and Hygiene

1949
Delmer Anderson
Master Farmer, Feeder,
Pioneer Soil Conservationist,
Community Builder

1950
Sam R. McKelvie
Statesman, Publisher,
Sandhills Hereford Breeder

1951
W. Marshall Ross
Pioneer, Teacher, Civic Leader,
Master Farmer, Livestock Feeder and Breeder, Marketing Specialist

1952
Henry Mousel and Robert Mousel
Noted Breeders and Improvers of Hereford Cattle

1953
E. Z. Russell
Swine Research Administrator, U.S.D.A. Writer, Improver of Durocs, Swine Judge

1954
Albert Hultine
Noted Breeder and Improver of Polled Shorthorn Cattle

1955
Charles J. Warner
Statesman, Agriculturist, Hereford Cattle Breeder, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Nebraska

1956
Edwin Belsky
Constructive Hereford Breeder

1957
Andrew D. Majors
Leader in livestock Marketing,
Dedicated to Education,
Community Betterment and Civic Progress
1975
Harold Stevens
Dawson County Ext. Agent, Helping People Help Themselves through 4-H & Adult Livestock

1976
Archie White
Livestock Ext. Specialist, Geo A. Hormel Co., Swine Improvement Leader

1977
Melvin Kuska
Farmer, Cattle Feeder, State & National Livestock Industry Leader

1978
W. Eugene Flynn
Registered Holstein Breeder, Dairy Industry Leader

1979
Wesley Hansen
Rancher and Livestock Leader

1980
J. Gerald Beatie
Pioneer of the NE Pork Producers Assoc., Pork Producer

1981
Merlyn Carlson
Rancher, Leader in State and Nat’l Livestock Industry, Innovator

1982
H. Eugene Schroeder
Progressive Cattle Breeder, Livestock Industry Leader

1983
Richard Sorensen
SPF Pork Producer, Farmer, State & Nat’l Swine Industry Leader

1984
Lloyd Bevans
Progressive Sheep and Turkey Producer, Livestock Industry Leader

1985
Julian Canaday
Progressive Cattle and Swine Breeder, Livestock Industry Leader

1986
Jack Maddux
Progressive Cattle Rancher and Feeder, 1st National Cattlemen’s Association Businessman of the Year

1987
Harry Hart
Sheep and Cattle Breeder

1988
James Roberts
Cattleman, Agribusinessman

1989
John Klosterman
Beef Industry Leader

1990
Robert Ahlschwede
Livestock Producer and Friend to Youth

1991
Robert Volk
SPF Purebred Swine Producer and Nat’l Swine Industry Leader

1992
R. B. Warren
Teacher of Animal Sciences, Respected Judging Coach and Horseman, Nat’l B & B President

1993
Roger Wehrbein
Beef and Dairy Cattle, Swine Producer, Community & State Agribusiness Leader

1994
Jerry Adamson
Leader in Lean Beef Production & Promotion, Livestock Judge, Commercial Cattleman
1995  
James Wolfe  
Outstanding Cattle Breeder, Progressive Civil Rights Promoter

1996  
Max Waldo  
SPF Pork Producer, Farmer, State & Nat’l Swine Industry Leader

1997  
Richard Shinn  
Turkey Producer, Rancher, Leader in Poultry & NE Agriculture, Businessman

1998  
Robert Volk  
Manager of Ak-Sar-Ben, NE Cattlemen’s Classic, Premier Simmental Breeder

1999  
David Hamilton  
Grasslands Manager, Rancher, Beef Industry Leader

2000  
Harry Knobbe  
Cattleman, Cattle Feeder, Beef Industry Promoter & Community Leader

2001  
Sallie Atkins  
Exec. Director of Nebraska Beef Council, Beef Industry Leader, Mentor to Youth

2002  
Frank Bruning  
Cattleman, Businessman, Rural Community Advocate, Creator of Educational Opportunities

2003  
Max Kimmerling  
Dairyman, Promoter of Dairy Industry and Youth Activities, Community Leader

2004  
Frank Sibert  
Rancher, Banker, Scholarship Provider, Cattle Feeder, Cattle Industry Leader

2005  
Robert Dickey  
Agricultural Producer, Industry Promoter, Community Leader, Mentor to Youth

2006  
Sherman Berg  
President Emeritus of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation, Agricultural Ambassador

2007  
Al Svajgr  
Cattleman, Cattle Feeder, Banker, Beef Industry Promoter & Leader

2008  
Jay Wolf  
Cattleman, Rancher, Avid Supporter of UNL and the Beef Industry, Cattle Feeder

2009  
Homer Buell  
Cattleman, Rancher, Supporter of UNL and the NE Youth, Beef Industry Leader

2010  
Vance Uden  
Cattleman and Seedstock Producer

2011  
Paul Engler  
Supper of UNL and Entrepreneurial Aspirations of Young People, Beef Industry Leader

2012  
Bill Luckey  
Agricultural and Swine Industry Leader, Supporter of UNL & NE Youth

2013  
Bill Dicke  
Nutrition Consultant, Beef Industry Leader

2014  
Mark Jagels  
Cattleman, Farmer, USMEF Chairman
Animal Science Faculty

Larry Berger     Kathy Anderson     Bradley Bennett     Dennis Brink
Thomas Burkey

Dennis Burson   Chris Calkins     Daniel Ciobanu     Archie Clutter     Lena Cottle

Andrea Cupp   Mary Drewnoski     Rob Eirich      Galen Erickson     Samodha Fernando

Rick Funston   Ronnie Green      Deb Hamernik     Lori Jaixen      Karla Jenkins
Block and Bridle Members

Back (L-R): Scott Gates, Ally Creigh, David Schuler, Cole Geiser, Koin Scheele, Payton Shankland
Spencer Noble, Alana Paul, Roger Carpenter, Emily Eperschacher, Kalena Stokai, Hannah Helms, Elizabeth Cast
Cara Riggle, Miranda Wordenkamper, Kaylee Potthoff, Gavin Harsh
Lindsey Celesky, Michaela Horn, Jennifer Postuma, Chrisinda Scheidler
Kelsey Scheer, Eleanor Wagner, Alesha Detlefs, Morgan Jones
Valerie Matulka, Ashley McCoy, Hannah Kesterson, Ashtyn Shrewsbury, Morgan Cutlers
2014-2015 Officers and Advisors

Back (L-R): Treasurer Valerie Matulka, Marshall Kelsey Scheer, President Hannah Kesterson, Secretary Aliesha Detlefs

Front: Ambassador Ashley McCoy, Historian Eleanor Wagner, Vice President Ashtyn Shrewsbury

Dr. Gary Sullivan
Senior Advisor

Dr. Ty Schmidt
Junior Advisor

Brad Bennett
Freshman Advisor
The University of Nebraska- Lincoln Block and Bridle Club had an exciting year that included tours, activities, and getting to know each other better! With a variety of opportunities to be involved each month, members could pick and choose what they wanted to attend and help with or just do it all.

At the very beginning of the semester we attended the Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair to work in the kitchen and keep the areas clean. The club also hosted the Annual Steak Fry event to start off the new school year. We had an eventful initiate week that included a scavenger hunt between East and City campus. The new initiates had a series of events throughout the week, as well as decorating and getting signatures from faculty members on a paddle.

In October, we held our Meats and Livestock Judging Contest. This contest was previously held in the spring, but it was decided to have it in the fall to allow more people to attend. Before we left for break in December, the club hosted a Holiday Gathering to show our appreciation for the Animal Science Department. In the spring, the club hosted the Big Red Beef Show along with the Colligate Cattlemen and had a very good turnout with the nice weather! Our main events concluded with Kids Day at the LPS Science Fair. The students enjoyed our food ration game, plinko, and the mobile beef lab.

Our members really enjoyed new activities that our social committee helped to plan. The club hosted a bowling night and a Christmas party complete with an Ugly Sweater Contest! A tour of Prairieland Dairy was also taken by the club members to see what it is like to run a dairy.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us throughout the year with assistance for events and continuous support, especially our advisors, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Schmidt, and Brad Bennett! This year has been one to remember for the club and we look forward to start again next year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Aliesha Dethlefs

Block and Bridle Club Secretary
# Treasurer’s Report

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Beginning Balance: $14,033.16  
Ending Balance: $23,725.17

Submitted by,  
Valerie Matulka
Dear members, supporters, family, and friends,

This was a great year for Block and Bridle Club. Everything seemed to fly by, but it was great to go back through all the memories as I was working on putting together this annual. I hope that you enjoy the recap on the year as well! With help from our hardworking members and great advisors, the club was able to put on many great events and programs supporting animal agriculture.

I would like to thank our members, advisors, and numerous supporters for all they have done to help out throughout the year. I was really impressed with how our membership stepped up this year to really become involved in the club. Our advisors, Dr. Gary Sullivan, Dr. Ty Schmidt, and Brad Bennett all proved to be invaluable resources by devoting their time and knowledge all year long. I would also like to thank our department secretary, Terri Behl, for her patience and time spent managing our materials.

I hope this annual can be a guide to show people what Block and Bridle does and accurately capture the personality of the club. Thank you to the members and the rest of the officer team for your help in taking pictures at events and submitting information to be included in the annual.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors. We are so thankful for the contributions made by people who believe in this club, both throughout the year and specifically for the annual. Without your support our club could not be what it is today, and this annual would not exist. We look forward to forming long relationships with sponsors, friends, members, and alumni.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Wagner
2014-2015 Historian
Senior Spotlight

Name: Valerie Maltulka
Major: Agribusiness - Banking and Finance Option
Minor: Animal Science
Parents: Mike and Deb Maltulka
Hometown: Thedford, NE
Favorite Part of Block and Bridle: All the great people in the agricultural industry I got to meet because of Block and Bridle

Name: Ashley McCoy
Major: Animal Science
Parents: Sally and Allan McCoy
Hometown: Arapahoe, NE
Favorite part of Block and Bridle: Getting to know other officers and members of Block and Bridle, as well as helping with the Big Red Beef Show
UNL Collegiate Cattlemen

This was the second year of the newly founded UNL Collegiate Cattlemen group as part of the Block and Bridle Club. The group’s mission statement is: The UNL Collegiate Cattlemen is committed to developing the next generation of industry leaders through education and service. Officers for 2014-2015 included: Kolin Scheele-President, Laura Gorecki-Vice President, and Ashtyn Shrewsbury-Secretary. The Collegiate Cattlemen works closely with the Nebraska Cattlemen organization to learn about policy and assist with events. Attending the Nebraska Cattlemen Annual Convention was a highlight for our members, with a special reception for collegiate members and the Nebraska Cattlemen board members to kick off convention. Members traveled back to Kearney the next day to attend committee sessions, assist NC staff with notes and banquet preparation, and network with cattlemen across the state. Collegiate Cattlemen members also helped during 4-H and FFA weekend at the Nebraska State Fair. This was a great opportunity to promote the organization to younger students and give back to the livestock community and the State Fair. Also, the Collegiate Cattlemen members assisted with the planning and execution of the Big Red Beef Show held at the Nebraska State Fair in March. Throughout the year, members gained insight from professionals in the industry, including Dr. Brad Lubben in the UNL Agricultural Economics department and Laura Field of the Nebraska Cattlemen. We were very happy with the engagement from our members this year and look to continue growing our organization in the future!

Beef Pit

Block and Bridle members took the opportunity again this year to work at the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Pit during the Nebraska State Fair. A group of members, plus our Senior Advisor, made the trip to Grand Island the weekend before school started in order to serve meals to numerous fair-goers. Volunteers helped take orders, make sandwiches, dish sides and clean tables, as well as cleaning up at the end of the night. This trip provided a great experience for Block and Bridle members to reconnect after the summer and to meet several new members who generously volunteered to help before officially joining the club.
Big Red Welcome and East Campus Welcome Back Club Fair

Block and Bridle began another year at the UNL Big Red Welcome and the East Campus Welcome Back Club Fair. The Ambassador, Ashley McCoy, and Marshall, Kelsey Scheer, implemented the event along with the help of the officer team. Potential members were encouraged to ask questions and provide their contact information to sign up for activities and meeting information. Details about the different events of the club throughout the year, as well as a large display were presented for students to see. The officer team was excited for the large number of students that expressed an interest in the club, as well as the attendance at the first meeting.

Initiation Week

For member recruitment, Block and Bridle holds a traditional Initiation Week for new members. Before this week, initiates decorated wooden paddles, and received signatures from faculty members in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This activity is intended for new students to help build a relationship with professors and faculty. Other Initiation Week activities included a scavenger hunt, and game night. Block and Bridle is looking forward to hearing new ideas and leadership from the new members.
On September 19th, 2014, UNL Block and Bridle hosted its annual Steak Fry event. Students, faculty, staff and even some parents spent the evening enjoying conversation as well as exceptional steaks donated and cooked by Cargill Meat Solutions. Block and Bridle members sold tickets, helped to set up, and served food along with animal science faculty who volunteered their time. Over 250 steaks were sold! Thank you to Cargill and everyone who gave of their time and efforts to make this year’s Steak Fry a success!

Judging Contest

Every year the Block and Bridle Club hosts a livestock and meats judging contest in the Animal Science Complex. This year we held the contest in October in hopes of gaining more interest in coming to the contest. We had thirty-five participants take part in judging! The purpose of the judging contest is to encourage students of all majors to test out their livestock judging abilities while competing along side those with experience. We split the contest up into two divisions, those who have judged at a college level and those who have not. The contest consisted of two divisions: a meats portion and a livestock portion. In the meats judging portion, the contestants evaluated pork carcasses, short loins, rounds, and hams. In the livestock judging portion, the competitors judged market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and breeding gilts. Following the contest, the club provided refreshments and cookies to all who participated. A scholarship was awarded to the top competitors in each division. We would like to thank Brandy Cleveland and Kinsey Freeman for being the official judges for the contest, as well as all those who facilitated this event. Placing in the novice division were Jefferson Keller, first, and Aksel Wiseman, second. Receiving first in the collegiate division was Celia Karweik.
Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic

Again this year, a group of Block and Bridle members made the trip to Kearney, Nebraska for the Cattlemen’s Classic in February. They dedicated their Saturday to volunteering at the Livestock Judging Contest. Members assisted in brushing and blowing out cattle, leading cattle to and from the contest area, showing the cattle during the judging contest, and helping clean up afterwards. For a few members, leading and setting up cattle was a new experience and for others it was a welcome opportunity to relive their days in the show ring. Members had a fun trip to Kearney while giving their time to help another group in the livestock industry.

Holiday Gathering

In order to show our appreciation to the faculty, staff, and graduate students in the Animal Science Department, Block and Bridle held a Holiday Gathering in the Hub in December. Members got together the night before Holiday Gathering in order to prepare a breakfast burritos, and various breads were made as well. The event was a great way for members to interact with faculty and staff and to say thank you for everything they do for us throughout the year.
Kid’s Day

The Block and Bridle Club held Kid’s Day at the Lincoln Public School’s Science Fair. The Science Fair was on March 5th from 5 to 8pm at the Lancaster Event Center. Fifth through eighth grade students from Lincoln participated in the fair, showcasing their own experiments and demonstrations. In addition, other groups were welcome to have a booth in order to entertain and educate these science minded students. Block and Bridle members set up and lead an activity in which students were able to mix and eat a “feed ration” out of pretzels, raisins, cheerios, and M&Ms, each representing a group of ingredients added to livestock feed. They learned how the feed animals need to survive and grow is similar to the food we need. The plinko board was brought out, so the students could drop the plinko chip and answer a question about animal agriculture in order to receive a prize. We also partnered with the Mobile Beef Lab to provide a new and exciting experience for the students. The fistulated steer in the Mobile Beef Lab trailer was a huge hit with the students and other volunteers alike, and being sprayed with rumen fluid didn’t even deter the line of people eager to take their turn in the trailer. The Science Fair was a great way to connect with hundreds of LPS students and to teach about animal agriculture in a fun and interactive way.

Big Red Beef Show

The University of Nebraska’s Block and Bridle and Collegiate Cattlemen hosted its annual Big Red Beef Show on Saturday, March 7th, 2015 at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Grand Island, NE. With the great support of our numerous sponsors and the Nebraska State Fair staff, we were able to host another successful show. Once again, we put on a sanctioned show that allowed the contestants to earn double the points by showing in both rings. We were excited to see many familiar faces, as well as new exhibitors with attendance from several states. Thanks to the beautiful weather, we had a good turnout of cattle with a total of 157 entries and over 100 exhibitors that were evaluated by our judges, Cally Thomas and Nate Kolterman. We could not have had this event if it was not for the help of club members that helped organize, set-up, and run the show. We would like to thank everyone who attended this year’s show and encourage you to join us in 2016!
Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars

The Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars (NBIS) Program is a unique four year certification program for UNL students. This program is part of a greater effort to improve beef education and research in the state of Nebraska, the Beef State. The NBIS program allows undergraduate students in any major at UNL the opportunity to network with beef industry leaders, attend key industry meetings, and tour cutting edge enterprises. As importantly, NBIS focuses on developing communication and critical thinking skills through a specialized suite of courses centered on industry issues and beef centric policy that enhance the fundamental beef and economics courses required to educate the future leaders of the beef industry.

Beef Merchandising Class

The UNL Bull Sale, held the second Saturday in April, merchandises approximately 45 bulls to commercial producers. In addition to these 45, more bulls are sold to other UNL herds. This event, made possible by the teaching herd resources at ARDC, supplies reliable 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 invited speakers during the semester representing seedstock producers and allied industry representatives who share their knowledge and experiences with the students.
The Animal Sciences Academic Quadrathlon (AQ) provides opportunities for teams of undergraduate animal and dairy science students to participate in regional American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)/American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) meetings and to collectively exhibit their knowledge and talents competitively in 4 categories: 1) solving practical, hands-on, laboratory-type problems; 2) providing written answers to essay-type questions about principles and concepts; 3) preparing and communicating orally and extemporaneously topics of current animal science interest; and 4) quickly responding to short-answer questions provided in the form of double-elimination quiz bowls.

In March of 2015, the team of Gavin Harsh (McCook, NE), Brady Dierks (Cumminsville, NE), Molly Goin (Eagan, MN), and Jennifer Posthuma (Fox Lake, WI) represented the UNL Animal Science Department at the Midwest Regional Academic Quadrathlon competition that was held in conjunction with the American Society of Animal Science Midwest Sectional meetings in Ames and Des Moines, IA.

Dr. Thomas E. Burkey, Faculty Coordinator
The 2014 Senior Meat Judging Team consisted of Hannah Kesterson, Kolin Scheele, Laura Gorecki, Jacob Wolff and Grant Meiergerd and were coached by Brandy Cleveland and Sara Sieren. The team competed in four contests in the fall of 2014. The contests were: American Royal Meat Judging Contest in Omaha, NE, the Eastern National Meat Judging Contest in Wyalusing, PA, the Cargill High Plains Meat Judging Contest in Friona, TX and the International Meat Judging Contest in Dakota City, NE. At the American Royal, the team was 7<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in beef grading, where Hannah Kesterson placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the beef grading division. The team placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall at the Eastern National, where Grant Meiergerd was the 4<sup>th</sup> high individual in the alternates contest, Laura Gorecki placed 5<sup>th</sup> in specifications, and Hannah Kesterson was 6<sup>th</sup> in lamb judging. At the High Plains contest, the team was 8<sup>th</sup> overall, 6<sup>th</sup> in specifications, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in beef grading, where Hannah Kesterson was high individual in specifications, Kolin Scheele was high individual in lamb judging, and Jacob Wolff was high individual in pork judging and 8<sup>th</sup> individual in beef judging. Wrapping up at the International, the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall, 5<sup>th</sup> in beef grading and 2<sup>nd</sup> in pork judging, where individually Hannah Kesterson placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in beef grading and Jacob Wolff placed 8<sup>th</sup> in pork judging.

The 2015 Junior Meats Judging Team consisted of Kelsey Scheer, Joseph Bennier, John Essink, Rachel Johnson, Ashtyn Shrewsbury, and Molly Goin and was coached by Sara Sieren and Brandy Cleveland. The team competed in three contests this spring. The contests were: the National Western in Greeley, CO, the Southwestern in Fort Worth, TX, and the Iowa State Invitational Meat Evaluation Contest in Ames, IA. At the National Western, the team was 9<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in beef grading. The team placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall at the Southwestern and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in lamb judging and 5<sup>th</sup> in pork judging. To wrap up the spring at the Iowa State Invitational, the team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall, 5<sup>th</sup> in beef grading and 2<sup>nd</sup> in pork judging, where individually Hannah Kesterson placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in beef grading and Jacob Wolff placed 8<sup>th</sup> in pork judging.

The 2015 team will travel to the Eastern National Meat Judging Contest in Wyalusing, PA, the American Royal Meat Judging Contest in Omaha, NE, the Cargill High Plains Meat Judging Contest in Friona, TX, and the International Meat Judging Contest in Dakota City, NE this fall.
Livestock Judging Team

Sydney Gehl – Ericson, NE
Celia Karweik – Hopkins, MI
Dane Miller – Columbus, NE
Eric Miller – Lyons, NE
Justin Ross – Callaway, NE
Adam Wolfe – Herald, CA

Results

National Western Stock Show (Denver, CO)
Team Results: 17th High Team Overall
Individual Results: Sydney Gehl – 20th Cattle, 17th Cattle Reasons, 19th Hogs, 19th Overall

National Western Stock Show Carload Contest (Denver, CO)
Team Results: 16th High Team Overall
Individual Results: Dane Miller – 5th
High Individual Overall

Sioux Empire Farm Show (Sioux Falls, SD)
Team Results: 10th High Team Overall
10th High Team Cattle
10th High Team Hogs
8th High Team Sheep/Goats
9th High Team Reasons

Iowa Beef Expo (Des Moines, IA)
Team Results: 15th High Team Overall

Nebraska Cattleman’s Classic (Kearney, NE)
Team Results: 5th High Team Overall
7th High Team Overall
5th High Team Placings 7th High Team Placings
3rd High Team Reasons 7th High Team Reasons
Individual Results: Dane Miller – 9th Reasons, 11th Overall
Sydney Gehl – 6th Reasons, 10th Overall

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (Houston, TX)
Team Results: 14th High Team Overall
10th High Team Cattle
13th High Team Hogs
15th High Team Sheep/Goats
14th High Team Reasons
Individual Results: Grant Potadle – 10th Cattle
Sydney Gehl – 5th Sheep/Goats, 20th Overall
**Meat Animal Evaluation Team**

The National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest is a three-day competition that combines the principles of meats and livestock judging with real-world valuation of market animals, along with a basic understanding of current issues among the meat and livestock industries. It is truly a capstone event that is as practical and industry-relevant as any competition UNL is a part of.

This year, 7 students accepted the challenge of competing on the 2015 team. Team members include Steven Fish (Imperial, NE); April Gibson (Columbia City, IN); Kara Reimers (Boleus, NE); Kolin Scheele (Odell, NE); Tanner Taubenheim (Amherst, NE); Emily Wegener (Fairmont, MN); and Aksel Wiseman (Hershey, NE). This year’s national competition included 15 teams and 127 individuals, which ranks as one of the largest contests ever held.

In a competitive contest, UNL brought home an 8th place finish. This was highlighted by a 5th place finish in the communications division where students are asked to analyze a topic and provide their opinions. Numerous students had extremely consistent results throughout. More important than the rankings, participation on this team provides an opportunity for students interested in livestock production to better understand all aspects of the industry: from selection of breeding stock, to feeder calf grading, fat cattle, and carcass pricing. These experiences will hopefully provide a catalyst for their future career success in the livestock and meats industries. The team was coached by Brad Bennett and Kinsey Freeman with tremendous experience and knowledge provided by Dr. Bryan Reiling.
The UNL Equestrian Team competes through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). It is comprised of two teams, Western and Hunt Seat. The team competes in IHSA Zone 8, Region 5. The IHSA attempts to eliminate the expenses of students owning horses and allows more students to compete. Students ride horses that are furnished by the host college. The use of personal tack is not allowed and schooling is not permitted. The theory behind this structure is to equalize variables of competition and test the horsemanship of the contestants. Classes range from walk/trot for first year students to the Open Division for the more experienced riders.

This year, the Huskers had another great season. The Western Team added another Regional Championship to the books, for the eleventh consecutive year. Freshman Selena Finn was the Regional Western High Point Rider. In total, six western riders and five hunt seat riders qualified for regionals individually.

Western Regionals were hosted by UNL. Four riders qualified for Semi-Finals in El Reno, Oklahoma. At Semis, the team placed 3rd, qualifying them for Nationals for the 6th year in a row. Individual rider Mackenzie Schneekloth was 2nd, also qualifying her for Nationals. Hunt Seat Regionals were hosted by Colorado College. All five qualifiers placed 1st or 2nd, qualifying them for Zone Championships. This record number of Zones qualifiers competed at Stanford, where they all had great rides.

The Husker Equestrian Team could not have this success without community support and fundraising. The team’s philanthropy, Boo at the U was another successful year of dressing up the horses, dawning creative costumes, decorating the barn, and welcoming in the community to share a common love for horses. The team also sold cookie dough and advertisements for the show programs, volunteered at Kimmel Orchard, and assisted with the Ak-Sar-Ben Horse Show. Wish the Huskers luck as they ride for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln at the ISHA National Championships. This year, the competition will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts from April 30th to May 3rd.

Thank you to all who donate, contribute, and continue to support the Husker Equestrian Team!
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