

ANIMAL SCIENCE **N**INSIDER

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Husker Researchers Develop
Livestock-Monitoring
Technology



Also in this issue:

Chris Calkins, 2019 Meat Hall of Fame Inductee
Department Fills 10 Faculty, Staff Positions
Block and Bridle Honors Chuck Schroeder
Dennis Brink Retires



ALUMNI & FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019 & SPRING 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE



ANIMAL SCIENCE

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

For alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Animal Science

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A message from the DEPARTMENT HEAD



Dear Animal Science Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the 2019/2020 Special Edition of our departmental newsletter, the “Animal Science **N**sider”. In this edition, you will find stories from the many wonderful activities and achievements that have occurred throughout the 2019/2020 academic year. We also want to make you aware of upcoming events in the Department of Animal Science and hope that you will be able to participate. Our department has a strong and proud history of excellence in Teaching, Research, and Extension, and we are striving for even greater impact in the future. We look forward to engaging with you and sharing our vision as we continue to build on our culture of achieving excellence and advancing our animal and allied industries as part of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Our featured story involves research led by a team of electrical and computer engineers and animal scientists who developed precision technology to continuously monitor animals and use the data to improve animal performance, health and well-being. This technology will aid producers in making informed management decisions in genetic selection and early detection of morbidity. For its creative work, this team of scientists was awarded the Omtvedt Innovation Award for Team.

We also welcomed several new outstanding staff to the Department of Animal Science in 2019. We are excited that Blaine French has joined the department in his role as Livestock Evaluation and Youth Education Professor of Practice and Dr. Kacie McCarthy has joined the department in her role as a Beef Cow/Calf Specialist. Both of these individuals bring tremendous talent and energy to our team.

This edition also features several faculty, student, and alumni achievements and awards. You will see highlights from the 2019 Alumni & Friends Reunion and meet our undergraduate student ambassadors, beef scholars, and our judging teams. We are very proud of our meat science students for winning the Battle of the Brats competition at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American and Canadian Societies of Animal Science.

As we continue to build on a tradition of excellence, I encourage you to join us, April 17, 2020, for our Block and Bridle Honors Banquet and April 18 for our Animal Science Alumni & Friends Reunion. Registration details for these events are included in this Special Edition and on our website, at: <https://go.unl.edu/5xie>. Please mark your calendars and join us in April!

Enjoy this 2019/2020 Special Edition of the Animal Science **N**sider!

Sincerely,

Clinton R. Krehbiel, Ph.D.,
PAS Marvel L. Baker Head and
Professor of Animal Science

“We’re looking to push the boundaries of what we’ve already created.”
--Ty Schmidt



In a collaborative effort, animal science professors Ty Schmidt (left), Benny Mote (center), and electrical and computer engineer professor Eric Psota have developed the NUtrack Livestock-Monitoring System. This livestock-monitoring technology utilizes computer vision and machine-based learning to continuously monitor the activities and behaviors of grouped housed pigs.

Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Husker researchers develop livestock-monitoring technology

Published: March 21, 2019
NUtech Ventures

Written by: Alyssa Amen

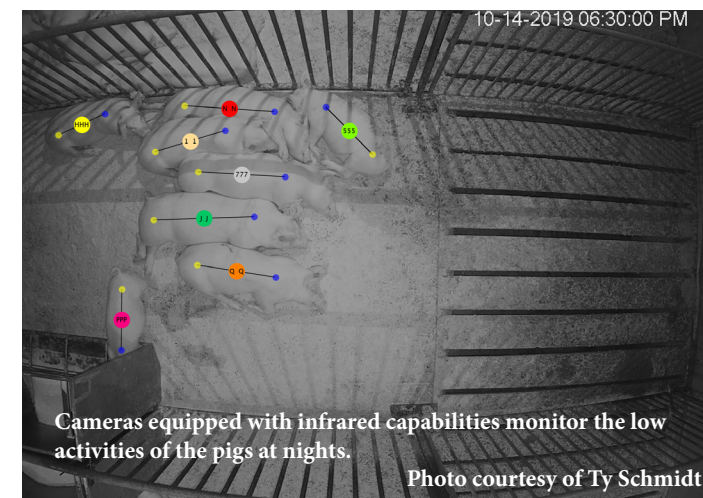
Livestock producers face a recurring challenge: watching animal behavior for signs of illness or injury.

An interdisciplinary team from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has developed precision technology to help producers continuously monitor animals and use the resulting data to improve animal well-being.

The team includes Nebraska electrical and computer engineers Lance C. Pérez, Eric Psota and Mateusz Mittek, and animal scientists Ty Schmidt and Benny Mote, who developed the technology system using video footage of pigs.

The system processes video footage from livestock facilities — day and night — and applies machine learning, which uses statistical algorithms to help computer systems improve without being explicitly programmed. It identifies individual pigs and provides data about their daily activities, such as eating, drinking and movement.

Based on this data, the system can also estimate how much each pig weighs and how fast it is growing.



Watch a video interview with Ty Schmidt and Eric Psota at: <https://mediahub.unl.edu/media/10821>.

“Our system provides a pattern of typical behavior,” said Psota, research assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. “When an animal deviates from that pattern, then it may be an indicator that something’s wrong. It makes it easier to spot problems before they get too big to fix.”

The team created their system using deep learning networks, a form of machine learning with millions of coefficients and parameters. To identify pigs from all angles, the networks processed images large and small, rotated, skewed and otherwise transformed. The team uses ear tags to help with identification but aims to rely on unique physical characteristics such as ear shape, saving producers the added work of tagging.

Although the system has been developed to identify pigs, its algorithms can be used for other livestock, such as cattle, horses, goats and sheep.

“We want to make a tool that is available to the livestock producers,” said Schmidt, associate professor of animal science. “In a competitive agricultural market with rising costs, producers are looking for solutions that streamline operations while enhancing the health and well-being of their animals.”

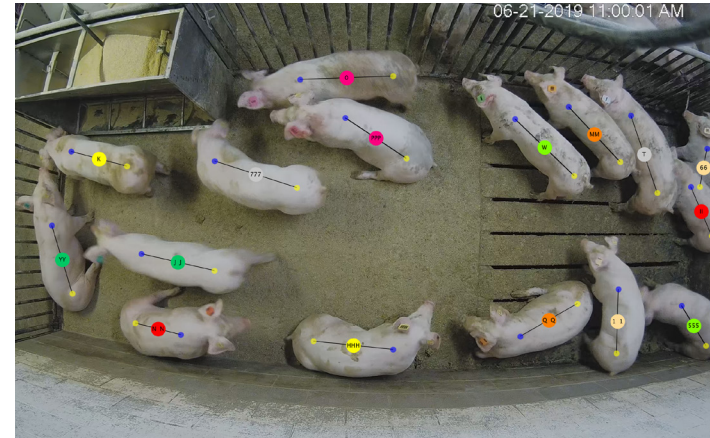
The team is pursuing further development with the help of NUtech Ventures, the university’s technology commercialization affiliate. NUtech has patented the technology and is exploring industry investment.

“NUtech provides a valuable service and opens us up to conversations with people outside the university,” Schmidt said. “We’re now looking for industry collaboration to help us advance this system.”

Detecting illness, deciphering traits

The team recently received \$675,000 from the National Association of Pork Producers to fund two studies. In collaboration with Kansas State University, the first study will explore the technology’s ability to predict illness. The team plans to collect data from both healthy and immune-compromised pigs, training the system to distinguish early symptoms.

FEATURE STORIES



A still taken from footage of pigs being autonomously monitored for changes in behavior and traits.

Photo courtesy of Ty Schmidt.

The second study will explore the lifespan of sows — female pigs of reproductive age — and traits that may be associated with longevity. The Nebraska team’s technology will track sows over time and identify changes in movement, gait patterns and physical activity — data that may yield links between genetic background and longevity. It’s a connection that hasn’t been measured because there hasn’t previously been technology to do it, Schmidt said.

“Could we make more informed management decisions — identifying optimal genetic lines that are healthier, more efficient or less aggressive?” Schmidt said. “Can we identify a sick pig, days ahead of when symptoms are visible to the producer? In both of these studies, we’re looking to push the boundaries of what we’ve already created.”



(Above photo): Participants candling eggs to determine egg quality.



Participants evaluate and take notes during the livestock judging section of PASE.



9AM-4PM

MARCH 8, 2020

UNL EAST CAMPUS
ANIMAL SCIENCE COMPLEX

Nebraska
Lincoln



4-H ADULT/LEADER
ADVANCEMENT LEVEL WORKSHOP

Topics:
~Advanced Riding Maneuvers
~Feed Charts
~ Nutrition & First Aid and much more!

Pre-registration cost: \$40 (includes lunch and materials)
Late fee: \$50 at the door

Register online by February 24, 2020 to get the discounted price at: <https://go.unl.edu/o8x4>.

For more information: <https://go.unl.edu/ev6e>

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(Bottom photo): Participants grade poultry carcasses in the poultry evaluation contest.

PASE 2019

PASE was held in June 2019 at the R.B. Warren Arena, Animal Science Complex.

Photos by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Students participate in Education Abroad to New Zealand



Photos courtesy of Tom Burkey.

Education abroad students and the faculty advisors pose for a photo in front of the library building at Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Written by: Kim Clark, Tom Burkey, and Steven Jones

Three animal science faculty led 42 UNL undergraduate students in a three-week education abroad program to the south island of New Zealand beginning the end of December to study agriculture, geography, tourism, and expand their cultural competency.

Faculty leaders were Drs. Tom Burkey, nonruminant nutrition professor; Steven Jones, meat science and muscle biology professor; and Kim Clark, dairy extension educator. The objectives increased understanding of New Zealand agriculture including agribusiness, agronomy, animal

science, environmental studies, food science and technology, forestry, natural resources and agritourism, compared to agriculture in the United States, in particular agriculture in Nebraska. Students learned about the geographical differences in New Zealand as it pertains to how geography impacts government, land use, population demographics and geological features, the challenges New Zealand faces as a member of the agricultural export community, and expanded their cultural competency by experiencing the dynamics of the New Zealand culture.

During the three weeks studying abroad, students called



Students explore the shearing facilities and feel the Merino wool at Redcliffs Station. Sheep are typically sheared one time per year.

Christchurch home much of this time and stayed in the dormitories at Lincoln University, the host university. While on campus, they learned about agriculture, the history and culture of New Zealand, its tourism, and the import and export markets from Lincoln University faculty.

While traveling throughout the south island, students visited sheep farms that produce Merino wool, a red deer farm that produces venison and velvet, a dairy farm, an a2 milk processing plant that produces infant formula for China, a beef processing plant, and observed a working dog demonstration. In addition, students experienced the vast geography of the south island from the Southern Alps to the fjords of the southern portion of the island while visiting farms and traveling with a guide.

This year's program had an added bonus of two days in Fiji. While en route to Christchurch, the group missed its connecting flight from Fiji to Christchurch due to cancelled flights in Fiji because of a cyclone. After the group arrived in Fiji, it learned its stay would last two days. The faculty leaders added to the cultural experience for the students by organizing a tour to a Buddhist temple, the local farmers market, botanical gardens, a natural hot springs, and the group enjoyed a typical Fijian meal with a Fijian cultural program.

A majority of the students in this program study at the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Students must apply to participate



Students learn about red deer farming at Radfords Deer and Sheep Farm near Te Anau. Red deer are raised for venison and velvet.

in the education abroad program and meet eligibility requirements, including academic performance. This is the second largest education abroad program offered by UNL, followed by the study abroad program to Oxford University sponsored by the College of Business. By participating in the education abroad program, students receive three credit hours in the global awareness of human diversity requirement.

This year's education abroad students included: Lauren Ahlers, Ashley Anderson, Bailey Batenhorst, Colten Bergt, Ashley Blakely, Harlee Brauckmuller, Chelsea Bryant, Fina Choat, Olivia Drennon, Morgan Eggleston, Zach Flessner, Marcila Gobon, Lukas Hall, Bryn Harding, Austin Harthoorn, Wyatt Hubbard, Heather Hunt, Caitlin Janke, Madison Jones, Eric Leisy, Hannah Lowe, McCyla Mickelson,

Oscar Munoz-Torres, Courtney Nelson, Taylor Nielsen, Karly Niewohner, Magdalene O'Brien, Lindsay Peters, Megan Pokorny, Sarah Rakes, Brigita Rasmussen, Elizabeth Ruskamp, Heidi Saner, Asha Scheideler, Emily Schildberg, Will Sonderman, Edward Spender, Jacqueline Stauffer, Emmet Storer, Alexis Uldrich, Alyssa Waits, and Hannah Watson.

The New Zealand education abroad program started in 2005, by Jones, with four students. Since its inception, more than 250 UNL students have participated in the program. This education abroad program is offered every other year and the next program is scheduled for December 2021.



Non-ruminant nutrition professor Dr. Tom Burkey presents former non-ruminant lab manager Gail Henderson with a gift at a retirement reception for Henderson, June 13, 2019, at the Reading Room, Animal Science Complex.

Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Six honored with Parent's Recognition Awards



Six animal science staff and faculty were among 252 university employees who received Parent's Recognition Awards, March 1, 2019, at a ceremony at the Willa Cather Dining Complex. Associate professor Mary Drewnoski, beef systems specialist; associate professor Lisa Karr, companion animal specialist and undergraduate teaching coordinator; Steven Jones, meat science and muscle biology professor, Galen Erickson, ruminant nutrition professor; associate professor Jennifer Wood, molecular reproductive physiologist; and Alli Raymond, undergraduate admissions coordinator were recipients. Jones has received this award seven times; Karr, six; Raymond, three; and Wood, twice. It is the first time Drewnoski and Erickson have received the award. This is the 31st year that the awards ceremony, hosted by the Parents Association, has taken place. Students and parents submit their nominations annually. To read more, visit <https://go.unl.edu/ymeq>.

IANR faculty, staff honored for outstanding work, leadership and initiative



Photo courtesy of IANR.

Awardees and nominees pose for a group picture at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources awards luncheon, Dec. 9, 2019, at Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center.

Four Department of Animal Science employees were among those honored at an awards luncheon hosted by Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dec. 9, 2019.

Thomas McGargill received an Outstanding Employee Award for going above and beyond the call of duty. This award is presented each year to four outstanding UNL IANR employees and recognizes and honors outstanding dedication and excellent job performance. Recipients of this award possess excellent work ethics, produce high quality of work over an extended period of time, and have an extraordinary impact.

The Outstanding Employee Award has been won by the department 41 times, since 1980 when the award was first started. Roy Carlson was the first recipient of the award and the very first animal science employee to receive it. Our

department has sometimes won this award as much as four times per year.

Three faculty members from the Department of Animal Science were among the recipients to receive two of four Omtvedt Innovation Awards. The Omtvedt Innovation Award is recognition of innovative faculty members, or a team lead by faculty, in the areas of teaching, research, and extension education.

Omtvedt Innovation Award for Research goes to Samodha Fernando, nutritional biochemistry associate professor.

Omtvedt Innovation Award for Team goes to the NUtrack Livestock Monitoring Team, which includes Ty Schmidt and Benny Mote from Department of Animal Science and Eric Psota from College of Engineering.

Past Department of Animal Science recipients of this award includes Chris Calkins, Rodger Johnson, Steven Jones, and Sheila Purdum who were the very first recipients of this award since it started in 2004, and Terry Klopfenstein in 2008.

The Omtvedt Innovation Award is made possible by Leone and the late Neal Harlan, great friends of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, in honor of Dr. Irv Omtvedt and his distinguished career at the University of Nebraska.

These awards recognize areas of strength and promise within the Institute, as well as innovation and excellence in teaching, research, extension, and teamwork.

To read more about the various awards and recognitions, visit: <https://go.unl.edu/x5gd>.



Photos by: Hailey Walmsley

NYBLS 2019

Nov. 8-10, 2019

(Right photo): Participants learn about the cuts of beef.



Photos by: Greg Nathan

(Left photo): NYBLS participants visit a local grocery store to talk to consumers about beef.



(Above photo): A beef dish created by NYBLS participants.

(Bottom right photo): NYBLS participants create their beef recipes to present to the judges.



(Bottom left photo): NYBLS participants prepare to interact with consumers at a local grocery store.



Department fills 10 faculty, staff positions in 2019



Daniel Kent V
Ag. Research Technician III

My name is Wendy Klein, non-ruminant nutrition's research laboratory manager. Before moving to Nebraska, I was a histotechnologist at the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. in the department of pathology. I obtained tissue samples from the hospitals operating rooms and/or outpatient clinics and prepared fixed tissue slides to be analyzed by a board-certified pathologist. Before I received the opportunity to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs, I was briefly at the University of Kansas Medical Center's Clinical Molecular Oncology Laboratory Department of Pathology. I performed clinical testing using biological markers for cancer specific genes. Before moving to Kansas, I was in Oklahoma where I spent 13 years at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in what is now referred to as the Oklahoma Autoimmune Center of Excellence, which is one of eight centers in the US that focusses on understanding the biology of autoimmune diseases. I served as the supervisor for the center's biorepository core. At the biorepository core we housed and distributed more than 30 years of banked biological specimens. We also received new study samples from patients all over the country, including patients who were participating in specific National Institute of Health clinical trials.



NEW HIRES



Hello! My name is **Grace Kim**, I was born in Seoul, Korea. Soon after I was born, my family moved here to Lincoln, Neb. Now I call this place my hometown. I started my position as the companion animal and equine extension assistant, May 9, 2019. This job is focused on improving and continuing the 4-H companion animal and equine programs while under the supervision of Drs. Lena Luck and Lisa Karr. I graduated from UNL in December of 2018 with my major in animal science with an equine option along with a minor in business administration. I am excited to say that I will be going back to UNL in the graduate program to continue my education! One interesting fact about me is that I have never broken a bone (even with riding horses for so long!).



My name is **Marshal Peterson**. I was born in Omaha, Neb. I am the first full-time rodeo coach for the University of Nebraska Rodeo Program. My start date was August 19. As a rodeo coach, I facilitate the practice, travel, and club activities for the rodeo program along with hosting one of the 10 Great Plains Regional College Rodeos in Lincoln, Neb, April 24-25. Other responsibilities include aid in fundraising, hosting community events, and progressing the sport of rodeo throughout Nebraska. Before working for the university, I worked as a campaign director for Snap! I have a master's degree in teaching of mathematics from Hastings College and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from South Dakota State University. A fun fact about me is that I love to dance!

My name is **Eileen Marks-Nelson**. I am from Barberton, Ohio. I was hired as a research technologist for Dr. Dustin Yates lab, Nov. 12, 2019. I manage the lab, assist and train students, and run experiments as needed. I have eight years' experience working in academic research as a technologist, including five years in the physiology department at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. and more than one year working in nutrition and health sciences at UNL. I am excited to learn about sheep, as my past research experience was with rodents or human subjects. I have a Master of Science degree in neuroscience from the University of Wyoming (graduated 2011). A fun fact about me is that I like painting and drawing in my free time, which is minimal now that I have a 1-month-old baby! Also, I have more family in the UK than in the US. My dad is originally from Northern Ireland.



My Name is **Ban Mai Dang**. I began working as a financial associate, Nov. 5, 2019, reporting to financial specialist Carrie Duffy. I assist faculty with post-award funding management and expense reviews. I came to the Department of Animal Science from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This position continues my expertise in financial management for grants from working with the department of health. Outside of financial reports, I hope to accumulate knowledge of all areas of animal science while working here. I was born in Vietnam. After coming to the US, I earned a degree in business administration from UNL. Some of my hobbies include reading, traveling, and trying different kinds of food. If you want to nominate your favorite restaurants in town, don't hesitate to stop by my office.



My name is **Anna Fuller**. I'm a true Husker who grew up in Lincoln, Neb. I received my bachelor's degree at UNL in animal science. I spent two years in Wyoming and received my master's degree in reproductive biology. Afterwards, I worked at Neogen GeneSeek in Lincoln for eight years in various roles. This led me back to UNL in January of 2019 where I am currently working as a research technologist with Dr. Jessica Petersen. I get to manage students in the lab and help with various projects. Outside of work I have two dogs that keep me on my toes; Porter is half border collie/half corgi and Motley is half rottweiler/half dachshund/pit-bull. I also have one tuxedo cat named Louie. An interesting fact about me is that I enjoy traveling and have been to 14 countries and 21 states. I hope to do more traveling in the future and learn about different cultures.



My name is **Austin Holliday**. I was born in Ames, Iowa and was raised in Fairbury, Neb. I started at the cow/calf unit July 1, 2019, as the unit manager. My previous position was a research technician in the Department of Animal Science, in Lincoln. My current position at the cow/calf unit keeps me very busy, as there is not much down time during the day! I would say my job entail doing what it takes to successfully raise healthy calves that become productive cows and profitable bulls. I also enjoy managing approximately 2,000 acres of grassland that we graze our cows on here at Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center. I started school at Southeast Community College in Beatrice. I graduated with a degree in diversified ag. and then started at UNL in January of 2016. I went into the grazing livestock systems program and graduated in May of 2018. A fun fact about me is that I am a SCUBA diver.

Blaine French joins Department of Animal Science



Blaine French

Written by: Clint Krehbiel

Blaine French joins the department as livestock evaluation and youth education associate professor of practice.

In addition to teaching courses related to livestock evaluation, French will coach the Husker Livestock Judging and Meat Animal Evaluation teams. He will provide strong statewide leadership focused on comprehensive educational programs of excellence in youth-related animal science, including incorporating scientific principles into livestock project selection and animal management. French will be responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing youth livestock evaluation events, educational camps and clinics, and educational materials.

“I am very excited to have someone of Blaine’s caliber join our team at the University of Nebraska,” Clint Krehbiel, department head, said. “The excitement, enthusiasm, and professionalism he brings to this position will expand our youth engagement, enhance our recruitment opportunities, and provide students with connections and the soft skills necessary to be future leaders of the livestock industries. We will be more competitive at judging contests.”

French comes to Nebraska from Connors State College in Warner, Okla, where he served as an instructor and assistant livestock judging coach. He has had many accomplishments both as a team member and coach in livestock judging. French was honored as a Junior Collegiate Livestock Judging All American in 2014, and assisted with coaching the record-setting team in reasons and reserve overall team at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky. in 2018.

French was raised on a farm and ranch near Batesville, Ariz. He received his associate degree from Fort Scott Community College, and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Kacie McCarthy joins Department of Animal Science



Kacie McCarthy

Written by: Clint Krehbiel

Kacie McCarthy joins the department as a beef cow/calf specialist. In her role, McCarthy will provide leadership in planning, developing, and implementing beef cow/calf statewide extension programs; development of educational programs in cow/calf reproductive and nutrition management; and communicate with state commodity organizations to identify producer needs and opportunities for collaboration on outreach programs. McCarthy will also teach the cow/calf management course and provide leadership to the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program minor and develop a comprehensive cow/calf internship program.

“I am very excited to have someone of Kacie’s caliber join our team at the University of Nebraska,” Clint Krehbiel, department head, said. “Her experience and expertise along with the excitement, enthusiasm and professionalism she brings to this position will expand our producer engagement and enhance experiential learning opportunities for our students. McCarthy brings a unique skill set and will be a tremendous asset to our extension, teaching, and research missions.”

McCarthy has degrees from Colorado State University (B.S.), New Mexico State University (M.S.), and North Dakota State University (Ph.D.). Her dissertation research focused on precision agriculture technologies and integrating novel technologies with classic areas of nutritional and reproductive physiology. She also implemented similar technologies to look at the effects of mineral supplementation of grazing cattle on intake, performance, and mineral status of cows and calves. McCarthy worked closely with Extension specialists assisting with in-service training for county agents and handling data collection for Extension programs. She has experience with needs assessment, program organization and evaluation, survey development, and reporting of impacts. She also taught a senior-level beef industry and production systems course at NDSU in spring 2019.

McCarthy originates from a ranch in northern California. In addition to her interest in showing cattle, McCarthy was a Division I softball player and coach. McCarthy received honors as Mountain West All Conference Softball Team in 2012 and 2013, Mountain West Softball Pitcher of the Year in 2012, and an Academic All-Mountain West Softball Team member in 2013. She was also a Graduate Assistant Coach at NMSU.

Synbiotic Health signs licensing agreement to enable development of unique synergistic synbiotics

Published Nov. 21, 2019
PR Newswire

Husker faculty have founded a university spinoff company, Synbiotic Health, to develop a combination of beneficial gut bacteria and the fuel that feeds them. Working with NUtech Ventures, the company has licensed its first synbiotic strains and plans to begin human clinical trials in 2020. The company's founding members include Nebraska's Bob Hutkins and Andy Benson, both food science and technology, and Tom Burkey, animal science. Stories on the company's licensing agreement appeared in 150-plus media outlets, including Yahoo Finance.



Contributed photo

from research at the Nebraska Food for Health Center and University of Nebraska–Lincoln's department of food science and technology. The technology was developed by globally leading probiotic and prebiotic researchers, including Dr. Bob Hutkins and Dr. Andy Benson of the Nebraska Food for Health Center, animal scientist Dr. Tom Burkey, and Dr. Jens Walter from the University of Alberta.

A typical synbiotic is designed to deliver the separate health benefits of its constituent probiotic and prebiotic. Synbiotic Health will now be able to formulate a new generation of products in which the probiotic microbe is selectively enriched and stimulated by the paired prebiotic substrate. "This agreement will allow

Synbiotic Health to lead the way in developing and commercializing a unique type of nutritional ingredient," says Tim Brummels, president and CEO of Synbiotic Health. "This strong scientific foundation allows us to develop products with demonstrated synergy between the probiotic and the prebiotic. We are confident this will make the health effects more reliable, adding value for the consumer."

The company's first product, targeting food & beverage and nutritional supplement manufacturers, will launch in fall 2020. Its clinical program will commence in early 2020. Brummels says, "Leading nutritional companies are considering the gut microbiome and its ability to impact human health as integral to its product development strategy. We are meeting this need head-on with scientifically robust solutions."

Dr. Andy Benson, a University of Nebraska Presidential Chair and Director of the Nebraska Food for Health Center, says, "The agreement represents the center's commitment to translation and commercialization of its research outputs. We hope it serves as a model to stimulate interest in bringing some of the university's great discoveries to the marketplace."

Headquartered at the Nebraska Innovation Campus, Synbiotic Health is a natural nutritional ingredients company. The founders, which include researchers at the University of Nebraska, formed Synbiotic Health in 2019, with the goal of developing scientifically- and clinically-tested synergistic combinations of probiotics with prebiotics.

Synbiotic Health aims to be the leader in the innovation and development of the highest quality synergistic synbiotics that will provide consistent health benefits as demonstrated through clinical evidence. Visit synbiotichealth.com for information and developments. For more information on the Nebraska Food for Health Center, visit its website at foodforhealth.unl.edu.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/iii8>

Calkins visits Brazil for Brazil-beef quality symposium

Meat scientist Dr. Chris Calkins and his graduate student Dr. Felipe Azevedo Ribeiro visited Brazil in December. There were several events during the trip. There was a presentation to restaurant owners and chefs about beef quality, the second UNL-Brazil beef quality symposium where Calkins along with Ribeiro presented, a dinner where they had a very highly marbled Wagyu beef steak, and a visit to a Brazilian beef producer who co-mingles cattle on pasture with Eucalyptus trees (a unique production system).



Dr. Chris Calkins visits the ranch of Alexandre Raffi in Anastácio, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Raffi combines forestry and ranching, raising Eucalyptus trees in wide rows within cattle pastures to generate a separate income stream and diversify production.



From left to right is Marcelo Shimbo, owner of Prime Cater in Brazil, Drs. Chris Calkins and Felipe Azevedo Ribeiro. This photo was taken immediately after a presentation to restaurant owners (bottom left photo) and chefs about beef quality and the requirements to build a satisfied customer. This was a workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil, sponsored by Prime Cater.



Contributed Photos

Purdum receives research award



Dr. Sheila Purdum received the 2019 American Egg Board Research Award from the American Egg Association. This was presented July 18, 2019, at the 108th Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The American Egg Board Research Award is given to increase the interest in research pertaining to egg science technology or marketing that has a bearing on egg or spent hen utilization. The award is given to an author for a manuscript published in Poultry Science or The Journal of Applied Poultry Research during the preceding year.

Dr. Sheila E. Purdum is a Professor and Extension Poultry Specialist at the University of Nebraska who conducts applied research on the subjects of laying hen and pullet nutrition. Her paper "Limestone particle size fed to pullets influences subsequent bone integrity of hens" was the particular research paper published in Poultry Science in 2018 for which this award is presented. This was a significant paper as it documented how limestone sources fed to laying

hens in cage vs. aviary cages affects long term welfare of the hen and bone integrity. Dr. Purdum has been conducting nutrition studies in laying hens and pullets for over 30 years and has previously received the Poultry Science Helene Cecil Leadership Award, the AFIA Nutrition Research Award and has also served the Poultry Science Association as a Director and as a Journal Section Editor. Dr. Purdum enjoys working with youth in 4-H and new producers as well as advising graduate students for future careers in the Poultry Industry.

Photo and article courtesy of Poultry Science Association.

Source:
<https://poultryscience.org/About-Awards-2019>

2019 PROMOTIONS AND TENURE



Three animal science faculty were among 98 faculty awarded promotion and tenure, April 23 2019, at the Lincoln Station. Promoted to full professor are Tom Burkey (right) and Jim MacDonald while promoted to associate professor is Mary Drewnoski.

Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

AniSci physiologists lead the Society for the Study of Reproduction



Written by: Andrea Cupp

Drs. Andrea Cupp and Jennifer Wood have been elected to critical roles in the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the national society for reproductive physiologists. Cupp was installed as president of SSR July and serves until SSR's 2020 meeting July 9-12, 2020, in Ottawa, Canada.

Cupp started this leadership role as vice-president elect in 2017 and moved to vice president, president, and next year will become past-president. The theme of the 2020 SSR meeting lead by Cupp is: Reproductive Biology: Solutions for Adult Disease. She also served the SSR board as secretary from 2013-2016.

Wood was elected secretary in the spring of 2019 and was installed at the 2019 SSR meeting in July in San Jose, Calif. She will serve from 2019-2022. Previously, Wood served the society as the award committee chair (three-year term), which decided on all major awards for the society. She also is currently serving on the 2020 SSR program committee.

The mission of SSR is to advance science in reproduction, fertility and development benefiting humans and animals. The society is composed of scientists studying reproductive biology in medical and land grant institutions, government, and related reproductive industries.

SSR celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017 and was formed from scientists attending the American Society of Animal Science meetings who sought to develop a society where reproductive biology is the focus. Major efforts are made by the leadership of the society to elevate reproductive biology trainees experiences by providing career development opportunities, and facilitating networking with funding agencies and other scientists.

Cupp speaks at Path to Success luncheon

Dr. Andrea Cupp was the featured speaker at the Association for Women in Science Paths to Success lunch, Dec. 3, 2019, at the Willa Cather Dining Complex. This event gave attendees the chance to connect with colleagues, discuss issues related to promoting and nurturing STEM diversity at the university, and hear from a successful woman on her path to success. The event was open to faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students.

To learn more about AWIS, visit:
<https://go.unl.edu/8chk>.

Klopfenstein, Nebraska Farm Bureau Silver Eagle awardee



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Dr. Terry Klopfenstein receives the 2019 Nebraska Farm Bureau Silver Eagle Award for being a pioneer in beef nutrition. The award was presented Dec. 10, 2019, at the Nebraska Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Kearney, Neb.

Nebraska Farm Bureau selected Dr. Terry Klopfenstein, Emeritus Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), as the 2019 recipient of, its highest honor, the Silver Eagle Award. The award was presented to Klopfenstein on Dec. 10 at the 2019 Nebraska Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Kearney.

“Terry Klopfenstein, Ph.D., was a pioneer in using corn byproducts from the ethanol and sweetener industries to supplement cattle feeding,” said Steve Nelson president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau. “Dr. Klopfenstein’s research laid the groundwork for distillers’ grains to become a key feedstock that has greatly lowered the cost of production for Nebraska’s beef producers and is now labeled as a co-product of the ethanol industry.”

Dr. Klopfenstein was raised on his family’s farm in Ohio and

worked around animals and cattle throughout his childhood. He began his tenure at the University of Nebraska in 1965 after completing his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees from Ohio State University. Dr. Klopfenstein held the University of Nebraska Wagner Professorship from 1989 to 2007. He mentored hundreds of graduate students in his 47-year career at the UNL, many of whom are recognized as excellent nutritionists. He takes pride in his work with students.

“Klopfenstein’s mother was a teacher who began her career when she was 18 years old. Growing up, his father taught him the importance of higher education because he never had the chance to further his education during the Great Depression. Terry instilled the same motivation for knowledge in his students, making them a priority in his career. Because of the need for well-trained feedlot managers, the Feedlot Management

Internship was initiated in 1988 and 174 students have completed the program. His love of teaching has extended well beyond the classroom. Widely known for his research, Klopfenstein has authored 247 referred articles, 484 abstracts, and 507 technical publications,” Nelson said.

Klopfenstein has received multiple honors including the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS), American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), New Frontiers in Animal Nutrition Award, USDA Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award, USDA Superior Service Award, and the Morrison Award from the American Society of Animal Science, American Society of Animal Science Distinguished Teacher Award. He also was inducted into the Ohio State Animal Science and College of Ag Hall of Fame and the Nebraska Hall of Ag Achievement. Klopfenstein has been active with many industry organizations, including serving

as president for the Federation of Animal Science Societies and the American Society of Animal Science

“Terry has been passionate, dedicated, determined, and devoted to improving beef nutrition in the agriculture industry. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service to Nebraska agriculture; his years of accomplishments makes him more than qualified to receive Nebraska Farm Bureau’s highest honor, the Silver Eagle Award. We thank him for his service to agriculture students and the farmers and ranchers of Nebraska,” Nelson said.

Terry and his wife Nancy live in Lincoln and have eight children, 25 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. He has been a Lancaster County Farm Bureau member for 31 years and for many years continues to assist Nancy with writing letters to elementary school students about what life is like on the farm and ranch as a part of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation Ag Pen Pal Program.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, state-wide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans through a wide variety of educational, service and advocacy efforts. More than 58,000 families across Nebraska are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve rural and urban prosperity as agriculture is a key fuel to Nebraska’s economy.

Article courtesy of Nebraska Farm Bureau.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/zzd7>

FACULTY NEWS

Burkey named CASNR interim associate dean for graduate education and partnership engagement



Tom Burkey

Written by: Cara Pesek

Published: Feb. 4, 2020
IANR News

Dr. Tom Burkey, professor of animal science, has joined the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources as the Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Partnership Engagement.

In this half-time role, Burkey will provide leadership for graduate education within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will also work to foster both internal and external partnerships to advance IANR’s graduate education framework; facilitate professional development opportunities for graduate students; and serve as CASNR’s liaison to the Office of Graduate Studies, IANR academic units and other academic colleges.

“We are excited to have Tom in this new role as we focus on providing an individualized approach to graduate education where every student matters, designing education pathways that align with diverse career opportunities, and supporting a global community of learners,” said Tiffany Heng-Moss, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.



College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources dean Tiffany Heng-Moss (left) congratulates Brink as Jaelyn Lorimer looks on during a retirement reception to honor Brink, March 8, 2019, at the student commons, Animal Science Complex.



Students Lexi Ostrand (left) and former Block and Bridle Club president Sheridan Swotek exchange pleasantries with retiree Dr. Dennis Brink during a retirement reception to honor Brink, March 8, 2019. Brink officially retired March 1, 2019, after 40 years at UNL. Currently, Brink is the first professor of agricultural science at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Photos by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

DENNIS BRINK RETIRES

Dennis Brink joins Concordia University, Nebraska to lead agricultural science program



Dr. Dennis Brink

Dr. Dennis Brink has been appointed by Concordia University, Nebraska's Board of Regents as the university's first professor of agricultural science.

"Dennis is the perfect person to lead our new agricultural science program," said Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, Concordia president. "His experience and dedication to equipping university students for the last 40 years, his strong relationships throughout the agriculture industry, both in Nebraska and beyond and his vibrant Christian faith and winsome witness make Dennis an exceptional fit to lead Concordia's newest program. We are thrilled to have him join us as a partner in ministry as we equip students with

a Christ-centered education for their future vocations in God's world."

Brink has already begun his work at Concordia, teaching an introductory course in agriculture and assisting in the development of partnerships and outcomes for the agricultural science program. He retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in February, completing a 40-year career teaching animal nutrition and management and conducting nutrition research with feedlot cattle, beef cows and lambs. At the time of his retirement, Brink was the Kermit Wagner Distinguished Professor in Animal Science and coordinator of undergraduate teaching and advisement.

"I have been blessed to be involved in agriculture and education my entire adult life," Brink said. "It is an amazing opportunity to now help build partnerships for Concordia with the large number of individuals involved in agriculture, from within a few miles of Seward to across the United States and even other parts of the world, many of whom are already stepping up to play a role in the Concordia ag program."

Concordia's Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural science takes an innovate, integrated approach to agriculture. Focusing on the four primary sectors of the agriculture industry-agribusiness, animal science, food science and plant science-the program, through sector coursework, field trips, hands on learning experiences

and internships, will equip students with the communication skills and broad knowledge necessary to work in agriculture today.

Brink earned all three of his degrees from Kansas State University-a B.S. in agriculture in 1971, a M.S. in animal science in 1975 and a Ph.D. in animal nutrition in 1978. From 1971-1975, Brink worked for the Kansas State Cooperative Extension Service as a County Extension 4-H agent. He started at UNL in 1978 as an assistant professor before working his way up to professor in 1989, a position he held until his retirement last month.

Throughout Brink's four decades at UNL, he received multiple awards and accolades for his dedication to education and agriculture. In 1992, he received the Outstanding Teacher, Central Region award from the National Association of Colleges and Teachers, as well as the Livestock Service Award

in 1994. Additional honors include 12 Recognition Awards for Contributions to Students by the UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council, the 2003 L.K. Crowe Outstanding Undergraduate Student Advisor Award, presented by the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) and was named an American Society of Animal Science Teaching Fellow in 2013.

Outside of the classroom, Brink is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture and the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Brink is married to Joan (Grother), and the couple have three adult children: Kelly, Lauri and Matthew. Lauri and Matthew are Concordia Nebraska graduates.

Article courtesy of Concordia University.



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Dr. Clint Krehbiel (right), department head, presents a gift to Dr. Dennis Brink at a retirement reception to honor Brink, March 8, 2019, at the student commons, Animal Science Complex.



Photos by: EPNAC

Dr. Chris Calkins, world-renowned meat scientist, was inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame, class of 2019, Jan. 27, 2020, at the OMNI Hotel/CNN Center in Atlanta. Calkins was among six inducted because of his global impact and contribution to the meat industry. Calkins stands next to his wife, Ellen.



Dr. Chris Calkins (third from right) poses with his award and with other recipients.



Dr. Chris Calkins chats candidly to Cara Gerken (left) of Where Food Comes From as his wife, Ellen, looks on.

MEAT INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME

Husker-crafted brats sizzle to second national crown

Written by: Troy Fedderson
Nebraska Today

A student-led project is giving Husker Nation a unique — and tasty — opportunity to get fired up. Having smoked the competition for a second time in as many contests, a jalapeño popper bratwurst developed in 2016 by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Faith Rasmussen has been crowned a national champion. Both victories were earned at the Battle of the Brats at the annual meeting of the American and Canadian societies of animal science. The most recent victory came during the annual meeting, July 7-10 in Austin, Texas.

The competition pits brat recipes submitted by universities nationwide for a blind taste test. The winner is selected via popular vote cast by participants at the annual meeting.

“Winning this competition, for us, is all about bragging rights,” said Gary Sullivan, associate professor of animal science. “It also confirms what we already know — that students within the Department of Animal Science make some outstanding products.”

The recipe came together through a contest presented by Sullivan to his graduate students, which included Rasmussen.



Photo by: Troy Fedderson

Becca Furbeck slices into a freshly grilled jalapeño popper bratwurst in the animal science kitchen.

“I asked the students to make a great bratwurst with one stipulation — that it not just be a jalapeño and cheese variant,” Sullivan said. “Faith took that as a challenge and made one of the best jalapeño brats I’ve ever tasted.”

The recipe is based on a jalapeño popper — a hollowed out jalapeño pepper stuffed with a mixture of cheese, spices and sometimes meat (including bacon). The bite-sized items are a staple on restaurant menus.

“Faith picked the flavor because it’s one of our favorite appetizers,” said Becca Furbeck, a second-year graduate research assistant and doctoral student in animal science. “She had some difficulty incorporating the cream cheese. But, once she figured out a process where you freeze it, cut it up and then put it into the mix, we knew this was going to be a big hit.” Bursting with a balanced mix of

peppery spice, salty pork and ooey-goey cream cheese, the sausage was first crowned Battle of the Brats champion in 2016. It earned a second national title earlier this month during the society’s annual meeting and trade show, held July 8-11 in Austin, Texas.

“We didn’t win with a Reuben bratwurst in 2017 and there was no competition in 2018 because the meeting was in Canada and we couldn’t ship meat across the border,” Sullivan said. “When they asked for our signature brat this year, we knew immediately the jalapeño popper was our choice.”

The brat has consistently been a top seller in the Department of Animal Science’s Loeffel Meat Shoppe. Located at 38th and Fair streets in the Animal Science Complex on East Campus, the shop sells primarily meat products prepared and processed by university students.

All proceeds from the store support animal science-related instruction and programming.

“We had recently ran out of stock and needed to make a new batch ahead of the contest,” Furbeck said. “I was a little bit surprised it won again. But, that’s great because it shows that Nebraska’s animal science students make some really great and consistent products.”

Nebraska team members that assisted with the 2019 Battle of the Brats include Sullivan; Furbeck; Steve Jones, professor of animal science; Calvin Schrock, research lab manager; and Reo Weeks, research lab assistant manager. Rasmussen graduated with a Master of Science in December 2018. She currently works in research and development for the Kraft Heinz Company.

Packages of Nebraska’s jalapeño popper bratwurst are available for purchase in the Loeffel Meat Shoppe. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-5:30 p.m. and Fridays, noon to 5:30 p.m. To learn more about the shop at <https://animalscience.unl.edu/loeffel-meat-lab-prices>.

Campus experiences help Husker launch beef enterprise

Published Dec. 2, 2019
Nebraska Today

Written by: Annie Albin and
Deann Gayman

Husker Hannah Esch knows how to juggle priorities. She's an ace at balancing classes, tests and projects – and running her own business. As a student enrolled in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Engler Agribusiness

Entrepreneurship Program, Esch knew her classroom pursuits would look different from those of her classmates, but she never expected she'd be running a business before graduating.

The experiences she had through the Engler Program and as a Nebraska Beef Ambassador revealed an opportunity in the beef industry. Esch, a senior animal science major, realized there

was a disconnect between many producers and their consumers, and she decided to start her own farm-to-table beef supplier: Oak Barn Beef. It officially became a limited liability company in 2018. Oak Barn Beef is based at Esch's family's farm home in Unadilla, Nebraska. Esch's parents allowed her to take over planning for the farm's operations so it could better fit her farm-to-table business model, and she used her education

in animal science to incorporate DNA testing into production and to use the most sustainable and ethical methods of raising cattle.

Esch said she wouldn't have been able to get Oak Barn Beef off the ground without the Engler Program.

Engler students are encouraged to take a different approach to learning. Director Tom Field said the program endeavors to build a community of students and alumni, learning from and supporting one another, much like a family.

"Our mission is to create the mindset of an owner, not an employee," Field said. "There's nothing wrong with being an employee, but at the Engler Program, we are growing entrepreneurs, because they'll grow Nebraska. We'll grow our state one small business at a time."

The Engler Program was founded in 2010, with a gift from the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation to establish a student program focused on entrepreneurship, and has already had a positive impact on the state. About 90% of the 160 alumni of the program have remained in Nebraska or the Great Plains region, launching more than 60 new enterprises.

The Engler program provided Esch with the resources and mentorship experience that helped her to start her own business. They pushed her to be an owner and make her own

decisions, while also providing support and answers to some of her tough questions.

"You learn as you go," Hannah said, "And they're there to help you learn."

Engler alumni and its network of faculty and staff work with current students, offering mentorship and coaching. The students are also supported with more than \$200,000 in scholarships awarded yearly, and events are centered around putting students into entrepreneurial ecosystems. Managing responsibilities as both a student and a business owner is a lot to take on, but for Esch it has been worth it. Because she's still in college she's been able to access opportunities and resources that wouldn't be as accessible off campus — like the Engler program or the New Venture Competition. It might seem scary, but she encourages students to pursue their entrepreneurial passions.

"There's not a better time to start a business than when you're a student."

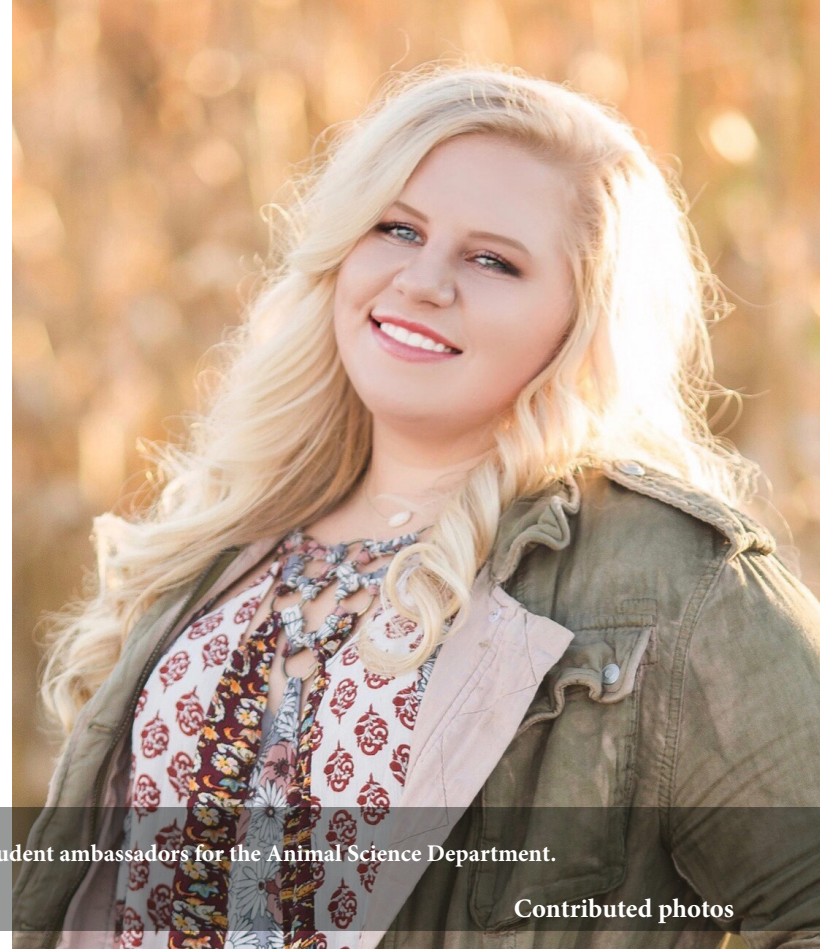
Source: <https://go.unl.edu/keue>

Hannah Esch, Engler Entrepreneur and owner of Oak Barn Beef, works at her family ranch in Unadilla, Neb.

Photo by: Emily Frenzen, Stella Imaging
ANIMAL SCIENCE NSIDER 27



Felicia Knoerzer and Kathlyn Hauxwell (right) have been selected as student ambassadors for the Animal Science Department.



Contributed photos

Animal science department appoints two new student ambassadors

Written by: Alli Raymond

The Department of Animal Science has appointed two new student ambassadors for the 2019-2020 academic year. After in-depth interviews with department faculty and senior ambassadors, two students were selected out of a pool of 11 applicants: Kathlyn Hauxwell of McCook, a sophomore animal science major; and Felicia Knoerzer of Elwood, a sophomore animal science major.

The two new ambassadors will serve alongside current second-year ambassadors Daniel Ahern of Longmont, Colo., a senior animal science major; and Kaylee Wheeler of Wood Lake, a junior animal science major. The ambassadors will interact with prospective animal science students by visiting high schools and attending various university admissions events. In addition to attending and supporting events, each ambassador will also take on the responsibility of planning one recruitment activity per year. One example is the animal science experience, an event where high school

and transfer students visit East Campus for a day and see it through the eyes of a current college student. These students get an overview of the Department of Animal Science, participate in an actual animal science class, eat lunch in the dining hall and participate in fun activities, such as a tour of Memorial Stadium.

“It’s a good opportunity for them to get to know East Campus and actually see what life is like here in the department and as a college student,” Alli Raymond, animal science admissions coordinator, said. “Through planning and participating in these activities, the student ambassadors benefit not only the university, but themselves as well.”

The Animal Science Student Ambassador program, started in 1999, selects two animal science majors as ambassadors to promote the animal science program each year. Students receive a \$2,000 scholarship (\$500 each semester) and serve for two years supporting the department’s recruitment efforts.



Members of the newly formed Meat Science Club. From left to right is Heather Hunt, Roy Cumming, Jaideep Sahni, Becca Furbeck, Avery Vieregger, and Dakota Lovett.

CHOPPED CHALLENGE

Contributed photos

The Meat Science Club gathered for its first Chopped Challenge, Nov. 12, 2019. Students were given random ingredients to cook an appetizer in 40 minutes and an entree in one hour. The random ingredients that were required to be in the dishes included: ground beef, strip steaks, Dorothy Lynch dressing, broccoli, and pork rinds. Each dish was tasted and scored after the judges listened to each team describe its dish. Undergraduates Dakota Lovett and Avery Vieregger were named the winners with a slider appetizer and a taco entree. Meat Science Club thanks Gary Sullivan and Sherri Pitchie for judging the contest and hopes to host another Chopped Challenge this spring that is open to any willing participants.



Members of the 2020 UNL Livestock Judging Team recently returned from the National Western Stock Show in Denver and was 10th high team overall, 5th high team in the sheep/goat division, 6th high team overall in the carload division, and Dalton Wagner (right) was the 3rd high individual overall in the carload division.



2018-2019 FEEDYARD INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns from the 2018-2019 UNL Feedyard Internship Program pose for a group picture just before completing the six-week portion of their internship at a feedyard at Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center near Meade, Neb. From left to right is: Jared Geiser, Spencer Paul, Rebecca Sjostrand (behind), Samantha Wagner (in front), Sadie Christensen, Kailey Conway, Kelton Adair, and Sawyer Wollmann.

After the feedyard internship, the interns went on to pursue different ventures to be able to apply what they had learned from their internship. Currently, Jared is pursuing a master's degree in ag. business at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., Rebecca and Kelton are pursuing master's degrees at UNL. Samantha is pursuing new experiences at the university's feedyard and plans to start a master's degree in the fall, as well. Spencer is currently seeking a management position, while Sadie is working in a management position at Adams feedlot by Broken Bow, Neb. Kailey is a feedyard manager at KCC Feeders in Minden, Neb., and Sawyer is working on his family's operation. The entire Feedyard Internship Program process is six months. You can apply any time before May 1 of the year you want to start.

Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

2019 HORSE JUDGING TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Written by: Brooke Parrish,
UNL Assistant Coach

The 2019 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Horse Judging Team worked extremely hard this year and that hard work paid off! This year's team includes: Kathlyn Hauxwell (animal science, pre-vet) of McCook, Neb.; Ryan Sedlacek (hospitality) of Gretna, Neb.; Alyssa Waits (animal science) of Tryon, Neb.; and Hannah Wiese (elementary education) of Papillion, Neb.; coached by Dr. Kathy Anderson and assistant coach Brooke Parrish, graduate student from Elmwood, Ill.

The team traveled to several contests and had the opportunity to interact with other teams across the nation, as well as industry professionals from all over the world. The team started its season off at the American Paint Horse Association World Show in Fort Worth, Texas. Here 65 individuals with 21 teams competed, and it was a great way to kick off the season.

Next, the team traveled to the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. This is the largest single breed horse show in the world! In Ohio, 53 senior college individuals and 14 teams competed. Team member Kathlyn Hauxwell had a very successful day in the limited division earning: 5th place in Halter, 3rd place in Performance, 4th place in Reasons and 3rd place overall! Her teammate Hannah Wiese was not far behind with earnings of: 16th place in Halter, 11th place in

Performance, 8th place in Reasons and 10th place overall! These successes got the team fired up for the next contest!

The AQHA World Horse Show in Oklahoma City was another successful day for the team in the limited division. Hannah was 4th high individual in Halter and Kathlyn was 5th high individual in Reasons!

To wrap up the year, the team had an exciting contest at the National Reining Horse Futurity in Oklahoma City. At this contest, contestants had the unique opportunity of judging live runs during the Open Semi Finals! The team was thrilled to earn 6th place overall with teammate, Alyssa Waits tying for 10th place high individual overall!

Each team member has the opportunity to come back and represent UNL for the 2020 season in the senior college division. Next year's season is sure to be successful with our veterans and new team members already beginning to put time in at practice!

UNL horse judging team would like to thank the Department of Animal Science for its continuous support and encouragement! The team is looking forward to another great year!



2019 UNL Horse Judging Team:
Back row, from left to right:
Dr. Kathy Anderson, coach, Dr.
Clint Krehbiel, head, Department of
Animal Science, and Brooke Parrish,
assistant coach

Front row, from left to right:
Hannah Wiese, Ryan Sedlacek, and
Kathlyn Hauxwell

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



**SPRING 2019
UNDERGRADUATE
ALUMNI**

From left to right is Dr. Clint Krehbiel, head, Department of Animal Science; Renaë Sieck; J'Nan Wittler, who received the I.L. Hathaway Department of Animal Science award; and Elizabeth Elliott. Sieck and Elliott each received an American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Award for demonstrating high scholastic standards.



STUDENT NEWS

**FALL 2019
GRADUATE
ALUMNI**

Graduate students and their advisors pose for a picture at a reception for graduating graduate students, Dec. 11, 2019, at the Reading Room, Animal Science Complex. From left to right is Dr. Galen Erickson, Bradley Boyd, Morgan Henriott, and Dr. Gary Sullivan. Not pictured are: Brianna Conroy and Caitlin Cadaret.



**FALL 2019
UNDERGRADUATE
ALUMNI**

Photos by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

From left to right is Dr. Clint Krehbiel, head, Department of Animal Science; Micah Most; Jessilyn Sayers; Zach Kaup; and Nathan Bracht.

2019 UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE ALUMNI

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DECEMBER 2019 | Madeline Misfeldt
Megan Murdoch | Mikaela Foecke
Elisabeth Forker
Dax Fouts
Dalton Gabel
Trent Geiser
Isabel Grazian
Nathan Griess
Shelby Heiser
Jayde Hessler
Elizabeth Higley
Megan Homolka
Brooke Hoyt
David Johnson
Seth Johnson
Cheyenne Kems
Sierra Kurth
Rebecca Lamerberon
Garrett Long
Elena Montemagni
Zackary Nelson
Cameron O'Connor
Lexi Ostrand
Bailey Petersen
Kylee Plager | Emily Pojar
Kara Riggle
Wayde Rodehorst
Colleen Sachse
Hunter Schroeder
Ryan Schroeder
TelRae Sherman
Abigail Siadek
Renaë Sieck
Joseph Sonderman
Tesheena Stewart
Logan Stubbendeck
Emma Tichy
Shelby Trofholz
Austin Underwood
Brenda Venteicher
Rebecca Wehling
Camryn Wiens
Matthew Welch
Barbara Whittamore
J'Nan Wittler
Kyla Wojtalewicz | MAY 2019
M.S. –
Dani-el Hanna
Andrea McCain
Sarah Nafziger
Robert Posont
Kelsey Timme
Braden Troyer

Ph.D. -
Ashley Conway
Lauren Ovinge

AUGUST 2019
M.S. –
Devin Broadhead
McKenna Brinton
Erin Duffy
McKay Erickson
Sydney Kinster
Haylee Lavoie

Ph.D. –
Chad Bower
Tasha Gruhot |
| AUGUST 2019 | Elizabeth Forbes
Jami Heath | Emma Duman
Elizabeth Elliott
Jessica Fejfar | | |



CAITLIN CADARET

Caitlin Cadaret receives the WSASAS Young Scholar Ph.D. Award from the American Society of Animal Science

Published: June 13, 2019

Caitlin Cadaret is the recipient of the 2019 Western Section American Society of Animal Science Young Scholar Ph.D. Award, presented to her during the 2019 Western Section Meeting held in Boise, Idaho.

Caitlin found her passion for animal agriculture at a young age growing up on a part-time cow-calf operation in Northern California. During her undergraduate career she found a special interest in Physiology and a desire to teach.

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from California State University, Chico she joined Dr. Dustin Yates' Stress Physiology lab in 2015. Caitlin completed a Master's Degree in 2017 and has since continued onto a Ph.D., studying how maternal stress effects fetal growth, development, and metabolism. Part of Caitlin's responsibilities involve teaching; she served as the laboratory coordinator for Animal Physiological Systems and performed pedagogical research aimed at increasing long-term retention of knowledge in the undergraduate STEM courses.

She has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University.

The WSASAS Young Scholar Recognition Program acknowledges the research accomplishments of students in the Western Section of ASAS. This award is sponsored by Zinpro.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/gney>

Articles courtesy of American Society of Animal Science.

Robert Posont receives the WSASAS Young Scholar M.S. Award from the American Society of Animal Science

Published: June 13, 2019

Robert Posont is the recipient of the 2019 WSASAS Young Scholar M.S. Award, presented to him this week during the 2019 Western Section Meeting held in Boise, Idaho.

Robert grew up in rural Nebraska, finding his passion for animal science while working as Wrangler at YMCA Camp Kitaki. He began his undergraduate degree at The University of Toronto.

In May of 2017, Robert received his Honors Bachelor's Degree with a double major in Animal Physiology and Health & Disease, as well as a minor in Immunology. During his final year in university, Robert found himself drawn toward research in Comparative Endocrinology and Stress Physiology.

In June of 2017, he joined Dustin Yates' Stress Physiology laboratory, and began his graduate career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His thesis research involved understanding the effects of maternal inflammatory activation and cytokine release on fetal muscle development and metabolic function and how that affected postnatal outcomes. He also performed studies that assessed the effect of IUGR on intrinsic muscle stem cell function and how that affected muscle growth capacity.

Robert performed studies in collaboration with Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Lincoln Children's Zoo, and The Abilene Zoo to develop techniques to assess stress levels by measuring stress-responsive genes in whole blood of cheetahs, giraffes, and elephants.

Robert has been accepted into a Ph.D. program at the Smithsonian Institute to train with world-renowned elephant reproductive physiologist Dr. Janine Brown. He will complete his coursework at George Mason University working under his co-advisor Dr. Scott Glaberman.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/duyl>



ROBERT POSONT

Photos by Peta-Gaye Clachar



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

JESSICA SPERBER

Jessica Sperber awarded W.D. Farr Scholarship

Jessica Sperber, along with a student from University of California – Berkeley have each been awarded \$15,000 W.D. Farr Scholarships for 2019-20 by the National Cattlemen's Foundation. The awards recognize superior achievement in academics and leadership. The award was presented during the 2020 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show in San Antonio, in early February.

The Farr Scholarships will allow Sperber to further her study in fields that will benefit the cattle and beef industry. Sperber is going for a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition, focusing heavily on sustainability efforts in cattle feeding.

Sperber was raised on a commercial cow/calf and grain operation in Alberta, Canada, and has had an interest in the beef industry her entire life. She earned her undergraduate degree in biological sciences from MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, and her master's degree in animal science from West Texas A&M University, where she gained a better understanding of beef harvest procedures and marketing techniques. She has participated in poster competitions at the Reciprocal Meats Conference, American Society of Animal Science annual meeting and the Plains Nutrition Council conference and spent three summers as a student intern with a cattle and crop insurance company, ensuring farmers and ranchers were protected in times of environmental uncertainty.

Sperber has presented at more than 30 industry meetings and agricultural gatherings related to her research at WTAMU. Her Ph.D. work gives her the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in cattle feeding and nutrition, while allowing her to expand on her interests in international trade and gain a greater understanding of beef production on a global scale. Her future goals involve academia and extension. Sperber says the W.D. Farr Scholarship will allow her to devote necessary time to complete ongoing research projects.

Read more at: <https://go.unl.edu/a65j>.

Article courtesy of National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

IANR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Published: Jan. 2, 2020
IANR News

Hometown: David City, Neb.
Anticipated Date of Graduation: May 2020

Why did you decide to come to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln?

I chose Nebraska because they have one of the best animal science programs in the United States. I knew I would be connected with the most influential industry leaders through CASNR and be set up for a more intentional life.

What is your favorite thing about University of Nebraska–Lincoln?

I love the closeness of the people on East Campus. Especially within the Engler Entrepreneurship Program. This program is such a blended community of people who are so passionate about building free enterprise and small businesses and are committed to pushing each other to take risks and seek opportunity.

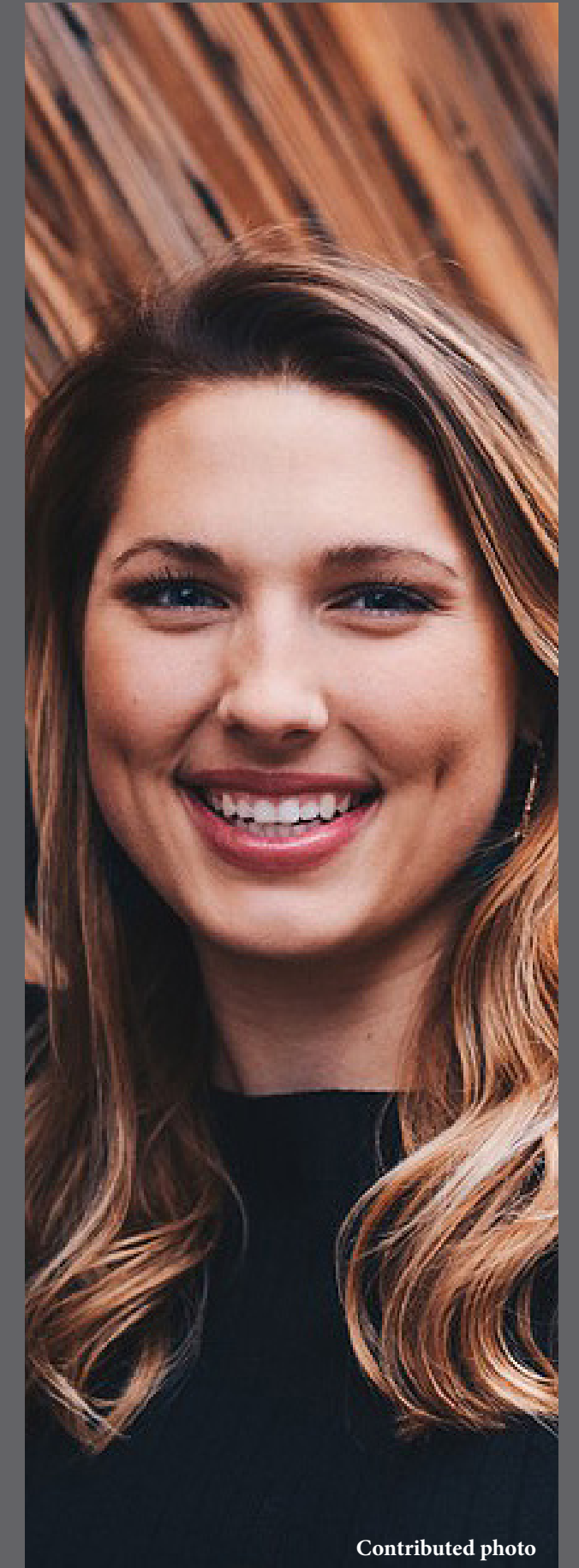
What is your favorite class you have taken so far and why?

I had the opportunity to take a very non-traditional "class" last semester (ASCI 399). Dr. Benny Mote provided a few of us with the chance to farrow out about 20 sows. We took care of chores and were there for everything from birth to weaning in our short time before the semester ended. The opportunity to do something hands on and real, was so much more beneficial than any lecture I have ever had, especially as someone who does not have experience in the pork industry.

What are your plans post-graduation?

I plan to pursue a masters degree in Ruminant Nutrition following graduation at Nebraska, preferably somewhere in a new state! After that I would like to come back to the university for a doctorate and learn from the professors that I enjoy working with currently.

Read more at: <https://go.unl.edu/3qnm>.



ANNA KOBZA

Contributed photo



NEW VENTURE COMPETITION



Photos by: Center for Entrepreneurship

Hannah Esch won \$25,000 in a business plan competition hosted by the Center for Entrepreneurship in April at the College of Business. Hannah has launched the business Oak Barn Beef, a local dry aged beef business selling this product from her family farm directly to consumers. Congratulations Hannah!



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

Several students won National Pork Board travel awards at a National Swine Improvement Federation meeting in December, in Indianapolis. Hirunni Wijesena (right) and Lexi Ostrand won a \$250 travel award and Melanie Trenhaile-Grannemann (left) and Garrett See (center) won a \$500 travel award.



Photo by: Heather Wilson

JOHN HALLMAN AWARDS

Two graduate students, Caitlin Cadaret (left) and Katie Bidne, were presented with the John Hallman Award at a reception, March 27, 2019. This award is in memory of John Hallman and is to recognize excellence in teaching, research, and academics among animal science graduate students. Hallman was a former UNL Department of Animal Science graduate student who graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1989, and was a master's candidate at the time of his death. The two were honored at a reception at the Reading Room, Animal Science Complex. Congratulations!



Lianna Walker

NATIONAL PORK BOARD TRAVEL AWARDS

Lianna Walker, doctoral biological sciences student, was honored with the Lauren Christian Graduate Student Award at the National Swine Improvement Federation meeting, Dec. 5-6, 2019, in Indianapolis. The \$500 award recognizes Walker's research contributions to the understanding of the host genetic role in Porcine circovirus 2 susceptibility. She is the first University of Nebraska-Lincoln student to be honored since the award's inception in 1994.

Article and photo courtesy of University Communication. To read more about achievement and honors for Jan. 10, 2020, visit: <https://go.unl.edu/x3od>.

STUDENT NEWS



2019 CHANCELLOR'S FELLOWSHIP
Caitlin Ross

FELLOWSHIPS

2019 OTHMER FELLOWSHIP
Aksel Wiseman



RESEARCH COMPETITION AWARD

Former M.S. graduate student, Morgan Henriott, won third place in the M.S. Oral Division Graduate Student Competition at the Midwest American Society of Animal Science annual meeting, March 12, 2019, in Omaha, Neb. Her poster was entitled "Impact of Myoglobin Oxidation State at Freezing on Color Stability of Frozen and Thawed Beef." Morgan graduated December 2019 and has started a job at the U.S. Meat Export Federation in Denver. Pictured is Morgan and her advisor, meat scientist Dr. Chris Calkins.

Photo by: Felipe Azevedo Ribeiro

DEPARTMENT AWARD

The department received the Appreciation for Outstanding Education Service award from the Kentucky Beef Industry. Each year, the Kentucky Cattlemen sends a group of students to Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium. This is the 11th year for this partnership with the Kentucky Cattlemen. They have a separate application process and have over 50 students who apply every year.



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

POSTER AWARDS

Contributed photos

KATIE BIDNE

ALEX SNIDER

ALISON ERMISCH



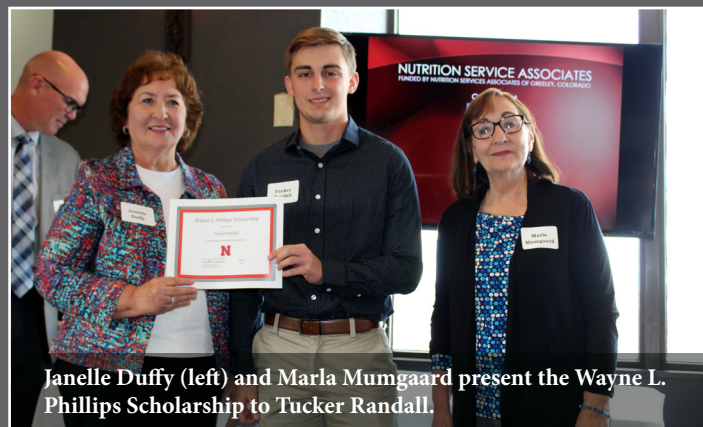
Katie Bidne and Alex Snider received Best Posters for the graduate student and postdoc categories at the Gilbert Greenwald Reproductive and Regenerative Medicine Symposium, Nov. 7-8, 2019, at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Based on her submitted abstract, Alison Ermisch received an award and was selected to give an oral presentation during the meeting. Congrats to the physiology graduate students, post-docs, and all of those who attended and presented their research.



Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

MERIT AWARD

Shelby Springman, Ph.D. student with Andrea Cupp and Jason Herrick, Director of Reproductive Sciences at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, received a USDA-NIFA-AFRI Merit Award and presented an oral talk at the Society for the Study of Reproduction meetings in San Jose, Calif., July 18-21, 2019. Congratulations Shelby!



Janelle Duffy (left) and Marla Mumgaard present the Wayne L. Phillips Scholarship to Tucker Randall.



Bill and Barb Rishel present the William & Barbara Rishel Block and Bridle Honoree Scholarship to Megan Eickhoff (center).



Ruth and Art Raun present the Art and Ruth Raun Scholarship to Jessilyn Sayers (center).



Alice Doane presents the Doane Scholarship to Peter Spilker.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

October 6, 2019, at Nebraska Champions Club



Minnie Stephens presents the Dwight F. and Minnie L. Stephens Scholarship to Ralston Ripp (right).



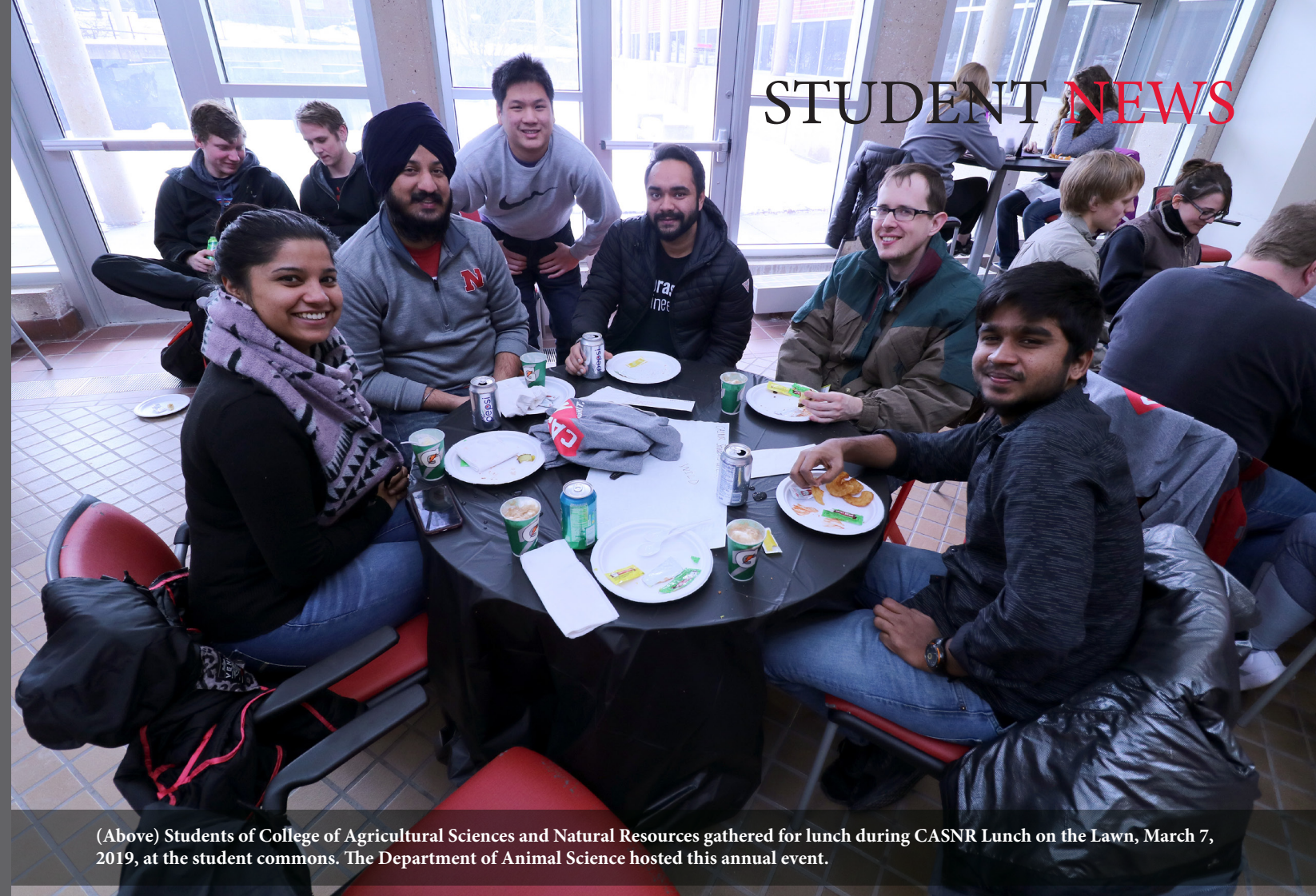
Recipients of the Nebraska Cattlemen's Scholarship pose for a group picture. From left to right is Jacqueline Stauffer, Malina Lindstrom, Shaye Koester, Sheldon Bierman, Paige Kniep, and Abby O'Brien.

Thanks to our scholarship donors, more than 70 students received departmental scholarships and awards. You can view a current list of current recipients and the names of the scholarship donors at: <https://go.unl.edu/d95q>.

Photos by: Alli Raymond



Ann and David Bruntz present the Andy Bruntz Beef Industry Scholars Scholarship to TaraLee Hudson (right).



(Above) Students of College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources gathered for lunch during CASNR Lunch on the Lawn, March 7, 2019, at the student commons. The Department of Animal Science hosted this annual event.



Members of the Greater Lincoln Obedience Club demonstrate varying levels of dog obedience (left) and scent work training, March 7, 2019, at the R.B. Warren Arena, Animal Science Complex. This was part of CASNR Week celebration.

Photos by: Peta-Gaye Clachar



2019 NEBRASKA BEEF INDUSTRY SCHOLARS

From left to right: Trevor Schultz, Cadrien Livingston, Hannah Esch, Bailey Schroeder, Ali Stout, Anna Kobza, Natalie Jones, Rudy Pooch, Sheldon Beirman, Lily Steen, Austin Freeman, Greg Rechberger, and Dr. Jim MacDonald

Photo by: Peta-Gaye Clachar

ALUMNI NEWS

Published: January 7, 2020
IANR News

What is your position at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln?

I am a North Panhandle 4-H Extension Educator.

What drew you to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln?

While attending the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, I had the opportunity to intern as the state 4-H horse intern and a 4-H intern for Saunders County. I also the opportunity to teach agriculture to several elementary school youth which increased my passion for interacting with youth and teaching life skills. During high school I participated in several activities on campus such as NAYI, Girls' State, and NYBLS. This helped increase my confidence that Nebraska was the school for me. I loved the campus atmosphere along with the welcoming faculty and staff.

What aspect of working in an educational setting do you enjoy the most?

I love teaching youth new skills and allowing them to try things they do not normally get to.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement was completing my master's degree and being able to grow a cattle herd with my husband and of course my son!

What is something that most people don't know about you?

I grew up north of Thedford, Nebraska and attended a 2 room school house until 6th grade and graduated with only 9 students in my class. I received my undergraduate degree in 2014 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in animal science and agribusiness. Upon graduation I served as the Sheridan County 4-H Assistant. In December 2018, I graduated from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with my masters degree in youth development.

What is your life like outside of work?

I currently reside north of Alliance, Nebraska on the family ranch with my husband Jared and one year old son Brayden. I enjoy spending time with my family outside, taking care of our horses and cattle. I love all things ranch and try to help fence, hay, and calve as much as I can.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/ovh0>

MELISSA MRACEK



Contributed photos



2015 Block and Bridle honoree Bill Rishel (left) and wife, Barb (right), hang out with Ann and David Bruntz at the Block and Bridle Honors Banquet. Photos by: Peta-Gaye Clachar



2019 Block and Bridle honoree Chuck Shroeder (center) pose for a picture with Chancellor Ronnie Green and his wife, Jane, at the Block and Bridle Honors Banquet.

To view more pictures from the Block and Bridle honors banquet visit: <https://go.unl.edu/ovh0>. To view more from the Alumni & Friends Reunion visit: <https://go.unl.edu/n730>.



Dawn Coldwell and Doyle Wolverton are all smiles during cocktails at the Alumni & Friends Reunion.



Good friends Janelle Johnson and Elaine Nielsen meet up during cocktails at the the Alumni & Friends Reunion.



Dr. Benny Mote presents a football to Gary White during live auctions at the Block and Bridle Honors Banquet.

2019 ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND
Alumni & Friends Reunion:
April 13
&
Block and Bridle Honors Banquet:
April 14
Nebraska Innovation Campus

Charles P. “Chuck” Schroeder, 2019 Block and Bridle honoree



Chuck Schroeder

Written by: Tom Burkey

Charles P. “Chuck” Schroeder, a native of southwestern Nebraska ranch country near the rural community of Palisade, was recognized as the newest University of Nebraska–Lincoln Block and Bridle honoree. Each year the Block and Bridle Club selects an honoree that has contributed to Nebraska agriculture through leadership, service, youth projects, community activities and involvement with the university.

Schroeder is a servant leader and a person with wide-ranging knowledge and broad interests. His career has closely aligned with the Block and Bridle Club’s core objectives, which are 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; to enhance professionalism of students who will one day be leaders in the animal

agriculture industry; and to bring about a closer relationship among all students pursuing some phase of animal agriculture as a profession.

Schroeder graduated from Nebraska in 1973 with a bachelor of science in agriculture with a major in animal science. During his time at the university, Schroeder was a member of the Block and Bridle Club and participated on the livestock judging team and the rodeo team. After graduating, Schroeder returned to his family’s farming, ranching and cattle feeding enterprise, the Schroeder Cattle Company. However, his passion to serve the cattle industry and agriculture led him on a diverse and distinguished path in servant leadership roles. Leadership roles that Schroeder assumed included serving as the director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (1983-1986), executive vice-president of the University of Nebraska Foundation (1986-1995), chief executive officer of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (1995-2002), president of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum (2002-2013), and founder and executive director of the Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska (2013-2018). Schroeder is currently engaged in creative pursuits around art and telling the stories of elders from various cultures.

Over the course of his career, Schroeder has received multiple awards and recognitions including Oklahoma Humanities Council Community Leadership Award, the National Cowboy Symposium Western Museum Award, the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumnus Award, the Ak-Sar-Ben Agricultural Achievement Award, and inclusion in “Who’s Who in the Western Livestock Industry.” Schroeder was also selected for participation in the Gallup Premier Leadership Institute and Stanford University’s Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders.

Schroeder and his family was honored at the Block and Bridle Club Honors Banquet, April 13 at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Photo by: Greg Nathan, University Communication

Four alumni receive service awards

Written by: Jennifer Dush

Taylor Yaw, Terrance O’Neel, David Buchanan, and Bill Dicke were presented with awards of distinction at the Animal Science Alumni and Friends Reunion, April 12, 2019, at Nebraska Innovation Campus. The awards recognize the outstanding accomplishments of undergraduate and graduate alumni and the contributions individuals have made to the department through their commitment to the industry.



Taylor Yaw

Taylor Yaw, B.S. 2010, of Sussex, Wis. was honored with the Young Alumni of Distinction Award. Yaw was involved in many activities while at University of Nebraska Department of Animal Science. He participated in Red Cross blood drives, volunteered at hospitals, and was active in FarmHouse Fraternity, and Block and Bridle club. Following graduation, Yaw

pursued a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Ross University. After two years, Yaw transferred to Texas A&M University to complete his degree and graduated summa cum laude. He completed a residency in zoological medicine at the University of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County Zoo. Yaw’s supervisor at the University of Wisconsin says Yaw is an excellent clinician, teacher, and researcher, and will excel in a zoo or academic position. Yaw’s goal was to be a zoological veterinarian. He met his goal when he was hired as the head veterinarian at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, Texas.



Terrance O’Neel

Terrance O’Neel, B.S. 1984, of Friend, Neb. was honored with the Undergraduate of Distinction Award. After working on his family’s beef and dairy farm following graduation, O’Neel and his wife, Diane, bought 80

feeder pigs and O’Neel Farm was born, representing the fourth generation of the O’Neel family in farming. Today, the O’Neels have a 500-sow farrow-to-finish operation and market 12,000 pigs per year. O’Neel has held numerous leadership positions and was a volunteer Main Street speaker where he gave countless speeches to various service groups. In 2008, the O’Neels were recognized by the National Hog Farmer and the National Pork Board with the Environmental Steward Award. Nominator Chris Calkins says O’Neel is a national leader and an exceptional example of a caring agricultural production operation.



David Buchanan

David Buchanan, M.S. 1977, Ph.D. 1979, of Fargo, N.D. was honored with the Graduate of Distinction Award. During his graduate program, Buchanan established himself as a gifted

ALUMNI NEWS

teacher in introductory animal science, animal breeding lab and the Japanese training program at UNL. From 1980 through 2007, Buchanan compiled an impressive teaching, research, and professional service career at Oklahoma State University. During his last two years at OSU, Buchanan held a Graduates of Distinction Professorship. In 2007, he was recruited to become North Dakota State University head of Animal Science. Since 2012, Buchanan has served as the associate dean in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources at NDSU. Nominator Merlyn Nielsen says Buchanan has been able to captivate and develop the imaginations of thousands of students in the subjects of genetics, animal breeding, capstone experience, emerging scientific technologies, ethics, and research.



Bill Dicke

Bill Dicke, B.S. 1972, M.S. 1974, of Lincoln, Neb. was honored with a Distinguished Service Award honoring his outstanding contributions to the department. Dicke has been a supporter of the department since obtaining his degrees and has been a strong supporter of the Block and Bridle

steak fry hosted annually in the fall. He has helped with numerous fundraising activities for the department. Dicke was solely responsible for initiating the Klopfenstein Student Excellence Fund in Terry Klopfenstein's honor that funds scholarships to students interested in careers related to the feedyard industry. Dicke also organized and arranged the Timmerman Fund that supports the recruiter/coordinator position for the Feedyard Management Internship Program. Dicke continuously seeks out research arrangements with industry funding to be conducted at feedyards. Dicke was selected as the 2013 Block and Bridle honoree. Nominator Galen Erickson says Dicke always asks if there is anything we need and then does whatever he can to make it happen.

Photos by: Greg Nathan, University Communication

Whittier receives fellow award from American Society of Animal Science

Published: July 16, 2019
Cropwatch

Jack Whittier, director of the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, was presented the 2019 American Society of Animal Science Fellow Award for Extension at the group's annual meeting.

Whittier, a 36-year member and 6-year board member of the ASAS, was raised on a livestock and crop farm in Utah. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Utah State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He has been PREC director since 2014. Prior to that, for 28 years, he was an extension beef cattle specialist at the University of Missouri and later at Colorado State University, focused on beef cow nutrition and reproduction.

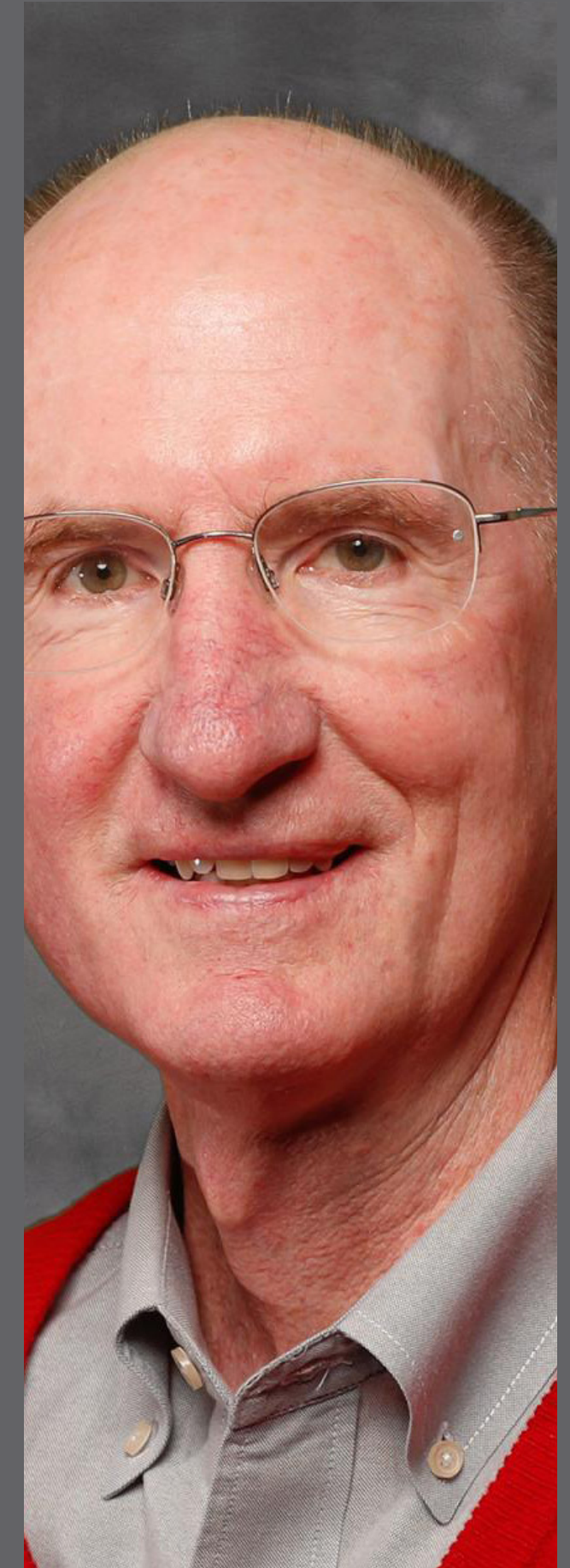
He has given several hundred presentations to producer audiences and initiated the Colorado Ranch Practicum, Colorado Nutrition Roundtable, Robert Taylor Memorial Beef Symposium, CSU Beef Team, and AI training schools. He also provided support and leadership for the CSU Integrated Resource Management Program, Western Beef Committee's Cow/calf Management Guide, Colorado Animal Identification Task Force, eXtension Beef Community of Practice, and Range Beef Cow Symposium.

The ASAS Fellow Award for Extension recognizes a member of ASAS who has rendered distinguished service to the animal industry and/or to the American Society of Animal Science and had continuous membership in the Society for a minimum of twenty-five years.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/unlb>

Contributed photo

ALUMNI NEWS



JACK WHITTIER

ALUMNI
REUNION



ANIMAL SCIENCE

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

You are cordially invited to the
2020 Alumni Reunion Weekend:

Block and Bridle Honors Banquet

5:00 p.m., Friday, April 17, 2020

The Quilt Center

1523 N 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68583



Alumni & Friends Reunion

5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 18, 2020

Nebraska Club

233 S 13th St., #2000, Lincoln, NE 68508

APRIL 17 & 18, 2020



Photos courtesy of Texas State Aquarium.



Dr. Taylor Yaw joins Texas State Aquarium as head veterinarian

Published: Aug. 12, 2019

The Texas State Aquarium announced today that Dr. Taylor Yaw will lead the Department of Animal Health at the Texas State Aquarium. In his new position, Dr. Yaw will oversee the medical care for the more than 6,000 animals representing over 420 species that make the Aquarium their home, as well as the hundreds of ill and injured wildlife taken in annually by the Aquarium's Wildlife Rescue Center.

Dr. Yaw brings to the Aquarium a wealth of varied expertise in caring
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for all types of animals. During his undergrad, Dr. Yaw worked with great apes, sea lions and elephants at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium as a zookeeper. After graduation, he began veterinary school at Ross University, where he was a member of the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network, before transferring to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences to complete his doctorate in veterinary medicine. Post-graduation, Dr. Yaw gained specialized training in zoological and wildlife medicine through internships at Iowa State University and the National

Aquarium in Baltimore. He then went on to complete a three-year residency in zoological medicine at the University of Wisconsin, the International Crane Foundation, and the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Dr. Yaw says caring for animals has been a lifelong ambition that began while he was growing up on his family farm in Nebraska, but it wasn't until the summer after he graduated high school that he realized veterinary medicine was his ideal career path. While shadowing a zoo veterinarian, Dr. Yaw witnessed an ultrasound and blood sampling procedure on a

shark and knew immediately he wanted to become a veterinarian.

Today, Dr. Yaw says that being a veterinarian for the wide variety of animals like those at the Texas State Aquarium is still his dream job. "There is never a dull moment, and with such a diversity of species, there is something new to learn every day," Yaw says. "Our patients are unable to tell us when they don't feel well, so every case presents a new challenge, especially in an aquatic environment."

Beyond his work in zoos and aquariums, Dr. Yaw has also

applied his skillset to several conservation and research projects, including studying cardiac disease in western lowland gorillas and serving as a veterinary anesthesia team member in Belize working with wild tapirs.

"We're excited to welcome Dr. Yaw to our Aquarium Animal Care team and the Coastal Bend community," said Texas State Aquarium President & CEO Tom Schmid. "From our first meeting, it was clear Dr. Yaw shared our passion for caring for animals, and together, we look forward to providing an ever-improving

environment at the Aquarium dedicated to promoting animal health and animal wellness and wildlife conservation."

Article courtesy of Texas State Aquarium.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/5ka9>

Photo above: Dr. Taylor Yaw gets help holding a turtle as he examines it at Texas State Aquarium, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Left photo: Dr. Taylor Yaw poses with a dolphin at Texas State Aquarium. To view more images of Yaw on the job, visit: <https://go.unl.edu/vhcv>.

Chuck Hibberd inducted into NIFA Hall of Fame



Chuck Hibberd (left), dean and director of Nebraska Extension, poses with J. Scott Angle, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, during the NIFA Hall of Fame ceremony April 25, 2019, in Washington, D.C. (USDA-NIFA)

Published: April 26, 2019
IANR News

Chuck Hibberd, dean and director of Nebraska Extension, was inducted into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hall of Fame on April 25 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The hall of fame was established in 2011 to recognize individuals whose exceptional contributions to the institute's mission at the local, regional, national or international level have made a positive impact on the lives of citizens.

"I am truly humbled to be inducted
56 SPRING 2020

into the NIFA Hall of Fame," Hibberd said. "This honor speaks to the strength of the partnership between NIFA and our land-grant universities and our mutual commitment to bring science to action in ways that transform practice and improve the lives and livelihood of Americans."

Before assuming his current role in 2012, Hibberd was director of extension and associate dean of agriculture at Purdue University. He was also director of the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff. Most recently, Hibberd was tapped to coordinate the University of Nebraska's systemwide effort

to help Nebraskans recover and rebuild following widespread flooding.

Hibberd received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Nebraska, and a master's degree in animal science and doctoral degree in animal nutrition from Oklahoma State University.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education and extension to solve societal challenges. To learn more, visit:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/impacts>.

Dr. Adam F. Summers receives the WSASAS Young Scientist Award

Published: June 13, 2019

Dr. Adam Summers is the recipient of the 2019 Western Section American Society of Animal Science Young Scientist Award, presented to him this week during the 2019 Western Section Meeting held in Boise, Idaho.

Dr. Adam Summers completed his BS at Utah State University in 2007 and continued on for his M.S. under the direction of Dr. Wiedmeier in Ruminant Nutrition (2009). He then moved to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue his doctorate in Reproductive Physiology with Drs. Rick Funston and Andrea Cupp which he completed in 2012. After completing his PhD, he continued working with Dr. Cupp as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate. In July of 2014, Dr. Summers was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University. His laboratory focuses on improving reproductive success and female longevity in beef cattle. One of his major areas of emphasis is how specific nutrients fed during pregnancy can influence subsequent progeny. The second area of research deals with management of heifers on native rangelands during the development phase. He also devotes his research time to the needs of the constituents in the state of New Mexico. He conducts research to provide direct answers for



Photo courtesy of American Society of Animal Science.

producers regarding reproductive management for sheep, goats, and cattle. Dr. Summers has mentored 6 graduate students (5 M.S., 1 Ph.D.) and has served on 10 graduate committees. He currently serves as a member of the Beef Reproduction Task Force and has been recognized by his colleagues as a leader in his field through several invited talks both at the local and national level. Dr. Summers has published 22 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 41 abstracts, 18 proceedings and a book chapter. Dr. Summers and his wife Eden live in Las Cruces, NM where they are raising 5 wonderful children.

The WSASAS Young Scientist Award recognizes an individual who is young and already produced outstanding research achievement. This person is under 40 years of age and is actively engaged in basic

or applied research in animal agriculture.

Article courtesy of ASAS.

Source: <https://go.unl.edu/nqq5>

Block and Bridle Club to recognize beef industry giant, Jerry D. Adams



Jerry D. Adams

Published January 27, 2020
IANR News

Written by: Tom Burkey

Jerry D. Adams, a native of Broken Bow, Neb., will be recognized as the newest University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle honoree. Each year the Block and Bridle Club selects an honoree that has contributed to Nebraska agriculture through leadership, service, youth projects, community activities and involvement with the university.

The Block and Bridle Club's core objectives include the following: 1) to promote a higher scholastic standard and a more

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complete understanding of Animal Science among student members; 2) to promote animal agriculture through development of a program of activities that will supplement students' study of the animal sciences; 3) to enhance professionalism of students who will one day be leaders in the animal agriculture industry; and 4) to bring about a closer relationship among all students pursuing some phase of animal agriculture as a profession. Consistent with these objectives, the leadership, innovation, and commitment to the next generation are attributes exhibited by Adams, which make him an ideal selection as this year's honor.

Adams graduated from UNL (1971) with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in agricultural economics, animal science and mathematics. During his time at UNL, Adams was active on campus and a member of the FarmHouse Fraternity. Adams, along with his brother Bill, co-own Adams Land & Cattle, which is one of the premier beef feedlot operations in the world. Currently, Adams serves on the boards for ALCC, Bellevue University, Custer Economic Development Corp., Custer Campus, Cattle-Fax, Blueprint Nebraska, and is a founding leader of both the Beef Alliance and the Nebraska Beef Producers Committee.

Throughout his career, Adams has had extensive involvement with UNL and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources strategic planning and he has been a strong supporter of youth, community, and social organizations. For example, Adams has supported 4H (e.g., partnering with County Extension to host youth animal quality assurance training), FFA, Custer County Foundation and has served on numerous councils, boards, and committees that have impacted the community and industry in countless ways.

Over the course of his career, Adams has received multiple awards and recognitions. In 2019, he was honored with the Nebraska Banker's Association Agri-Business Recognition Award and the Broken Bow High School Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2018, he received the Ag Builders of Nebraska Award. In addition, Adams has twice received the Custer Economic Development Corporation's Wheel Horse Award.

In the words of those that contributed to Jerry Adams' nomination, several quotes capture the essence of Adams's contributions:

"I can think of no one who's given more to his family, his community, county and State, and his industry than Jerry Adams."

"His legacy includes tremendous gifts of service and leaving his communities much stronger than he found them."

"His vision has provided the roadmap for animal traceability in the feedlot industry that will be key to meeting consumer demand and enable the beef industry to maintain and grow market share domestically and internationally."

"Jerry has worked with the University across all leadership levels to position UNL, the Institute and the animal science department to benefit from his experience, leadership, and most importantly, his vision for the future of the beef industry."

Jerry and his family (wife, Linda; daughters, Amy Staples and Melissa Lynd; son, Scott Adams; and families) will be honored at the Block and Bridle Club Honors Banquet, 6 p.m., April 17, 2020, at the International Quilt Museum, 1523 N 33rd St, Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Tickets to the banquet, which will feature a prime rib dinner, are \$35. Tickets can be purchased by contacting a Block and Bridle officer or Andi Hallberg at andi.hallberg@unl.edu. A reception for Jerry and his family, friends, and past honorees will precede the banquet at 5:00 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Jerry D. Adams.

Written by: Eli Thomssen

Degree/s Earned: B.S. UNL Animal Science, MBA from Western Michigan University

Year Graduated: 1960

My Alumni Story:

I spent most of my career working in the animal health division of The Upjohn Company that merged with Pharmacia to become Pharmacia & Upjohn. Pharmacia & Upjohn was purchased by Pfizer, and Pfizer spun out the animal health division to form Zoetis in June 2013. I left Pharmacia & Upjohn in 1999 as the Vice President, Business Development and Strategic Planning.



Contributed photo

While at Pharmacia & Upjohn Animal Health, I held a variety of marketing and administrative positions including sales management, product management, production planning, distribution, and customer services. The business development position at Pharmacia & Upjohn encompassed worldwide merger & acquisition and technology licensing. I led each team that was responsible for identifying opportunities, valuing the business, conducting due diligence, finalizing all agreements and organizing the integration teams.

I joined Brakke Consulting, Dallas, and remained at Brakke until 2001 when I became a founding principal of the Apjohn Group. The Apjohn Group is a team of experienced business and pharmaceutical professionals that was formed to start new life science companies. The Apjohn Group seeks innovators with novel technology that can improve medical outcomes and become the new standard of care.

A company I helped found was Armune BioScience, Inc., which was based on technology licensed from the University of Michigan. The technology utilized autoantibodies created by the body's own immune system to detect cancer at an early stage. Armune developed and validated a new prostate cancer diagnostic assay that was marketed as a Laboratory Developed Test. Armune was sold to Exact Sciences (NASDAQ: EXAS), Madison, Wis. in December 2017. The most recent company I helped found is developing a device to improve diabetic foot ulcer healing rates. I have also served on several start-up company boards, and two terms on the Michigan Maritime Museum Board of Trustees.

To have your alumni story included in our newsletter, visit: <https://go.unl.edu/wjlr> and share your story.

SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI WEEKEND

REGISTRATION

Return by April 8

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please reserve tickets for the following events:

Friday, April 17

_____ Block & Bridle Honors Banquet Honoree: Jerry Adams Cash bar with Prime Rib and Chicken dinner 5-6 pm Reception/Social Hour, 6 pm Dinner at International Quilt Center & Museum	\$35.00 each _____
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Saturday, April 18

_____ Old Timers Judging Contest	
_____ Spring Game Tailgate	\$5.00 each _____
_____ Ticket(s) for Alumni Reunion Cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 pm at Nebraska Club	\$30.00 each _____
_____ Animal Science Students	\$15.00 each _____

Total _____

**Please make checks payable to:
UNL Department of Animal Science**

Please list all names as you would like them on your name tags Names (please print)	If ASCI alumni, year graduated
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Judging Team Alumni? Which and Year(s) _____

Return to Alumni Reunion, Department of Animal Science, C203 Animal Science Complex,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908


For further information, call 402.472.3571

STAY CONNECTED

Connect With Us!

...on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

 Like our Facebook page UNL Animal Science.

 Keep up-to-date on department awards, events, and research by following @UNL_AniSci on Twitter.

 Follow us on Instagram @unl_anisci.

Department of Animal Science alumni website:

<https://animalscience.unl.edu/alumni>

Update Contact Information:

Alumni can update their contact information by contacting the Nebraska Alumni Association at <https://go.unl.edu/aw2t>.

Connect to job opportunities with Handshake

Handshake is UNL's free online service that connects UNL students and alumni with employers. The site allows students and alumni to post and send resumes, view upcoming local and on-campus career events, learn which employers are attending upcoming career fairs, research contact information for local and national employers, and search for and apply to open positions. For more information, visit Handshake at: <https://careers.unl.edu/handshake>.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Animal Science publishes the Animal Science **Nsider** semi-annually. To request a printed issue of the Animal Science **Nsider**, please visit <https://animalscience.unl.edu/alumni-friends-news> and select Request an Issue.

Share Your Alumni Story:

<https://animalscience.unl.edu/alumni-stories>



Where are you now?

Attention alumni! We want to know where you are and what you are doing!

Please take a moment to answer the following questions and return your responses by mail to:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Animal Science
3940 Fair Street
P.O. Box 830908
Lincoln, NE 68583-0908

Or, email your responses to:
pclachar2@unl.edu

Name: _____

Degree: _____

Year Earned: _____

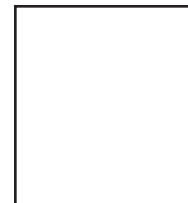
UNL Advisor: _____

Email: _____

Current and past career positions: _____

Please let us know of any significant events in your life and/or career since leaving the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Also, please feel free to send any photos and/or recollections of your time at UNL to Peta-Gaye Clachar at pclachar2@unl.edu or visit:

<https://animalscience.unl.edu/alumni-stories>.



University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.
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Calvin Gibbons looks on at the storage tanks containing a novel feed ingredient he fed to steers on trial at the UNL feedyard at Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center near Mead, Neb.