

# Animal Science Weekly

January 23, 2012



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## Cross named department head for Texas A&M animal science

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. H. Russell Cross has been named department head of animal science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The announcement was made by Dr. Mark A. Hussey, vice chancellor and dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Cross had been serving as professor and interim head since September 2010.

“I’m pleased to have someone of Dr. Cross’s caliber as the department head for animal science,” Hussey said. “Dr. Cross is an accomplished and respected leader. His industry expertise and leadership experience will be a strong and steady influence guiding the department as we strive to provide the very best opportunities for our students, faculty and staff.”

Cross brings an extensive portfolio of management experience in government, academia and the private sector to the position.

“Serving as interim head for animal science has been a rewarding experience,” Cross said. “There’s a remarkable history and tradition, and I look forward to working with our stakeholders, faculty, staff and students in helping it to continue to excel as the premier animal science department both nationally and internationally.”

In previous roles in academia, Cross served as executive vice president for operations and chief of staff to former Texas A&M President Elsa Murano. Prior to that appointment, he was deputy vice chancellor and associate dean for agriculture and life sciences. He also served as head of the department of animal science and the meat and muscle biology section, the E.M. “Manny” Rosenthal Chair in Meat Science, and was the founding director of the Texas A&M Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

His service in government included the



role of administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. At the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., the largest animal research center in world, Cross served as USDA’s research leader within the meat research group.

He also pioneered the International Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Alliance, serving as its founder and executive director. The alliance represents 24 food associations, 40 universities and the governments of 13 countries.

Within the private sector, Cross was the CEO and chairman of Future Beef Operations, L.L.C. and has served as director of food safety for IDEXX Laboratories. Within National Beef Packing Co., Cross was executive vice president of food safety/government and industry affairs. He also was vice president of DuPont Food Industry Solutions.

Cross is published extensively, with more than 235 published works on meat quality and safety.



<http://www.facebook.com/tamuanimalscience>

## Livestock Judging Team wins champion, reserve champion at National Western

DENVER – The Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team brought home the championship from the National Western Stock Show collegiate judging contest and won reserve champion in the Carload Contest held Jan. 12 and 13 in Denver, Colo.

Texas A&M beat second place Oklahoma State University by a narrow margin, with Iowa State University, Texas Tech University and West Texas A&M University rounding out the top five.

In team competition, the Aggies secured high team in sheep and goats, and second high team in cattle and hogs. In individual competition Texas A&M's Brent Cromwell, from San Angelo, won second high overall; Shelly Sutton, from Sinton, finished ninth high overall; and Conner Newsom, from Giddings, was 10<sup>th</sup> high.

"I am extremely proud of how hard our entire team worked through winter workout, leading up to Denver," said Jake Franke, team coordinator and coach. "They were relentless in their approach, and through hard work and pushing one another, they came out victorious at the National Western."

Also on the team are Kassidi Click from Muldrow, Okla., Megan Webb from Burlington, WV., Stephanie Mazurkiewicz from Bryan, Tanner Wiegat from Wharton, Darin Peters from Stephenville, Cimmaron Osborn from Logan, NM., Garrett Cline from Meridian, Kyle Phillips from Vidor, Jonathan Chachere from Dayton, Brad Mendes from Modesto, Calif., Graham Blagg from Grass Valley, Calif., Wes Krantz from Winters, Calif., and Lane Foster from Wylie. The team is coached by Franke and Jacob Thorne.

In the Carload Contest, Texas A&M finished behind first place Oklahoma State University, with Colorado State



*Front, left, Graham Blagg, Johnathan Chachere, Conner Newsom, Shelly Sutton, Brent Cromwell and Tanner Wiegat. Back, left, Jake Franke, Cody Marburger, Wes Krantz, Darin Peters, Lane Foster, Kassidi Click, Brad Mendes, Kyle Phillips and Jacob Thorne.*

University, Kansas State University and University of Illinois finishing third, fourth and fifth.

Wes Krantz won fourth high individual overall.

"This was a great way to kick-off the season but there is still a lot of work to be done in order to remain successful in 2012. We also are grateful to the faculty and staff within the Department of Animal Science for their support of our judging programs," Franke said.

The team competes next at the Fort Worth Stock Show on February 3.

## Wool Judging Team brings home reserve champion and fourth place



*Front, left, Hunter Walters, Tyler Coufal, Jordan Manor, Kaysi Dean, Sydney Reese and Tasha Womack. Back, left, Dr. Shawn Ramsey, Amelia Tanner, Dillon Garr, Kandace Davenport, Kayley Wall, John Long, Kyle Davenport, Daniel Haverlah, Jacob Brown, Katie Moore and Kim Hardan.*

DENVER – The Texas A&M Wool Judging Team secured both reserve champion and fourth place finishes at the National Western Stock Show wool judging contest held Jan. 13.

South Dakota State University finished first place with Texas Tech University in third.

Texas A&M's Hunter Walters from Tyler finished second high overall in individual competition. Amelia Tanner from Georgetown won third and Tasha Womack from San Antonio placed fifth high overall.

Other team members include John Long from Lubbock, Daniel Haverlah from San Antonio, Tyler Coufal from Troy, Kyle Davenport from Harper, Kandace Davenport from Harper, Jordan Manor from Haper, Sydney Reese from Pleasant Grove, Calif., Kaysi Dean from Eula, and Kayley Wall from Boerne. All team members are freshman animal science majors.

Team coordinator is Dr. Shawn Ramsey, coach is Kim Hardan and assistant coaches are Jacob Brown, Katie Moore and Dillon Garr.

The team competes next at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition on February 11.

## Meat Judging Team starts season with third place win

DENVER – The Texas A&M Meat Judging Team won third place at the National Western Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest held Jan. 15 at JBS USA, Inc., in Greeley, Colo. The awards were presented at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Texas Tech University and Oklahoma State University finished first and second, followed by Angelo State University and Kansas State University in fourth and fifth.

Texas A&M won high team in specifications and pork judging and third high team in reasons.

Trey Brooks, a junior animal science major from Llano, finished eighth high individual overall and Erica Holcomb, a junior animal science major from San Antonio, won ninth. In the alternates contest, Lauren Thompson, a junior animal science major from Grandview, won eighth high and Whitley James, a sophomore animal science major from Goerge West, ninth.

Team members also include Kevin Doonan, a sophomore animal science major from Caldwell; Preston Gates, a sophomore animal science and poultry science double major from Sealy; Ty Klepac, a junior animal science major from George West; Morgan Merdian, a sophomore animal science major from Anderson; Arquimides Reyes, a sophomore animal science major from Austin; Hope Voegele, a sophomore animal science major from Waco; Lexus Weinheimer, a sophomore



*Left, Meagan Igo, Erica Holcomb, Whitley James, Hope Voegele, Lance Wheeler, Lauren Thompson, Preston Gates, Morgan Merdian, Ty Klepac, Trey Brooks, Kevin Doonan, Arquimides Reyes, Lexus Weinheimer and Melanie Moore.*

animal science major from Fredricksburg; and Lance Wheeler, a sophomore animal science major from Dallas.

Dr. Davey Griffin is team coordinator. Coaches are Meagan Igo and Melanie Moore.

The Meat Judging Team competes next at the Iowa State University Meat Evaluation Contest on Feb. 25.

## Animal Science majors provide vital contributions to society

Students who major in Animal Science are prepared for a wide array of career opportunities.

A significant percentage of graduates are employed in the food and fiber production or processing segments of the livestock industry. In addition, many graduates are involved in agribusiness enterprises including the sale of feed, seed, pharmaceuticals, equipment, livestock genetics and other products and services that are essential components of meat and dairy production systems.

The undergraduate curriculum prepares students to pursue professional degrees in veterinary medicine, medicine, dentistry, law and numerous related professions. A solid background in the life sciences provides a foundation for graduate study in preparation for careers in research and development and as educators. Students may also acquire knowledge and skills for management of companion and exotic animal

- The agricultural, food, and renewable natural resources sectors of the U.S. economy will generate an estimated 54,400 annual openings for individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees in food, renewable energy, and environmental specialties between 2010 and 2015.
- 15 % of these jobs will be in agriculture and forestry production.

Information provided by *Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Renewable Energy, and the Environment*. 2010.

species. The science-based curriculum delivered in an atmosphere that emphasizes experiential learning, leadership and work ethic contributes to continued demand by employers for Animal Science majors.

Reality contrasts starkly with the assertion in a recent Yahoo! News article that Animal Science ranked among the top five “College Majors That Are Useless.” In fact, agriculture is the nation’s largest employer with 23 million jobs or 17% of the civilian workforce. The Texas Department of Agriculture reports that 1 of every 7 working Texans is employed in an agriculture-related job.

An economic analysis, commis-

sioned by the United Soybean Board and conducted by Promar International in 2010, found that animal agriculture accounted for 1.85 million jobs in the United States. A USDA-funded study by Purdue University estimated that employment opportunities for college graduates in food, renewable energy and the environment would exceed the supply of qualified graduates by 1.7% each year from 2010 to 2015.

Enrollment in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University is 8 percent higher than 5 years ago. A degree in Animal Science is in strong demand and provides graduates with many exciting career options.

## Animal Science graduates interning in Washington D.C. this spring

WASHINGTON DC -- Several students from the Department of Animal Science have been selected to serve as interns in Washington D. C. this spring through the Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program.

The ANRP Internship Program provides an opportunity for students to understand the policy-making process and how it applies and relates to agriculture and natural resources.



### Carly Borel

Carly Borel, from Lake Jackson, is a December 2011 graduate with a degree in animal science. During her time at Texas A&M she led an undergraduate research study within the Department of Animal Science, was a member of Saddle and Sirloin and an Ambassador and Mentor for Study Abroad Programs within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Carly was also an exchange student in Brazil for six months where she took classes in animal science and agricultural economics.

She is excited to gain a broader knowledge of policy making and how it affects food production as well as international agriculture and trade. Carly is interning with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.



### Clay Eastwood

Clay Eastwood, from New Braunfels, graduated in December 2011 with a degree in animal science and a meat science certificate. During her time at A&M she has been a member of the Wool Judging Team, Meat Judging Team, Saddle and Sirloin, Aggie REPS (Recruiting Exceptional Prospective Students) for the animal science department, and the Alpha Zeta Honors Fraternity.

She is excited about starting her master's degree in the summer of 2012 in meat science upon completing her internship in Washington, D.C. Clay is very excited about this tremendous opportunity to learn first-hand about policy development this spring while interning with Congressman Bill Flores in the 17th district of Texas.



### Rebecca Hamilton

Rebecca Hamilton, from Woodbine, Md., graduated in December 2011 with a double major in animal science and agricultural communications and journalism as well as a minor in business administration. During her time at Texas A&M she was a member of the wool evaluation team and livestock judging team, as well as the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council and the Animal Science Aggie Reps.

Rebecca will be interning for the office of Congressman Pete Sessions of the 32nd district of Texas. Upon completing her internship, Rebecca plans to attend graduate school. Through this internship Rebecca looks forward to gaining insight on the legislative process and how American agriculture as an industry is represented in the nation's capital.



### Kenton Kirkpatrick

Kenton Kirkpatrick, from Bryan, is a December 2011 graduate with bachelor's degrees in nutritional sciences and animal science and a minor in business. While at Texas A&M University he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team and Wool Judging Team and served as the co-chair of the Liaison to the Dean Committee for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council (COALS). For the past three years, he has worked for Texas AgriLife Extension Service in the County Programs Office.

Kenton is hoping to gain further insight into agricultural public policy this fall while working for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and he plans to pursue a career in an agriculture related government agency.



### Paschal conducts educational tour

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Dr. Joe C. Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist in Corpus Christi, conducted an educational tour of Sam Kane Beef Processor for the newest board of director members for Beefmaster Breeder United on Jan. 5, 2012.

The tour was designed to educate the board members on the broader aspect of the beef industry and to highlight the major supplier of Beefmaster influenced beef in the Southern United States through the Nolan Ryan Tender Aged Beef Program.

Pictured, *left*, John Pierson (Vacaville, Calif.), Kito Saenz (San Isidro, Texas), Doyle Sanders (Industry, Texas), David Lofton (Ozark, Mo.), Tommy Perkins (San Antonio, Texas) and a breeder from Sacramento, Calif.

### High Plains Dairy Conference set for March

AMARILLO – Experts from across the country will address topics specific to the region during the High Plains Dairy Conference scheduled March 7-8 in Amarillo, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialist.

“The dairy industry in the High Plains region has unique needs created by dairy size and complexity. For instance, many dairies grow their own forages.” said Dr. Ellen Jordan, AgriLife Extension dairy specialist in Dallas and conference coordinator. “This conference was designed to address specific issues from adopting technology to understanding animal welfare issues and the world economy.”

The conference will begin with registration each day at 6:30 a.m. with the seminars starting at 8 a.m. in the Ambassador Hotel, 3100 W. Interstate 40. An early evening reception will be held for participants March 7.

The “early bird” registration fee is \$225 for the first registrant if postmarked by Feb. 1. An exclusive option for producers is that they can register additional participants from the same dairy for \$175, also if postmarked by Feb. 1, Jordan said. After that, the registration fee will be \$250 each.

Online registration is available at <http://www.highplainsdairy.org>. For more details go to <http://agrilife.org/today/2012/01/10/high-plains-dairy-conference-set-for-march-7-8-in-amarillo/>.

PLEASE JOIN  
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 & NCBA TRADE SHOW

**AGGIE RECEPTION**  
 FEBRUARY 2, 2012 | 6 P.M.  
 GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER  
 ROOM: GOVERNORS D

DRINKS AND HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED.  
 PLEASE RESPOND TO TRYON WICKERSHAM AT TRYON@TAMU.EDU  
 OR BY CALLING 979-845-1541.

# B Straight from the BLOCK

## TAMU Saddle & Sirloin Club News

### S&S members headed to National Convention

Several Texas A&M students in the Saddle and Sirloin Club will spend Jan. 31 - Feb. 3 at the 2012 National Block and Bridle Convention at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. This is the first year the Block and Bridle Convention will be held in conjunction with the 2012 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show to be held at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center in Nashville. S&S members will spend one full day at the convention and have access to the trade show. Convention keynote speaker is Trent Loos, a well-known speaker, writer and radio/television personality in the agriculture community.

### Interested in becoming an officer?

If you are interested in becoming an officer for 2012-2013, please fill out a form in Kleberg room 109. Also, if you'd like to nominate a member for the Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Awards, forms also are available in 109.

### Coming up...

Feb. 7 - Club Meeting *Kleberg room 115*. Vote on Honorary Members.

Feb. 21 - Club Meeting *Kleberg room 115*. Guest Speaker

Feb. 29 - Blood Drive *Kleberg Atrium, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*

Mar. 6 - Club Meeting *Kleberg room 115*. Officer elections.

Mar. 20 - Ham Trimming Contest *Rosenthal*

Mar. 24 - Big Event

Mar. 26 - Easter Ham Sales are due

Mar. 30 - Parents Weekend *Pearce Pavilion*. Little Southwestern Showmanship Contest - Swine, Goats and Sheep, BBQ Cookoff and Ham Auction.

Mar. 31 Parents Weekend *Pearce Pavilion* Little Southwestern Showmanship Contest - Cattle and Horses; Spring Banquet - *Brazos Expo Center*

April 20 - Relay for Life

May 1 - Cattlemen's Ball



Contact a member of the S&S Officer Team with any questions. We look forward to seeing you this semester!

FIND US ONLINE AT  
[SADDLEANDSIRLOIN.TAMU.EDU](http://SADDLEANDSIRLOIN.TAMU.EDU)  
 AND ON FACEBOOK



Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events ☆ Upcoming events

**Animal Science Graduate Student Association Coffee Break** (Jan. 27, 2012 - 8:30 - Kleberg faculty lounge) - Faculty, staff and graduate students are invited to attend to kick-off the new semester.

**East Texas Pasture Management Program** (Feb. 24, 2012 - Overton) - Preregister by Feb. 22 for \$25; on-site registration is \$30. Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>. For more information, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/workshops/2012-East-Texas-Pasture-Management-Program.pdf>.

**"Strategies to Improve Reproduction during Summer" Webinar** (March 5, 2012 - 12 p.m.) - For more information, contact Dr. Todd Bilby or go to [http://www.extension.org/dairy\\_cattle](http://www.extension.org/dairy_cattle).

**High Plains Dairy Conference** (March 7-8, 2012 - Amarillo) - For more information, go to <http://highplainsdairy.org>.

**2012 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Research Symposium and Convention** (April 18-21, 2012 - Houston) - For more information, go to <http://www.beefimprovement.org>.

**Mid-South Ruminant Nutrition Conference** (April 25-26, 2012 - Grapevine) - For more information, go to <http://agrilife.org/today/2011/03/17/ruminant-nutrition-conference-set-april-20-21-in-grapevine/>.

**Hay Production and Purchasing** (April 27 - Overton) - Cost to attend is \$60. Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>. For more information, go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/workshops/2012-Hay-production-and-purchasing.pdf>.

**Grassfed Beef Conference** (May 30-31, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Rick Machen at <[rmachen@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:rmachen@ag.tamu.edu)> or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/Grassfed-Conference-2012-Flyer.pdf>.

**Aggieland Horse Judging Camp** (June 27-29 & July 11-13, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Clay Cavinder at [cac@tamu.edu](mailto:cac@tamu.edu) or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/horsejudgingcamp>.

**Aggieland Lamb Camp** (July 20-22, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey at 979-845-7616, email [aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com](mailto:aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com) or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm>.

**Aggieland Goat Camp** (July 27-29, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey at 979-845-7616, email [aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com](mailto:aggielandlambandgoatcamp@gmail.com) or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/sheep-goats/sheep-center/youth-camps/index.htm>.

**Beef Cattle Short Course** (Aug. 6-8, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact the Beef Cattle Extension office at 979-845-6931, email [extansc@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:extansc@ag.tamu.edu) or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/index.html>.



Department of Animal Science - Dr. H. Russell Cross, Professor & Head  
2471 TAMU - College Station, TX 77843-2471 - Tel. 979.862.4994 - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu>

*Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Courtney Coufal <[cacoufal@tamu.edu](mailto:cacoufal@tamu.edu)>*