

Animal Science Weekly

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Livestock Judging Team earns Reserve National Championship *Members named All-Americans; Bloomberg, Rambo named Coaches of Year*

COLLEGE STATION – The 2009 Texas A&M University Livestock Judging Team earned the Reserve National Champion title at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 16, 2009, closing out a highly successful competitive year.

The A&M team won high team in sheep, third in swine and third in oral reasons, for a total of 4649 points, only four points shy of first place Texas Tech University (4653). University of Nebraska ranked third, Western Illinois University came in fourth and Oklahoma State University finished fifth.

Ryan Malone of Abingdon, Ill., led the A&M team with individual honors finishing third high individual overall, and Jacob Thorne of Winter, Calif., earned sixth high individual.

Other team members are Jesse Beckett of Winters, Calif.; Jay Behrens of Voca; Dustin Keith of Lincoln; Brenden Benson of Winters, Calif.; Aaron Jennings of Mason; John Avellar of Winters, Calif.; Chris Cassady of Ancona, Ill.; Kobey Davis of Willis; Joelynn Donough of Manheim, Penn.; Katie Fields of Mount Pleasant; Brandon Freel of Washington, Iowa; Kim Hardan of Snohomish, Wash.; Billy Bob Moczygamba of Karnes City; Thor Patton of Silverton; Lindsay Swick of Franklin and Michelle Whalen of Colleyville.

This contest marks the end of a highly successful competition season for the A&M livestock judging team. The team won seven national contests in 2009



Front, left, Billy Bob Moczygamba, Brandon Freel, Thor Patton, Lindsay Swick, Michelle Whalen, Kim Hardan, Katie Fields, Joelynn Donough, Jay Behrens and Dustin Keith. Back, left, Blake Bloomberg, Chris Skaggs, Jesse Beckett, Ryan Malone, Chris Cassady, John Avellar, Aaron Jennings, Jake Thorne, Brenden Benson, Kobey Davis, Zach Rambo and Cody Sloan.

including the Exposure Cattle Contest in Oklahoma City, the National Western Carload Judging Contest in Denver, the National Western Livestock Judging Contest in Denver, Fort Worth Livestock Show Contest, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Contest, Tulsa State Fair Contest and the American Royal Contest in Kansas City.

“The 2009 team had an outstanding run and were the most consistent team in all the contests throughout the year. Their winning percentage ranks among the best in the history of the livestock judging at Texas A&M, said Chris Skaggs, Ph.D, who coordinates the team along with Jake Franke.

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“They were a dedicated and determined group who rose to the top in each competition. The decision making and oral communication skills garnered through participation on the team should serve them well in the future.”

Coaches of the Year

For the second consecutive year, A&M team coaches Blake Bloomberg and Zach Rambo, both animal science graduate students, were named “Coaches of the Year,” for coaching the most successful judging team for 2009.

“It is a tremendous honor for Blake and Zach to be named ‘Coaches of the Year’. Their leadership helped the team to consistently achieve success throughout the year, said Skaggs.

“It is the second year in a row that Blake and Zach have won this honor which is a testament to their coaching abilities and national competitiveness of the program.”

Cody Sloan, animal science graduate student, is assistant coach.



Left, TAMU Livestock Judging Team members Lindsay Swick, Aaron Jennings and Jay Behrens were named to the All-American Livestock Judging Team.

All American

Three A&M team members also were named to the prestigious All-American Livestock Judging Team by the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coaches' Association - Aaron Jennings, Jay Behrens and Lindsay Swick.

The All American Team recognizes the top ten livestock judging team members from across the nation who have made a personal commitment to livestock judging and who have excelled in academics, university and industry activities and community service.

“This is a significant accomplishment for Aaron, Jay and Lindsay as only 10 students from across the country are selected for this award on an annual basis,” Skaggs said. “It simply confirms the quality of the students we have participating in the livestock judging program at Texas A&M.”

Jennings will graduate from Texas A&M in May with a degree in animal science and a minor in business administration. He has been vice president of finance for the College of Agriculture Student Council for two years and served on the planning committee for the 2009 National Block and Bridle Convention in San Antonio. Jennings worked as an intern for AgWorkers Mutual Insurance in Fort Worth and with Elanco Animal Health in Iowa. He has accepted a position with Elanco Animal Health starting in January and plans to work in industry for a couple years before pursuing a graduate degree.

Behrens has served as secretary and agricultural council representative for the Saddle and Sirloin Club. As a member of the student council, he coordinated the college career fair consisting of 70 companies. Behrens will graduate in December and has been accepted to graduate school in meat science and muscle biology at Texas A&M. He plans to pursue a doctorate degree and hopes to work at a national cattleman's organization, Texas Beef Council or Certified Angus Beef in the future.

Swick has been involved in the Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association and the American Junior Simmental and Hereford Associations. She has been involved in the honors program at Texas A&M and was recognized as an Academic Excellence and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences scholar. She plans to obtain both a master's degree and doctorate degree in reproductive physiology with the career objective of working in the embryo transfer field.

The judges of the competition include college of agriculture administrators from all regions of the country.

Upcoming events

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course (December 8-10, 2009 and January 13-15, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Martha Vogelsang <m-vogelsang@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7731.

Animal Science Department Holiday Luncheon & Awards Ceremony (December 9, 2009 - 11:30 a.m. - Kleberg Atrium) - For more information, please contact Jennifer Houston <jlhouston@tamu.edu> at 979-845-4955.

Horse Sale (December 12, 2009 - Freeman Arena) - Viewing and demonstration to begin at 10 a.m. with the sale set for 1 p.m. For more information, contact Dave Golden <horsecenter@tamu.edu> at 979-845-4320.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Finals Kick-off Party (December 9, 2009 - 3:30 to 5 p.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge). Open to all graduate students.

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Meeting (December 9, 2009 - 5:15 p.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge).

Fit to Finish Show Cattle Camp (December 12 and 13, 2009) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby <beefcenter@tamu.edu> at 979-862-4736.

Southwest Beef Symposium (January 20-21, 2010 - Tucumcari, NM) - For more information, please contact Dr. Bruce Carpenter <BCarpent@ag.tamu.edu> at 432-336-8585.

Mare/Foal Workshop (February 24, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.

Horse Management 101 (February 25, 2010) - For more information, please contact Dr. Brett Scott <bdscott@ag.tamu.edu> at 979-845-1562.



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