

June 2020



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Animal Science



Department of Animal Science Monthly Update

Howdy,

I hope you are all recovering from a hectic spring semester. I appreciate all of the work you did to overcome an unprecedented situation with COVID-19. Our department handled the situation well and we managed to convert classes and labs to the online format well. Certainly this demonstrated an infrastructure that worked well to coordinate all of our resources to provide assistance when needed. However, we did learn a lot during the last two months of the semester. Some things worked well and others did not. We hope to utilize what we discovered as a springboard for enhancing our core programs and developing new programs that meet our core mission. We are now in the thick of teaching summer classes (all online) and attempting to prepare for the fall. Many of you may have questions regarding fall teaching and assignment of TAs. As soon as we receive guidance from the college and Provost on how classes are going to be taught in the fall, we will be contacting you.

The negative impacts of COVID-19 have had an impact on the economy which has also affected our budgets. I am in the process of planning for a 5% annual budget reduction from our state agencies (AgriLife Research and Extension) and have been asked to consider how we will support a 7.5% budget cut to the college. My hope is to consume as much of these cuts as possible by adjustments through central administration of the department rather than faculty programs or core missions of the department, but it is possible that cuts will be made to staff and/or faculty. I will share any cuts that we may experience as soon as I know what they are.

Since our External Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled, I will be hosting a virtual meeting with the committee on Wednesday, June 10. My intention is to provide a summary of that meeting to you all (including any slides and handouts that we provide). The primary discussion points are to update the committee on the state of the department, the impacts of COVID-19 on our department, our development priorities, and the introduction of two new faculty members.

We know that you are constantly receiving updates from multiple sources with information regarding our responses to COVID-19. Unless our department plans to provide additional guidance, please continue to utilize the guidance provided by the various TAMU and public health entities. I look forward to the day when we can all meet in person again.

Brazos County Health District: <http://www.brazoshealth.org/node/87>

TAMU FAQ page: <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/#FAQ>

COALS: <https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/covid19/>

Extension: <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/>

Vice President for Research: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Texas Health & Human Services: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

Take care,
Cliff



ANSC Academic Update

Facilities Update:

June 2: Equine labs will move to the new facility.

July 1: Damon Acord will begin as Beef Center Manager

July 1: Sheep feeding barn expansion set to begin.

My deepest thanks to everyone who helped the department make an unprecedented transition to remote course delivery this spring. While students lamented the loss of face to face engagement with faculty and participation in hands-on labs, they did praise the faculty for their willingness to modify courses and work with them to achieve success.

I appreciate your patience with the ever changing landscape surrounding our courses. This has been a season of new adventures and I believe that there are more to come. I will do my best to share information as I receive it and I welcome discussion on how we can continue to improve our programs.

This is what we know:

- 1) Classes will begin on August 19, 2020.
- 2) Students will not be returning to campus after Thanksgiving.
- 3) All finals must be administered online.
- 4) All registrar controlled classrooms will be outfitted with cameras and microphones for remote delivery.

I'm sure that everyone has heard rumors about what teaching in the fall of 2020 will look like, and yet at this time the items that have been confirmed by the office of the Provost are those listed above. The more nebulous statement that "things will look different" is what we encounter most frequently.

In an effort to prepare for "different" I ask you to consider the following items:

- 1) If you assign points for attendance or offer an exemption from the final exam based on attendance, please evaluate how else you may achieve your goal of student participation. We all know that there are students who will knowingly attend classes even if they are ill, for fear of missing an attendance quiz or not receiving an exemption from the final. We would like to discourage such behaviors.
- 2) All registrar controlled classrooms are being outfitted with cameras and microphones so that students requiring Covid-19 accommodations may view the course remotely. It is likely that all classes taught face to face will need to be available for remote viewing. Rooms 200, 300, and 400 will be similarly equipped. We anticipate that the expectation will exist for graduate classes as well.
- 3) Though the eCampus system is being replaced by Canvas, it is not expected to be fully available in the fall. Thereby, unless you have been confirmed to be part of the initial wave of Canvas users by the office of Academic Innovation, please plan to utilize eCampus as your learning management system for the fall.

Again, thank you for your patience and willingness to adapt as needed. I will keep you apprised of the situation as information becomes available.

Katie

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE

George Floyd release—Monday, June 8

Members of the AgriLife community,

The memorial service for George Floyd will be held on Monday, June 8, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fountain of Praise Church at 13950 Hillcroft Avenue in Houston. With authorization from the Chancellor, Texas A&M AgriLife has approved release time for faculty and staff in observance of Mr. Floyd's death on Monday, June 8. AgriLife Extension County Program employees should consult their supervisor.

As I reflect over the events of the last few weeks, I am deeply saddened by this tragedy. Please know that I stand with each of you in unity for equality, justice and inclusion. It is so important that, in a time of so many negative forces, we join together as strong and positive agents of change. We must unite to take action, combat racism and discrimination and denounce race-related violence. It's the only path forward.

In solidarity,



Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor, Texas A&M AgriLife

Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

OPEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

INTERVIEWS HAVE STARTED OR WILL START SOON ON THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Operations Manager, McGregor, TX. - The Operations Manager, under direction, oversees business operations for assigned departments, offices, divisions, or agencies, which include hiring employees, negotiating contracts, addressing budget matters, understanding general business operations, and guiding work teams.

https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Research_External/job/McGregor-AL-RSCH/Operations-Manager_R-026733

Assistant/Associate Professor of Epigenetics, College Station, TX.

- Assistant/Associate Professor with an emphasis in mammalian epigenetics. This is a 9-month, tenure-track position with research (65%), teaching (25%), and service (10%) responsibilities. Please contact Dr. Rodolfo Cardoso for more information.

R.cardoso@tamu.edu or apply at the link below:

<http://apply.interfolio.com/69654>

Lecturer/Instructional Assistant Professor – Horse Judging Coordinator, College Station, TX.

- A 9-month, full-time, non-tenure track appointment (75% teaching/25% service appointment). The incumbent will be expected to advise, coordinate, and fund-raise for intercollegiate horse judging activities and provide undergraduate animal science instruction including general equine science classes. Please contact Dr. Jessica Leatherwood for more information. Leatherwood@tamu.edu or apply at the link below:

<http://apply.interfolio.com/74943>

FROZEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Assistant/Associate Professor and Extension Meat Specialist, College Station, TX. - 12-month, non-tenure track appointment with 75% Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 25% Texas A&M AgriLife Research. Please contact Dr. Jason Smith for more information.

Jason.Smith@ag.tamu.edu or apply at the link below:

https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Extension_External/job/College-Station-AL-EXT/Assistant---Associate-Professor---Extension-Meat-Specialist_R-025440