

COWPOKE NEWS

The Department of Animal Science, Oklahoma State University



IN THIS EDITION:

- Animal Science Weekend History
- ANSI Arena Renamed "Totusek Arena"
- Chris Richards Faculty Spotlight



ANIMAL SCIENCE COWPOKE NEWS

Cowpoke News is published each semester by the Department of Animal Science within the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University. We strive to keep students, alumni, and friends of the department informed about activities and success in our department.

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Meet the New ASLA Team



The 2015 - 2016 Animal Science Leadership Alliance (ASLA) members have been chosen! ASLA is an elite leadership group designed to recruit students into the Department of Animal Science, mentor current students through a freshman course, serve as a bridge between students and faculty, and act as a connection between students and our alumni.

OCCW Officers Say Thanks



As this year is coming to a close, it is hard to believe that the term for this year's Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen's Association (OCCW) officer team is coming to an end. The 2014-2015 officer team would like to thank all of our members, OSU faculty, and all of our families for all of your support this year. Thanks everyone! Don't forget to EAT BEEF!

On The Cover

Family members of Dr. Bob Totusek at the Totusek Arena Renaming Ceremony are on the cover of this issue. They attended the event and provided reflections on the amazing life of Dr. Totusek. In the photo (left to right) is Darla Flanagan (Dr. Totusek’s daughter), Don Totusek (Dr. Totusek’s son), Patsy Totusek (Don Totusek’s wife), Diane Stearman (Dr. Totusek’s daughter), Sommer Liste (Dr. Totusek’s granddaughter), and Nathan Totusek (Dr. Totusek’s grandson). Read more about the ceremony on page 10.



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News From the *Department Head*



Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hope you enjoy this issue of the “Cowpoke News”. We are committed to keeping you informed about the OSU Department of Animal Science. Our goal is to stay in touch with you on a year-round basis. We plan to send you the Cowpoke News three times per year and the Alumni Update once in the Spring.

In this issue of the Cowpoke News, you will read about the Animal Science Weekend, including the history of this exciting three-day event, as well as the dedication of the Totusek Arena. You will also learn about our outstanding seniors, plus stories about other students and clubs who have represented the Department of Animal Science well this winter and spring in various events and competitions.

This issue of the Cowpoke News features stories about our talented faculty and some of their recent accomplishments, our recent hires and the most generous Alumni Association in the world! We have also included a page full of announcements and a list of our major sponsors.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a hard copy of the Cowpoke News or would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact Rebekah at cowpokenews@okstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Clint Rusk, Head

Department of Animal Science



Dennis White, Rob Richard and Marta White (Pg. 9)

Drs. Rusk, Clary Coon, Ramanathan and Maff (Pg. 16)

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Chris Richards is an Associate Professor of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University. He serves as a state Extension Beef Cattle Specialist where his primary responsibilities are in stocker and feedlot cattle nutrition and management. Born and raised in Nebraska, he pursued his passion for beef cattle management in Animal Science by obtaining his A.S. from Northeastern Junior College, his B.S. from Texas A&M University, M.S. from the University of Nebraska and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. Before joining Oklahoma State University in 2005, Dr. Richards gained valuable teaching and research experience by serving as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee.

As one of Oklahoma State's more visible and diversified beef cattle specialists, his primary Extension duties include developing statewide educational programs in beef cattle management and nutrition with emphasis on stocker and feedlot cattle enterprises. Research and graduate student mentoring is associated primarily with weaned calf nutrition and management. Extension and Research program emphasis is based on improving beef production efficiency, health, well-being, and product quality through improved nutrition, management, and the use of remotely monitored identification and biosensor technologies.

More specifically, Dr. Richards' two primary areas of programming and educational resource development focus have included: 1) programming related to the use of animal identification, remote monitoring technologies, and records to meet traceability program requirements and improve management and marketing opportunities for cattle

producers, and 2) nutrition and management of stocker and finishing calves to improve cattle health, well-being, production efficiency, and beef quality in production systems that meet consumer demands. Chris has served Oklahoma's outreach network of field staff through traditional methodologies that allow local educators to provide a visible and valuable role in the education process. He has supported the more specialized demands of our larger operations and industry professionals through development of high quality state, regional, and international conferences. To meet the rising desire for and access to on-demand electronic information, he has developed an extensive multi-discipline, user-friendly, beef-commodity web interface that is receiving high state and international usage. These Extension programs have been supported by a combination of outreach and applied research grant funding.

Dr. Richards has received numerous honors and awards during his impressive career, including: the 2014 Southern Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Extension Program, the 2014 Western Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Extension Project, and the 2015 OSU Animal Science Tyler Award. He has been awarded the Outstanding State Specialist award by the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science, Gamma Sigma Delta, Oklahoma Association of Extension Agricultural Agents, and was honored by receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association. He has also been elected President of the Oklahoma Agricultural Educators' Association.



Dr. Chris Richards, OSU Associate Professor and Beef Cattle Extension and Research Specialist

Professor Richards is a celebrated professional with a state and national impact on a diverse audience. His efforts and innovative approach are reaching cattle producers in new and traditional formats across the United States. His accomplishments and impact are well documented and far surpass what we can fit in this small space. His impact as an outstanding departmental citizen is equally felt. He is an example of what makes this place so special.

When not tending to the many needs of his profession and contributing to the success of his fellow faculty, Dr. Richards is a devoted family man. He and his wife, Tina, are avid sportsmen along with their two children, Marie and Colin. They spend much of their time training Yellow Labradors for competition in field trials and hunt tests, gardening and coaching youth soccer with the six and under Stillwater Soccer Club.



Animal Science Weekend

History, Tradition, Friendship, Legacy

By Rebekah Alford, Staff

The Animal Science Weekend provides an opportunity for alumni to meet with old friends, as well as current faculty and students, and to see the new developments happening at OSU. Animal Science Weekend as we know it today is a combination of several events: the Animal Science Gala, Old Timer's Judging Contest, Animal Science Banquet, and the Cowboy Classic. The OSU Animal Science Weekend has become an annual event full of fun activities, recognition of accomplishments and old friends. Each event has a unique purpose and there have been meaningful changes in each over time, but how did this tradition begin?

Prior to the Animal Science banquet, the College of Ag held a combined departmental banquet. Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Poultry were originally three separate departments that were combined in 1967; Dr. J.C. Hillier was the first Department Head of the combined unit. The Department of Animal Science held a separate luncheon at homecoming each year, which was served at noon in the old

meat lab for alumni, faculty, and students. A short program was held during the luncheon to recognize the judging teams.

“There is a good reason why Animal Science is the largest department on campus, has the largest scholarship program, the largest banquet and the biggest alumni weekend at OSU.

Animal Science at OSU is, indeed, very special in the hearts of many.”

Animal Science Weekend started when Dr. Hillier decided the Department of Animal Science should host its own banquet each spring in order to recognize graduating seniors, scholarship recipients, advanced degree graduates, industry stake holders, judging teams, and excellence of faculty members and alumni within the department. This decision led Dr. Hillier to create the

Animal Science Banquet. Since that time, the Animal Science Banquet has been held each spring.

The Old Timer's Judging Contest was initiated in the late 1970's by Dr. Totusek, Bill Jacobs (OSU alumni and former Cal Poly judging coach), and other former judging coaches. The first Old Timer's Judging Contest was held in the old arena in the Animal Husbandry Building. A lunch was served at the event for the participants.

In 1979, the Department of Animal Science started the Cowboy Classic, which is the Purebred Beef Cattle Center's annual sale. The Purebred Beef Center employs OSU students to produce, promote, and merchandise high quality seedstock. The Purebred Beef Center offers teaching, extension education and marketing benefits to the students of OSU and the beef industry of Oklahoma.

The Animal Science Alumni Association was started in 1982 by Dr. Lowell Walters. George Clift, a highly successful ranch real estate broker in Texas, was the first president. The initial purpose of

the Alumni Association was to assist in generating scholarship support for our students. That same year, the new Animal Science Building was completed and dedicated. All Department of Animal Science faculty members were housed under the same roof for the first time.

The Alumni Association initiated the auctioning of arena chairs to provide support for scholarships, aid students with expenses, and to create endowments in the OSU Foundation to help further support students in these areas in the future. This was the beginning of the Scholarship Auction, which gives alumni the opportunity to contribute to the scholarship fund in an effort to help support students. Each year, an annual auction was held after lunch at the Old Timer's Judging Contest.

The new ANSI Arena was completed in 1987. That year, the No. 1 brick from the old Animal Husbandry building was sold to Ben and Alma Grant for \$2,000. They returned the brick to the Alumni Association to be resold each year as a symbol of unity and effort of the Alumni Association to give something back. The brick is kept in a special display (provided by Mrs. L.V. Singletary) in the Animal Science Building.

The ANSI Arena was dedicated in 1988 during Animal Science Weekend. The first Friday night events were held during this special weekend. At 7:00 p.m., Animal Science alumni participated in the Ranch Roundup.

"Cowboys would show their skills and compete like a rodeo," said Connie Walker, former Animal Science secretary, of the Ranch Roundup.

The Western Dance was held at 9:00 p.m. and music was played by former members of Bob Wills' Texas Playboys. The department put plywood down over part of the new arena dirt floor to create a surface for dancing.

"Dr. Tot loved to dance," said Connie. "Dr. Totusek was responsible for the beginning of most of Animal Science Weekend. He loved getting alumni together. We wrote millions of letters!"

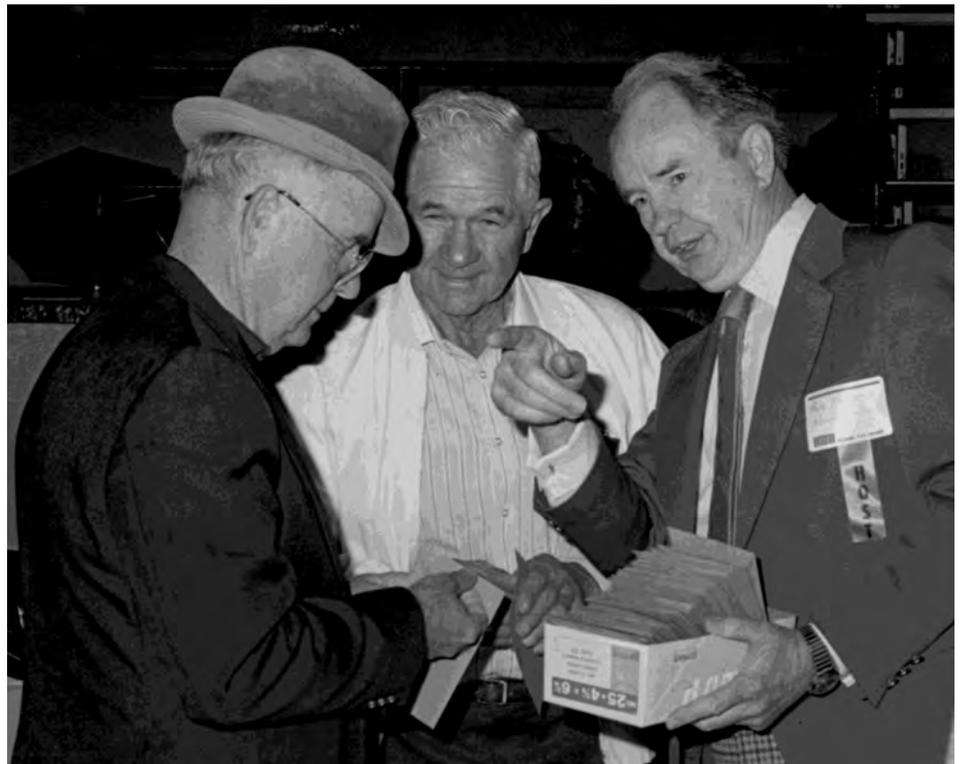
In the fall of 2002, Dr. Robert Totusek, Dr. Joe Hughes, and Wayne Shearhart met to discuss the future of the Old Timer's Judging Contest. Attendance for the event had dwindled and the department was strongly considering canceling the contest. Wayne Shearhart suggested that a judging team reunion and dinner be held the Friday night before the Old Timer's Contest. Wayne offered to make a trophy of five carved animals and sixteen spaces for each year's winners, creating a permanent and undisputable record of the winners that could be displayed at the ANSI Arena.

After Dr. Totusek and Dr. Hughes discussed the event in more detail and created an alumni mailing list, Dr. Totusek called Wayne and told him to get his knife sharp and get to work on

that trophy, because they were going to have the Old Timer's Judging Contest on the first Saturday in April. The first judging team reunion was held in the banquet room of the old Ramada Inn, which could seat up to 206 people.

"We had no idea how many people would show up," said Wayne Shearhart, "but we made a lot of personal contacts by phone and letters."

In all, 354 alumni and spouses arrived to attend the first judging team reunion. It was clear that alumni wanted an opportunity to get together. There wasn't quite enough food prepared, but it didn't seem to effect the good mood of the event. Some attendees decided to make do with deviled eggs from the bar. The fiftieth anniversary judging team, the judging team with the most present, the oldest member present, and the member who traveled the furthest were recognized at the event.



OSU Animal Science alumni with Dr. Bob Totusek (right) getting ready for an event in the Animal Husbandry Building.

A total of 132 alumni registered for the Judging Contest that Saturday. The 1953 judging team (the fifty year team) fittingly won the event and received the first place plaque on the trophy. Team members of the 1953 judging team include: Gene Kuykendall, Leon Freeze (high individual), Ron Blackwell and Audie Rackley. Like in the years before, the annual auction was held after lunch at the Old Timer's Judging Contest at the Animal Science Arena.

“The various activities help to cultivate, facilitate and continually advance and nurture the rich departmental culture established over many years by many forward thinking people who cared (and care) deeply about a truly wonderful department. “

“The 2004 reunion was held at the same motel, Ramada Inn,” said Wayne Shearhart. “This time, the RSVP worked. The motel set up tables in their lobby and almost everyone sat at a table. We had 492 alumni present. In addition to the recognition, we held the auction at the motel after the recognitions. We raised around \$12,000 that night. We had a large turnout for the Old Timers Judging Contest also.”

The Old Timer's Judging Reunion was a success, but some of the graduates who weren't on judging teams wanted to be able to meet as well. In 2005, all Animal Science graduates were included in the reunion for the first time. At that time, Gallagher-Iba had been expanded so Dr. Totusek arranged a tour of the facility, as well as the new suites in the Pickens football stadium.

“After the tours, we went to the O-Club in Gallagher-Iba and ate prime rib prepared by Dr. Brad Morgan and his crew,” recalled Wayne Shearhart. “It was delicious and the best meal the alumni ever had at the reunions up to that point.”

Having outgrown all previous meeting places, the 2006 reunion was moved to the Wes Watkins Center and renamed the Animal Science Gala. This was the first year the silent auction was held. Both the live and silent auctions were a great success that year and raised several thousand dollars for judging team scholarships. Money was also raised to honor Dr. Totusek with an Endowed Chair.

Dr. Don Wagner, former OSU Animal Science Department Head, said “In my view, the various activities help to cultivate, facilitate and continually advance and nurture the rich departmental culture established over many years by many forward thinking people who cared (and care) deeply about a truly wonderful department.

“There is no other department like it, here or elsewhere. There is a good reason why Animal Science is the largest department on campus, has the largest scholarship program, the largest banquet and the biggest alumni weekend at OSU. Animal Science at OSU is, indeed, very special in the hearts of many.”

Animal Science Weekend is a great opportunity for OSU Animal Science alumni to reunite, reminisce, and support their department. Thanks to many influential and extraordinary people, the Animal Science Weekend has become a tradition that is an imbedded part of our culture. Animal Science weekend has lasted nearly fifty years and continues to improve with time.

For one weekend a year, Animal Science alumni take a moment to recognize graduates and judging teams of the past, support graduates of the future, and honor those who have meant so much to many of us. A tradition that never lets us say good bye, but instead, "Until next time.”



Animal Science alumni at the 2015 ASAA Gala Reunion.

ANSI Weekend 2015

ASAA Gala Reunion

The 2015 ASAA Gala Reunion was held April 10th in the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center. Dr. Bob Kropp, who retired from the OSU Department of Animal Science in the summer of 2014, was recognized at the Gala for his forty-eight year career at OSU, along with his advisees, students, and friends. The 1965 Meat and Livestock Teams were also honored at the event. Four Hundred people were in attendance from all over the country.

Dennis and Marta White received the Dr. Robert Totusek Brand of Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding service and support to the Animal Science Alumni Association.

This year's Gala Reunion included a social hour (with a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres), scholarship auctions, and live music with dancing. Both the silent and live auctions were a big success. In all, 121 items were auctioned off this year and raised approximately \$40,000.

Animal Science Banquet

The Animal Science Banquet was held on April 11th, 2015. Five Hundred people were in attendance. Dr. Dave Lalman was Master of Ceremonies for the event. The welcome was given by OSU President Burns Hargis. Graduate student recognition/awards were provided by Drs. Steven Cooper and Gerald Horn. Outstanding Senior and Senior Awards were presented by Drs. Dave Lalman and Clint Rusk. More information about these awards can be found on page 13.

The Tyler Award was presented to Dr. Chris Richards by Drs. Thomas Coon and Clint Rusk. The Tyler Award recognizes professional achievement in research, teaching, and public service by faculty members from the OSU Department of Animal Science. Read more about Dr. Richards on page 5.

Departmental Awards were presented by Drs. Thomas Coon and Clint Rusk. Congratulations to the following alumni who received awards at the 2015 Animal Science Banquet:

Tom Kissee and Joe Popplewell received the Graduate of Distinction Award, Alejandro La Manna, Marshall Streeter, and Gary Vogel received the Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction Award, and Linda Cline received the Distinguished Service Award.

Cowboy Classic

The Cowboy Classic Sale was held on April 11th and had a great turn out with around 275 people in attendance. OSU President Hargis addressed the crowd before the sale began.

The high selling female was lot twenty, OSU Empress 4220, for \$17,000. She is a standout female with tremendous show potential and a feature halter prospect. The next highest selling female was lot nineteen for \$15,500.

The highest selling bull was lot thirty, OSU Denver 4110, for \$11,000. This bull has an outstanding EPD spread from birth to yearling.

In all, the sale grossed \$551,400 on seventy-two lots, which is the highest total gross in the thirty-six year history of the Cowboy Classic. The next sale is scheduled for April 3rd, 2016.

Old Timer's Judging Contest

The Old Timer's Judging Contest was held April 11th at the Totusek Arena. 2015 Old Timers Judging Contest winners were:

High Team - Stan Comer, Sammy Coffman, Tom Kissee and Rob Shuey (Dr. Bob Kropp's 1979 National Champion Team).

High Individual - B.T. Ferguson (Dr. Don Pinney's 1968 Livestock Team Member).

A big thank you to Wayne Shearhart, founder of the Old Timers Contest and designer of the unique Team Trophy!



L to R: Current Livestock Coach Dr. Blake Bloomberg, Rob Shuey, ASAA President Tom White and Sammy Coffman.



Arena Renamed in Honor of Totusek

Oklahoma State University renamed the ANSI Arena in memory of Dr. Robert E. Totusek. The naming ceremony was held at the Totusek Arena, formerly known as the Animal Science Arena, during Animal Science Weekend on April 11th, 2015. Lunch was served following a celebration in the arena lobby.

Animal Science Department Head Dr. Clint Rusk was Master of Ceremonies for the event. DASNR Vice President, Dean and Director Dr. Thomas Coon gave the welcome and Jarold Callahan presented the history of the arena. Totusek family members attended the event and provided reflections on the life of Dr. Totusek.

Dr. Totusek was well-known in the animal industry and made significant contributions to Oklahoma State University. Decades ago, he had the vision and plan to build the Animal Science Arena, which includes an almost 18,000 square foot floor with adjacent seating for 779 people and a 1,675 square foot classroom. The arena has now stood for twenty-six years and remains a state of the art structure. It is only fitting that the structure should bear his name.

Robert "Bob" Totusek was born in 1926 on a livestock and wheat farm in north

central Oklahoma, where his early roots planted a seed of passion for Oklahoma agriculture. Having grown up during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression, his early experiences with agriculture and animal science impacted his life's direction to become an advocate for the power of agriculture.

After he served in the US Army Air Corps in World War II, he received his Bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma A&M in 1949. He was a member of both the meats and livestock judging teams, and was High Individual at the 1948 International Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest in Chicago. He obtained his Ph.D. at Purdue University and then returned to Oklahoma A&M in 1952 where he joined the Animal Husbandry faculty. This led to a thirty-eight year career in teaching, research, public service and administration.

During his time at OSU, Bob taught more than five thousand students, fourteen different courses and authored or co-authored more than two hundred publications. He touched the lives of thousands of individuals across the state of Oklahoma, as well as throughout other parts of the world, with his teaching, research, and outreach activities. Dr. Totusek fostered a culture

of excellence at OSU for over sixty years. To say his influence was far-reaching would be an understatement.

As a faculty member, he coached great livestock teams and performed landmark beef cattle research. As Department Head, the department rose to unmatched status in teaching and became nationally recognized as a producer of great scholars, industry leaders, and outstanding purebred livestock. In retirement, he served as an ambassador and a distinguished elder statesman for the Department of Animal Science. Dr. Totusek was responsible for record-setting donation campaigns and became the driving force behind our strong Animal Science Alumni Association.

He was a giant in the field of animal science and a visionary leader who was always searching for ways to improve the efficiency of meat animal production and to help OSU Animal Science. His accomplishments on behalf of the department as a student, faculty member, and alum are unparalleled.

Dr. Robert Totusek's efforts for OSU are virtually impossible to quantify. Renaming the Animal Science Arena in his honor is our way of saying thanks for all this great man did for our University.

Awards & Recognition

Top Freshmen Women

Allison Christian, Laurie Fitch, and Kalyn McKibben were selected from the Department of Animal Science as 2014 Top Twenty Freshman Women at OSU based on scholastic achievement, leadership and participation in campus activities, service, and awareness of the student's role at the university during their freshman year. The Mortar Board also selected Allison Christian to be a Top Ten Freshman.



Left to Right: Kalyn McKibben, Laurie Fitch, and Allison Christian

Allison Christian is an animal science pre-vet major. She is the daughter of Jon Christian, Tina and Mack Huffman and is originally from Duncan, OK. Allison is a student in the Honors College and is working with the Department of Animal Science as a Youth Livestock Extension Intern, assisting with facilitating all major 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests throughout Oklahoma. Allison also received the 2015 CASNR Outstanding Freshman Award.

Laurie Fitch is an animal science business major. She is the daughter of Jerry and June Fitch from Stillwater, OK. Laurie currently works in the Learning and Student Success Opportunity (LASSO) Center and serves as a Junior Greek Life Coordinator, promoting leadership and campus involvement.

Kalyn McKibben is an animal science business major. She is the daughter of Lyndon and Phyllis McKibben from Wyandotte, OK. She has served as the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen President, Oklahoma Beef Ambassador, and National Beef Ambassador. She would like a career focused around the beef industry.

Taylor Hansen Selected For Cultural Vistas

Taylor Hansen, a food science major, was selected for a Cultural Vistas Fellowship, a year long Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange program in Germany.

"Since she arrived as a freshman, all I have heard about is going to Germany to take baking classes," said Animal Science Assistant Professor Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan. "Well, she applied to the Cultural Vistas Fellowship. There were 650 applicants in all. They interviewed 150 and awarded seventy-five."



Taylor Hansen

The program is for college age students (18—24 years-of-age). Selected students are assigned a mentor family and given an apprenticeship in their field of interest.

Congratulations Taylor for being selected for this great opportunity! Or should we say, Glückwünsche? Die besten Wünsche für die Zukunft!

Zach Weichel Named 2014 American Star Farmer

The four winners of the most prestigious FFA awards were announced at the 87th National FFA Convention & Expo. The American Star Awards are given to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural and management skills, and have met scholastic and leadership requirements. Those selected represent the very best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients.

Out of sixteen nominated American Star Farmer award finalists from the U.S., four finalists are selected as winners by a panel of judges and receive a \$4,000 cash award.

Zach Weichel, an OSU Animal Science senior majoring in production, was awarded the 2014 American Star Farmer award.

Zach's interest in agriculture started at the age of ten when his grandfather gave him a bottle calf. Today, Zach owns 360 acres, rents 160 acres of grass and 320 acres of wheat pasture. He buys stocker calves weighing about five hundred pounds to put on grass and wheat pasture and then sells them as yearlings.

Zach is advised by Dr. Steven Cooper.



Zach Weichel is shown above with his parents, Keith and Lana Weichel.

Student Organizations

The Department of Animal Science sponsors ten student clubs, each oriented toward a specific area.

Clubs and organizations on campus help take classroom learning one-step further, outside the classroom. In a club, you can build lasting friendships with fellow students and faculty members, and participate in professional activities that often lead to future career opportunities. In addition, participation in departmental clubs encourages personal growth through the development of leadership, communication and organizational skills. Going to college doesn't just entail going to class; that is just merely one aspect of the "total college experience."

CASNR students at Oklahoma State University are presented with numerous opportunities to be involved on campus in student organizations and teams. In CASNR alone, there are more than thirty student clubs and organizations. In addition to these clubs and organizations, there are also numerous judging and competition teams within CASNR where students have an opportunity to participate.

Campus-wide, there are more than 350 student clubs and organizations available to students. Getting involved in a departmental club is easy. Simply attend a club meeting. Meeting times and places are posted in or near the Animal Science Building. See you there!

To learn more about our student organizations, visit our website at <http://ansi.okstate.edu/current-students/ug/organizations/>.

Kaylen Baker Receives Top Pork Industry Scholarship



Animal Science student Kaylen Baker was selected as one of twenty-one students to receive the top 2015 Pork Industry Scholarship. Kaylen is this year's top candidate and will receive \$5,000 as part of her scholarship. Selection was based on scholastic merit, leadership activities, pork production industry involvement and future career plans in pork production.

Kaylen is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in animal science and agriculture communications and minoring in agriculture economics and business. She plans to pursue an M.S. in animal welfare after receiving her B.S.

OSU Dairy Club Wins National Ag Education Competition

Congratulations to the OSU Dairy Science Club for winning the National Ag Education Competition! OSU Dairy Club members formed the top-scoring club with 107,450 total points. The students have been honored nationally for being advocates for agriculture and will receive \$5,000. In addition, two club representatives also won a trip to the Animal Agriculture Alliance's annual Stakeholders Summit in Kansas City, Missouri to be formally recognized.



OSU Swine Club and Pre-Vet Club Receive CASNR Awards

The OSU Swine and Pre-Vet Clubs received awards at the 2015 CASNR banquet on April 9th, 2015. The OSU Swine Club was selected as the 2015 CASNR Outstanding Club. The Swine Club is an outlet for swine enthusiasts to be further involved in the industry. The OSU Pre-Vet Club was selected for the Best Ag Week Sign Award. The Pre-Vet Club is advised by Dr. Udaya DeSilva. Congratulations!

Senior Spotlight



Jessie Heidlage

Animal Science Major - AG Business

Jessie was named 2015 Outstanding Senior and received the Senior Leadership Award. She has maintained several leadership roles at OSU, including Block and Bridle Co-Chair, Meat Science Association Reporter, and Animal Science Leadership Alliance Treasurer. She was a member of the 2014 National Champion OSU Meat

Judging Team and was named 2014 First Team All-American.

Jessie has also fought for underprivileged students as a Founding Member of the OSU Chapter of Collegiate Students Fighting Hunger and represented OSU at the National Education for Women's Leadership Initiative.

Jessie plans to attend law school at the University of Missouri. She wants to work as a lobbyist for the food industry and establish a firm focused on advocating for the meat industry.



Jessica Neal

Animal Science Major - Biotechnology

Jessica received the Senior Leadership Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, Award of Merit, 2015 Dean's Award of Excellence, and was chosen as a CASNR Senior of Distinction and CASNR Outstanding Senior. Jessica has been involved in many campus organizations, including Horseman's Association, Dairy Science Club, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar

Board Achafoa Chapter, Block and Bridle, and Collegiate FFA. She has also been very active in research. She was an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar and a Niblack Research Scholar.

Jessica plans to pursue an M.S. and Ph.D. in animal breeding and genetics. She desires a career as a livestock geneticist for an animal genetics or livestock improvement company to enhance the genetic merit of future livestock.



Gary Agar

Animal Science Major - Business

Gary received the Senior Leadership Award and the Scholastic Achievement Award. He was a leading member of the 2014 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team and the 2014 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team. He has also held leadership roles in the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter.



Zachary Croslin

Animal Science Major - Pre-Veterinary

Zachary received the Senior Leadership Award. He has been active in the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club, CASNR Student Council, Alpha Zeta Honor Fraternity, and the Animal Science Leadership Alliance. He has served as a CASNR Student Academic Mentor and Philanthropy Chairman of his fraternity, as well as volunteered over one hundred hours.



Bailey Buck

Animal Science Major - Biotechnology

Bailey received the Senior Leadership Award. She served as Block & Bridle president, an Alpha Zeta Honor Society member, and an Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter Class XII member. She has served as Chairman for the Bonanza Livestock Show and has volunteered numerous hours at local, state, and national livestock shows.



Katie Jordan

Animal Science Major - Business

Katie received the Senior Leadership Award and the Scholastic Achievement Award. She was a member of the 2013-2014 OSU Horse Judging Team. Katie is part of the OSU Spirit Team, a member of the Achafoa Chapter of Mortar Board and served as Secretary of OSU Horseman's Association.



Kyre Larrabee

Animal Science Major - Pre-Veterinary

Kyre received the Senior Leadership Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, and was chosen as a CASNR Senior of Distinction. She has excelled in research and scholarly activities. She has been an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar and a Wentz Research Scholar. Kyre has been a member of Alpha Zeta and the OSU Rodeo Team.



Sarah Schobert

Animal Science Major

Sara received the Senior Leadership Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, Award of Merit, Dean's Award of Excellence, and was chosen as a CASNR Senior of Distinction. She was a member of the National Champion Horse Judging Team, All-Academic Team, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the Student Government.



Marita Palacio

Animal Science Major - Business

Marita received the Senior Leadership Award. She was a member of the 2014 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging team and the National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation team. She has had several internships and has volunteered with American Red Cross, Tornado Relief, and the Oklahoma City Food Pantry.



Alexis Sirois

Animal Science Major - Pre-Veterinary

Alexis was chosen as a CASNR Senior of Distinction. She has been very active in Pre-Veterinary Club (Vice President and Historian), Alpha Zeta (Scribe), and Phi Kappa Phi. She has also spent time volunteering for the Stillwater Humane Society and Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue.



Kaylee Price

Animal Science Major - Production

Kaylee received the Senior Leadership Award. She was a member of the 2014 National Champion OSU Meat Judging Team. Kaylee was an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar and has been very active in campus organizations, including the Animal Science Leadership Alliance and Block and Bridle Club.



Wilma Van Der Laan

Animal Science Major - AG Communications

Wilma received the Senior Leadership Award. She has been active in the OSU Dairy Science Club, Dairy Judging Team, Horseman's Association, and the 2015 ASAS Southern Section Champion Quadrathlon Team. She has been involved in numerous community projects and served as a Student Academic Mentor.



Karen Roberts

Animal Science Major - Production

Karen Roberts was awarded third place in the National Block and Bridle Outstanding Senior Award at the 95th National Block and Bridle Convention held in Lubbock, TX during October of 2014. The award included a scholarship of \$300. The award is provided to active members in good standing of the local and National Block and Bridle organization.



Kelly Vierck

Food Science Major - Meat Science

Kelly received the Senior Leadership Award, the Scholastic Achievement Award, Award of Merit, and was chosen as a CASNR Senior of Distinction. She was a member of the 2014 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team, 2014 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team, 2015 ASAS Southern Section High Quadrathlon Team, 2013 Meat Judging team, and Collegiate Cattlewomen.



Shannon White

Food Science Major - Science

Shannon received the Senior Leadership Award. She has been active in the Animal Science Leadership Alliance, Collegiate Cattlewomen’s Association, Block and Bridle, the Meat Science Association, the 2013 Meats Judging Team, and the 2014 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team.



Audrey Zoeller

Animal Science Major - Production

Audrey received the Senior Leadership Award. She has been active in Block and Bridle, Agricultural Student Council, Meat Science Association, the OSU Meat Judging Team, and the 2015 Meat Animal Evaluation Team. As a member of the 2014 National Champion Meat Judging Team, Audrey earned First Team All-American status at the International Collegiate Meat Judging Contest.



Kendra Wills

Animal Science Major - Production

Kendra received the Senior Leadership Award. She has been active in the Meat Science Association, Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen’s Association, Animal Science Leadership Alliance, and the 2013 Meat Judging Team. Kendra worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the Muscle Biology Laboratory for the last two years.

Recognized Graduate Students

Outstanding Graduate Student Award



Andrea English

M.S. Food Science - Food Science

Andrea received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the 2015 Animal Science Awards Banquet. Andrea began her graduate work in August of 2013. Her research focus is on the effects of extended aging and packaging on dark cutting beef. She enjoys her time spent helping other students with research projects, as well

as her time spent as a meat science teaching assistant with Dr. Mafi in Food Analysis, Food Chemistry, and Fundamentals of Food Science with Dr. Ramanathan. She has been active in the Animal Science Graduate Student Association in the role of president. She also is a Junior Student Representative of the Muscle Food Division for the Institute of Food Technologists and a member of the American Meat Science Association. Upon graduation, Andrea plans on pursuing her Ph.D. in food safety at Texas Tech University.



Justin Buchanan

Ph.D. Food Science - Breeding & Genetics

Justin received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the 2015 Animal Science Awards Banquet. He has served as the instructor for ANSI 3433 Introduction to Animal Breeding for two semesters and has mentored multiple students through Wentz and Niblack undergraduate research programs. He has served in the Animal

Science Graduate Student Association as Secretary and departmental liaison to the OSU Graduate and Professional Student Association. His dissertation work has focused on estimating genetic parameters and deriving gene networks for fatty acid profile and carcass traits in Angus cattle. After graduation, Justin and his wife, Carmen, will be moving to California where he has accepted a position as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California - Davis.

Faculty *Accomplishments*



Udaya DeSilva

Animal Science Associate Professor

Dr. Udaya DeSilva received the Alpha Zeta Outstanding Teacher Award during the CASNR Banquet on April 9th, 2015. Udaya has taught classes at OSU since 2001. His general area of instruction includes animal genetics and biotechnology in animal science.



Gretchen Mafi

Animal Science Associate Professor

Dr. Gretchen Mafi received the CASNR Award of Excellence in Teaching. Mafi has taught at OSU since 2006. Her general area of instruction includes meat and food science, meat judging, and meat animal evaluation. Mafi is a member of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Board of Directors.



Ranjith Ramanathan

Animal Science Assistant Professor

Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan received the Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching during the CASNR Banquet on April 9th, 2015. Ranjith has taught classes at OSU since 2012. His general area of instruction includes food science and food chemistry.



Leon Spicer

Animal Science Professor

Dr. Leon Spicer was named "Division Editor" of the Journal of Animal Science for the Animal Physiology section. He is editing publications with the topics of growth and developmental biology, physiology, endocrinology, and reproduction. Dr. Spicer was previously an Associate Editor for Animal Physiology with a focus on cell biology.

Oklahoma Quality Beef Network

The Oklahoma Quality Beef Network (OQBN) received the Southern Agricultural Economics Association's 2015 Outstanding Extension Program Award!

OQBN, a joint project of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, is a network of beef producers, educators, veterinarians, and industry professionals committed to increasing producers' access to value added marketing opportunities and improving the quality of cattle produced in Oklahoma by increasing communication between all segments of the beef industry. OQBN offers unbiased information on beef value enhancement and provides producers, and others in the beef industry, with education and tools to enhance access to value-added programs.

The OQBN team was formally recognized at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Award Ceremony, which was held during SAEA's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on February 2nd, 2015. Congratulations to Eric Devuyt, Damona Doye, David Lalman, Gant Mourer, Derrell Peel, Chris Richards, Megan Rolf, Stephanie Schumacher, Dan Stein and Justin Talley on the award!



David Lalman



Gant Mourer



Dan Stein



Chris Richards



Megan Rolf

OSU Animal Science Students Win Regional Quadrathlon Competition

By Lindsay V. King, Agricultural Communications Student

Four Oklahoma State University Animal Science students combined to take top team honors at the American Society of Animal Science, ASAS, Southern Section Academic Quadrathlon in Atlanta, Georgia.

The team was named the Southern Section champion after a fierce competition with thirteen other teams from across the nation. Participants competed in four events: a laboratory practicum, written exam, oral presentation and quiz bowl.

OSU placed first in the lab practicum and written exam and placed second in the oral presentation and quiz bowl.

“The individuals on this team are extremely knowledgeable about animal agriculture and complement each other with a variety of animal backgrounds between them,” said Clint Rusk, Animal Science Department Head. “We are extremely proud of the quadrathlon team and are looking forward to the national competition this summer with much anticipation.”

The 2015 team is comprised of Kelly Vierck, food science senior from Juneau, Wisconsin; Wilma Van der Laan, animal science and agricultural communications senior from Frederick, Oklahoma; Jessica Neal, animal science senior from Duncan, Oklahoma; and Kara Sutphen, animal science senior from Lakeside, Nebraska.

The Department of Animal Science holds a qualifying quadrathlon in late November to determine the team representing OSU at the Southern Section quadrathlon. Scott Carter, Animal Science Professor, annually advises the team for the regional and national quadrathlon.

Sutphen said the local competition at OSU was tough but helped prepare the team for the regional quadrathlon, adding the competition in Georgia played to the strengths of the team in regards to knowledge and past experiences.

“The best part of the competition was being able to sit down and talk about something we have been doing most of our lives,” she said. “And being able to say that we truly have learned something in the time we have spent at OSU.”

Van der Laan said the quadrathlon was basically an animal science final, testing what students know and have retained from their education.

“The team is responsible for studying and preparing for the quadrathlon,” Van der Laan said. “Kara put together a study schedule for each week so we can cover various topics and visit certain animal units.”

The team spent many late nights in the library practicing quiz bowl questions and studying information about various livestock animals. The team plans to continue studying and visiting more of the OSU animal units.

“The quadrathlon is what I truly view as the pinnacle of our education,” Neal said. “It is so exciting to apply what we have learned in our animal science classes in a practical production setting.”

The team recommends the quadrathlon to animal science seniors as an opportunity to consider in their fall semester. However, there is a lot of pressure and a reputation that comes along with representing the university, Vierck stated.

“We are a major player in the game no matter if it is livestock judging, meats judging or the quadrathlon,” Vierck said. “We are Oklahoma State. When we come to play, we come to win.”

The team will be traveling to Orlando, Florida, in July to compete for the American Society of Animal Science National Academic Quadrathlon championship title.

“We are going to prepare for nationals and we are going to go there to win,” Sutphen said. “If they want to beat us they are going to have to work really, really hard.”



L to R: Jessica Neal, Wilma Van der Laan, Kara Sutphen, Kelly Vierck

Meat Evaluation Judging Team Wins 2015 National Championship

The OSU Cowboys claimed the National Championship at the 2015 Meat Animal Evaluation Contest held in Stillwater, OK on March 31st, 2015. The OSU team also won the Market Animal Division, Meat Division, Cattle Division, Swine Division, Sheep Division and Communication Division. Additionally, the team placed fourth in the Breeding Animal Division.

OSU's total team score and their market animal division score were the all-time record high ever recorded in the fifty-one year history of the contest. This is the second year in a row and the third time in five years that the OSU Meat Evaluation Judging Team has claimed the national championship.

Individual Achievements:

Blythe Graham - Crossville, TN: high individual overall, setting a new individual record score. She also set the record score for the market division, and was fifth in the swine, sheep and cattle divisions as well as seventh in the breeding division.

Audrey Zoeller - Boerne, TX: won the meats and cattle division.

Samantha Anthony - Taneytown, MD: fifth high individual overall, sixth in the market division, and third in the sheep division.

Elizabeth Nixon - Rapidan, VA: sixth overall and sixth in the market division.

Matt Walta - Kingfisher, OK: ninth overall, second in the market division, and third in the swine division.

Ethan Propp - Adair, OK: second in the beef division, seventh in the meats division, and tenth in the market division.

Kyndal Reitzenstein - Kersey, CO: 6th in the breeding division and 9th in the market division.

Dyson Runyon - Madill, OK: second in the cattle division and 4th in the market division.

Jessie Heidlage - Claremore, OK: third in the market division and second in the sheep division.

Wes Griffin - Tuttle, OK: seventh in the market division.

Chance Billups - Colcord, OK: second in the meats division.

Macy Griswold - Perkins, OK: fourth in the meats division.

Kaylee Price - Allen, TX: fifth in the meats division.

Other team members include: Ricky Burns - Flora, IN, Trent Ray - Abingdon, IL, and Lindsey Tasos - Madera, CA.

The team is coached by Drs. Blake Bloomberg and Gretchen Mafi. Assistant coaches are Morgan Neilson, Taylor Graham and Kelly Vierck.

Do You Know?

The Oklahoma State Department of Animal Science has more national judging championships than any other university!



Front Row (L to R): Kaylee Price, Elizabeth Nixon, Blythe Graham, Sam Anthony, Lindsay Tasos, Audrey Zoeller
Back Row (L to R): Dr. Blake Bloomberg, Morgan Neilson, Matt Walta, Macy Griswold, Taylor Graham, Jessie Heidlage, Kyndal Reitzenstein, Trent Ray, Ricky Burns, Wes Griffin, Dyson Runyan, Chance Billups, Ethan Propp, Dr. Gretchen Mafi, Dr. Clint Rusk, Kelly Vierck

Events & Activities

Frank Yiannas Visits OSU

By Rebekah Alford, Staff

The Department of Animal Science was very excited when Walmart Vice President of Food Safety Frank Yiannas visited OSU on April 21st, 2015. Yiannas toured the Food and Agricultural Products Center (FAPC) and gave a presentation on global trends in food safety. His presentation and slideshow can be viewed at <http://fapc.biz/workshops/global-trends-in-food-safety-seminar>.

Yiannas covered six trends in food safety during his presentation, including: changing food system, foodborne disease surveillance, globalization, ingredients, social media, and criminalization. He stated that these trends are currently unique challenges to food safety.

"That's why I wanted to be here, because you as future leaders need to know what these challenges are so that you can go out there and help us solve them," said Yiannas.

Yiannas also discussed how accelerated prevention, remaining science and risk based, managing real and perceived risk, creating specific priorities and strategies, collaborating and innovating, and creating a food safety culture instead of a program should be ways we move forward with food safety.

"I think the future of food safety is at a real crossroads," said Yiannas. "We can choose to go down the path that we've done for the past hundred years and use some of those methods, or we can choose to innovate and take a different path."



L to R: Dr. Clint Rusk (Animal Science Department Head), Dr. Cynda Clary (CASNR Associate Dean), Frank Yiannas (Walmart Vice President of Food Safety), Dr. Thomas Coon (DASNR Dean), and Chuck Willoughby (FAPC Business Planning and Marketing Relations Manager).

Horse Judging Team: Spring Activities

By Tabatha Taylor, OSU Horse Judging Assistant Coach

The OSU Horse Judging team stayed very busy this spring semester. The team, which currently consists of twenty-three members, worked to help run the Prairie Classic Quarter Horse Show, the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Spring Show, and OSU's annual Horse Judging Clinic.

The Prairie Classic ran February 11th - 15th at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds. OSU horse judges worked the show acting as gate people, ring stewards, and office helpers to make the nationally recognized horse show run smoothly. In return, the Prairie Classic donated funds back to the OSU horse judging team which will be put towards travel expenses in the fall.

In addition to being a fundraiser, the horse show also allows students to gain real-world horse show experience. This partnership has been beneficial for both the Prairie Classic and the OSU Horse Judging Team for many years. This year, the Prairie Classic recognized the OSU Horse Judging Team with a plaque for their years of service. Our current judges also worked alongside previous judges on February 14th at OSU's annual Horse Judging Clinic, which helps youth from across the state of Oklahoma gain more horse judging knowledge. The clinic is held on a yearly basis at the Totusek Arena, and this year more than 180 youth participated.

This year, the OSU Horse Judging Clinic focused on Trail, Ranch Riding, Halter, and oral reasons. OSU horse judges worked with youth individually, providing one on one tutoring throughout the day. The OSU Horse Judging Team also attended the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Spring Show March 26th-29th at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds.



2015 OSU Horse Judging Clinic

OSU Dairy Science Club

By David Jones, Coach & Advisor

The OSU Dairy Club has been very active this year, and has had much success! The club participated in homecoming activities and won first place for their float at the "Sea of Orange Parade" and second place for the overall sweepstakes (club/organizational division).

The Dairy Science Club was privileged and excited to host Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese. He spoke to the students, faculty, and public of the OSU community about Oklahoma Agriculture on November 5th, 2014. Jim Reese and Deputy Commissioner Blayne Arthur also helped out in the milking parlor at 4.a.m.



Block & Bridle Bonanza

By Chandler Steele, B&B Member

The 2015 Block and Bridle Bonanza took place on February 21st at the Payne County Fairgrounds in Stillwater. The annual show for the club serves as both a leadership opportunity for club members and a way to use the cumulative livestock experience of the membership to plan and host a cattle show for youth exhibitors from Oklahoma and surrounding states.

The 2015 show was a supreme success bringing in 129 entries from as far away as Iowa. Judge Ky Stierwalt from Leedey, Oklahoma, sorted ninety-four heifers, twenty-nine prospect steers and six progress steers in ring A.

Judge Tyler Stutsman from Hills, Iowa evaluated ninety-two heifers, twenty-nine prospect steers and six progress steers in ring B. Allison Bond Willhour judged the junior, intermediate and senior showmanship contests.

Bonanza Chairmen Chandler Steele, Jessica Webster and Jessie Heidlage, as well as the entire Block and Bridle club would like to thank all of our generous show sponsors for making the event possible and Block and Bridle advisors Drs. Deb VanOverbeke and Blake Bloomberg for all their hard work and guidance. Keep your eyes open this fall for information on the 2016 Block and Bridle Bonanza!

Horse Owner's Workshop

The OSU Animal Science Department and OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences held Horse Owner's Workshop (HOW) on March 7th, 2015 at OSU. The workshop covered topics like nutrition, health care, pasture management, and fire safety.

The Horse Owner's Workshop was intended to benefit the average horse owner by providing quality information on equine health, farm management and safety. The workshop was held at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in the morning and moved to the Animal Science arena in the afternoon for smaller break-out sessions to allow for hands-on activities.

Informational sessions were given in the morning. Daniel Burba from Louisiana State University discussed how to manage arthritis in your aging horse, Freya Stein from OSU discussed parasite control, and Brian Pugh from OSU discussed managing pastures. Small group labs were held in the afternoon, which included Dr. Kris Hiney from OSU discussing food evaluation and feed reports, Paddy T. Metcalf discussing fire safety on the farm, and David Whipple and Joey Gamble discussing fencing options on the farm.

Register For Animal & Public Events Workshop!

The OSU Department of Animal Science is partnering with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to host a workshop for people managing public animal events. Topics to be covered include: animal event concerns, pathogen basics, facility risk analysis, prevention steps, basic plans for interaction with animals, and critical event documentation.

There are two days/locations available, and registration is limited to 30 spots per day. Workshops will be held 9a.m. to 5p.m. and will include lunch and refreshments.

May 19th, 2015

Okfuskee County Extension Office
1201 E. Columbia St.
Okemah, OK

May 20th, 2015

Grady County Fairgrounds
500 E. Choctaw Ave.
Chickasha, OK

Pre-registration costs \$35 per person. Registration for the workshop is online only at https://secure.touchnet.com/C20271_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1877.

For more information about the Animal and Public Events Workshop, please visit www.beefextension.com or contact Chris Richards (chris.richards@okstate.edu or 405-744-6060).

Be sure to register before space fills up!



OCCW NCBA Experience

By Sara Rush, OCCW Member

In early February, sixteen Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen (OCCW) members and advisor, Dr. Cheryl DeVuyst, had the opportunity to attend the Annual Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade show in San Antonio, Texas. Throughout the convention we were able to network with many individuals throughout the beef industry, attend the Cattleman's College, sit in on different policy and check off committee meetings, listen to great motivational speakers and gain knowledge that will be put to use to promote the beef industry within our communities.

This was my first time attending the convention and it was a great experience. It allowed me to gain more knowledge in key areas of the beef industry that I will be able to pass on to others. Being able to attend the convention with thousands of others who share the same passion and love for the beef industry was amazing. Each of the OCCW members who attended the convention all agreed that anyone involved within the beef industry should attend the annual convention at least once, but we all are planning on attending it every chance we can. Our OCCW members had a fantastic time and had great things to say about the three day convention.

Shelby Downs, OCCW Secretary

"It was an amazing learning experience that proposed many opportunities."

Kelli Summey, OCCW Treasurer

"NCBA is a great way to learn about current issues in our beef community and network with beef producers across the country to share ideas and challenges. At the end of every NCBA Convention I always feel refreshed about our beef community and know that America's consumers are in safe hands because our ranchers make every effort to brighten the future of the cattle community."

Cheryl Fox, OCCW Representative

"I loved making the connections, meeting many new faces within the cattle industry and learned a lot of new information about the beef industry."

Michaela Burns, OCCW Representative

"My favorite part of the convention is the Cattleman's College. I like Cattleman's College because it allows you to come together with other producers and brainstorm about issues within the beef industry."

Raquel Welchel, OCCW Member

"It was a very eye opening experience to learn more in detail about the cattle industry and all of the fine producers and experts who are involved in it."

Kalyn McKibben, OCCW President

"The beef community truly is that – a *community*. We share the same passion for our industry and aim for the same goals and objectives. That was clearly represented at convention."



OSU at OYE

By Carrie Doyle, ANSI Student Success Coordinator

The weather outside may have been dreary, but the atmosphere in the sales pavilion at the Oklahoma State Fair park was anything but bleak. OSU @ OYE day was in full swing, inviting people of all ages to take a short break from their stock show preparations.

Organizations and departments from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, OSU Admissions, the OSU Vet School and OSU-OKC welcomed hundreds of exhibitors and their families with games, a calf dummy-roping contest, give-a-ways and a photo booth. With orange everywhere, students had the opportunity to get a feel for what it means to be a Cowboy and the many unique options OSU has to offer.

OSU @ OYE day began seven years ago as a way to highlight the connection Oklahoma State has with the Oklahoma Youth Expo. According to Dr. Fitch, this strong link can be noticed by the number of faculty, staff, students and extension agents who spend over a week in Oklahoma City each year.

"The day was originally designed to showcase the OSU Department of Animal Science and its clubs and organizations," Dr. Fitch said. However, the day has expanded since its inception.

OSU @ OYE day now brings every CASNR department to the fair grounds. Clubs, organizations and affiliates at OSU-OKC have also jumped on board to ensure it is a well-rounded experience. Still, Animal Science remains an integral part of the day.

This year, members of the Animal Science Leadership Alliance manned a "pin the brand on the steer" game. "It quickly became a competition," ASLA member and Animal Science senior, Shauni Windle, said. "The students wanted to see who was most competent in branding the steer. It was fun to watch them attempt to get the brand just right while they were blindfolded."

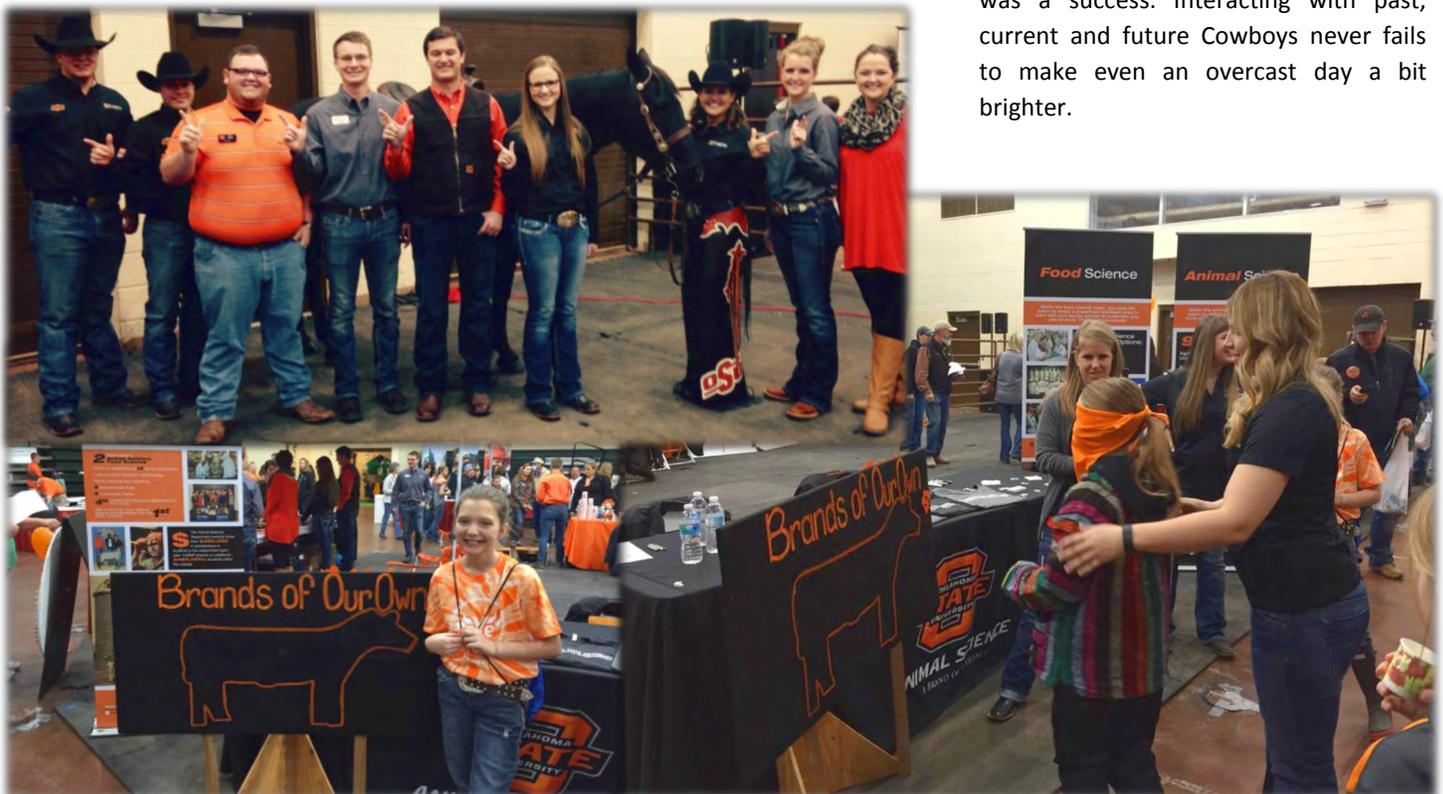
While students awaited their turn to attempt to "brand" the steer, ASLA members asked questions to get to know

them. "OSU @ OYE day is a great opportunity for OSU to connect with younger 4-H and FFA members," Windle said. "However, we also have the opportunity to speak with older students who will be making the college decision soon. It's a unique way to interact with students we might not otherwise see and reconnect with students we already know."

Although the nation's brightest orange attracts students and their families on its own, this year a special guest graced the day. Bullet, every Cowboy's favorite black horse, and his Spirit Team spent two hours smiling for photos with avid OSU fans, and even a few who chose to wear maroon.

Windle agreed having Bullet gave the day something a little more special. "It's great to see everyone with their 'guns up' when they take a picture with Bullet," she said. "Even the little kids were practicing their 'Go Pokes!'"

Overall, the 2015 addition of OSU @ OYE was a success. Interacting with past, current and future Cowboys never fails to make even an overcast day a bit brighter.



2015 Livestock Judging Camp



The registration packet for the 26th Annual OSU Livestock Judging Camp is now available. Feel free to post the camp information packet, print copies off, or refer interested youth to the OSU Youth Livestock Website: <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/outreach-extension/4-h-and-youth-information> where there is a link to the registration packet. There are two sessions available: session one will be held June 22nd - 24th, 2015, and session two will be held June 25th-27th, 2015.

The OSU Livestock Judging Camp is limited to students who have completed the seventh grade through high school seniors. Because the camp is very much a one-on-one style, experience is not a requirement. The OSU Livestock Judging Camp is widely acclaimed as the finest in the country and we invite you to join the winning tradition. Please contact Rusty Gosz with any questions. Each session is limited to

the first seventy participants. Youth from twenty-one different states attended last year's camp sessions and it filled up fast. Do not delay in getting your packets in or making contact about attending camp.

This unique experience will give participants the exciting opportunity to work with some of the most successful livestock coaches in the country in group sessions and benefit from individual training. The camp will be led by Rusty Gosz, Dr. Blake Bloomberg and other members of the Department of Animal Science faculty and staff, along with members of the OSU Livestock Judging Team. The instruction will include current type in slaughter and breeding beef cattle, sheep and swine; judging livestock in these six categories; live animal and carcass relationships; the use of performance data and preparing and presenting oral reasons. The methods of instruction will include lecture, demonstration, hands-on experience, one-on-one coaching and critiquing and question and answer sessions. Each participant will prepare and present several sets of oral reasons, and at least three sets will be recorded on videotape which the participant will receive. The tape will also include example sets of reasons from college students. The youth will have some free time for organized recreation in their dorm facilities. They should bring shoes and attire for athletics and recreation. All participants will be housed in the OSU Village Suites, and meals will be catered by OSU Celebrations. Men and women chaperones will be provided. They will be housed in the dormitories with the youth, and they will accompany the youth to all sessions of the camp.

2015 Big 3 Field Days

The OSU Animal Science Field Days will be held July 14th-16th, 2015 at the OSU Totusek Arena. We will keep the traditional "Big 3" day order with the Sheep Field Day being held on Tuesday, the Beef Field Day on Wednesday, and the Swine Field Day on Thursday. We will use the same scoring process as last year and will officially score every participant each day. You will not be required to post scores on the first two days.

Trophies will be presented to the first through third place teams in each division each day. Plaques will be presented to the top five individuals in each division each day. Team sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the junior and senior FFA teams. Plaques will be given

to the top two individuals in each division for sweepstakes. OSU ANSI "Big 3" Field Days' method for calculating overall team sweepstakes will be determined by simply adding each team's daily total (minus the low drop from each day). A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the senior sweepstakes winner in both of the 4-H and FFA divisions. The scholarship will be funded by Farm Credit in Enid.



Hires & Promotions

Ravirajsinh Jadeja

Assistant Professor & Food Safety Specialist



Dr. Ravirajsinh Jadeja joined OSU in January 2015 as our new Assistant Professor and Food Safety Specialist. Ravi received his Ph.D. in Food Science from Louisiana State University before joining the University of Georgia in 2011 as a Postdoctoral Researcher.

Ravi's office will be located in FAPC, where he will have a 70% teaching and 30% extension appointment in food safety. His academic appointment will be in the Department of Animal Science.

Ravirajsinh is married to Nilam Jadeja and they have one child, Aanya Jadeja, who is nine months old. Ravi enjoys hiking, camping, reading, and photography in his spare time. His goals are to teach food safety related courses, promote the food safety option and provide outreach and technical support to the Oklahoma Food Industry.

Carrie Doyle

Student Success Coordinator



Carrie Doyle joined our team in October of 2014 as the new Student Success Coordinator in the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University. Carrie is originally from Elgin, OK. Her family owns a ranch in southwest Oklahoma where they run recips for ranchers across the nation. They also have a small herd of horses. She enjoys rodeo and reading in her spare time.

Carrie graduated from Oklahoma State University's Department of Animal Science in 2013. She then went on to earn her M.S. in agriculture from West Texas A&M University.

Carrie spent part of her first week on the job at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY working with the CASNR Student Success Team to recruit students to OSU. Carrie wants to continue recruiting the nation's best and brightest students and expand the department's internship program.

"I'm incredibly excited to be a part of continuing the tradition of excellence in OSU's Animal Science Department," said Carrie. "As an alumnus, it's nice to be back home."

Ryan Reuter

Associate Professor (Range Beef Cattle Nutrition)



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ryan Reuter has joined the Department of Animal Science as an Associate Professor with an emphasis in Range Beef Cattle Nutrition. His appointment is split between research (0.70) and teaching (0.30).

Dr. Ryan Reuter received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in animal science from Oklahoma State University, and earned his Ph.D. in animal science from Texas Tech University. He worked at the Noble Foundation as a Post-doctoral Fellow and Livestock Consultant before becoming an Assistant Professor in 2009.

His current goal is to improve grazing management in Oklahoma. Ryan and his wife, Julie, have four children, Hadley, Mallie, Andi, and Orin.

Blake Wilson Promoted



Dr. Blake Wilson was promoted from Lecturer to Assistant Professor. His appointment will be split between teaching (0.75) and research (0.25). Blake grew up near Okemah, Oklahoma on his family's small diversified farm where they raised commercial cattle, harvested pecans, and maintained native grass meadows for hay production. He and his wife, Amanda, own goats, horses, a pet donkey, three dogs (Tilly, Doc, and Cinch), and a cat named Tiger.

His goals are to continue to serve this Department and educate the students of OSU while pursuing nutritional research that is both impactful to the producers of Oklahoma and beneficial to the overall beef industry and animal science in general.

Blake said, "My goal would be that the students I teach and advise and the producers and professional colleagues I interact with are able to better their individual situations as a result of my efforts. If I am successful in accomplishing this, then those I educate or impact through my research will go on to have personal and professional success, and I can think of no greater reward."

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Alumni

Frederick F. Drummond Joins Hall of Fame



Oklahoma State University recognized Animal Science alum Frederick F. Drummond for his outstanding lifetime achievements in society and professional life by inducting him into the OSU Hall of Fame on February 13th, 2015 at the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center. Induction into the OSU Hall of Fame is one of the greatest honors that OSU awards to alumni.

Drummond graduated from Oklahoma A&M College in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. Drummond had a career in banking for over fifty years and is currently an independent oil producer, as well as the owner and operator of the Fred. G. Drummond Ranches in Osage County. His family homestead began in the 1860's in the Pawhuska area.

Dr. Totusek: Legacy in Agriculture Award



On April 1st, Governor Mary Fallin presented the Legacy in Agriculture Award posthumously to Dr. Bob Totusek during a special ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry in Senate Assembly Room 535 at the Oklahoma state capitol building.

Dr. Bob Totusek promoted agriculture for over sixty-five years. He obtained his Ph.D. at Purdue University before joining the Animal Husbandry faculty at Oklahoma A&M College in 1952 where he served thirty-eight years. He served as Animal Science Department Head from 1976 until retiring in 1990.

He was passionate about his work and was often referred to as "Mr. Animal Science" or simply "Dr. Tot." Dr. Robert Totusek has been called the godfather of all things animal science in Oklahoma and across the country.

Though he achieved many honors and accomplishments throughout his life, nothing was more rewarding to him than the relationships he developed with students, farmers, and ranchers across the state. Bob once said, "It's a privilege for every faculty member to work for the people in Oklahoma, and to know what the problems are... and have a hand in solving those problems."

Asa Howard Passing



Long time Guymon resident Asa Howard passed away March 1st, 2015 after a brief illness. He was a 1961 OSU Animal Science graduate, as well as a Livestock Judging Team and Block & Bridle Club member. Asa, originally from Tulsa, was a life time member of OSU's Animal Science Alumni Association.

Survivors are his wife Nancy and two children, Asa Allan Howard, Lisa Brown and their families. Additionally, he is survived by a brother, Dr. Dan A. Howard, a sister, Sue Ann Howard, and their families.

Asa began his forty-three year career as a cattle buyer following graduation. He bought cattle in the Oklahoma City, Omaha, and Kansas City Stockyards before being transferred to Guymon by Wilson and Company in 1966. In 1970, he began a long career with National Beef Packing Company buying fat cattle at feedyards throughout the high plains. Asa gave credit to Dr. Bob Totusek for steering him in the right direction to succeed as a cattle buyer.

Asa was always involved in his community and was chosen as Guymon citizen of the year in 1977. He served on numerous committees at his church and was very active in Methodist Men. Asa enjoyed his time with grandchildren and was an avid hunter and sportsman.

Services were held March 5th, 2015 at the Victory Memorial United Methodist Church in Guymon. Graveside services were in Tulsa.

Kristi Bishop: Outstanding CASNR Staff



Animal Science alum Kristi Bishop won the 2015 Outstanding CASNR Staff Award at the CASNR Banquet on April 9th, 2015. Kristi is the Prospective Student Coordinator for CASNR. She helps students and prospective students with any questions they have regarding CASNR academics, residential life, scholarships, student involvement, and academic advising.

ASAA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 Banquet Awards

Congratulations to the following alumni who received awards at the 2015 Animal Science Banquet:

Tom Kisse and **Joe Popplewell** received the Graduate of Distinction Award.

Alejandro La Manna, **Marshall Streeter**, and **Gary Vogel** received the Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction Award.

Linda Cline received the Distinguished Service Award.

More information about the 2015 Banquet Awards will be provided in the 2016 Alumni Update.

2016 ASAA Gala Reunion Honorees

We will honor Dr. Mark Johnson and his livestock judging teams at our 2016 ASAA Gala Reunion on April 1st, 2016.

ASAA Needs Your E-mail

The Animal Science Alumni Association is currently seeking e-mail addresses for Animal Science Alumni. If you are an OSU Animal Science Alumni, please e-mail your information to Kim Brock at kim.brock@okstate.edu.

Job Positions Available

The Department of Animal Science currently has an Accountant II position and a Field Assistant/Equipment Operator Position available. If you are interested, please apply online at <https://okstate.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=8&c=okstate>.

Eng Symposium 2015

The Dr. Kenneth & Caroline McDonald Eng Foundation was established in 2011 by Kenneth in memory of his wife, Caroline, who loved life, cattle and cattle people, and to provide research money to universities to study cow/calf efficiency. Through development and adoption of technologies that reduce cost of feed, the long-term economic sustainability of the U.S. beef industry cow-calf sector will improve.

A symposium is held yearly as an outlet for universities to present new research findings. The research is being conducted through grants provided by the Dr. Kenneth & Caroline McDonald Eng Foundation. The research targets the improvements of beef cow efficiency and profitability by intensive and semi confined production systems.

This year's symposium will be held at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK on September 17th -18th, 2015. Attendees will include researchers, students and cattle producers alike. Visit <http://ansi.okstate.edu/eng-symposium> to learn more or to register.

Thank you!

To the following companies who are major sponsors of the Department of Animal Science.





DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE



Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Science newsletter, Cowpoke News! I hope you have enjoyed reading about the students, staff, and faculty.

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Rebekah Alford
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RM 204 Animal Science Bldg.
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Visit Our Campus

Interested in Oklahoma State University? Come visit our campus! Our university offers tours Monday through Saturday. You can choose from the following:

Group Campus Tours

Group campus tours are available to students in grades 9-12. You must have a least ten students for the group tour.

Self-Guided Tours

Unable to attend a scheduled tour? Choose a self-guided option that you can complete at your convenience.

Alumni Tours

Tours for alumni are offered each Friday at 2 p.m. by the OSU Alumni Association. You must preregister to attend.

View all tour options at <https://admissions.okstate.edu/visit>.

How To Apply

Want to be an OSU Cowboy? To apply, please go to <https://admissions.okstate.edu/apply>.

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