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News of the Department of Animal Science

Department of Animal Science
South Dakota State University

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Congratulations

Graduate student Janna Kincheloe presented a seminar entitled, “Influence of maternal protein restriction in primiparous heifers during mid- and/or late gestation on dam performance and progeny growth, carcass characteristics, and gene expression” prior to her successful Ph.D. dissertation defense November 17. Janna studied under the direction of Dr. Ken Olson.

Prior to her successful Ph.D. dissertation defense, Agatha Ampaire presented a seminar December 8 in the Wahlstrom Room. The title of her presentation was “Effects of phase feeding during gestation on gilt performance, piglet quality and robustness”. Agatha studied under the direction of Dr. Crystal Levesque.

Dr. Crystal Levesque is one of nine scientists nationwide to receive the inaugural New Innovator in Food Agriculture and Research Award from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. The New Innovator grants, awarded to faculty in the first three years of their career, support creative, potentially transformative research projects that address today’s food and agriculture challenges. Dr. Levesque will evaluate the dietary requirements of pregnant sows to develop precision feeding recommendations through the five-year grant, which includes an institutional match. Her research builds upon a pilot study in which altering the feed formulation for sows in late pregnancy, known as phase feeding, improved the health of the piglets. “Precision feeding means meeting the changing nutritional needs of gestating and lactating sows,” Levesque explained. Though extensive work has been done to optimize feed for growing and finishing pigs, much less research has been done regarding sows. “Unlike growing pigs, sows get used multiple times,” she pointed out. The new SDSU Swine Education and Research Facility provides the researchers access to 150 gilts, which they can follow through their second and third pregnancies. Three master’s degree and two doctoral students will work on the five-year project.
Rebecca Bott and Kyle Knutson were married on December 17 at McCrory Gardens. A reception was held in the same location later that evening. Photo by Rae Studio

Haley Jo Schell was born January 23 to Carrie and Kyle Schell, former Range Management Outreach Coordinator. She weighed 6 lbs 9.5 oz and was 18.5 inches long. She joins brother Jacob at home in Wall, SD.

The South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council honored Dr. Bob Thaler with its Excellence in Agriculture Award on December 7th at their annual awards banquet. This is awarded to someone who has made significant contributions to the agricultural industry.

Dr. Bob Thaler received the South Dakota Pork Producers Friend of the Industry Award during the Master Pork Producers Banquet held in Sioux Falls January 11. The award recognizes individuals or businesses for continued support of the pork industry. Dr. Thaler has served as SDSU Extension Swine Specialist for 28 years and credits Dr. Rick Wahlstrom’s influence on him in choosing the swine specialty.

Farewell
An open house farewell for Joshua Cribbs was held Tuesday, December 6, in the Wahlstrom Room. He has accepted a position with the American Maine-Anjou Association as the Director of Commercial Development. Thank you, Josh, for all you’ve accomplished in undergraduate teaching and coaching the Livestock Judging Team. We wish Josh, Abbie and Jesse all the best.

Welcome
We welcome Dr. Ryan Samuel who joined our faculty January 23 as an Assistant Professor of Swine Nutrition. He received a Ph.D. in Animal Science from the University of Alberta; M.S. in Animal Science from the University Alberta and B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Prince Edward Island. Most recently he was employed as a Research Manager for Alltech in Nicholasville, KY.

Emily Secrest began work January 17 as a Research Assistant in the Rumen Microbiology Lab. She currently lives in Sioux Falls and is a native of Alaska.
Livestock Judging Team

The fall of 2016 was filled with much success for South Dakota State’s Livestock Judging Team, beginning with the National Barrow Show in Austin, MN where the team finished 7th overall, with John Bray as 4th high individual. Following this the team travelled to Omaha, NE to compete at AK-SAR-BEN Livestock Judging Contest where the team was awarded 4th in cattle, sheep and goats, reasons, and 4th overall as a team. John Bray was in the top ten for Sheep and Goats as an individual. With a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication, the team made a strong showing at the American Royal in Kansas City. Among the many awards: a 5th place finish in reasons, 4th place in cattle, and high team in swine. Individual awards went to Tony Munsterteiger with a 3rd place finish in swine, Wyatt Smith was 7th in reasons and 7th high individual, and Kelly Morrison finished 6th in cattle, 3rd in reasons and 6th overall as an individual. All of this resulted in a 4th place finish overall as a team. The team rounded out an extremely successful season at the North American where as a group they were high team in swine reasons and 9th overall. Lindsay Utter was 8th in cattle and high individual in reasons. Pictured above is the 2016 Senior Livestock Judging Team, standing, L to R: Coach Joshua Cribbs; Assistant Coach Grady Ruble; Merrit O’Connor, Paxton, NE; Dallis VanderWal, Volga, SD; Nick Delaney, Lake Benton, MN; Justin Murray, Buffalo Center, IA. Seated, L to R: John Bray, Lawsonville, NC; Kelly Morrison, Belle Plaine, MN; Wyatt Smith, Adair, OK; Lindsay Utter, Wheatland, WY; Tony Munsterteiger, Ogilvie, MN.

The 2017 Junior Livestock Judging team started out the year with a 10th place finish at the Griswold Cattle judging contest. Pictured above left to right: Coach Grady Ruble, Cade Opheim, Mound City, SD; Collin Geppert, Kimball, SD; Halley Becking, Florence, SD; Andrew Berg, Pipestone, MN; Kyler Johnson, Baltic, SD; Dalton Vroman, Marshal, MN; Riley Ruble, Albert Lea, MN; Nolan Hohenstein, Lakefield, MN; Sterling Kappes, Aberdeen, SD; Maria Weber, Lake Benton, MN; Austin Rohrs, Granville, IA; Carlie Jackson, Sanborn, MN; Wyatt Smith, Adair, OK (Assistant Coach/ Cameraman).
The team recently competed at the 2017 National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO finishing 11th in the Hill contest and 3rd in the Carload contest. Individual awards were earned by Sterling Kappes (8th) and Andrew Berg (9th) in the Carload contest.

**Wool Judging Team**

The SDSU Wool Judging Team had their first competition in Belle Fourche, SD December 6. In January they competed at the 2017 National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. Pictured standing L to R: Ann Kolthoff, Sheep Unit Manager; Justin Ringkob, Lake City, SD; Morgan Busack, Echo, MN; Coach Dani Evers, Hawarden, IA; Dr. Joe Cassady, Animal Science Department Head. Seated L to R: Brooke Hendrickx, New York Mills, MN; Addison Magill, Verona, ND; Logan Ellingson, Stratford, SD; Molly Krueger, Lennox, SD. At the National Western Stock Show the team was 3rd overall. Brooke Hendrickx was 1st in placings, Molly Krueger was 4th in placings. Addison Magill was 4th in reasons. Justin Ringkob placed 4th in the alternate contest while Brooke Hendrickx was 6th overall and Addison Magill was 8th overall. In the hand spinning contest, the team was 2nd overall. Molly Krueger was high individual, Brooke Hendrickx placed 8th, Justin Ringkob was 9th and Morgan Busack was 10th.

**Meat Judging Team**

Congratulations to the SDSU Meats Judging team as they received 5th team overall at the 2017 National Western Stock Show. They also were 2nd in placings, 3rd in lamb judging. Pictured back row L to R: Kathryn Haeska, Lake City, MN; Erin Gubbels, Laurel, NE; Paige Binger, Redfield, SD; Shaye Jungwirth, Hoven, SD; Coach Christina Fehrman. Front row L to R: Bailey McConnell, Balaton, MN; Cassidy Wulf, Nogales, AZ; Sydney Sleep, Spearfish, SD, Kiera Leddy, Stockholm, SD. They will be competing next at the Fort Worth Stock Show.
Rodeo Team

Pictured below is Ag Education Major Jacey Hupp from Huron, SD placing 3rd overall in goat tying at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, June 2016. The rodeo team ended its five rodeo fall season in Fargo, ND on October 22nd. The SDSU Rodeo women’s team is currently ranked 2nd nationally and 2nd in the Great Plains Region. The SDSU Rodeo men’s team is 7th in the region. During the offseason, the Rodeo Club will be focusing on fundraising and rodeo team clothing sales. They will also be preparing for the “Buckles and Bling” rodeo team fundraiser April 6th, followed by the Jackrabbit Stampede home rodeo April 7th and 8th. The Jackrabbit Stampede has been voted the Great Plains Region “Rodeo of the Year” six of the last seven years with 4800 tickets sold in 2016.

Shearing School 2016

Dr. Jeff Held and Sheep Unit Manager Ann Kolthoff hosted the SDSU Sheep Shearing School December 7-9 at the SDSU Sheep Unit. There were more than a dozen participants who attended from SD, MN, ND and NE. Topics covered included professional shearing techniques, equipment maintenance and repair, wool handling and preparation. SD Extension has partnered with the SD Sheep Growers Association for more than 25 years to offer this nationally recognized shearer program facilitated by the American Sheep Industry Association – Wool Council to serve the needs of the U.S. sheep industry.

Little I 2017 “The Best in the MidWest”

The 94th Little International will be held in the Animal Science arena on March 31 and April 1st. Livestock shows and contests will be ongoing throughout both days, with evening performances beginning at 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. On Saturday afternoon there will be an alumnus social from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Animal Science Complex.
Holiday Celebrations

In December the Swine Club entered a decorated tree in the Festival of Trees competition held in the Student Union. The tree was awarded the Best Showcase of Department and Organization! The club meets once a month to listen to speakers, learn more about the swine industry, share scholarship opportunities and plan upcoming events.

The annual Christmas potluck was held December 9 in the Brookings Activity Center. The event was organized this year by the Social Committee consisting of Drs. Julie Walker, Crystal Levesque, Tofuko Woyengo as well as Chelsea Sorensen and Judy Carlson. Following the meal, Santa and his Elf came with gifts for the children. Department Head Joe Cassady received a surprise package from Santa. Children enjoyed decorating gingerbread houses provided by Crystal Levesque. The evening concluded with a gift exchange assisted by Julie Walker reading the Wright Christmas story which included the words “left”, “right”, “across”. A large circle of participants passed gifts as instructed and were allowed to keep their gift at the end. The evening was a success and a good time was had by all!

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Submitted by Carol Kleinjan, Editor