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ANIMAL SCIENCE NEWS



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Animal Science

THOUGHTS FROM DR. JOHN JAEGER



Greetings from the Animal Science Department. Even though February began with mild temperatures and a sense of spring, South Dakota reminded me with 5 inches of snow that I have moved north. Now in later March snow is again in the forecast. Spring comes much later in northern latitudes similar to where I grew up in Oregon. However, there are other signs of spring on campus with the new calves at the Cow-Calf Extension and Research Facility and new lambs at the Sheep Unit. To celebrate the promise of spring and showcase current research efforts, the Animal Science Department hosted an open house at the Sheep Unit, on Saturday, March 16th. There were research posters, undergraduate and graduate student researchers, faculty, and staff present. Pulled lamb sandwiches, beans, and SDSU ice cream were provided for lunch. I would like to thank the representatives from the SD Sheep Growers Association for providing the pulled lamb and helping to serve. I was pleasantly surprised at the large turnout and getting to know several sheep producers from many areas of the state. I look forward to expanding the open house next year to include results of ongoing research projects.

After more than 26 years of service to the Animal Science Department, Dr. Jeff Clapper retired at the end of February. Dr. Clapper taught undergraduate reproduction courses and conducted swine reproduction research throughout his career at SDSU. Although we wish him all the best in his retirement, his wisdom and humor will be missed.

I am proud to share the recent successes of a couple of our judging teams. In January, our Livestock Judging Team placed 10th overall, 7th in cattle, 7th in goats, 7th in reasons, and 10th in swine at the National Western Stock Show. At the end of January, our Wool Judging Team was the 2024 Champion Team Overall at the Black Hills Stock Show. Recently our academic quadrathlon team finished 3rd in the quiz bowl and 4th overall at the Midwest American Society of Animal Science Meeting in Madison,

Wisconsin. Also, ruminant nutrition graduate student Cassidy Ross placed 3rd in the M.S. oral presentation contest at the Midwest meeting.

It is hard to believe that commencement is only slightly over a month away. It has been a joy to get to know our amazing faculty and interact with our energetic and ambitious students. As we prepare to complete this academic year, I reflect on the number of wonderful producers, stakeholders, and alumni I have met. I'm thankful for the welcome to South Dakota and shared insights that have helped me to adapt to my new role as department head.

Happy Spring and best wishes for great spring calving and lambing seasons! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 101st Little I on April 5 & 6. We look forward to seeing you!

Ears Up!

Dr. John Jaeger
Head, Department of Animal Science

SDSU JUDGING TEAMS

SDSU Wool Judging Team

The Wool Judging Team was ranked the **2024 Champion Team Overall** at the Black Hills Stock Show contest in Rapid City, SD!

The Wool Judging Team also competed in the 7220 Contest hosted by the University of Wyoming at Laramie, and the National Western Contest in Denver, CO.

Please click on the link below to view additional team and individual results.



SDSU Wool Judging Team (L to R):

Emily Nold (assistant coach), John Boerboom, Amelie Blakely, Lindsey Schmoll, Lilly Langer, Lexi Gloege, Bradyn Lachenmeier, Rosie Nold (coach).

Not pictured: Assistant coaches: Clay Schoen and Blake Johnson.

Team and Individual Results

SDSU Livestock Judging Team

The 2023 SDSU Livestock Judging Team completed a tremendous run and recently finished the year at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. Over the past year, the team competed in multiple shows including: The National Barrow Show in Austin, MN; Aksarben in Grand Island, NE; The World Beef Expo in

Milwaukee, WI; Tulsa State Fair in Tulsa, OK; and the Mid-American Expo in Hutchinson, KS.

The SDSU Livestock Judging Team would like to give a big thank you to the Animal Science Department, SDSU, alumni, stakeholders, workout hosts, and parents of the team for their continued support.

Please click on the Facebook icon to learn more about this team, their competitions for the past season, and individual results for the meets.



2023 Livestock Team Members (L to R):

Hunter Miller, Estelline, SD

Bradyn Lachenmeier, Tappen, ND

Logan Schlim, Carthage, SD

Emma Richardson, Capron, IL

Dani Warner, Worland, WY

Sarah Sergeant, Lebo, KS

Jennifer Hoelscher, Eden, NY

Tommy Norman - Head Coach

Not Pictured: Grace Olinger - Graduate

Assistant Coach



SDSU Meat Judging Team

The 2023 Meat Judging team finished their season in December. The team competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO; Iowa State University Invitational contest in Ames, IA; National Barrow Show in Austin, MN; the Southeastern contest at OSU in Columbus, OH; and the American Royal in Omaha NE. The international contest the team attended was The High Plains contest, located in Dakota City, NE.

Congratulations to these students and their achievements. This knowledge will help them in their futures in the livestock and meat industry.

Please click on the Facebook icon below for more information about this team.



2023 Meat Judging Team (L to R):

Dr. Keith Underwood

Jaylynn Frandrup of Hastings, MN

Ty Skartvedt of Radcliffe, IA

Teigen Hadrick of Faulkton, SD

Emmett Whempner of Wilmot, SD

Cheyenne Hulstein of Chandler, MN
Bergin DeBruin, SDSU Meat Science
graduate student, coached the team.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Academic Quadrathlon

The SDSU Department of Animal Science held their local academic quadrathlon on February 21st and 22nd. This year, eighteen teams of four students each participated in four competitions. The first competition involved a lab practical, which consisted of teams rotating through meats, laboratory, beef cattle, dairy cattle, horse, reproductive physiology, sheep, companion animal, swine, and poultry lab stations. The activities at each of the lab stations varied but focused on applying the participant's animal science knowledge to animal production. For the second competition, teams worked together to complete a written exam, answering animal science discipline-specific questions on breeding and genetics, reproductive physiology, nutrition, meat science, growth and development, and animal species. In the third competition, teams were given 30 minutes to prepare a 5-7 minute oral presentation on a current issue in animal agriculture. The quiz bowl was the fourth competition. Teams were challenged in a double elimination tournament to determine who could answer the most animal science questions correctly in the fastest amount of time. (If you've never seen quiz bowl, think "Jeopardy" but with teams competing instead of individuals.)

Congratulations to the top three teams!



1st Place Winners pictured (L to R):

Hadley Stiefvater, Bruce Van De Stroet, Zach Schoelerman, and Robert Feiock.



2nd Place Winners pictured (L to R):

Cante Skuya Lonehill, Rachel Coudron, Grace Klumper, and Alyssa Launsbach.



3rd Place Winners pictured (L to R):

Teigen Hadrick, Chloe Risse, Kallista Roers, and Isaac Berg.

4th Place Overall at ASAS Midwest Quadrathlon

Earlier this month, representing SDSU, Alyssa Launsbach, Grace Klumper, Rachel Coudron and Cante Skuya Lonehill went on to compete in the American Society of Animal Science Midwest Quadrathlon in Madison, WI. Congratulations to this team for placing 3rd in the quiz bowl portion of the Quadrathlon and finishing 4th overall in the competition!



2024 SD Master Pork Producers Association Scholarship Recipients

The South Dakota Master Pork Producers Association (SDMPP) awarded SDSU students each a \$1,000 scholarship at the South Dakota Pork Producers Annual Convention in January. The SD Master Pork Producers Association is made up of allied industry partners and SDSU Extension.



Pictured (L to R):

Mark Vanderwerf (SDMPP), Corbin Fuoss, Brynn Lozinski, Autumn Kramer, and Revin Bruck.

Congratulations to all four of the scholarship recipients!

- **Corbin Fuoss** is from Armour, SD. He is a junior majoring in Agronomy. His future plans are to return to the family farm upon graduation and continue to work in all aspects of the operation.
- **Brynn Lozinski** is from Clara City, MN. She is majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Meat Science as well as a certificate in Swine Science. Her future plans consist of finishing her undergraduate degree; however, she will be done with school early so she is unsure if she wants to enter the workforce or attend graduate school, but either way it will be swine-based.
- **Autumn Kramer** is from Kindred, ND. She is majoring in Animal Science on the Pre-Vet track. Her future plans include pursuing a career in Small Animal Veterinary Medicine.
- **Revin Bruck** is from Southwestern Iowa where his family owns and operates a cow-calf herd as well as farms a modest amount of row crops. He is a freshman majoring in Animal Science with a Production Management Specialization. Revin's plans upon graduation are to travel the country working at assorted livestock

production facilities that are able to teach him more. After he is done exploring, Revin plans to buy land and start farming with the knowledge that he gained.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Celebration of Faculty Excellence

Three Animal Science faculty members were recognized at the annual South Dakota State University Celebration of Faculty Excellence. The event honors faculty members in the university's colleges for outstanding research, teaching and service.



Dr. Ken Olson, professor and Extension beef specialist received the **F.O. Butler Award for Excellence in Extension/Outreach**. Dr. Olson is pictured here with the Animal Science Department Head, Dr. John Jaeger.



Dr. Michael Gonda, professor received the **F.O. Butler Award for Excellence in Teaching**. Dr. Gonda is being presented his award by SDSU President Barry Dunn



Dr. Amanda Blair, professor in the West River Agricultural Center, delivered the **Sewrey lecture on Research and Scholarship**. Sewrey lectures help raise awareness and show scholarship in the categories of research and scholarship, creative and fine arts, teaching and learning, and service.

Congratulations to **Jameson Brennan**, Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Livestock Grazing Specialist, and **Patricia Johnson**, SDSU Professor Emerita of

Range Science, for receiving awards from the Society for Range Management!

Congratulations!

Jameson Brennan

2024 Society for
Range Management
Outstanding Young
Range Professional
Award



Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension
Livestock Grazing Specialist



Congratulations!

Patricia Johnson

2024 Society for
Range Management
Sustained Lifetime
Achievement Award



SDSU Professor Emerita of
Range Science



[Read More](#)

Dr. Bob Thaler has served SDSU and our state for more than 35 years. The distinguished professor and SDSU Extension swine specialist values people, and connecting with students, faculty and producers. He is passionate about animal science, the agriculture industry and study abroad experiences. He has traveled abroad multiple times, helping students discover themselves and getting them to think outside the box.



Click on the image above to hear Dr. Bob Thaler in his own words.

Dr. Jeffrey Clapper Retires



Dr. Jeffrey Clapper with Dean Joe Cassady



Dr. Jeffrey Clapper was awarded the "Coveted SILVER SOW Award" at his retirement party.

The SDSU Animal Science Department said goodbye to Dr. Jeffrey Clapper as he retired after nearly 27 years. He started his SDSU career as a Swine Extension Specialist for 3 years before he transitioned to a teaching and research position.

Dr. Clapper has enjoyed working with many undergraduate and graduate students. He has mentored 9 master's students and one Ph.D. candidate.

Dr. Clapper's favorite memory while at SDSU was when the new Swine Unit opened in 2016. He is excited to see that it is currently booked for experiments for the next 2 years!

When asked what his best advice for students is, he answered "Don't be afraid to talk to your professors. They don't know you have a problem until you tell them." Also, "Don't be afraid to fail. That's science, and it's how you learn."

Dr. Clapper is looking forward to getting back to his hobbies, such as hunting and fishing, in his retirement.

All of us here in the Animal Science Department wish Dr. Jeffrey Clapper well in the next chapter of his life!

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29-April 1, 2024

Easter Break

April 5-6, 2024

Little International

Animal Science Arena

April 11, 2024

Buckles & Bling, SDSU Rodeo Fundraiser
Dana J. Dykhouse Football Stadium

April 12, 2024

Bull Sale
Cow/Calf Unit

April 12-13, 2024

Jackrabbit Stampede
Dakotah Bank Center

April 18-20, 2024

State FFA Convention
Dakotah Bank Center

May 4, 2024

SDSU Graduation
Dakotah Bank Center

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