



ALUMNI CONNECTION

Fall 2005 Volume 1, Issue 1

University of Georgia Animal & Dairy Science Department 425 River Road Athens, GA 30602

Special Interest Articles

- Outstanding Seniors p 2
- Livestock Instructional Arena p 3
- Jr. Livestock Programs p 6
- Where are they now? p 7



Greetings to our Alumni and Friends...

Welcome to our first Animal and Dairy Science Alumni Newsletter. My name is Steve Nickerson, and I have been the Department Head for almost a year now. I am enjoying my new role here in Athens and thought I'd take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself.

I was raised in Massachusetts, where my grandfather operated a small dairy and where I got my start in animal agriculture. I attended the University of Maine and received a B.S. in Animal and Pre-Veterinary Sciences. For graduate school, I headed south and enrolled in Virginia Tech, where I received a Masters followed by a Ph.D. degree in Animal and Dairy Science.

I was employed as a post doctoral associate at Purdue as well as at the USDA in Beltsville, MD, and finally accepted a position at LSU, where I served as Director of the Mastitis Research Laboratory. I also served as Assistant Director of LSU's Hill Farm Research Station. After 20 years with LSU, I took a position with Virginia Tech as Head of the Dairy Science Department and Director of the 2-year Ag. Tech Program. In the spring of 2004, I was invited to interview for Head of the Animal and Dairy Science Department at UGA, and the rest is history.

Our goal is to make the Animal and Dairy Science Department the best of its kind. To accomplish this, we envision several new directions for our program. For example, we want to recruit more students into our Department to train them for careers in food animal production, veterinary medicine, biotechnology, agricultural education, etc.

To accomplish this, I have appointed a Recruiting Committee to help us reach our short-term goal of 200 students. We also plan to hire an instructor/coach to recruit and field a Livestock Judging Team next year, which should also help increase student numbers. Our Dairy Judging Team performed extremely well last year, and our Horse and our Meats Judging Teams promise to be as successful.

We also want to accommodate our pre-veterinary students interested in small animal medicine and will increase our course offerings in the companion animal area. Likewise, with the growing number of students interested in the horse industry, our future faculty hire in this area will broaden our course offerings to include classes in horsemanship, equitation, and exercise physiology. We also plan to partner to a greater degree with the UGA School of Veterinary Medicine, since we are both educating students in the areas of food animal production and companion animals. This partnership will involve the team teaching of classes, as well as collaboration in joint research projects and extension programming.

Additionally, we are adding two new faculty positions to our program, and are currently completing the interview process for an Animal Physiologist and an Equine Specialist.

Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter and feel free to comment on its contents and to make suggestions on subject areas for future issues. I can be contacted at the address at the top of page 1. We would be happy to hear about your activities as alumni of our Department and look forward to hearing from you.

Individual Highlights

- New ADS Home p 2
- Dairy Judging Team p 3
- ADS Faculty Roll Call:
 - Beef p 4
 - Dairy p 5
- B&B Club p 6
- Thank You! p 8

New Home for Animal & Dairy Science

"This is truly one of the most advanced facilities in the country..."



On May 22, 1996, faculty, staff, students, friends, and dignitaries participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Animal and Dairy Science Complex, which now houses the Animal and Dairy Science Department.

The location could not have been more appropriate beautiful farmland adjacent to the former Four Towers Building, which once housed the UGA dairy.

On February 6, 1999, formal dedication ceremonies were held for the Center, which was then completed and occupied.

Later, on June 18, 2002, a dedication ceremony was held for the renaming of the facility to The Edgar L. Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science in recognition of Mr. Rhodes, a University System Board of Regents Member, who worked tirelessly to acquire

funding for the \$31 million dollar complex.

The result of these efforts is one of the country's most advanced research facilities aimed at improving the production and economic value of farm animals.

Within its 135,000 square foot premises are state-of-the-art laboratories, a Meat Science and Technology Center, which is the best facility of its kind east of the Mississippi,

including a processing plant and retail space, a Large Animal Research Unit providing livestock holding and surgical areas, an outstanding teaching facility to include a 150-seat auditorium and computer laboratory, and offices for 4-H and extension programs.

We welcome a visit from you. If you will call or contact us ahead of time, we'll arrange a tour to show off our new home!

Outstanding Seniors

Our 2005 Outstanding Dairy Science Senior, Jennifer Hagen, a native of Atlanta, GA, graduated in May, 2005 with a co-major of Biological Science and Animal and Dairy Science. While enrolled in our program, she was an active member of the Dairy Science Club, Dairy Judging Team, and the Block and Bridle Club. She was a member of Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority, Alpha Zeta, Blue Key, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Jennifer is currently engaged in an internship with a dairy research program at the Minor Institute in New York. Her goal is to attend vet school.



Jennifer Receiving Award at May Student Awards Banquet
L-R: Dr. Bill Graves, Jennifer, Dr. Mark Froetschel

Our 2005 Outstanding Animal Science Senior, Cayce Teem, a native of Ringgold, GA, will receive her B.S. in Animal and Dairy Science and Biological Science in December 2005.

While enrolled in our program, she has represented agriculture as a College Agricultural Ambassador. Cayce has also been active with the UGA Pre-Vet Club, Block and Bridle Club, and Sigma Alpha. Her goal is to attend vet school.



Cayce Receiving Award at May Student Awards Banquet
L-R: Dr. Dean Pringle, Cayce

Livestock Instructional Arena Now a Part of ADS Program

The Animal and Dairy Science Livestock Instructional Arena is a key component of the Department's educational programs for undergraduate students, Georgia's 4-H, vocational agriculture youth, and adult education participants. Funded by the Georgia Legislature in 1999 at \$4.9 million, the Arena was designed by Carter/Watkins Associates of Monroe and built by Piedmont Construction Group, L.L.C. of Atlanta. The Arena covers 70,000 square feet and features a 380-seat conditioned arena, a larger open-sided covered arena, a classroom with adjacent kitchen/concession facilities, and numerous support facilities. Excellent animal holding and handling/restraint facilities are included. Located on South Milledge Avenue near its intersection with Whitehall Road, only two miles from East Campus, this facility is ideally located and designed for classes and laboratory sessions where a combination of hands-on animal activities and a lecture/test taking

environment is needed. The Department's Equine Program and UGA's highly successful Equestrian Team also make good use of this facility. This space is extremely functional for judging team competitions, livestock shows, large seminars, workshops and field days. If you have interest in booking the Arena for a similar activity or would like a tour, please contact Dr. Charles McPeake at cmcpeake@uga.edu or 706/542-6627.



2004: Banner Year for Dawgs Dairy Judging Team!

After a disappointing start with the cancellation of the Pennsylvania contest due to hurricane Ivan, coaches Dr. Bill Graves and Jillian Fain led the Dairy Judging Team through a record breaking year for UGA.

In late September, the team competed in the Judging Contest at the World Dairy Expo where 25 teams competed. Awards received included 3rd High Team Judging Jersey Cattle, 5th High Team Linear Evaluation, 8th High Individual Linear Evaluation - Brian Edger, and 11th High Individual Judging Milking Shorthorn Cattle - Tara Klewein.

This team, which included Brian Edger, Jennifer Hagen, Joan Jackson, Tara Klewein and Daniel Williams placed higher than any UGA team participating in Madison over the past 23 years!

The following weekend the team traveled to the Mid-South Fair Judging Contest in Memphis, Tennessee, where awards included: 1st place team judging Holstein cattle, 2nd high team in oral reasons, 3rd high team overall, 2nd high individual overall - Joan Jackson, and 3rd high Individual overall - Brian Edger.

In November, the team traveled to Louisville where they competed in the North American International Livestock Exposition Judging Contest.

The 2004 contest was host to 18 teams. UGA ranked 11th in the contest, falling short of 10th place by a mere 3 points ... rising above teams in this competition that UGA has never before outscored.

Thanks to everyone for your support of the 2004 UGA Dairy Judging Team! An additional thank you goes out to Lee and Curtis Strange, Joseph Pritchett, David Moss and Bobby Smith for their help with practices.



L-R: Daniel Williams, Tara Klewein, Joan Jackson, Jillian Fain, Jennifer Hagen, and Brian Edger

Watch for future articles on the Dairy and other ADS judging teams!



FOCUS ON ...

BEEF SCIENCE
FACULTY

Please feel free to contact anyone whom you feel may be of assistance to you.

ADS Faculty Roll Call



J. Keith Bertrand. Teaches and conducts research in animal breeding and genetics, including the application of mixed model methodology in livestock selection and crossbreeding programs. 706/542-0964, jkbert@uga.edu



Susan K. Duckett. Intergrates nutrition and meat science to improve the quality, cutability, palatability, and consumer acceptability of livestock products. 706/542-0942, sduckett@uga.edu



Gary M. Hill. Conducts beef cattle and forage research, including hay, by-product, vitamin, and grain intake studies, as well as feedlot, digestibility and carcass quality experiments. 229/386-3215, ghill@uga.edu



T. Dean Pringle. Focuses on muscle growth and meat quality attributes of beef products, as well as on the use of ultrasound to improve beef value. Also serves as Undergraduate Coordinator. 706/542-0997, dpringle@uga.edu



Romdhane Rekaya. Research interests include quantitative genetics, statistical genomics, and bioinformatics. 706/542-0949, rrekaya@uga.edu



Johnny Rossi. Evaluates bull and replacement heifer growth and reproductive performance through the bull test and HERD Programs. 229/386-3870, jrossi@uga.edu



Ronnie Silcox. Coordinates junior livestock activities in Animal & Dairy Science and works with beef cattle programs. Also teaches Beef Cattle Production and Animal Science Orientation. 706/542-9102, rsilcox@uga.edu



Robert L. Stewart. Activities include beef cattle management, nutrition, Georgia Beef Challenge and HERD Program. Serves as Coordinator for Animal & Dairy Science Extension Programs. 706/542-2581, rstewart@uga.edu



Tim Wilson. Supports all areas of beef cattle production with emphasis on reproductive physiology, estrus synchronization, and heifer development. 912/681-5639, twilson@uga.edu



FOCUS ON ...

DAIRY SCIENCE
FACULTY

Please feel free to contact anyone whom you feel may be of assistance to you.

ADS Faculty Roll Call



John K. Bernard. Conducts research on ruminant nutrition with emphasis on the utilization of forage and byproduct feeds, and on cow comfort focusing on bedding materials and cooling systems. 229/386-3364, jbernard@uga.edu



Lane O. Ely. Research and extension activities include nutrition, dairy cattle management, forages and financial management. Classes include Dairy Production and Lactation. 706/542-9107, laneely@uga.edu



Mark A. Froetschel. Teaches and conducts research in digestive physiology, nutrition and intake regulation. Also serves as Graduate Coordinator for the ADS Program. 706/542-0985, markf@uga.edu



Warren D. Gilson. Activities include milk quality, mastitis milking management, and DHIA. Also serves as coordinator for dairy youth programs. 706/542-9105, wgilson@uga.edu



William Graves. Teaching and extension activities include reproductive physiology and dairy management. Serves as faculty advisor to Dairy Judging Team. 706/542-9106, graves@uga.edu



Ignacy Misztal. Teaches and conducts research in breeding and genetics with emphasis on genetic evaluation and computing. 706/542-0951, ignacy@uga.edu

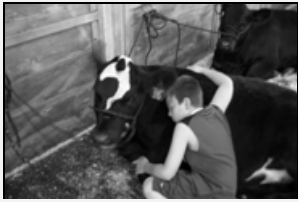


Stephen C Nickerson. Research and extension interests include quality milk production and the control of mastitis through use of teat germicides, vaccination, and antibiotics. 706/542-6259, scn@uga.edu



Joe W. West. Research and extension activities focus on the nutrition of the lactating dairy cow with emphasis on the nutrition and management of dairy cows during heat-stress conditions. 229/386-3216, joewest@uga.edu

Our next edition of Faculty Roll Call will focus on staff with expertise in equine, swine, aquaculture, and biotechnology.



**Join Us At The
Georgia National
Fair In October
&
At The
Georgia National
Stock Show
In February!**

Junior Livestock Programs Going Strong

Many of you reading this newsletter were 4-H or FFA members and can well remember dragging a steer or driving a hog into a show ring. Rest assured those programs are alive and well and continuing to provide educational opportunities for young people.

Each year over 4,000 head of livestock are entered as State 4-H and FFA junior livestock projects. In 2005, there were 300 commercial dairy heifers, 95 breeding ewes, 898 beef heifers, 2,014 market hogs, 413 steers and 531 market lambs entered. There were 2,493 4-H and FFA exhibitors who participated in these projects.

You can find a lot of good livestock and some great young people in Perry at the Georgia National Fair on October 7th-8th. Also, the Georgia National Stock Show will be held on February 22-26, 2006, also at Perry, and will feature commercial dairy heifer, beef heifer, steer, market hog and breeding ewe shows.

These shows provide excellent opportunities for our youth to showcase their hard work. We would love to see you there.

Block and Bridle Club ...

The Tradition Continues



2005 B&B Club Members At The Pit

The 2004-05 academic year proved to be another busy one for the eighty members of the UGA Block and Bridle Club. The Club continues to meet at "The Pit" for social events and conducts a number of service projects in the greater Northeast Georgia community.

The Club has been successful in attracting members from not only the Animal and Dairy Science Department and South Campus but from other areas of the UGA campus as well.

The Block and Bridle Club continues the tradition of hosting the Little International Livestock Show where students get to try their hand at

fitting and showing breeding ewes, horses, beef heifers, and dairy heifers. The 83rd annual "Little I" will be held November 5th.

The Club recently sponsored the 2005 B&B Lamb Show at our Livestock Instructional Arena with almost 300 entries. The competition attracted 4-H and FFA members from all over the state. It certainly was the place to recruit future animal and dairy science industry leaders.

The Great Southland Stampede Rodeo has experienced a number of bumps in the road in recent years, but the Club has been determined to carry on with this 31-year-old tradition. Many of you are aware that the Coliseum is no longer available as a venue site for this event. Finding a suitable, alternate location has proven to be a difficult task! The Club has moved this professional rodeo to Oconee County Heritage Park (approximately 20 miles from the UGA campus) for the past two years and has worked extremely hard to ensure the success of this event.

Please watch for 2006 Rodeo dates and other B&B activities in future newsletters.

Where are they now? A faculty profile...

Today, **Bob Lowrey** quietly enjoys his morning coffee while reading his newspaper. A typical day might involve working in his garden, entertaining four grandchildren or volunteering at the UGA Ag Alumni Office or his church.

This was certainly not always the case. For almost four decades, Bob Lowrey awoke and hurriedly readied himself for early arrival at the UGA Campus.

Dr. Lowrey began his career with UGA at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, GA. From 1964 until the end of 1969, he worked with legendary plant breeder Dr. Glenn Burton on the screening and selection of hybrid bermudagrasses.

However, he quickly learned that it was the teaching aspect of his research that gave him the most satisfaction. "The best part was explaining how the research results directly benefited the cattlemen of Georgia," he said.

When he came to the Athens campus, Dr. Lowrey combined his practical, forage-based research with teaching until 1990, when he concentrated exclusively on teaching and served as Undergraduate Coordinator for the Animal and Dairy Science Department.

Dr. Lowrey received rave reviews from students enrolled in his classes and even higher marks from young people who flocked to his office for not only academic advisement but for advice on financial aid, job searches, or personal matters.

Veteran Lowndes County Extension Coordinator Mickey Fourakers shared the following: "The summer I finished at ABAC, I wrote Dr. Lowrey a handwritten letter — I mean I scratched it out. I told him I was coming to UGA in the fall and was going to major in Animal Science. I also told him I was getting married and would welcome any help he could give me finding a job or getting a scholarship."

Mickey emphasizes, "This was in the middle of summer. Most people would have thrown that letter in the trash". Instead, Dr. Lowrey found Mickey a job in the meat lab and secured him a Moorman's scholarship. Mickey went on to complete his undergraduate and Master's degree under Dr. Lowrey's direction.

Mickey's experience or similar versions have been told by several generations of students over and over again, many of whom consider Dr. Lowrey both a mentor and a friend.

Dr. Lowrey's impact on the teaching and advising program in the Animal and Dairy Science Department has been recognized many times with awards, such as the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award, the D. W. Brooks Teaching Award and the prestigious Meigs Award, the highest honor UGA bestows upon outstanding teachers.

However, Dr. Lowrey indicates that the highest recognition he has received is the realization that "in some small way" he helped shape the lives of students who passed through our program.

Upon his retirement in 1999, Dr. Lowrey asked that he receive no gift; but acquiesced to alumni interest in developing a scholarship in his honor. Over 175 alumni responded to the initiative to endow the Robert S. Lowrey Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student with potential to be a future leader in the animal industry. Dr. Lowrey has attended each year's student awards banquet where award recipients are recognized.

Dr. Lowrey was inducted into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame in September, 2003. He and his wife, Gloria, still reside in Athens and are active in their church and community.



Dr. Robert Lowrey

"I take pride in knowing that in some small way I have helped shape the lives of students who passed through our program."

Dr. Lowrey may be contacted at 175 Williamsburg Lane, Athens, GA, 30605, or at



“We hope you enjoyed our inaugural edition and look forward to your feedback in order to include pertinent information for you.”

Thank you...

We would like to thank the 300+ alumni who responded to our recent communication. It was wonderful to reconnect with so many of you and appreciate your continued interest in the ADS Department.

Mr. Curtis Avery, Class of '42, now residing at Pine Mountain, GA, was kind enough to share his experiences as a member of the UGA Dairy Judging Team coached by Professor Cliff Ward, when Milton "Bull" Jarnagin was ADS Department Head.

We also heard from many graduates who are now in lands far away from Athens. Dr. Rab Khan (PhD. Class of '86), who now serves as Deputy Director of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council in Islamabad, noted that Dr. Nickerson's letter brought back many fond memories of his time as a student in ADS.

If you have relatives or friends who are graduates of our program, please ask if they have contacted us. If not, they may reach us at khoard@uga.edu or call 706/542-6259 to be added to our newsletter roster.

Also, we would like to hear from you as to what information you would like to see in future newsletters or would welcome communications of interest for inclusion.

We hope you enjoyed our inaugural edition. Thanks to Drs. Bill Graves, Rick Jones and Ronnie Silcox for article submissions and special thanks to Editorial Assistant, Ms. Alicia Harrell, for all of her efforts.

Kathy Hoard and Stephanie Ray
Editors

ANIMAL & DAIRY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
ROOM 104
425 RIVER ROAD
ATHENS, GA 30602



CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST. ZIP CODE



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www.ads.uga.edu