



ALUMNI CONNECTION

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



Greetings to our Alumni and Friends...

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Happy New Year to our alumni and friends from the Department of Animal and Dairy Science! This is an exciting time for our Department, as we have just concluded another successful year and want to bring you up-to-date on our faculty activities as well as on the successes of our students. Your continued support is a very important factor in our success at UGA and we are so very grateful.

As you may know, our Department of Animal and Dairy Science is one of the largest departments in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). Between our Athens and Tifton campuses, we have 165 undergraduates, 48 graduate students, 10 postdoctoral associates, 65 staff members including secretaries, technicians, and farm personnel, and 31 faculty members including two new recent hire: Drs. Lents and Turner.

Dr. Clay Lents joined us in mid October from the Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Lab at Colorado State University, where he received his postdoctoral training. Clay received his B.S. Degree from Cameron University, OK, and his M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees from Oklahoma State University. He comes to us with broad research training in reproductive physiology, and his research has ranged from mastitis in beef cows, to estrus behavior and endocrine function in beef, to estrogen regulation of gene expression. In addition, Clay has served as a teaching assistant for several animal science classes in the areas of nutrition, genetics, and reproduction. Dr. Lents is also the proud owner of 30 head of Herefords back home in Oklahoma where he was raised on a cattle ranch. Stay tuned to our next issue for more details on Clay's future plans here at UGA.

Dr. Kari Turner began employment in early December and came to us from Michigan State University, where she recently earned her Ph.D. in Equine Exercise Physiology. Kari did her undergraduate training in her home state at the University of Florida, and received an M.S. degree from Virginia Tech. She has had a wide range of teaching experiences in the equine area acquired from her tenure at Virginia and Michigan, and even served as an adjunct professor at Lord Fairfax community College, VA. In addition, Dr. Turner has been active in Extension, including 4-H horse quiz bowls, dairy days, horse shows, and academic quadrathalons, so we are pleased to add her to our teaching and extension faculty. Kari also plans to continue her research endeavors in the area of exercise physiology and mineral metabolism, so please check out our next newsletter for her future plans in these areas.

You may remember that our present ADS building, the Edgar L. Rhodes Center, was built in 1998, and offers very well-equipped laboratories and classrooms. In addition, our Meat Science and Technology Center is the best facility of its kind east of the Mississippi, and our Large Animal Research Unit provides state-of-the-art livestock holding and surgical areas. Our livestock farms, however, are outdated, in disrepair, and in dire need renovation. In order to relocate and upgrade these facilities, we made a request in the fall to the University System of the Georgia Board of Regents to prioritize a project in the amount of \$5M to be considered by the General Assembly in the FY 2007 budget. We have just received news that our request has been honored and that the \$5M allocation is in the Governor's budget! This is very positive news for us and we hope to initiate the planning and construction of new facilities later this year.

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KUDOS to DR. JOE WEST



On the evening of September 16, 2005, the Alumni Association of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science paid tribute to Animal and Dairy Science faculty member Dr. Joe West with the presentation of their highest faculty honor, the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching, Research and Extension.

Dr. West has served as a Professor of Dairy Science at the Tifton Campus for the past 19 years. He also serves as the Research, Extension, and Instruction Coordinator for ADS at the Tifton Campus and is a member of the UGA President's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Because heat stress costs millions of dollars annually, it is the major challenge to dairy businesses in the Southeast, much of the U.S. and subtropical and tropical regions of the world. Dr. West's research program regarding heat stress and the effects hot, humid climates have on the physiology and nutritional requirements of the dairy cow has drawn international acclaim. His popularity as a speaker has led him to numerous conferences in the U.S., Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Canada.

Many awards and honors solidify Dr. West's impact on the dairy industry, including the 2002 Friend of the Dairy Industry Award from the Georgia Milk Producers. However, he indicates that his most coveted recognition has been receiving two Faculty Member of the Year Awards from the UGA Block and Bridle Club and the UGA Dairy Science Club.

Our program would like to offer "congratulations" to Dr. Joe West for this well deserved recognition.

2005 B&B Little "I" A Winner For All!

Approximately 50 young contestants participated in the 2005 Little "I", which was held at the ADS Livestock Instructional Arena on November 3rd. Enthusiastic entrants showed 14 sheep, 11 hogs, 9 beef cattle, 9 dairy cattle and 9 horses.

The title of Champion Sheep Showman went to Rory Murray, Reserve went to Kimberly DeLisi and the Herdsman recipient was Katie Magness.

Champion Swine Showman was Matt Marchant, Reserve honors went to Rory Murray and the Herdsman winner was Christina Parr.

Champion Beef Showman was Jennifer Swaraz, Reserve was Brian Wilson,

and Herdsman recipient was Rachel Worthington.

Dairy Champion was Ashley Seamon, and Reserve was Amanda Eade; Herdsman winner was Lori Lollis.

Champion Horse Showman was Kelly Oshlo, Reserve went to Steffany Marlow and the Herdsman recipient was Andrew Kennedy.

Overall Grand Champion honors went to Rory Murray; Overall Reserve Champion was Ashley Seamon.

The species Grand and Reserve winners received an embroidered garment bag. Herdsman received a plaque, and the Overall Grand and Reserve Champions received a belt buckle and the honor of putting on Little "I" next year.

The Cake Auction fielded 19 cakes, which netted \$725 to

help with the expenses of the contest. Thanks to Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Mr. Calvin Alford, who worked hard to insure the maximum bid for each item.

Judges for the event were D.J. Sheppard-Dairy, Pam

Sapp-Horses, Stone Shirley-Beef, Mandy Moon-Lambs, and Jack Wall-Swine. All the judges are past members of Block and Bridle and past contestants of Little "I".

Thanks to all involved for making this year's event a grand success.



Lauren McGrit, Assistant Little "I" Chair; Jack Wall, Judge; and Rory Murray; Overall Grand Champion

Don't Forget The Georgia National Stock Show At Perry – February 22-26, 2006 & B&B Rodeo – Athens – April 27-29, 2006

**Horse Judging Team
Brings Honors To ADS
And UGA!**



The year 2005 was a productive one for our Horse Judging Team under the direction of Laura Morgan, graduate student of Dr. Josie Coverdale. In April, team members Lauren Cochran, Alex Raisor, Tricia Fowler, Laura Adams and Kelly Winsco had a successful first outing at the Paint Horse Spring Contest in Ft. Worth, TX. They placed 8th in oral reasons, 9th in halter,

and were the 11th team overall. This was the first judging contest for the team, and the contest hosted 31 senior collegiate teams. These students represented UGA well and the competition was a great learning experience.

Their next event took place in October, when students --- Crystal Browning, Lauren

Cochran, Krystal Mincey, and Kelly Winston --- traveled to Columbus, OH, for the All American Quarter Horse Congress and to Albuquerque, NM, for the U.S. Arabian National Championship. In Columbus, with over 90 senior collegiate teams participants, Lauren Cochran ranked 23d in performance and Kelly Winsco came in as the 24th high individual overall.

In Albuquerque, the team placed 3rd in halter, 4th in performance, 4th in reasons and was the 4th high team overall. Kelly Winsco placed 3rd in halter, 4th in performance, 2nd in reasons, and was the Reserve High Individual Overall, winning a \$500 scholarship and other prizes. We are extremely proud of our team!

Second Time Is The Charm ...

This is the second time in two years that KC, an ADS cloned cow, has produced a 100% normal calf. The calf named Moonshine is a gorgeous 70 pound all black heifer. Her older Sister, Sunshine, was remarkable in the respect that she was the first calf born to a clone of a deceased cow (KC).

In case you forgot, KC, short for Kidney Cell, was cloned from an animal that had been harvested in the ADS meats facility. This research was conducted by Dr. Steven Stice and his team of cloning experts here at our Athens campus. The kidney was hanging in the freezer with the side of beef, and the harvested cells were used in the cloning process to make KC.

Cloning from deceased animals is a revolutionary tool that could lead to leaps and bounds in genetic progress in farm animals. After a cow has been slaughtered, its carcass is graded for quality and yield of retail cuts. Now we can take a single cell from the best carcasses and produce a genetically identical individual that can be used in breeding programs. This could rapidly improve the gene pool in a way that would normally take a lifetime.

For example, cloning opens up the possibility of developing

a new breed of cattle that produces a high quality meat when raised on Georgia grass. This would address the ever increasing demand for grass fed beef. Kidney cells harvested from the highest quality and yield grade cattle grown only on Georgia grass would be used to improve the breed through cloning.

Some major fears that have been associated with the offspring of cloned animals are the possibility of infertility, low pregnancy rates, and physical abnormalities. But we have helped put these fears to rest with two perfectly normal baby heifers. We look forward to giving you a future report as these two offspring have calves of their own.



Mom "KC" Nuzzles 1-Week-Old "Sunshine"



"Reestablishing a Livestock Judging program is long overdue ... UGA has missed a lot of good students due to the lack of a viable team.

As a member of the 1977 and 1978 ADS Livestock Judging Teams, I gained a wealth of experience that I still utilize almost 30 years later ... not only as a hog judge in Alabama, Florida and Georgia ... but in everyday living as well. I still appreciate the lessons I learned from my coach, Exum Worrell."

Paul Wigley
County Extension Coordinator
Calhoun County, GA

Dean Approves Livestock Judging Position

Despite another budget cut this past year, the recent retirements of two ADS faculty have freed up sufficient salary dollars to allow us to propose a Livestock Judging Team Coach position for our Department. The CAES administration has approved our request, and we will be advertising this job in the spring with hopes of filling the position prior to Fall Semester, 2006.

In addition to coaching, this individual will teach undergraduate and courses in live animal evaluation and develop other

courses in live animal evaluation as needed. Other responsibilities will include advising undergraduates, participating in Departmental events, assisting with student clubs, and service within the University. Involvement with extension youth activities includes training extension agents and volunteer leaders in the fundamentals of livestock judging and evaluation, as well as establishing linkages with commodity groups, breed associations, and the GA Junior Beef Futurity. Any interested parties should contact Dr. Steve Nickerson at 706/542-6259.

"Thank you for reaching our alumni worldwide and for keeping us abreast of the developments at ADS, UGA."

Dr. Saidu O. Oseni
Obafemi Awolowo University
Ile-Ife, Nigeria

It Is Always Good To Hear From You ...

Our inaugural newsletter helped us reconnect with many former alumni with whom we had not communicated in some time. It was good to hear from Bob Blalock, who is now serving as General Manager of Aliso Viejo Golf Club in Southern California; Michelle Wiley, now teaching at Chestatee High School in Hall County, GA; Glenn Smith, based in Macon, GA, who serves as USA Country Manager for AgInfoLink; and Kerry Walker, now an Information Technology Senior Specialist at Auburn University ... and many others. Please let us hear from you and tell us what you are doing now and what info you would like us to provide in future communications. Also, we hope you will stop in to see us when you are in Athens.

Kathy Hoard, Editor

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