



# Animal Tracks

A publication for alumni and friends of the Department of Animal Sciences at Oregon State University

Summer, 2002

See Animal Tracks on the web at <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/animal-sciences/alum02a.htm>

## Greetings from Dr. Jim Males



As I write this letter for the summer edition of Animal Tracks, the days are getting shorter and the last few nights there has been a little chill in the air. So fall is coming. We're also still waiting for the

completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Session to see what the actual budget will be for the biennium we are currently in. This version of Animal Tracks comes a year after

September 11. Many things have changed, but many things are also continuing.

As you can see from this issue of Animal Tracks, this is true for the Department also. Since this time last year, Fred Stormshak and Steve Davis have retired, and Callan Ackerman and his family have returned to Nebraska to ranch. Due to the budget problems in Oregon, we're holding these positions open. We've also eliminated 4 FTE of support positions in the Department over the last year. At the same time, our student numbers are still high and it appears that we will start the 2002 school year with nearly the same number of undergraduate majors as the 332 we had last year. This puts a lot of pressure on the remaining faculty and staff, but they are responding well. Hopefully we'll be able to solidify the faculty positions in the not too distant future.

Although we don't know where we're going to end up on budgets, Animal Sciences at Oregon State University continues to be a great place. Students appreciate that faculty get to know them here, and they feel that they get the best advising in the University in our Department. We have the best faculty and staff, graduate students and undergraduate students. You can all be proud of Animal Sciences; I know that I am.

## Campus Farms Offer Tour/Shuttle for Homecoming!

**Do EASY PARKING, TOUR OF CAMPUS FARMS, and GAME SHUTTLE sound enticing to you for November 2, OSU's BEEF BOWL/HOMECOMING?** For a small donation (\$15.00 per vehicle suggested), staff at our Campus Farms invite you to drop off your car, hop on board a tour van to see the latest at our campus farms, and be delivered stress-free to and from Reser Stadium for the game (OSU vs. Arizona). **If you would like to reserve a spot in our tour/shuttle, please call 541-737-3431 by October 15<sup>th</sup>, so that we can plan to accommodate all friends and alums interested.**

Note: The OSU Beef Bowl, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, is sponsored by the Oregon Beef Council, OSU Animal Sciences and Athletic Departments, and the OSU Young Cattlemen's Club. Beef Council members, ANS faculty and members of the Young Cattlemen's Club will be distributing beef treats outside the stadium to all fans who come by during the fan fair prior to game time.

## Faculty Happenings

### Clint Sexson Officially on Board

**Clint Sexson**, for the past three years Assistant Coach of our Livestock Judging Team and recent M.S. graduate of Animal Sciences, has been hired on officially as Instructor for this year. Clint will be teaching ANS 415, Livestock Judging Team, and taking lead responsibility for OSU's team throughout their year of competition. He will also teach ANS 231, Livestock Evaluation; ANS 331, Advanced Livestock Evaluation; one-half of ANS 215, Beef/Dairy Industries; ANS 405, Steer-A-Year; and coordinating labs for ANS 121, Introduction to Animal Sciences.

Clint was born and raised in the Sandhills of Nebraska; in 1996, he graduated from Colorado State University, where he had been a member of the livestock judging team. Before coming to OSU, Clint managed cattle operations. Currently he is beginning his own herd of registered Charolais and Red Angus cattle, which should number about 30 by November. Clint has already lent animals for practice judging by our team; eventually he'll be selling bulls and heifer calves to producers.

Needless to say, we couldn't be happier with Clint's credentials! With his own judging experience at Colorado State, the three years experience he has gained as Assistant Coach to our own team, and his contacts with the industry, he is a fine addition to our faculty. We're sure we can look forward to continued excellent performance by our team under his guidance.

### Honors and Awards

**Peter Cheeke** was invited keynote speaker at the Rabbit Congress of the Americas held in Cuba in June. Peter's presentation was titled "Industrialization and globalization of animal agriculture: Implications for rabbit production."

**Steve Davis** is currently serving as Section Editor for the Contemporary Issues section of the American Journal of Animal Science.

**Tim DelCurto** was featured speaker in the Beef Symposium, "Efficiency of Beef Production on Western Pastures and Rangelands," that opened the WSASAS meetings held in June. Tim's well received talk was titled "Rangeland Overview: Challenges to Forage Based Beef Production Systems in the West."

**Kelvin Koong** is currently serving as President of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST).

The Department was delighted to hear that **Jim Males** was named Penn State's 2002 Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus this past spring. Jim brought many qualifications to this honor. While at Penn State, he was active on the livestock judging teams and in the Block and Bridle Club. In 1966, he was a member of the National Champion Livestock Judging Team at the Chicago International, and he was also recognized as the Grand Champion Showman at Penn State's Little International.

After leaving Penn State, Jim went on to receive an M.S. degree from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, both in ruminant nutrition. After graduate school, he did post-doctoral work at Oklahoma State University, followed by four years at Southern Illinois at Carbondale, where he coached the livestock judging team and pursued research in beef cattle nutrition. Next came ten years of teaching and research at Washington State University, where his honors continued with the College of Agriculture's R.M. Wade Award for teaching, and the 1985 Outstanding Young Scientist Award from the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science.

Moving into the area of administration, Jim went to South Dakota State University, where he was head of the Department of Animal and Range Sciences from 1988 to 1998. While at SDSU, he served as President of the Midwest Section of ASAS and program chair of that society's food animal integrated research and education priority effort. In 1998, he was invited to head our Department. He continues to be active in professional organizations, serving as President of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS).

**Callan Ackerman** was selected by students in the College for their "Professor of the Year Award" at last spring's CAS "Great Achievements of Students" night.

**Bob Dickson** has achieved a significant step in his career by being promoted to Senior Instructor effective July 1, 2002.

**Cory Parsons** (Assistant Professor, Central Oregon Extension) was recognized as regional finalist for a Powerpoint presentation at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Savannah, GA; his presentation was on Foot and Mouth Disease.

## Grants Awarded

**David Bohnert and Callan Ackerman.** "Evaluation of Ryegrass Straw as a Forage Source for Ruminants." Grass Seed Cropping Systems for a Sustainable Agriculture, \$20,505.

**Gita Cherian.** "Cardiac abnormalities and related mortality in broiler birds: Modulation through maternal diet." USDA-CSREES Animal Health and Disease, \$12,000.

**Pat French.** "Effects of forage nonstructural carbohydrates in dairy cattle nutrition." Agricultural Research Foundation, \$10,000.

**Mike Gamroth.** "Evaluation of methane generation effects on nutrients, bacteria and compost quality." Oregon Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops program. \$13,500.

**L.J. Koong, D.W. Bohnert, G.D. Pulsipher, and T. DelCurto.** "Evaluation of endophyte infected tall fescue straw as a forage source for ruminants." USDA Animal Health and Disease, \$15,000.

**Fred Menino.** "Bovine cystic ovarian disease: a new look for an old problem?" USDA Animal Health and Disease, \$15,000.

## Publications

**Bohnert, D.W., C. S. Schauer, and T. DelCurto.** 2002. Influence of rumen protein degradability and supplementation frequency on performance and nitrogen use in ruminants consuming low-quality forage: Cow performance and efficiency of nitrogen use in wethers. *J. Anim. Sci.* 80:1629-1637.

**Cherian, G., R. K. Selvaraj, M.P. Goeger, and P.A. Stitt.** 2002. Muscle Fatty Acid Composition and Thiobarbituric Acid-Reactive Substances of Broilers Fed Different Cultivars of Sorghum. *Poultry Science* 81:1415-1420.

Du, M., **G. Cherian**, P.A. Stitt, and D.U. Ahn. 2002. Effect of Dietary Sorghum Cultivars on the Storage Stability of Broiler Breast and Thigh Meat. *Poultry Science* 81:1385-1391.

**Forsberg, N.E.,** R. Al-Maqbaly, A. Al-Halhali, A. Ritchie, and A. Srikandakumar. 2002. Assessment of molasses-urea blocks for goat and sheep production in the Sultanate of Oman: Intake and growth studies. *Tropical Animal Health and Production* 34:231-239.

Al-Marzooki, W., A. Al-Halhali, R. Al-Maqbaly, A. Ritchie, K. Annamalai, and **N.E. Forsberg.** 2002. Date fiber as a constituent of broiler starter diets. *Agric. Sciences* 5:59-61.

**J. Oldfield.** 2002. *Selenium World Atlas, Second Edition.* Selenium Tellurium Development Association, Belgium.

**Pirelli, G.,** W. Mosher, **R. Hathaway,** and **J. Oldfield.** 2002. "What's New with Selenium Fertilizing Oregon Pastures?" Summer issue, *The Oregon Sheep Grower*, pp. 6-7.

**Xiao, Y., M. Beilstein, M. Wang, J. Purintrapiban, and N. Forsberg.** 2002. Development of a ponasterone A-inducible gene expression system for application in cultured skeletal muscle cells. In Press. *Int. J. Biochem. Cell Biol.*

## Of Friends and Alums...

ANS alum **Noelle E. Cockett** (MS degree, 1980; PhD degree, 1985) has been named Dean of Agriculture at Utah State University. Noelle is the first woman dean in the College of Agriculture. According to USU President Kermit L. Hall, Noelle's proven record of both teaching and research excellence, and the strong relationships that she had already developed with the Utah agricultural community, made her an excellent choice for the position.

Noelle previously served as interim dean of the USU School of graduate studies. Her research, focused on the identification of genetic markers associated with economically important traits in livestock, includes characterization of the callipyge gene causing muscle hypertrophy in sheep and identification of genetic markers for parasite resistance in sheep. Her laboratory has identified the gene that causes Spider Lamb syndrome. Noelle is a leading voice in sheep genomics research. She received the 1998 Young Scientist Award for the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science. She was named an American Association of the Advancement of Science Fellow in 2000 and received the D. Wynne Thorne Research Award from Utah State in 2002.

## Student Happenings

### Judging Teams Ready for Fall Contests

The **OSU Livestock Judging Team**, represented by **Paul Bailey, Ryan Craig, Trisha Dunn, Carrie Gray, Heather Hamilton, Matt Kennedy, Jarrett Lees, Annette Smith, and Jake Wilson**, sponsored their annual Youth Livestock Field Day and Sale on April 20. This service type auction is a great opportunity for young people in 4-H and FFA to get projects animals. It is also an opportunity for youth as well as for Animal Sciences students to learn first-hand about how animal auctions work. Over 100 families attended the program this year. Information was presented on sheep and swine evaluation. The sale was advertised, managed and run totally by members of our team. Since that time, the team has been involved in nearly 30 youth programs. Travels have taken them to California, Washington, and Nevada. These programs, all in preparation for national competition in Louisville, also are excellent recruiting opportunities.

Eight students that make up the two collegiate **Dairy Judging Teams** and four potential students traveled to Washington and British Columbia in a recent workout. Students were accompanied by **Patrick French, Troy Downing, Ben Krahn, and Jim Krahn**. Ten farms were visited and 25 classes of cows and heifers were judged during the week long workout. This workout occurs annually in July or August in preparation for fall contests. The two collegiate teams also practiced at the State Fair in late summer. The senior team, composed of **Becky Hogan, Allison Yeager, Katie Pearn, and Freynie Seaholm**, will compete at the Accelerated Genetics Contest in Viroqua, WI, September 12-16, and the National Intercollegiate Contest in Madison, WI September 26-October 5. The junior team will compete in three contests this fall: Eastern National in Harrisburg, PA; Mid-South Fair in Memphis, TN; and Invitational Senior College contest in Louisville, KY.

### Awards/Honors

At the annual meeting of the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science, ANS grad **Julie Morrison** won first place in the graduate student paper competition for her paper, "The influence of cow age on grazing distribution and utilization of mountain riparian areas and adjacent uplands." Julie did her research with **Tim DelCurto**.

Two ANS grad students received honors at OSU's Graduate Student Research Conference, 2002. M.S. student **Ramesh Selvaraj** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his poster, "Cardiac Phospholipid Fatty Acid Composition and Electrocardiography of Broiler Chickens Fed Diets Containing Saturated, n-3 or n-6 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids." Ph.D. student **Yung Hae Kim** was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for her oral presentation, "Stability and interaction of modified betaB1-crystallins."

The ANS **Graduating Class of 2002** is on the move. For this fall term, our students have received acceptances to the following Colleges of Veterinary Medicine: Cornell, Colorado State, Texas A&M, Louisiana State, Washington State, Purdue, UC Davis, Oregon State, Oklahoma State, and Iowa State. Several students received multiple acceptances. In addition, students have been accepted to the Pharmacy Doctorate Program at OSU, and graduate schools including those at Missouri State, Texas A&M, Oregon Health Sciences University, the University of West Virginia, and Michigan State University.

**Wenona Phillips**, ANS Poultry grad student, won the Outstanding Student Presentation Award at the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association, Lake Tahoe, in May.

## Graduate Degrees Awarded

**Jonna Collins**, M.S. degree, 6/10/02 (major professor **Fred Menino**). “Expression of the Ets family of transcription factors in early bovine and ovine embryo development.” Jonna plans to do a good bit of traveling, and then apply to Physician’s Assistant School.

**Thomas Currier**, M.S. degree, 7/22/02 (major professor **David Bohnert**). “Daily and alternate day supplementation of urea or biuret to ruminants consuming low-quality forage: Effects on cow performance, efficiency of nitrogen use in wethers, and site of digestion, microbial efficiency, and ruminal fermentation characteristics in steers.” Tom plans to attend OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

**Kathrin Dunlap**, M.S. degree 7/11/02 (major professor **Fred Stormshak**). “Nongenomic inhibition of oxytocin binding by progesterone in ovine uteri.” Katie will soon be heading to Texas A&M University, where she will begin a Ph.D. program in the area of reproductive physiology within the Department of Animal Biotechnology and Genomics. She would like eventually to do research at a land grant university.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, **Yung Hae Kim** earned a Ph.D. degree in Animal Sciences with defense of her thesis, “Role of post-translational modifications to lens proteins in cataract formation.” Yung Hae began her graduate program here with **Neil Forsberg**. When Neil was away in Oman, she continued on a related project in calpain biology with **Tom Shearer**, her major professor, at Oregon Health Sciences University. Yung Hae is currently applying for post-doc positions.

**Julie Morrison**, M.S. degree, 5/31/02 (major professor **Tim DelCurto**). “The influence of age on livestock distribution and utilization in rangeland pastures.” Julie has already embarked on her career; she began work in early May as Watershed Coordinator for the Goose Lake Reservoir Conservation District in southern Oregon.

**Elizabeth Paslay**, M.S. degree, 7/17/02 (major professor **Fred Stormshak**). “Factors affecting luteal oxytocin synthesis and/or secretion by the ovine and bovine corpus luteum.” Elizabeth would eventually like to have an extension/teaching position working to educate people about the use of biotechnology in agriculture.

**Ramesh Kumar Selvaraj**, M.S. degree, 8/29/02 (major professor **Gita Cherian**). “Dietary polyunsaturated fatty acids and immune responses in poultry.” Born in India, Ramesh completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) at Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, India. Studies for his master’s thesis at the Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, India, focused in part on the nutritive value of sunflower seeds in broiler rations. Ramesh hopes next to pursue a Ph.D. degree at the University of California, Davis.

**Clint Sexson**, M.S. degree, 7/15/02 (major professor **Jim Males**). “Effects of alfalfa on uterine growth of ovariectomized prepubertal ewe lambs.” Clint is continuing in the Department in a teaching position in the area of Beef Cattle and as coach for the Livestock Judging Team.

**Tyson Shirley**, M.S. degree, 7/22/02 (major professor **Callan Ackerman**). “Daily vs. alternate day supplementation of soybean meal or wheat middlings to steers consuming low quality hay.” Tyson plans to attend Veterinary School at OSU this fall.

**Jenny Strooband Sturges**, M.S. degree, 8/29/02 (major professor **Don Holtan**). “The biologic activity of the 5a-reduced pregnanes in the late gestation mare.” Just a few weeks ago, Jenny was married, and this month she begins working as Animal Sciences faculty teaching Equine Science at Linn-Benton Community College.

**Karen von Deneen**, M.S. degree, 7/10/02 (major professor **Don Holtan**). “Plasma and fecal progestins during placentation in the mare.” Karen is currently a junior in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University. Her goals are to obtain a D.V.M. and then start a Ph.D. program in microbiology or clinical pathology; she hopes eventually to do research in veterinary medicine or private industry.

**Thomas Welch**, M. Ag. Degree, 6/13/02 (major professor **Christian Rammerstorfer**). “Dietary fat supplementation in performance horses.” Tom has been accepted at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine for fall, 2002. He plans to specialize in large animals; he is especially interested in an equine practice.

## Farm News

This fall will see the effects of an added dose of daylight at the **OSU Dairy**. Thirty big lights have been hung in the barn to allow control of the photoperiod experienced by the cows. The lights provide about 25 foot-candles of light (like an office) to stimulate added milk production. The old wiring at the dairy couldn't handle the new lighting, so new wire and circuit breakers had to be installed along with the lights. Now, as days shorten into fall and winter the new lighting will be put to the test.

## Staff News

The Department was delighted with the recent selection of **Nora Ross** as CAS Classified Employee; Nora received her award on September 17, CAS Faculty and Staff Day. Nora has worked in our Department the past 18 years. Currently, she serves eight faculty and also is Graduate Program Coordinator. Her experience and expertise are integral to the success of such important recruiting events as the OSU Livestock Judging Team Field Day and Project Animal Sale, and the OSU RingMaster Classic Youth Beef Show. Nora is observant, an enthusiastic problem solver, and first to volunteer when extra help is needed. During the past year, she was able to spend half time for two months assisting the College with a backlog of CSREES reporting that needed to be computerized, and training a new employee to take over this job. She has also pitched in as administrative assistant when we've needed her to keep things running smoothly - doing that job as well as her own with hallmark calm, confidence, and competence. In short - we don't know where we would be without Nora - she has a wealth of experience and history that we can't live without, and we are pleased for this opportunity to recognize her talents and dedication to the Department.

**Gabrielle Thompson** received the OSU Office Professional Association's monthly Merit Award in May. Gabrielle has worked at OSU the past 20 years, 16 of which have been devoted to accounting in our Department. Gabrielle is efficient, creative and dependable. When OSU switched to FIS several years ago, she took a proactive role, learned the program quickly, and led a learning group on how to use the new software. Over the years, her fiscal suggestions have resulted in considerable savings for the Department. Not only does Gabrielle do an excellent job; she's also a well spring of information and

generally fun person to have around. Outside of work, she takes a special interest in welcoming students visiting our country from foreign lands. As a member of Crossroads International, she has hosted several people from the English Language Institute.

Over the past couple of months, the Department has received the sad and stunning news of lay-offs necessitated by budget cuts. We will sorely miss **Rosemary Schulte**, long-time Poultry Research Tech, and **Bill Bereskin**, Accounting Tech for Animal Sciences the past six years. On the bright side, both Rosemary and Bill have found new positions at OSU. Rosemary has been placed in Transportation Services as of August 19, and Bill has already begun as Accounting Technician in the Financial Aid Office.

## Animal Sciences in Popular Press

**Steve Davis's** bioethical question, "Is it morally defensible to kill a field mouse but not a pig or cow?" has lately received a lot of public attention, as well as stirred up a bit of controversy (including mention in the July 15 cover story of TIME magazine, "Should You Be A Vegetarian?"). Steve's contention is that a mixed model of food production (crops and pasture harvested by cows) may kill fewer animals than a vegan model of food production. According to Steve, applying the Least Harm Principle as proposed by Tom Regan would actually argue that we are morally obligated to move to a ruminant-based diet rather than a vegan diet. The model of meat production Steve suggests replaces pork and poultry with grass-fed beef.

The livelihood of farmers and ranchers, commercial fishermen, and Native Americans, as well as the fate of endangered species are all at stake in the controversy over irrigation, flood control, and power generation in the Klamath basin. National attention is being given the complex economic, environmental and social issues tied to water allocation in the area. **Ron Hathaway** is among those from OSU as well as the University of California at Davis and Berkeley integrally involved.

## In Memory of...

The Department learned recently, with regret, of the death of **Tom Eide**, long-time member of the Farm Services staff and former Head of Farm Services. Tom could see what needed to be done with the Department's lands and facilities, and he just pitched in and got them done.



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Animal Tracks website:

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