



# Animal Sciences News

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## March, 2009

- 2/9-3/13 **Lambing at Wilson Farm.** Public welcome 9-2 daily (email lambing.barn@oregonstate.edu for groups larger than twelve).
- 3/2 **ANS Grad Seminar – Kristi Klaus,** “Differential gene expression in the corpus luteum of pregnant and non-pregnant cows.” W217, 4:00 p.m.
- 3/9 **ANS Grad Seminar – Sam Wyffels,** “Influence of stocking on beef cattle performance, botanical composition of diet, diet quality, and distribution patterns on a native bunchgrass prairie.” W217, 4:00 p.m.
- 3/13 **Birthday Cake and Coffee,** Staff Lounge, 2:30 p.m.

## Academic Quadrathlon Held

...Matt Kennedy

The Academic Quadrathlon was held February 27 and 28, and many of those who were involved and participated enjoyed seeing this great event come back. The event consisted of four sections: written exam, oral presentation, lab practicum (8 labs ranging from beef to reproduction), and quiz bowl. I would like to thank all the event and lab coordinators; without their help the AQ would not have been possible. The success of this contest was due to the efforts of 12 faculty, staff, and grad students. A special thanks goes to **Erica Ramsing** and **Mary Meaker** for organizing the written exam, **Jim Males** for coordinating the quiz bowl and to those who organized and

proctored lab sections: Nutrition (**Jim Thompson**), Reproduction (**Tony McNeel**), Poultry (**Hannah Morris** and **Jim Hermes**), Swine (**Brianna Panter**), Dairy (**Adrienne Lulay**), Equine (**Dawn Sherwood**), and Sheep (**Tom Nichols**). For those who missed the oral presentations, the topic was “Horse Slaughter.” Students put together some very interesting discussions and skits to cover this topic. This was the largest contest in recent history, with 32 students participating! After all the scores were calculated, it came down to a tie between two teams, which was broken by the team placing higher in the quiz bowl. Members of the winning team were **Andrew Hartenstein, Tyler Gray, Nick Moxley, and Keely Oswald**. Hopefully, the team will be traveling to Cedar City, Utah, to compete at the

Western Region AQ to be held on April 17 and 18.

## Dr. Gerd Bobe to Join Department

Despite the slow-down in hiring at OSU, our Department has good news. **Dr. Gerd Bobe** will join us as ruminant nutritionist in the Fall. A native of Germany, Gerd received his PhD at Iowa State, did a post doc at Michigan State, and is now working in the cancer institute at NIH. His research on fatty liver in Dairy cattle will be supported partly by the Linus Pauling Institute, and we look forward to opportunities for interdisciplinary nutrition research and teaching with the LPI on Dr. Bobe’s hire.

## Food Drive Reaches Goal of \$3000

Animal Sciences set a goal of reaching \$3000 in donations to OSU's Food Drive this year, and we're pleased to report we made it with...drumroll please ... \$3119.35!! The needs of Linn-Benton Food Share are projected to be 25% greater in these tough economic times, so our contributions are indeed going to a good cause. Thanks, everyone, from cooks and consumers of lunches and treats to donors who gave generously to make this a successful drive!

## Welcome New Grad



**Cassandra Sullivan** has begun a Master's program in Eastern Oregon with **Chad Mueller**. Cassandra grew up in the small town of Hereford, Oregon, on her parents' cow/calf and stocker operation. Her parents spurred on her interest in the cattle industry, encouraging her to further her education. She obtained her BS degree in Ag Business Management at the Eastern Oregon campus. An internship with Beef Northwest Feeders during the summer of 2006 led her to pursue a career within the field of ruminant nutrition.

Cassandra will have her own project soon, and in the meantime is working with Dr. Mueller on his glycerin and hooded barley studies.

## Travel

**Ben Krahn** was in Albuquerque, NM, for the Young Dairy Leaders Institute from February 25 through March 1. Ben then attended the Oregon Dairy Farmers Convention in Redmond.

## Publications

Hall, Jean A., Robert J. Van Saun, **Tom Nichols**, **Wayne Mosher** and **Gene Pirelli**. 2009. Comparison of selenium status in sheep after short-term exposure to high-selenium-fertilized forage or mineral supplement. doi:10.1016/j.smallrumres.2009.01.010.

## Animal Sciences in the News

Oregon's Agricultural Progress, Winter, 2009, features an article on p. 7 titled "Studying Selenium – How generations of OSU scientists have helped make lives healthier." The article begins with **Dr. Jim Oldfield's** work on selenium and white muscle disease – breakthrough studies that initiated a large volume of research on selenium that continues today. The article describes work on white muscle disease by retired Professor (Agricultural Chemistry) **Phil Whanger** that led to studies of the role of selenium in healthy human births, as well as research on soil supplementation by retired professor **Wayne Mosher** (Extension, Douglas County) that created a huge improvement in calf survival for ranchers. Today, **Jean Hall** of OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, still in collaboration with Animal

Sciences researchers, is studying selenium as an immunonutrient in sheep (in this case, for foot rot) (see Publications in this newsletter).

On page 18, the same magazine features an article titled "the Zumwalt Laboratory... OSU and the Nature Conservancy study how wildlife and cattle co-exist on Oregon's largest private nature sanctuary." The beautifully photographed article details how EOARC researcher **Tim DelCurto** joins other scientists to determine how cattle grazing affects plant, bird and insect life on the Zumwalt Prairie.

The OSU Barometer, January 29 edition, features OSU's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) team in a front page article. Led by coach **Dawn Salazar**, the 25-member team is diligently practicing, each Monday through Thursday evening, for national competition in Kentucky in March. This year, OSU's western team took high-point western team in regional competition, and will send a 5-member team to Kentucky. IHSA competition represents a unique challenge in that riders are randomly assigned horses they have never seen before – a true test of their abilities as riders.

A two-page, fun article with pictures titled "Meat Center is cut above for eager students," is found in the Life @ OSU, January 22 issue. In this article, Clark Meat Center Instructor **Val Cannon** explains how the Center provides students the chance to learn the skills of meat processing, from butchering to sales, and where the only "experimenting" done is, e.g., with spices in jerky. The article describes the rewards for students of running the Clark Meat Center Retail Store, open each term Thursday and Friday afternoons.

## News from Alums

Recent editions of our “Animal Tracks” newsletter have brought these updates from alums:

**Dennis Bel Isle** (MS '75) completed a doctorate in Behavioral Physiology following his MS from OSU. For the next 15 years, he worked primarily for BP Exploration Alaska as a systems engineer. In 2003, he retired from Strategic Planning (DOD) with USAAK. Following a term as a board member of the Historical Society, he is supported now by equities trading and a writing career.

**Andrew Hammond** (BS '71) was featured in the USDA Publications “People in the News” in the September-October (Volume 67) issue, 2008. Dr. Hammond is Area Director of the Agricultural Research Service’s Pacific West Area, based in Albany, CA. From May, 2004, until his selection for this position, he served as the Associate Area Director of the Pacific West Area for ARS. He was Associate Area Director of ARS’s South Atlantic Area, based in Athens, GA, from 2000-04. He served as Assistant Area Director of the Pacific West Area from 1998-2000. He spent nearly 14 years, from 1985-98, working as the research leader of the agency’s Subtropical Agricultural Research Station in Brooksville, FL, where he specialized in beef cattle nutrition research. Andy began his ARS career in 1980 as a Research Animal Scientist at the Ruminant Nutrition laboratory within ARS’s Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD. From 1971-74 he served as a livestock extension technician with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines.

**Kelly Jenkins Nielsen** (BS '84) is Oregon’s only board-certified acupuncturist and herbalist who is also a veterinarian. Kelly also has a Master’s in acupuncture and Oriental medicine and treats both people and pets in her acupuncture and herbal clinic.

**Kyle Orwig** (PhD '94) is an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Kyle’s research focuses on spermatogonial stem cells in the testis that maintain sperm production throughout the pubertal life of mammals. His fundamental studies in mice and rats investigate the molecular mechanisms controlling stem cell developmental potential. Preclinical and translational studies investigate the potential of spermatogonial stem cells to treat some cases of male infertility.

**Lonnie Murphy (Quinlan)** (BS '97) moved to Deer Lodge, MT, two years ago to be closer to her aging parents. She left her job as a Fisheries Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service to make this move and is currently enjoying a “break” from full-time employment. She is always thinking of home-based businesses options or self-employment options for the future, but has not found the perfect fit as of yet.

**Joseph Riker** (BS '62 Animal Science, MS '64 Zoology) retired from his position as city manager of Orland, CA, in 2008, though he has continued to serve as interim city manager since that time. He and his wife hope to move back to Oregon; they are looking in the Medford-Grants Pass area, probably to do consulting work or interim manager jobs. Joseph says this just proves you can do about

anything with an agricultural degree.

**Kendall Rivers** (BS '08) currently lives in Washington state and is working on her Master’s degree in Bioinformatics through the Polytechnic Institute of NYU’s online program. This has given her a great opportunity to continue her education while having the freedom to be located where she needs to be.

**Leonard W. (Bill) Riley III** (BS '56; MS '57) returned home to Oregon in September following completion of another two-year assignment with the U.S. Peace Corps in Guatemala. The John Deere Magazine, The Furrow, Spring, 2008, features an article written about Bill’s many years of activities in Guatemala.

**Susan Basler Tomlinson** (BS '82) lives in Edmond, OK, where she owns a small animal veterinary clinic. She is married to Tommy Tomlinson and they have two sons, Marty (26) and Bunea (16).

## News and Notes

**Wayne Mosher**, retired from Extension in Douglas County and now living in Salem, visited the Department in late February. Wayne met with **Tom Nichols** to discuss forage mixes for sheep on our hill pastures.



## March Birthdays

Scott Austed .....	25
Kelvin Koong .....	26