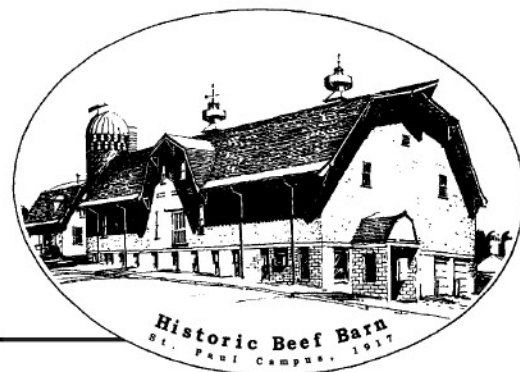


AnSci

Connection

Department of Animal Science, University of Minnesota



Issue 49

December 2002

Notes from the Department Head

By F. Abel Ponce de León

November has been filled with important events. The first was our departmental dairy faculty meeting at Crookston. The meeting was a success. Attendees shared their vision of the dairy industry and their personal contribution to that vision. The openness of the meeting and sharing of ideas allowed us to transcend and helped us define a vision for our dairy program and our roles within that vision. In summary, our discussion centered on the decline in reproductive performance of dairy cattle and its effect on limiting future genetic progress and decrease in profitability through lowered milk production, increased cow replacement cost and less replacement animals available. Research will be focused on: 1) Baby Calf Nutrient Requirements and Management, 2) Dairy Cow Genetics and Genomics, and 3) Reproductive Management and Biology. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for December 19 to further discuss the specifics of the work to be done.

The second event was the COAFES Undergraduate Scholarship Reception ceremony. Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, gave the keynote address. The central point of his talk was to remain optimistic. In spite of all we hear about doom days, we are better as a world than we were 50 years ago. However, we are still not reaching everyone on our planet. People are still dying of starvation due to lack of adequate infrastructure and political issues rather than lack of food availability. Over two hundred undergraduate scholarship recipients were recognized as well as some of our generous sponsors. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients. Keep up the excellent work you do.

The third event was the Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture awards ceremony. This year, Leonard Wulf of Morris, Peter Poss of Willmar, and Stanley Sahlstrom of Crookston were awarded the Siehl Prize for Excel-

lence in Agriculture. Leonard Wulf was recognized for his work in production agriculture. He owns and operates a beef cattle farm in Morris that is known as the best registered Limousin breeding operation in the nation. Mr. Wulf has contributed significantly to the development of the beef industry in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. Dr. Peter Poss was recognized for his contribution to agribusiness. Dr. Poss devoted his efforts to improving health and expanding the availability of turkey year round. He has been a great contributor to the development of the turkey industry in Minnesota and the world. Dr. Stanley Sahlstrom was recognized for his contributions to academia. Dr. Sahlstrom devoted his efforts to the changing needs and training of students in the agriculture and food sciences. He served for 12 years on the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents. Congratulations to each one of the Siehl Prize Laureates, you have shown us the path to follow and we thank you for that.

The fourth event was the AgriGrowth Council meeting that centered on the theme "Agriculture - The Ultimate Recycling System." The meeting speakers shared many challenging ideas. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Per Pinstrup-Anderson, Director General of the International Food Policy and Research Institute in Washington, DC. His address focused on the world food needs for the next 30 years and the infrastructure challenges of developing nations. His message encouraged us to help developing nations develop their agricultural base. In doing so, we help ourselves in the long run by increasing the buying power of developing nations. Our agricultural policy and agricultural subsidies in this regard need to be reassessed.

The fifth event will be "Thanksgiving." For me, and perhaps also for you, it is one of the most important events in the year; a moment to be thankful for all we receive. I wish you and your families a very happy Thanksgiving!

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AnSci Connection is a monthly newsletter of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota.

If you would like to contribute information (articles, upcoming events, announcements of special achievements, etc.), please contact Bonnie Rae, Editor.

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The next issue of
AnSci Connection
will be published
January 2, 2003.

**The deadline for
submitting articles
is 12:00 p.m. on
December 20.**

Graduate Student Profile: Mireille Chahine

Mireille was born in Beirut, Lebanon. Her father and most of her family still live in Lebanon. She has one brother who is currently studying and living in France. After graduating from high school, Mireille decided to enter the College of Agricultural Science at the Lebanese University to pursue a degree in agricultural engineering with an animal production emphasis. Based on her undergraduate performance, she was selected by the Spanish and Lebanese government to pursue an international graduate program in Europe. She chose to go to the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) in Zaragoza, Spain to attend an advanced course on animal production that emphasized animal nutrition, reproduction and genetics. Upon completion of that course, Mireille worked on her Masters degree in ruminant nutrition at the University of Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain where she focused mainly on dairy cattle nutrition with a strong emphasis in ruminant nutrition. Her project increased her desire to gain a strong understanding of how the interaction of nutrition and physiology impact performance of dairy cattle.

After earning her M.S. degree, Mireille was awarded both a fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition in Spain and an assistantship in nutritional physiology from Dr. Brian Crooker at the University of Minnesota. She accepted the opportunity to work in the U.S., and in 1998, she moved to Minnesota to work under the supervision of Dr. Crooker. Mireille's Ph.D. research examines the effect of season, stage of estrous cycle, Posilac® and mammary massage on induction of lactation. An induced lactation is one where a non-pregnant cow is stimulated to produce milk. Cows that are used in her projects are those that would have been removed from the herd because they did not become pregnant; thus, these cows would eventually dry off and be culled. Induction of lactation has the potential to increase farm profitability by allowing retention of these cows.

At the department level, Mireille served as president of the Animal Sciences Graduate Club for two years. She also represented the Department of Animal Science on the Council of Graduate Students. At the same time, she was the graduate student chairperson of the University of Minnesota Biological Sciences Policy and Review Council. At the university level, Mireille served as an active member on the executive committee of the Council of Graduate Students and as an alternate representative to the University Senate.

Even though Mireille's Ph.D. project and other activities have been keeping her quite busy, she tries to do some volunteer work, mainly because she loves interacting with people. She has volunteered for various charity activities and volunteers at her church whenever they are organizing events.

Mireille loves to read, listen to music and dance (especially Arabic dance). She enjoys going to movies and attends a stage performance from time to time. Mireille speaks four languages and intends to learn a fifth - Portuguese.

Mireille expects to graduate in the spring of 2003. After graduation, she would like to work in industry as a dairy consultant to gain some practical experience. Mireille is interested in using a multidisciplinary approach to troubleshoot problems and to assist dairies in the implementation of operational systems.

Birthday List - December



- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Aree Thayananuphat | 14 - Anthony Seykora |
| 2 - Faraz Shaukat | 15 - Lucille Abler |
| Charles Young | 17 - Chris Buzzetta |
| 4 - Callie Opsahl | 20 - Juliana Tuel |
| 13 - Ryan Donnelly | 22 - Brad Sequin |
| Kaleb Kromann | 25 - William Boylan |

The Department of Animal Science
is pleased to announce...

WinterFest!

December 18, 2002

You and your family are cordially invited to celebrate WinterFest! on Wednesday, December 18, 2002 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. in Room 365 Haecker Hall. The department will provide assorted meats, beverages and good cheer! We request that you participate in our potluck by making a contribution:

Faculty - please bring Desserts

Graduate Students - Appetizers

Staff - Salads (fruit, leafy lettuce, vegetable, etc.)

Retirees - Accompaniments (i.e., potatoes, pasta, baked beans, etc.)

If you have any questions or comments, contact Marcia Hill (624-9752; mhill@umn.edu). Please RSVP by December 11, 2002.



My Semester Leave in Chile

By Dr. Jeff Reneau

As most of you know, I was on a semester leave in Chile this past summer (from July 2 until September 20, 2002). This was a wonderful and rejuvenating experience for both my wife and me. The culture was interesting, and the people were great. The Spanish language training that my wife and I enrolled in was exceptional. Our instructor was an outstanding young Peruvian woman who told us the very first day of instruction that "Peruvian Spanish was the language of the Gods". As you might imagine, I was quite amused by her mischievous comment. She visited us in our apartment for 2-hour classes three days each week. Since there were only two students in the class, there was no hiding from the instructor. I needed to put in ample study time to prevent Lynn from completely humiliating me since she was able to study intensely every day. Actually, it was a great time for us when we could study together. It reminded us of those long gone good old college days. I also found out where our children's aptitude for language originated... and it wasn't me. Lynn's passion for studying the language made it possible for me to learn a lot more than I could ever do studying alone. I was naively hopeful to become fairly proficient at speaking in our three-month stay. Although I did become proficient enough to comfortably communicate with taxi drivers and store clerks and was able to understand much conversation of others, I found that generating any degree of in-depth conversation remains out of my reach and frustrating. But I later discovered from others that to become reasonably proficient in Spanish, you need a minimum of six months in a language immersion program. However, I remained determined and did get a good Spanish foundation to build on and plan to continue studying back here in Minnesota... time permitting.

The balance of my time, I spent working with colleagues and students at the University of Chile. During my stay, I presented two seminars on application of statistical process control to improve production of quality milk and two day-

long milk quality workshops for dairy producers and consultants.

Most of the time spent in Chile was in and around Santiago. The University of Chile owns six apartments located in a very nice northeast suburb of Santiago, which are provided at a moderate cost for visiting professors. The apartments are modest but plenty adequate and they have a wonderful panoramic view of the Andes. The Santiago location provided a lot of opportunity to experience Chilean history, art and culture. We found this aspect of our visit fascinating and very rewarding.

I also spent three weeks in southern Chile in the Osorno region, which has the highest density of dairy cows. This is a wonderful scenic region with many lakes and snow-covered volcanic mountains. Most dairy production systems in this region are heavily pasture-based but also have some freestall shelters to house cows during the winter months. Last winter, Chile experienced historic rainfall; the farmyards were very muddy, which makes consistent production of quality milk a very difficult task. Here, I worked with a very interesting vertically integrated service and supply coop named Cooprinsem. This cooperative provides seed sales and agronomic consulting, AI semen sales and service, nutritional supplies and consulting, DeLaval milking equipment sales and service, veterinary pharmaceutical supplies, soil and forage testing, veterinary diagnostic laboratory testing including microbiology culturing and bulk tank milk testing services as well as a dairy records processing center. The only other dairy sales and service organization I have ever seen anywhere in the world that compares to the depth and breadth of Cooprinsem's dairy service is their competitor, BioLeche, which I visited last year.

The association with the University of Chile faculty and students was also a rich experience. While in Osorno, Chile, I began a collaborative statistical process control study with the University of Chile, Cooprinsem and Nestle. This project will continue over the next year with weekly collaboration on my part via the Internet. The project will become the thesis project of Sandra Saavedra, a University of Chile student. I will be serving as one of her advisors.

Highlights of the 2002 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference

Dr. Jacquie Jacob accompanied a delegation of seven 4-Hers to the 2002 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 19-22. The group (photo below) included a four-member poultry judging team (Tim Burmeister, Cottonwood County; Evan Van Beusekom, Wright County; Aaron Marquette, Wright County; and Marcella Thuman, Goodhue County) as well as contestants for the Chicken Barbecue Contest (Reanna Theisen, Stearns County), Turkey Barbecue Contest (Kelsey Campbell, Chisago County) and Egg Preparation Demonstration (Blake Van Denburgh, Sherburne County).



Back row (left to right): Aaron Marquette, Tim Burmeister, Blake Van Denburgh, Evan Van Beusekom; front row (left to right): Jacquie Jacob, Kelsey Campbell, Marcella Thumann, Reanna Theisen

Eighteen teams and 71 individuals participated in the poultry judging contest. The contest is composed of market poultry (grading of ready-to-cook chicken and turkey carcasses and identification of parts), market eggs (grading exterior and interior quality of eggs) and production hen classes. The Minnesota team took fourth place in the market poultry classes and ninth place overall. Also in the market poultry class, Evan Van Beusekom was fifth high individual and Aaron Marquette was tenth. Evan Van Beusekom was also nineteenth high overall individual.

There were 13 and 9 contestants in the chicken and turkey barbecue contests, respectively. Contestants are required to barbecue four chicken halves or two boneless turkey breasts. They are judged on their barbecuing skills and the look and taste of the final product. They are also required to do an illustrated talk on the chicken or turkey meat industry. Kelsey Campbell finished second in

the turkey barbecue contest while Reanna Theisen placed sixth in the chicken barbecue competition.

Sixteen contestants participated in the Egg Preparation Demonstration contest. Each participant must present a demonstration on the preparation of an egg dish. The demonstration must include information of eggs (nutritional value, preparation and storage, functional properties, grading and sizing, versatility and economics of cooking with eggs) and the steps in preparation of the dish. A finished dish is provided to the judges for tasting. Participants are judged on the content of the demonstration, their presentation skills and the taste, convenience and appearance of the final product. Prizes are given to the top ten participants. Unfortunately, Blake did not place with his omelet recipe.

Minnesota Turkey Growers Announce Scholarship Competition

The 2002-2003 Ranelius Scholarship Competition, offered by the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association (MTGA), will result in one worthy student receiving a \$500 scholarship to further his or her education.

This scholarship competition is open to any Minnesota citizen who is enrolled in a post-secondary educational institute in order to prepare for a career in some phase of the poultry industry.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received an MTGA scholarship and who are either members of the MTGA or who are family members or employees of members of the MTGA. However, all interested students are encouraged to apply.

The selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by an MTGA committee of members based on the applications received. An applicant's scholastic record is a major factor. Experience, activities and honors received also will be considered. The applicant's demonstrated interest in the poultry industry, as reflected by past activities and a statement of career plans, is also an important consideration.

The required application forms are available from the MTGA. Please contact:

Lara Durben
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
108 Marty Drive
Buffalo, MN 55313
Phone 763/682-2171; Fax 763/682-5546
Email, lara@minnesotaturkeys.com

The forms also are available on-line at: <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/poultry/index.html>

The application deadline is February 1, 2003.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2002 Minnesota Cattle Feeder Days

December 10, 11 & 12 (For more information, contact Alfredo DiCostanzo - phone: 612-624-1272 , email: dicos001@umn.edu, or see <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/beef/cattlefeeder/2002cfd.html>)

Finals Week

December 16-21

AgEd Winter Invitational

December 17 - Vocational & Technical Education Building, St. Paul Campus (For more information, contact Ellie Segler 612-624-6242)

Department of Animal Science WinterFest!

December 18, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. - Room 365 Haecker Hall, St. Paul Campus (RSVP to Marcia Hill at 612-624-9752)

University Holiday Closings

December 23, 24, 25, 2002 and January 1, 2003

Minnesota Dairy Days 2003

January 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17 - at eight locations throughout the state of Minnesota (For more information, contact Marcia Endres - phone: 612-624-5391, email: miendres@umn.edu, or see <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/dairy/dairydays/2003mndairydays.html>)

IMPORTANT PAYDAY NOTICE:

DUE TO THE UPCOMING THREE-DAY HOLIDAY (DECEMBER 23, 24, 25), PAYDAY WILL BE ON THE 20TH RATHER THAN THE 25TH.

Animal Science Seminars

Every Monday at 3:00 p.m. in Room 365 Haecker Hall

December Seminar Schedule:

2nd: Dietary manipulations to reduce salmonella typhimurium in growing pigs - Mindy Spiehs

Vasoactive intestinal peptide-stimulated prolactin promoter activity is inhibited by a D2 dopamine agonist - Thomas Bakken

9th: The ins and outs of automating DNA purification from diverse samples - Dr. Ellen Heath, Genra Systems

16th: Effect of bST administration, energy balance and genetic selection on growth and somatic axis in Holstein calves - Si-Hung Wu

Neuroanatomical relationship between immunoreactive dopamine and vasoactive intestinal peptide neurons in the turkey hypothalamus - Khaled Al-Zailaie

23rd: No seminar - University is closed

30th: CANCELED

Tech Tips

By Chris Buzzetta

Are you thinking about high speed internet access? Do you already have high speed access? If you haven't checked out the Techmart web site, you may be paying more than you need. Depending on where you live, you may be eligible for the University discount for your high speed access. Check out this web site for more discount information:

<http://www.techmart.umn.edu/HTML/connection/>

Cable modems in general are faster than DSL, but DSL may be available in more locations. The link above also has links to help you determine if your location is covered by the University discount. Unfortunately, for those of us who live in Minneapolis, Time Warner and the University have not worked out any arrangements for cable modem access discounts.

If you would like more information about high speed access in general, check out the OIT Newsletter - Dec. 2000, Vol. 5, No. 8 at:

<http://www1.umn.edu/oit/newsletter/1200-itn/1200itn.pdf>

Congratulations to...

Marcia Hill on being selected as our new Senior Office Specialist. Marcia's office is located in 305 Haecker Hall.

Jackie Lee, Principal Accountant. On November 2nd, Jackie received the MS Society's Norman Cohn Hope Award for exemplary volunteer service. Jackie has been volunteering for the MS Society for the past 12 years.

Rebecca Morrison, West Central Research & Outreach Center, on the October 15th birth of an 8 lb, 9 oz baby girl, Gracie Rose.

Dr. Sally Noll, who received \$ 15,000 from Iowa State University/ USDA Prime for research on molecular epidemiology of avian pneumovirus in the Midwest United States.

Dr. Gerald Shurson and Mark Whitney have received \$20,000 from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board for research on the effect of dietary inclusion of distiller's dried grains with solubles on the gastrointestinal health and ability to resist ileitis challenge in growing pigs.

Mark Whitney, graduate student under Dr. Gerald Shurson, on passing his oral prelims.

Position Announcements

Complete details, descriptions and requirements for application are listed in the "Position Announcements" book in 305 Haecker Hall.

- 68 **Assistant Professor of Genomics (Tenure-track).** Department of Dairy and Animal Science, College of Agricultural Sciences and Life Sciences Consortium. Closing date: December 1, 2002 or until a qualified candidate is identified.
- 69 **Regional Extension Specialist (Livestock).** University of Missouri/Lincoln University Outreach and Extension. Position location: Howard County, Fayette, MO. Application deadline: December 9, 2002.
- 70 **Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Agent.** University of Wisconsin-Extension. Position location: Polk County, Balsam Lake, WI. Application deadline: December 12, 2002.
- 71 **Outreach Coordinator.** Department of Entomology, Purdue University. Application deadline: December 16, 2002.
- 72 **Regional Extension Specialist (Agriculture and Rural Development).** University of Missouri/Lincoln University Outreach and Extension. Position location: Hickory County, Hermitage, MO. Application deadline: January 2, 2003.
- 73 **Assistant Professor (Tenure-track) in the area of Monogastric Nutrition.** Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland. Applications will be accepted until January 2, 2003 or until a suitable candidate is identified.
- 74 **Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Veterinary Neurology/Neurosurgery.** Department of Surgical and Radiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis. Applications must be received by January 15, 2003.
- 75 **Chair of the Department of Animal Science.** Iowa State University. Applications will be viewed starting January 31, 2003 and will continue until position is filled.
- 76 **Assistant Professor of Dairy Science (Tenure-track).** Dairy Foods, Dairy Science Department, South Dakota State University. Closing date: February 15, 2003 or until position is filled.
- 77 **Postdoctoral Associate.** Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota. Position is annually renewable, non-tenure track. Applications will be accepted throughout the 2002-2003 academic year but not after June 30, 2003.
- 78 **Research Associate.** Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota. Position is annually renewable, non-tenure track. Applications will be accepted throughout the 2002-2003 academic year but not after June 30, 2003.
- 79 **Research Fellow.** Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota. Position is annually renewable, non-tenure track. Applications will be accepted throughout the 2002-2003 academic year but not after June 30, 2003.
- 80 **Assistant or Associate Professor in Poultry Science.** Department of Animal Science, McGill University. Closing date: January 15, 2003.
- 81 **Assistant Professor/Assistant Scientist in Nutrient Gene Interaction (25% Teaching, 75% Research).** Washington State University. Screening of applicant materials will begin January 20, 2003 and continue until the position is filled.

Through education and research, we serve people by providing continued improvements in the efficient and humane production of animals and wholesome animal products.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED