

AnSci

Connection

Department of Animal Science, University of Minnesota



Issue 59

May/June 2004

Notes from the Department Head

By *F. Abel Ponce de León*

During the first 2 months of every calendar year, we spend time evaluating the outcomes of the previous calendar year. Our work is then presented in the annual departmental report and shared with COAFES administration for evaluation of departmental performance. The report is also posted on our Web site to share the outcomes with all our constituencies. In this note, I would like to highlight some of those outcomes.

The Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota approved promotion for **Dr. Cliff Lamb** from an Assistant Professor on the tenure-track, to an Associate Professor with tenure. Late in 2003, **Dr. Yang Da** was also recommended for promotion from an Assistant Professor on the tenure-track to an Associate Professor with tenure. Recently, Dr. Chris Maziar, Vice-President and Provost, communicated to us that Dr. Da's promotion with tenure recommendation will be submitted for approval to the Board of Regents at their May Board Meeting.

The dairy challenge team, formed by students **Ryan Griffin, Erin Hammell, Shannon O'Harris, Tara Sammon** and coached by **Dr. Marcia Endres**, was awarded the gold level at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

Dr. Jeff Reneau was presented with the Minnesota Dairy Herd Improvement Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Jerry Hawton was inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame in Haecker Hall. Dr. Hawton also met a goal of raising \$275,000 for the General Livestock Judging Program Fund.

Dr. Marshall Stern received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Dr. George Marx retired from the Northwest Research and Outreach Center after 39 years of service. **Ms. Kathryn Loseth** retired from the Department of Animal Science after 32 years of service.

TEACHING: An important highlight of the year was the Board of Regents approval of the **Animal Science major** in September 2003. The major consists of three emphases: 1) Science/Pre-Vet, 2) Animal Industries, and 3) Animal Production Systems. Within two of the emphases, there are

areas of concentration called "options". For example, within the Science/Pre-Vet emphasis there are two options: Basic Science and Animal Biotechnology. Likewise, within the Animal Production Systems emphasis there are Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Equine, Companion Animal, Poultry, and individualized options.

In 2003, the Department graduated two M.S., three Ph.D., and provided training to four Post Doctoral candidates. We welcomed seven new graduate students into the Animal Sciences Graduate Program. Faculty advised over 250 undergraduates.

The Department of Animal Science, through the generosity of the W. E. Petersen family, hosted the **2nd Bi-Annual W. E. Petersen Symposium** on April 8 at the Earle Brown Center. The Symposium's topic "Reproduction Loss in Dairy Cows: Is the Trend Reversible?" was addressed by five nationally known scientists. This was a highly successful event — one we were proud to present and plan to continue.

Continued on Page 3

**All Animal Science Students, Staff,
Faculty, Retirees, and Family Members
are invited to the**

Annual Picnic

of the

Department of Animal Science

Thursday, June 10, 2004

12:30 p.m.

Central Park, Roseville

(Lexington Avenue, south of County Road C)

Softball Anyone?

Contact Marcia Hill at 612-624-9752 or
mhill@umn.edu to sign up for a team.

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

If you would like to submit an article, announce an upcoming event or a special achievement, share information, etc.), please contact Bonnie Rae, Editor.

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AnSci Connection is taking the summer off. Our next issue will be published in September.

Graduate Student Profile: Rud Wasson

Rud Wasson was born in St. Paul and lived there until age 9 while his father attended medical school. The family then moved to Alaska where his father had once been stationed while serving in the Air Force. Rud attended and graduated from high school in Kodiak, Alaska. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Animal Science at North Dakota State University. Following college, he farmed in west-central Minnesota where he mainly raised sheep. After 9 years of farming, Rud accepted a job as sheep unit manager at South Dakota State University. Five years later, he decided to pursue a Ph.D. degree at the University of Minnesota and is currently working with Drs. Cliff Lamb and Alfredo DiCostanzo. Rud's research interests lay primarily in ruminant reproduction. Rud is studying twinning in beef cows, and helps out with other projects including superovulation and embryo transfer, estrous synchronization of cows and heifers, embryo splitting and *in vitro* fertilization. Scoring liver abscesses is one of his main interests. As for Rud's hobbies... "Who has time for things like that?" he says. Although, he does admit that he enjoys bicycling.

Happy/Sad News for UMore Park Turkey Research Unit Staff

The Happy News: On April 13th, the Department of Animal Science welcomed back Fred Hrbek, an employee at the Turkey Unit, from his military tour of duty in Iraq. Fred was part of supply unit and spent nearly a year in Iraq. Over cake and ice cream, it became apparent how much we take for granted here in our daily lives as Fred relayed some of his experiences dealing with the heat in Iraq, the military food and other aspects of life in the military. We're glad that Fred is back safely and can resume his job duties at Rosemount.

The Sad News: With the return of Fred, Sheila Groth was laid off from the Turkey Unit due to budget cuts. A pizza luncheon was held for her at the UMore Park Administration office on April 25th. Sheila worked at the unit for 8 years, and last year she received a Department of Animal Science Outstanding Service Award. Sheila did an excellent job of assuming many of Fred's responsibilities in his absence. The unit staff and researchers certainly will miss her!!

Many thanks to all who attended these events and helped with the planning!



In the photo above, friends and colleagues welcome back Fred Hrbek to Animal Science; unfortunately, with Fred's return, we had to say "good bye" to Sheila Groth. From right to left: Jack Otis, Nduka Omeoga, Fred Hrbek, Sally Noll, and Sheila Groth.

NOTE: Animal Science Seminars will not be held over the summer. Department seminars will resume in September.

Continued from Page 1

RESEARCH: Total funds received decreased 17% from the previous year. Grants and gifts totaling \$1,127,100 comprised approximately 16% of the total funds. Despite the extraordinary budgetary reductions, our faculty identified ways to fund all of the current graduate student research assistantships. We are fortunate to have a vibrant group of new and continuing graduate students who participate in and enrich our Department's activities.

Publications this year included 3 book chapters, 45 refereed journal articles, 52 abstracts and 58 proceedings.

Support was obtained to continue the Department's **Meat Lab** for an additional trial year.

EXTENSION and OUTREACH: Each year, Animal Science Extension faculty present several educational programs in collaboration with faculty from other departments, Extension educators, multi-state Extension faculty, and/or livestock industry representatives. Following are some highlights of our 2003 Extension and Outreach efforts.

Minnesota **Cattle Feeder Days**, the single most important cattle feeder information session in the state, marked its 10-year anniversary under the direction of **Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo** with the development of a CD compiling Cattle Feeder Days articles published since 1993.

The new **University of Minnesota Beef Industry Center** Web site (<http://www.extension.umn.edu/beef/index.html>) was launched in 2003 as a virtual center for beef-related information.

The **QUALITY COUNTS** program was launched by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Milk Producers Association, University of Minnesota (**Dr. Jeff Reneau**), and dairy processors and producers, in response to a state-wide cooperative campaign to improve milk quality in Minnesota. Two very successful workshops were held and a **QUALITY COUNTS** CD was produced.

Raising Dairy Replacements and its companion CD was completed. Minnesota's contributions were made by **Drs. Hugh Chester-Jones** and **Sandra Godden**.

The **poultry Extension faculty** addressed various topics of importance to the poultry industry including avian pneumovirus and avian influenza. Up-to-date bio-security alerts were posted on the Poultry Web site (<http://www.ansci.umn.edu/poultry/index.html>). A session on avian influenza control programs was added to the curriculum of the Turkey School, and the first Poultry School on Ventilation was held.

Our **swine Extension faculty**, recognized internationally as **leaders in DDGS research** for swine, host the DDGS Web site (<http://www.ddgs.umn.edu>). The site serves as a collection point for research results and educational materials authored by our faculty as well as by colleagues from other universities.

Animal Science participated in **two new youth programs in 2003** (Kids-U and Gopher Dairy Camp). As part of the **Kids-U Farming Adventures**, under **Dr. Jacquie Jacob's** leadership, the Department hosted 52 youth. Children

attended daily sessions on the St. Paul Campus for one week to learn about animal production industries. The Department plans to offer a similar program in 2004.

The **Gopher Dairy Camp**, a 3-day summer activity camp for 4-H and FFA youth, was sponsored by the Gopher Dairy Club and the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Committee. The camp drew 74 youth from 3 states. Through the efforts of **Drs. Tony Seykora and Les Hansen**, and Animal Science graduate student Brad Heins, the camp was such a success that the sponsors agreed to offer it again in 2004.

A long-standing and popular outreach activity of the Department is **Ag Awareness**. This annual 3-day event is organized by **graduate students of the Departments of Animal Science and Applied Plant Sciences**. The Ag Awareness program gives suburban school children a fun and informative look at Minnesota agriculture. Approximately 1,000 children attend Ag Awareness each year. The 2003 program was a fun and interesting event for the participants as well as the volunteers.

And finally, students from the Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy (AFSA) in Little Canada, Minnesota, participated in a week-long "**Cognitive Discovery Lab**" project with the Department of Animal Science.

Animal Science Summer Youth Program: Adventures with Food and Fiber

The Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota is offering week-long summer programs for kids 7-15 years of age. Each week will provide age appropriate hands-on activities to introduce the participants to animal agriculture and food/fiber production.

- Who:** Youth age 7-15 years of age
- When:** Ages 7-8 yrs July 12-16 or August 2-6
Ages 9-10 yrs July 19-23 or August 9-13
Ages 11-12 yrs June 21-25
Ages 12+ yrs June 14-18
- Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day
(with drop off between 8 and 9 a.m.;
pickup between 4 and 5 p.m.)
- Fee:** \$200/child
- Contact:** Jacquie Jacob
U of MN, Dept of Animal Science
1364 Eckles Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108-6118
Phone: 612-624-2766
Email: jacob150@umn.edu
- Web:** <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/adventures/index.html>

Dairy Challenge Team Brings Home the Gold

The third annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge took place on April 2 and 3, 2004, in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

The Dairy Challenge is an innovative two-day competition for students representing dairy science programs at North American universities. It enables students to apply theory and learning to a real-world dairy while working as part of a four-person team. The teams evaluate a designated dairy and then make management recommendations to a panel of judges. After visiting the dairy in the morning, they have only one afternoon to develop their farm analysis and prepare a PowerPoint presentation outlining their recommendations. The following day, the teams present their recommendations to a panel of judges and field questions from the judges. Award levels are Platinum, Gold and Silver, in that order. This year there were 25 teams representing universities from coast to coast.

The event was hosted by Penn State University and supported financially by industry. Additionally, the University of Minnesota team received funding from Cargill Animal Nutrition to cover transportation costs to and from the contest.



Front row, left to right: Abby Anderson and Kelly Rickeman, both from Hutchinson; back row, left to right: Bob Leuer from Corcoran, Jon Schmidt from Owatona, and coach Dr. Marcia Endres.

The Minnesota team, pictured above, worked very well together and gave an excellent presentation. Team members described the contest as a "wonderful learning experience that helped us to improve our dairy diagnostic skills while working in a team-based environment". The team returned home with a well-earned Gold Award.

Congratulations Team!

Students Wanted!

Do you know of any prospective students who you think would be a good fit for the Animal Science program? Kelly Sheehan, the admissions/advising counselor for Animal Science, wants your assistance in locating potential students.

As part of her joint position with the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Rhetoric, Kelly is actively recruiting prospective students from throughout Minnesota, the Midwest, and the entire United States. Recently, she represented the University of Minnesota and the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) at the Central Plains Dairy Expo in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Animal Science has a new major that offers three emphasis areas: Industry (a combination of business, communication and animal science classes), Production, and Science/Pre-Vet/Biotechnology. If you know of any student who may be interested, please contact Kelly at 612-624-9786 or ksheehan@umn.edu.

COAFES is still taking freshmen and transfer applications for Fall 2004. Applications are available online at <http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/index.html>. The deadline is June 1, 2004!

Congratulations...

Mohamed El Halawani received a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council to study light spectrum requirements to maximize breeder hen turkey egg production.

Jacqueline Jacob received a grant from the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association for "Student Recruitment Funds".

Cliff Lamb received a grant from Pfizer Animal Health for \$78,375 to fund the research project "Influence of a CIDR Prior to Bull-breeding on Pregnancy Rates and Subsequent Calving Distribution.

The Minnesota Junior Angus Association presented Cliff Lamb with the "Special Recognition Award for Service and Support to the Junior Association" at their annual meeting in Rochester on March 23, 2004.

Sally Noll received funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council for "Improving the Nutritional Value of Corn Distiller Grains with Solubles (DDGS) for Poultry Diets from Ethanol Processing - Influence of Solubles Addition".

Principle investigators Sally Noll, Mohamed El Halawani, Jagdev Sharma, and K.G. Nagaraja have received a total of \$93,192 in funding from Midwest Poultry, Iowa State University, and USDA Prime for "Evaluation of Apparent Metabolizable Energy and Phosphorus Availability of Dried Distiller's Grains with Solubles for Poultry".

What Minnesotan's Know for Sure... Snow in March State Fair in August

Animal Science Day at the COAFES booth during the 2004 Minnesota State Fair is scheduled for **Friday, August 27**.

NEW THIS YEAR! Animal Science will sponsor (by providing volunteers) a day at the "Little Farm Hands at the Fair" exhibit. This is a hands-on exhibit is set up similar to our Ag Awareness event. A new exhibit last year, it won best "New Exhibit to Promote Agriculture". Kids will have the opportunity to experience the ag process, beginning at the farm and ending at the market. The mock-farm consists of a series of "miniature stations": barn, grain bin, tractor shed, chicken coop, garden, sheep barn, dairy barn, apple orchard, farmer's market, grocery store.

The Animal Science-sponsored day for the "Little Farm Hands at the Fair" exhibit will be **Friday, September 3**.

Sign up sheets for these events will be available in the near future. All volunteers will receive a ticket to the State Fair.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 11 - Spring College Assembly, Cargill Bldg Seminar Room, St. Paul Campus (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.). Contact Kent Olson, Chair, College Faculty Consultative Committee at 612-625-7723 or kdolson@umn.edu.

May 18, 19, 20 -

Ag Awareness, Livestock Pavilion, U of MN St. Paul Campus. Contact Jon Holt at 612-625-3743 or see <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/ag-awareness/index.htm>.

Layer School II: Feeding & Managing Laying Hens, U of MN, St. Paul Campus. Contact Veterinary Outreach Programs at 800-380-8636 or 612-624-3434.

Minnesota Dairy Conference, U of MN, St. Paul Campus. Contact Veterinary Outreach Programs at 800-380-8636 or 612-624-3434.

May 22 - UMore Park Horse Trail Opening, Rosemount, MN (10:00 a.m.). For more information, call 612-624-9739.

May 31 - University is closed (Memorial Day Observance).

Jun 8 & 9 - Pasture & Grazing Management Workshop, West Central ROC, Morris, MN. Contact Dennis Johnson at 320-589-1711.

Jun 8-13 - XXII World's Poultry Congress, Istanbul, Turkey. For more information, see <http://www.wpc2004.org/>.

Jun 10 - Department of Animal Science Annual Picnic, Central Park, Roseville. Contact Marcia Hill at 612-624-9752 or mhill@umn.edu.

Jun 10-12 -

Gopher Dairy Camp, U of MN St. Paul Campus. Contact Brad Heins at 612-625-9294 or hein0106@umn.edu.

World Pork Expo, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA. For more information, call 847-8328-6772 or see <http://www.worldpork.org/>.

Jun 12-16 - American Forage & Grassland Council Conference, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. For more information, call 540-231-5182.

Jun 16 & 17 - Four-State Professional Dairy Management Seminar (beginning June 16 at 1:00 p.m.). Pre-seminar Tech Symposium: "Trace Minerals - A Fresh Perspective" (8:30 a.m. to Noon on the 16th). Grand River Center, Dubuque, IA. Contact Wisconsin Agri-Service Association at 608-223-1111.

Jul 5 - University is closed (Independence Day Observance).

Jul 19-23 - Molecular BioTechnology Workshop, U of MN, St. Paul Campus. Contact Veterinary Outreach Programs at 800-380-8636 or 612-624-3434.

Jul 27-29 - Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, Best Western Midway Hotel, LaCrosse, WI. Contact Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496 Ext 14.

Aug 18-20 - 7th Annual Minnesota Rural Summit, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, MN. For more information, see <http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/ruralsummit.htm>.

Aug 28-Sep 6 - Minnesota State Fair, Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN. For more information, call 651-288-4400 or see <http://www.mnstatefair.org>.

Sep 6 - University is closed (Labor Day Observance).

Sep 7 - Fall semester begins.

Sep 18-21 - Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, U of MN, St. Paul Campus. Contact Veterinary Outreach Programs at 800-380-8636 or 612-624-3434.

Tech Tips...

by Chris Buzzetta

Does Your Password Have a Complex?

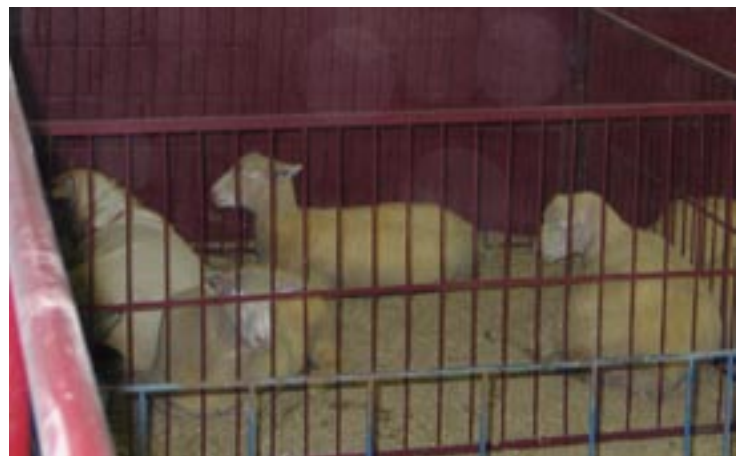
As the need for computer security increases every day, users need to think of new ways to create more complex passwords. How does a password qualify as complex? It has a deep personality that enjoys exploring the world around it, and it finds ways to discover new skills and interests. It has many layers to its individuality, and is sometimes difficult to fully appreciate. My password often attends the Opera and frequents museums. Currently, it is studying ancient Sanskrit.

Truthfully, though, a password needs to have high levels of complexity to protect valuable data in this era of rampant viruses and hackers. To qualify as complex, it should not contain easily recognizable words, it should be at least eight characters, and it should contain letters, numbers and especially other symbols. A password such as "#rTS5(1z&*>" is going to be much harder to crack than "joeyd034".

There are ways to maintain a core password that you will remember but also make it more complex. Look for numbers and symbols that match the letters of your core password to replace those letters. You could replace the password "sauna018" with "\$@uN@o!&" and create a much more complex set of characters. As you can see from this example, the \$ looks like an "S" and the "a" is replaced by the "@" sign. If you can be creative with your replacement symbols, these symbols will begin to be second nature to you. Unfortunately, there are systems out there that do not accept symbols in the password, especially certain Web sites. In this case, consider replacing letters with numbers - S with 5, Z with 2, or L with 1.

Why is it important that you start using complex passwords? The University is heading toward a new policy requiring passwords of eight characters or more that meet this complexity requirement. Also, there will likely be a 180-day expiration on all University passwords and on all machines purchased with University funds in the near future.

Minnesota Royal 2004 held its 88th annual celebration on the St. Paul Campus April 12-17. Below are photographs taken at some of this year's activities. For more information about Minnesota Royal (past and present), see <http://alumni.coafes.umn.edu/mnroyal/default.asp>.



Happy Birthday!



MAY

- 4 - Mary Hartman
- 5 - William Dayton
- 8 - Peter Maniak
 - Kimberly Reno
- 10 - Si-Hung Wu
- 12 - Jeanine Brannon
- 13 - Martin Moreno
- 17 - Krista Osmundson
- 19 - Terrance Yourchuck
- 21 - Laura Mauro
- 23 - Melissa Mussman
- 25 - Samantha Brenny
 - Travis Munson
- 29 - Matthew Witzel
- 30 - Shane VanDerBosch

JUNE

- 4 - Marcia Hathaway
- 5 - Mark Jewell
- 17 - Kelly Sheehan
- 18 - Christopher Miller
- 19 - Jacqueline Jacob

JULY

- 8 - Rud Wasson
- 9 - Amy Hazel
- 11 - Sally Noll
- 16 - Thomas Bakken
- 20 - Jeffrey Griggs
- 29 - Fredrick Hrbek
- 29 - Scott O'Grady
- 30 - Jeffrey Reneau

AUGUST

- 1 - James Linn
- 14 - F. Ponce de León
- 17 - Nathan Adams
- 18 - Kenneth Fischer
- 21 - Stacy Fritz
- 29 - Robyn Schnobrich
- 30 - Leslie Hansen

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Marcia Endres
 - Kathryn Loseth
- 7 - Beth Magee-Beyer
- 9 - Kim Yun Sog
- 16 - Tiffany Bobendrier
- 17 - David Shiroma
 - Orlan Youngren
- 18 - Gang Xi
- 20 - Dennis Johnson
- 23 - Mary Raeth-Knight

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