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The State of the Department

by Dr. Kenny Webb, Professor and Interim Department Head



In this university setting, we find ourselves measuring time by where we are in the academic year. At the writing of this article, we are just days away from completing the 2007 fall semester where we had an undergraduate enrollment of about 465. Eighteen students will receive their B.S. degrees on December 14. At the same time,

four students will receive M.S. degrees and five students will be awarded the Ph.D. degree. You will find more about this further in this newsletter.

Alumni, friends, and stakeholders, we hope you take pride in the accomplishments of the department. Helping outstanding students achieve their academic goals and receive degrees, as mentioned above, is a major part of who we are. As you read further in this newsletter, you will find numerous examples of exciting achievements of faculty and students.

The department's research and graduate training program continues to enjoy national and international stature and productivity is increasing at a very high rate. This past year, research grants received totaled \$2.6 million. Research funding generated by departmental faculty has increased at the rate of about 26% per year since 2000. The College of Agriculture was listed as tenth among colleges of agriculture in research funding by the National Science Foundation. Your Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences is one of the top contributors to the recognized achievements by CALS.

Departmental extension programs are providing top quality programming to a very wide array of stakeholders and in some areas, numbers of individuals being served are at an all-time high. External funds garnered by extension faculty to support their activities are at an unparalleled high and we expect them to continue growing.

It is rewarding to report on the achievements of the department, but to continue this, we must be ever vigilant to assure that we have the best people working with the best tools and facilities so that they can achieve their finest. We have outstanding faculty and we expect to add to the faculty roster over the course of the next year or two. During the

past three to four years with the assistance of CALS, we have been able to renovate some of the research laboratories in the department bringing them to state-of-the-art condition. We are about to complete a major renovation of space in Litton Reaves that will provide facilities for Biosafety Level 2 animal research. The renovation is critical as we develop our efforts to study host-pathogen interactions and how these interface with physiological processes such as immunology and nutrition.

A major limitation for the department resides with our animal facilities that are used to support departmental programs in instruction, research, and extension. In general, our animal facilities are enormously inadequate to sustain the level of achievement you and we should be expecting from our programs. Earlier this year, faculty in the department devoted considerable effort to developing a facilities master plan. You can read more about this later in this newsletter. We are now in the process of developing these plans. As alumni, friends, and stakeholders, you can help us achieve our vision of having the very best animal facilities to support our teaching, research and extension programs. Virginia Tech, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and your Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences are currently in the midst of the Campaign for Virginia Tech – Invent the Future. Throughout Virginia Tech's history, private philanthropy has played a critical role in shaping the success of our educational mission. On many occasions, friends and alumni have confirmed their confidence in our vision. Their generosity has made possible the unique position we are in today. We have more programs, more students, and more successes in research and education than ever before. Please consider becoming involved in this process as a donor or in some other way. I will be happy to visit with you (webbk@vt.edu) or if you choose, you may contact the CALS Development Office (rjmac@vt.edu).

In closing I have three requests: 1) enjoy this newsletter and take pride in our accomplishments, 2) alumni please take time to complete the last page of the newsletter with updated information about yourself and return it to us, and 3) do think seriously about how you may play a role in helping us realize our vision for modern animal facilities.

Thank you for your continued support of our department.

Record Breaking Sale at the Hokie Harvest

by Dr. Dan Eversole, Associate Professor

The 2007 Livestock Merchandising Class entertained a spectacular crowd of over 850 friends and supporters on a rainy, chilly evening at the 13th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 26th. There were 9 breeding swine sold via silent auction prior to the 16 university horses and 35 head (27 lots) of beef cattle that were sold concurrently at public auction in the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena (horses) and the Livestock Judging Pavilion (beef cattle). There were 211 registered buyers from Kentucky, South Dakota, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia. The beef cattle sale grossed \$110,650 with a sale average of \$4,098 with the following breed totals: Angus - \$89,300; Hereford - \$10,150; Simmental - \$9,000; and Charolais - \$2,200. The horse sale grossed \$58,300 with a sale average of \$3,644 while the nine breeding swine averaged \$339. This year's sale gross totaled \$172,003, which is the highest grossing sale since the inception of the Hokie Harvest in 1995.

In the cattle sale of four different breeds, Lot 1 set a record breaking price of \$41,000 among all cattle (533 head) and horses (314 head) sold in the 12 previous Hokie Harvest Sales. This three-year-old cow is an elite Angus female with an impeccable pedigree. She is a daughter of the highly acclaimed Pathfinder Sire, Bon View New Design 1407, and is a direct granddaughter of the \$7M producing Wehrmann Angus donor, GAR Precision 2536. This highly valued donor cow sold with four frozen embryos by CA Future Direction 5321 to Clifton Farms of Berryville, VA.

In the yearling heifer division, Lot 9 was the sale top-per at \$4,000. This Angus bred heifer is an embryo transfer daughter of the \$10,000 donor, Alli Rita 704 314, and is sired by the record selling \$255,000 GAR Integrity. She sold to B.L. Grady of Faison, NC.

VPI Titan 6S50 (Lot 16) topped the yearling bull division at \$2,900. This Rito 2V1 son has tremendous curve-bending genetics and stems from an exceptional cow family in the Holly Hill Program in Mt. Crawford, VA. He sold to John Howell of Floyd, VA.

The top seller for the horse sale was the impressive two-year-old Bertone VT (Lot 9), who sold to Ray James of Roncevert, WV for \$11,500 after impressing the crowd with his incredible trot. The bay Oldenburg NA gelding is by the

top international dressage stallion Bugatti Hilltop and had been named Champion Colt at his ISR/Oldenburg NA inspection as a foal. The second-highest selling horse was the two-year-old Bravado VT (Lot 12), a Premium Oldenburg NA gelding sired by Virginia Tech's own Baladin d'Oc and out of the imported Dutch Warmblood mare, Kalanta. The winning bidder was the Grand Prix dressage rider Sue Cooper of Impulsion Unlimited, Inc. in Huddleston, VA, who paid \$5,600 for the outstanding young prospect.

The 78 students did a marvelous job of preparing for the sale. They gained 'hands-on' experience in sale management, budgeting, cataloging, advertising, livestock photography, clerking, and health requirements. A special thanks is extended to Col. Jeff Marsh of Euro-sport Auctions, Ltd. and Col. Ken Brubaker of Brubaker Sales and Marketing for serving as auctioneers for the horses and beef cattle, respectively. Students Victoria Athey, Leesburg, VA; Courtney Hall, Mitchell, VA; Allen Heishman, Mt. Jackson, VA; and Cameron Sasser, Albermarle, NC served as ring people for the beef cattle sale while Adam Marshall, Fancy Gap, VA worked the ring. Bid-takers for the horse sale were Rebecca Arnold, Martinsville, VA; Marit Domjahn, Abingdon, VA; Lucas Spillman, Spotsylvania, VA; and Cliff Williamson, Reva, VA. Students who were clerking 'in the block' were Ciera Sowers, Floyd, VA and Melissa VanWitzenburg, New Canton, VA for the beef cattle and horses, respectively. The Food and Beverage Committee, with assistance from the Block and Bridle Club in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, served a complimentary BBQ dinner to over 850 guests. Their support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

The response from the 211 registered horse, swine, and beef cattle buyers and feedback from the students in the class continue to be overwhelming in favor of hosting another student-run livestock sale. Plans are currently underway for the 14th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 31, 2008. We hope to see you there!



Hokie Harvest High Seller

"VT 1407 New Design B4," a 3-year-old Angus cow, was purchased for \$41,000 in the 2007 Hokie Harvest Sale by Wayne Koonce and Harriet Hentges, owners of Clifton in Berryville, Virginia. "B4" ranks in the Top 1% of Angus dams for \$Beef Index, the most comprehensive performance index used to evaluate Angus cattle. Clifton is home to an arsenal of outstanding embryo donors that excel in growth, maternal and carcass traits. The Clifton program is well-known nationwide and having a Virginia Tech cow counted among the donors in their embryo program is a great honor.

Awards and Recognitions

Virginia General Assembly Recognizes Dr. A. L. "Ike" Eller, Jr.

Dr. Arthur "Ike" Eller, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Animal Science, was presented with a commendation from the Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates by Delegate Jim Shuler at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Awards Banquet on October 12, 2007. The resolution honors Dr. Eller's commitment to many years of teaching, research, and leadership related to improving the beef cattle industry in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Eller is a '55 and '66 graduate of Virginia Tech's Animal and Poultry Science Department. In 1972, he obtained his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He joined the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1960.

He played a leading role in the development and operation of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association and contributed greatly to the founding of the national Beef Improvement Federation. He has served in an advisory capacity for numerous beef cattle organizations. As director of development for the college in the late 1990's, he led a \$25.6 million campaign, surpassing the original goal by \$10 million.



Dr. Ike Eller (left), accompanied by his wife Carolyn (right), receives a commendation from the Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates, presented by Delegate Jim Shuler (center)

Dr. Eller has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout his distinguished career, including the American Society of Animal Science National Extension Award, VA Agribusiness Council Distinguished Service Award, Progressive Farmer's Man of the Year in Virginia Agriculture, and Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame Award.

Outstanding Ambassador Award: Ashleigh Waddle

by Lori Greiner, CALS Communications Manager



Ashleigh Waddle (APSC '07) of Saltville, Va., was the recipient of the CALS Outstanding Ambassador Award. Waddle was a college ambassador for three years, serving as president of the ambassadors in the 2005-06 academic year. Her contributions and leadership during this time extended beyond the college to reach the university and the local community.

programs and aims to better orient undergraduate students to the alumni association's programs. As a national collegiate agriculture ambassador with the Collegiate Future Farmers of America, she also gave presentations to interested parties about the agriculture industry. Waddle served as coordinator of the student track at the National Agriculture Alumni and Development Association annual conference. She was an orientation leader, a member of the Dairy Club and Alpha Chi Omega, and a volunteer with Southwest Virginia Big Brothers Big Sisters and Team in Training.

Waddle was a member of the Student Alumni Associates, an official affiliate of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. This group assists with various alumni

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Awards and Recognitions, continued from page 4

Dr. Dan Eversole Wins Honorary FFA Degree



The Virginia FFA Board of Directors recently nominated Dr. Dan Eversole, an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech, to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree. The award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well being of the nation. The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond the valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confi-

dence in a new generation of agriculturists.

Members of the National FFA Board of Directors approve the nomination. Dr. Eversole traveled to Indianapolis in order to receive the honor during an onstage presentation at the 80th National FFA Convention, held October 24-27, 2007. All recipients will receive a certificate and medal and their names will be permanently recorded.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 495,046 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,242 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Student Research Paper Certificate Of Excellence Recipients

ADSA-PSA-AMPA-ASAS Joint Annual Meeting

July 8-12, San Antonio, TX



Elizabeth Gilbert,
graduate student

Elizabeth is also the 2007 recipient of the E.T. Kornegay Memorial Travel Scholarship and the Eastern Shore Hatchery Association Emerson Morgan Graduate Award.



Jessica Gould,
senior undergraduate
APSC major

College Of Agriculture And Life Science Award



Dr. Kenny Webb, professor and interim head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, received the 2007 College Award for Research Excellence for Basic Research. The award recognizes his discovery that the absorption of small peptides contributes greatly to animal nutrition. Animal scientists worldwide now recognize the concept, and nutritional supplements are being designed expressly to take advantage of peptide absorption.

Dean's Forum on Health, Food, and Nutrition – Fall 2007

Xiaolun Sun, a graduate student in APSC who just completed his Ph.D. degree with Dr. Curtis Novak, received an Honorable Mention in the Nutrition category for his poster entitled "Broiler Performance and Yield Observed with Enzyme Supplementation and a Corn Matrix Adjustment for Energy".

Facilities Master Plan Report



Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena is the newest APSC facility. It has been utilized extensively and has provided a venue for excellence in teaching, extension programming and other events.

During the last eight months a focused effort has been underway to plan renovations and new constructions that will enhance the animal units used by the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. Members of the Facilities Master Planning Committee are: Bill Beal (chair), Guillermo Scaglia, Rebecca Splan, Dave Linker, Scott Greiner, Dan Eversole, Audrey McElroy, Cindy Wood, Paul Siegel, and Teresa McDonald.

The livestock and poultry facilities of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science Department (APSC) support the teaching, research and extension missions. Construction and maintenance of modern livestock and poultry facilities are critical to safe, "hands-on" teaching programs and for the delivery of on-campus extension events that have earned the department numerous accolades. Animal housing and handling facilities are also essential for maintaining animal populations that facilitate a broad range of research extending from herd and flock animal breeding projects to mechanisms regulating cellular metabolism.

The report written by the Facilities Master Plan Committee describes current facilities and outlines proposed new construction or renovations. Outcomes that justify improvement of the facilities for beef cattle, equine, poultry, sheep, swine and other multi-use facilities are detailed in the report and the potential impact of facility improvements in each area is predicted. Proposed facility improvements range from complete reconstruction of some older facilities to additions at newer facilities designed to enhance their function.

The impact of improving facilities for beef cattle, equine, poultry, sheep, swine and multi-use facilities will be realized across all missions of the department. The total impact will be to improve the recognition and perception of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech as a leader in research, teaching and extension. The facility improvements are expected to:

- Capture the unique opportunity to deliver teaching, research and outreach information to Virginia Tech students and Virginia producers using state-of-the-art facilities that promote Virginia Tech and Virginia agriculture
- Enhance job competitiveness of undergraduate and graduate students trained with modern, industry type equipment and facilities for management of livestock and poultry
- Increase hands-on teaching opportunities and activity of the Virginia Tech Block & Bridle, Poultry and Equitation Clubs
- Increase the opportunities for Virginia Tech to host state, regional and national livestock and equine events
- Enhance the ability of researchers to solve problems faced by livestock and poultry producers in the state and nationwide, thereby positioning the university as one of the premier agricultural research institutions in the country
- Generate greater scholarly output by faculty, undergraduate and graduate students and increase competitiveness for external funding of research activities as a result of improved infrastructure and research capabilities
- Increase efficiency of animal management centered around enhancements in animal care, improved animal health, greater feeding efficiency and implementation of environmentally-friendly waste disposal

New Faculty & Staff Julia McCann, Instructor



The APSC Department welcomes Dr. Julia S. McCann to the faculty as an instructor for the equine undergraduate program. Having headed the VA State 4-H Horse Show in 2002-2004 at Lexington, Dr. McCann enters the position with an insight of the VA horse industry and the talented people that are involved with it. "The outstanding quality of students and the APSC programs at

VT are well known across the country and it is truly exciting to become a part of this outstanding team," states Dr. McCann.

Dr. McCann originates from the Winston-Salem, NC area where she competed nationally in 4-H equine events and worked in the family horse business. She earned a B.S. from NCSU in Animal Science where she started the first collegiate horse judging team. But she is no stranger to Virginia Tech

as she earned a M.S. degree in equine nutrition and coached the first collegiate horse judging teams with Dr. Tom Meacham. After earning a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University in equine behavior and physiology, she served on the faculty at The University of Georgia Animal and Dairy Science Department for 16 years. Her research interests elucidated physiological changes in the pregnant mare grazing infected tall fescue pastures as well as other forage and behavior problems documented in 15 refereed publications. Dr. McCann taught six equine courses, three general animal science courses and coached the horse judging team to some national titles. As a Hokie, she will rely on this experience to teach Introduction to the Equine Industry, Advanced Principles of Equine Evaluation, and a new Horse Management Laboratory course along with undergraduate advising and coaching the VT Horse Judging Team.

Dr. McCann resides in Newport, VA with her husband Mark and sons Josh and Zach. She rides daily and targets a few horse shows for herself among the many 4-H activities of the boys who show sheep, horses, and play basketball.

Kristine Doyle, Supervisor and Instructor, Smithfield Horse Center



Kristine Doyle joined the Smithfield Horse Center in September 2007 as the new Farm Manager. She is originally from Illinois and recently completed a Master's degree in Animal Science at the University of Illinois while serving as Farm Manager of the University of Illinois Equine Research and Teaching Unit. Kristine is responsible for the daily operations of the farm and care of the horses housed at Smithfield, as well as assisting with the instruction of equine courses taught at the Smithfield Horse Center. In addition, she has volunteered to serve as Coach of the IHSA Stock Seat Equestrian team. Outside of the farm, Kristy enjoys riding and actively competes with her own horses in American Paint Horse Association (APHA) shows.

of the farm and care of the horses housed at Smithfield, as well as assisting with the instruction of equine courses taught at the Smithfield Horse Center. In addition, she has volunteered to serve as Coach of the IHSA Stock Seat Equestrian team. Outside of the farm, Kristy enjoys riding and actively competes with her own horses in American Paint Horse Association (APHA) shows.

Amy Parsons, Extension Project Associate



Amy's primary responsibilities as an Extension Project Associate are to establish and maintain an extension education program for poultry youth related activities, coach the poultry judging team and teach the Poultry Evaluation and Selection course.

Kim Graham, Accounting Clerk

Kim Graham has been hired recently as a full-time employee in the accounting office. She is a native of West Virginia, and moved to Dublin in 2006. The mother of three children (one daughter and two sons), Kim has worked in accounting/bookkeeping for 12 years.

Bernard Duncan, Agricultural Technician, Poultry Farm

Bernard Duncan has recently joined the work force at the APSC Poultry Farm. Bernard is a native of Blacksburg; he and his wife live in McCoy, VA.

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APSC Students Abroad

by Dr. Cindy Wood, Associate Professor, Genetics and Animal Production



Since 2000, 25 undergraduate students in Animal and Poultry Sciences have broadened their horizons and stretched their comfort zones by taking advantage of opportunities to study abroad for one or more semesters. Those students have taken courses in South Africa, West Indies, England, the island of Malta, Mexico, Ireland and Australia. In addition, other students have completed internships and study tours throughout the world.

By far the most popular program has been the student exchanges between Virginia Tech and the University of the Orange Free State in South Africa. A total of 13 APSC students have participated in this program, spending the spring semester in the southern hemisphere. The program's success has several components: 1) students can take courses taught in English that satisfy APSC degree requirements; 2) a VT faculty member accompanies each group of students and helps them in adjusting for the semester; 3) South African students and faculty make our students feel very welcome; and 4) the sightseeing opportunities are fantastic.

Other universities that have hosted APSC students include the University of the West Indies, the University of Sunderland, the University of Malta, the Universidad Veracruzana, the University of Pretoria, the University of Limerick, the University of Westminster, and Curtin University.

Invariably, students who have taken the plunge and studied abroad rate the experience as one of the best in their college careers. At the least, it gives each participant a real sense of accomplishment. At its best, study abroad can be a life-altering experience. As we move towards the second decade of the 21st century, the APSC undergraduate programs will encourage even more students to study abroad.



Virginia Tech students in South Africa. Picture by Scott Purcell.

New Faculty and Staff, continued from page 7

Sherri Willis, Instructor and Barn Manager, Campbell Arena

Sherri Willis is the barn manager and assistant instructor at Campbell Arena. While attending Virginia Tech as an undergraduate student, Sherri was a zone finalist on the IHSA team and was a founding member of RadTech Equine Corporation. RadTech organized intercollegiate riding teams for both Virginia Tech and Radford University when the two schools had no formal riding programs. More recently, Sherri has competed in local horse shows with the accomplishments of winning the SWVHJA Older Adult Medal Finals on two occasions.



Virginia's 4-H Teams Excel in 2007 National Competitions

by Dr. Mark Wahlberg, Associate Professor, 4-H Livestock Specialist



Virginia's best 4-H livestock members have competed in four different national level competitions this year, and excelled in every one of them. The livestock judging team has won two major contests this fall. The state-winning meats judging team had a sixth place finish in their national contest. And

the state-winning stockmens contest team, while finishing sixth in their national event, had the first-place individual in the entire contest. In the enclosed table can be seen the details of the competitions.

Will Copenhaver took first place in the national Skilathon Contest, an event where Virginia's first-place Stockmens Contest team competes each year. In this comprehensive test of knowledge across the spectrum of livestock species and topics, Will out-scored every other contestant from across the country. To go with that, his teammates Brad Copenhaver and Samantha Gregory also finished in the top ten. Virginia's team won the Identification category, and was 6th place overall. This team, composed of Washington County 4-H members, was trained by Extension Agents Phil Blevins and Crystal Peek.

The meats judging team represented Virginia very solidly in their national event. This Augusta County team had previously won the state contest, held in March in Blacksburg. At their national contest in Manhattan Kansas they stood their ground against the likes of Colorado, Illinois, and Texas to take sixth place out of the 15 teams competing. Team member Jessica Liskey stood tall in the judging and reasons category by finishing in the top 10 in every species, and 11th place overall. Danielle McPherson was 9th in retail cut identification. As a team Virginia was 4th in retail cut judging, and 3rd in oral reasons on their way to a sixth place overall finish. The team is coached by volunteer leader Eric Stogdale.

The livestock judging teams representing Virginia had a superb season, winning both major contests in which they competed. At the American Royal in Kansas City, the Augusta County team beat them all. From among the 19 teams competing Virginia took 4th in sheep, second in oral reasons, and

first place in both swine judging and beef judging to win the contest by 12 points. Brandon Reeves won the sheep and oral reasons category, in addition to finishing 3rd in cattle to finish in first place overall. Stephanie Willis won the swine division, was second in cattle, and 4th place overall. Laura Kate Reeves was the second place winner in swine judging. Eric Stogdale and Shirley Kaufman trained this winning team.

At the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, there were 33 teams and 129 contestants. And once again, Virginia's team took the first place award. Brandon Reeves and Stephanie Willis were joined by Luke Strecker and Kaitlyn Meadows, who competed for Rockbridge County in the state contest in June. Virginia's team took second in sheep judging, 3rd in beef, fifth in oral reasons, and 6th in swine judging to compile their winning margin of 22 points. Brandon and Luke were the 3rd and 4th place individuals overall, and Stephanie was 8th. This qualified them to be awarded 4-H Livestock Judging All-American recognition. In addition, Stephanie took second place in sheep judging and Luke was 7th in cattle judging. Brandon was 11th in 2 different categories. This team was coached by Dr. Mark Wahlberg, Extension Animal Scientist.

This outstanding performance in four different national competitions is truly exceptional. It is rare to have a first-place finish in any national competition, and Virginia had two first place team finishes, and also two first-place individuals. Virginia's best in the 4-H livestock program have gone head-to-head with those from the other states, and proven that they are among the best in the entire nation.

Virginia's 4-H livestock program provides many opportunities for youth to learn about beef cattle, sheep, swine, and the red meats derived from these species. Volunteer leaders and Extension Agents lead the local programs. The comprehensive educational opportunities available for young people to learn are coupled with events in which they can demonstrate their knowledge in competition with their peers from around the state. Finally, the winning teams and individuals in the state events are given the opportunity to represent Virginia in the various national competitions. Specialists from Virginia Tech, particularly from the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, lead the state level events and guide the overall educational program.

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Virginia's 4-H Teams, continued from page 9...



Champion team at American Royal 4H Livestock Judging Contest, held in Kansas City. From left, Laura Kate Reeves, Stephanie Willis, Danielle McPherson, and Brandon Reeves



Champion team at National 4H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY. From left, Mr. Willie Hayes, donor of team award from Westway Feed Products, Luke Strecker, Brandon Reeves, Stephanie Willis, Kaitlyn Meadows, and Dr. Mark Wahlberg.



Stockmans Team from Washington County, VA. From left, Coach Phil Blevins, Garrett Cook, Will Copenhaver, Samantha Gregory, Bradley Copenhaver



Meats Team. From left, Coach Eric Stogdale, Jessica Liskey, Danielle McPherson and Brendan Martin. Not pictured, Brad Bennett.

Competition Name	Date	Location	VA Team Coach	Team Members	Number of Teams in Competition	VA Team Rank Overall	Individual Rankings Overall
American Royal 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest	21-Oct	Kansas City, MO	Eric Stogdale Shirley Kaufman	Brandon Reeves	19	1st	1st
				Stephanie Willis			4th
				Danielle McPherson			
				Laura Kate Reeves			
2007 National 4-H Meats Judging Contest	17-Oct	Manhattan, KS	Eric Stogdale	Jessica Liskey	15	6th	11th
				Danielle McPherson			18th
				Brad Bennett			31st
				Brendan Martin			35th
NAILE National 4-H Skillathon Contest	12-Nov	Louisville, KY	Phil Blevins Crystal Peek	Brad Copenhaver	13	6th	7th
				Will Copenhaver			1st
				Samantha Gregory			8th
				Garrett Cook			
NAILE National 4-H Livestock Judging	13-Nov	Louisville, KY	Mark Wahlberg	Brandon Reeves	33	1st	3rd
				Stephanie Willis			8th
				Kaitlyn Meadows			
				Luke Strecker			4th

Successful Debut for Virginia Tech Students and Horses at Dressage at Devon Breed Show

by Dr. Rebecca Splan, Associate Professor, Equine Science



Congratulations to the Virginia Tech Sporthorse Breeding Program for an outstanding debut at the Dressage at Devon Breed Show in Berwyn, Pennsylvania in September 2007. Dressage at Devon is the most prestigious show of its kind in the country and attracts Champions from across the United States and Canada. In addition, it features one of the best dressage competitions in North America, with many Olympic, World Cup and other top international riders and horses in attendance.

Three undergraduate students, Jessica Bellonio, Alison Parker and Sierra Pollock, prepared and exhibited the 2007 Oldenburg NA colt Windsor VT with the guidance of Dr. Rebecca K. Splan. Under a panel of three international judges, Windsor VT earned 4th place honors against older horses in the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Breeders' Championship Regional Colt Finals, with an impressive score of 75.15%. One of the judges, Olympic Gold Medalist and renowned breeder Hilda Gurney, even had Windsor VT pinned second in the class, with only the show's eventual Grand Champion scoring higher! All entries in the class had to qualify before the show by earning Champion or Reserve Champion Colt honors at participating regional shows,

so the competition Windsor VT faced was extremely tough!

The trip was an invaluable learning experience for the students involved. The team attended seminars and panel sessions related to the breeding and development of young sporthorses, met and interacted with a who's who of leading breeders, owners, riders and trainers in the industry, and served as outstanding ambassadors for the Equine Science Program while at the show. This is the first time Virginia Tech has showcased its high-quality teaching and sporthorse breeding programs at Dressage at Devon and we are exceptionally proud of our students and their accomplishments! Please congratulate these equestrians on a job well done!



APSC Department Participates in the 2007 Virginia Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture

Faculty and staff of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science participated in the Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture July 1st through July 28th, 2007. The School's purpose is to provide hands-on, cutting-edge, scientific, and academic instruction to rising juniors and seniors in high school. Experiences in the Governor's School are aimed at developing students' understanding of the scope, opportunities, and challenges of the broad fields of agriculture, human health, natural resources, and veterinary medicine. Providing opportunities such as these to high school students within the framework of academic and scientific rigor allow them to make more informed decisions about their upcoming college educations and often influence their selection of college studies and subsequent career choices.

Courses offered through the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences focused on business, management, and scientific principles. In addition to coursework, APSC sponsored four group research projects. The projects were focused in the following areas:

- effect of prostaglandin F_{2α} on corpus luteum size, blood flow, systemic progesterone concentration, and the timing of estrus in cycling beef cows,
- antibiotic alternatives in poultry,
- adjustment factors for baby pig weights, and
- effect of glutathione on thawing of boar sperm.

Block and Bridle Club

by Kayla Minnick and Charley Stull, Reporters
<http://www.apsc.vt.edu/clubs/BlockandBridle/index.htm>

The Block and Bridle Club of Virginia Tech has enjoyed a busy and productive 2007. From our spring National Convention trip to bright and sunny Florida in January to the rainy, crisp Blacksburg weather that greeted guests at our 85th Little International Livestock Contest, and the flatland winds of Kansas City, MO, the club members and large pledge classes have enjoyed promoting the livestock industry with their friends. We are proud to announce that the total number of participants for our five spring contests was 1,971 this year!

Horse Judging Clinic

February 24 was the beginning of a busy season in Blacksburg. Nearly six hundred middle and high school students from around the greater New River Valley visited campus to learn the principles of horse judging and prepare for the up-coming judging season at our annual horse judging clinic, chaired by Charlotte Hatch. Morning lectures covered balance and breed conformation, giving oral reasons, note taking, blemishes and undesirable characteristics, performance class evaluation, and judging equitation. Evaluation of a stock horse halter class, a hunter under saddle class and an impromptu equitation class

took place at the Alphin-Stuart Arena after a pizza lunch. Example sets of reasons were also given by past members of the VA State 4-H Horse Judging Team.

Stockman's, Meats and Livestock Judging Contests

The annual Stockman's contest played host to 456 4-H and FFA participants on March 16. Both the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena and the older Judging Pavilion were used to evaluate students' knowledge of various aspects of animal husbandry including equipment, feed, meat products, and livestock selection.

The Meats Judging Contest, chaired by Luray, VA native Jonathan Burner, was held later the same evening and hosted 122 participants at the Food Science Building. This contest gave students the opportunity to evaluate whole pork and lamb carcasses as well as individual cuts of beef, lamb and pork. A meats ID section and written quiz were also used to evaluate the student's knowledge of meat science. The Livestock Judging Contest on March 17 brought 397 contestants to the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. While there, these students evalu-

continued on page 13...



BBQ chair Chris Brown checks the temperature on Block and Bridle's lamb at State Fair to ensure that meat is ready to be cut for serving.



4-H and FFA contestants work on identifying various cuts of meat at the Meats Judging Contest.

2007-2008 Executive Committee

President:	Kelli Beavers	kbeavers@vt.edu
Vice President:	Matthew Earman	mpearman@vt.edu
Treasurer:	Nicole Browne	nbrowne3@vt.edu
Secretary:	Micah Orfield	morfield@vt.edu
Marshall:	Jake Rosenthal	matzobal@vt.edu
Pledge Coordinator:	Josh Stevens	
Reporter:	Kayla Minnick	kminnick@vt.edu
	Charley Stull	cgstull@vt.edu
Alumni Relations:	Katelyn Koontz	kkoontz@vt.edu
Historian:	Heather Quay	heaq12@vt.edu
BBQ Chairs:	Chris Brown	cbrown04@vt.edu
	Jennifer Surotchak	jshokie@vt.edu
	Carl Wells	cwells@vt.edu
Advisors:	Mark Wahlberg	wahlberg@vt.edu
	Dave Linker	dlinker@vt.edu



B&B Members sort contestant cards for scoring during the Stockman's Contest.

Block & Bridle Club, continued from page 12...

ated, placed and presented oral reasons on two classes of sheep and three classes each of cattle and swine. Matthew Earman chaired the successful 2007 Livestock Judging Contest.

Hippology and Horse Judging Contests

The first annual B&B Hippology Contest was held on March 23 at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. One hundred and sixty contestants made the inaugural event a success and we look forward to increasing participation during future years. Chairs for the Hippology contest were brother and sister team Cliff and Lindsey Williamson. On March 24 B&B hosted our annual horse judging contest where 256 students were given the opportunity to evaluate and present oral reasons on various classes of horse breeds both in-hand and under saddle.

Little International Contest

The Alphin-Stuart Arena hosted the 85th annual Little International Contest on April 14 for Virginia Tech students interested in showing livestock. We were pleased to welcome Meghan Rice back to Blacksburg as our Little I Princess and Matthew Hickey as our Master of Ceremonies. Partic-



Little International Grand Champions on front row (L to R): Adam Heishman (Reserve Overall and Sheep), Allison Osbourne (Horse), Amanda Lickey (Beef), and Kiley Clevenger (Overall and Swine). Back and middle rows: Judges, Ringmen, Announcer, Chairman Allen Heishman, and Little I Princess Meghan Rice.

ipants selected from hogs, lambs, horses, and beef heifers for exhibition. Overall Grand Champion and Swine Grand Champion was Kiley Clevenger, while Overall Reserve Grand Champion and Sheep Grand Champion was Adam Heishman. Grand Champion in Beef was Amanda Lickey, and in Horse was Allison Osbourne. Alumni and visitors enjoyed Block and Bridle's famous beef and pork BBQ for lunch along with the exciting competitions on the arena floor.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Welcome Back Picnic

The first major Block and Bridle event of the fall 2007 semester was the CALS Welcome Back Picnic hosted at the Ag quad on September 20 by the Dean's Office. Designed to help orient new freshmen to the many opportunities offered by the various departments and clubs in the college, this was a successful second year for the event. Block and Bridle prepared and served baked beans and approximately 400 pounds of chopped pork BBQ to students, faculty, and staff in the college.

The 2007 State Fair of Virginia

Block and Bridle traveled to Richmond with our cooker and trailer for the 2007 State Fair of Virginia September 27 through October 8. Members prepared BBQ pork, beef, and chicken with baked beans and coleslaw for fair attendees as our major fundraiser for the year. BBQ lamb was also available on the weekends thanks to the culinary talents of Virginia lamb producer Mike Carpenter.

We want to thank the many individuals who made this event a success, including our State Fair contact Glenn Martin, Smithfield Foods, the Virginia Beef Industry Council, and Block and Bridle alumnus Delbert O'Meara who generously provided us with extra equipment and a storage trailer



Block and Bridle members Chris Brown and Dixie Boyd help fourth graders from the New River Valley elementary schools learn about wool and various animal feeds at the annual Fourth Grade Days event at Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena.

during our stay in the state capital.

88th Block and Bridle National Convention

Twelve members and both club advisors, along with out-going National President Dr. Cindy Wood, represented Virginia Tech Block and Bridle at the 88th National Convention held in Kansas City, MO October 18-21. The event kicked off Thursday evening with an address from keynote speaker General Richard B. Meyers, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Meyers's commentary on leadership was followed by an ice-cream social that allowed the VT delegates to interact with members from other Block and Bridle chapters.

Friday morning began early as club members boarded buses before daylight in preparation for local farm and industry tours. A few of the many interesting tour stops included Tom Burke's Suffolk Farm, an American Italian Pasta Company Factory, Lone Star Lake Bison Ranch, the Topeka Zoo, a SYSCO Corporation distribution center, and Palenske Ranch, a family-owned feedlot. After these experiences, students were dropped off at the American Royal Livestock Show for an evening of PBR bull riding and a post-rodeo

continued on page 14...



4-H and FFA contestants handle sheep during the Livestock Judging Contest.



Amanda Virts, Emily Murray, and Joe Maloskey serve pork BBQ sandwiches at the CALS welcome back picnic for Block and Bridle.

For more information on and photographs of Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club, please visit our website:
<http://www.apsc.vt.edu/clubs/Block-and-Bridle/index.htm>.

We look forward to a busy and productive spring 2008 semester and would like to invite alumni, family, and friends of VT Block and Bridle to join us on April 26, 2008 for the 86th annual Little International Contest at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena on Plantation Road in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Block & Bridle Club, continued from page 13...

concert by Western Underground. An awards breakfast was held Saturday morning where the club received honors in 6 out of 7 national award categories. The published annual, website, and club activities all received third place recognitions. Lucas Spillman was designated as the third place Outstanding Two-year Student. Current club President Kelli Beavers was awarded fourth place Outstanding Junior. Even more impressive, recent graduate Edward McCann, Jr. was awarded first place Outstanding Senior; congratulations, Ed!

Following the breakfast, attendees were invited to attend lectures on biosecurity in agriculture by Kansas State University veterinarian Jerry Jax and consumer perception of agriculture by consultant Charlie Arnot. A panel discussion of current animal science issues—including animal welfare, market influences, and consumer perception—took place after these speakers. VT Block and Bridle members then enjoyed lunch at the famous Golden Ox Steakhouse before returning to the American Royal. The convention concluded Saturday evening with a dinner and dance at the American Angus Hall of Fame in Smithville, MO.

4th Grade Days & Agtoberfest

Block and Bridle organized and presented a livestock station to approximately 800 New River Valley elementary school students during the annual 4th Grade Days program on October 18 and 19 at the Alphin-Stuart Arena. 4-H and other Extension agents from across the New River Valley joined with Virginia Tech faculty, students, and staff to teach these children about the many faces of agriculture in Virginia.

Working with the Virginia SOL's, Block and Bridle members taught students about basic livestock management of beef cattle, swine, horses, donkeys, and sheep. Topics of discussion included terminology, feeds, end products, gestation length, and weaning age for each species. The students

were encouraged to experience the animals, feed samples, and shorn wool samples first hand through sight, touch, and even smell.

The following day, October 20, over 300 New River Valley community members attended Alpha Zeta's 3rd annual Agtoberfest—a celebration of agriculture and natural resources—where Block and Bridle presented the livestock on display. During this event, members also helped children make magnets designed to teach them about sheep.

Hokie Harvest Sale

In keeping with tradition, club members donated their time to help students in the Livestock Merchandising class present a complementary BBQ dinner for guests at the 13th annual Hokie Harvest Sale on October 26. We served approximately 800 plates of our famous pork sandwiches and sides, and were happy to help our fellow students promote the Virginia Tech beef, swine and equine programs.

Harvest Havoc

Block and Bridle members joined the sisters of Sigma Alpha and the brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho at Harvest Havoc on Sunday, October 4 to raise money for Heifer International. Members enjoyed competing at tug-of-war, pumpkin arranging, hay bale stacking, horseshoes, a relay race, and other fun events in the beautiful fall weather. The profit from our spring social, Country But Classy, helped us contribute almost \$700.00 to this worthy cause.

Pledging

We were excited to have 24 pledges join our membership during each semester. Their dedication and willingness to help has played a vital role in making all of our spring contests and fall BBQ events successful. We would also like to thank the spring pledge class for hosting our first annual spring semi-formal and social, "Country but Classy," following the Little International Contest on April 14.

VT Equestrian Club

<http://www.equestrian.org.vt.edu/>

Intercollegiate Horse Show Association



IHSA winners Virginia Intermont sport Virginia Tech clothing as honorary Hokies.

At the IHSA National Finals' opening ceremony on May 3, 2007, IHSA founder Peter Cashman, asked permission of VT equitation coach Teresa McDonald, for all competitors to be honorary Hokies for the weekend - she gladly granted permission. A scholarship was established by Bob Cacchione and the IHSA in honor of Emily Hilscher - the first scholarship was awarded at the 2007 Nationals to a student from Bridgewater. The team winner of the IHSA nationals was VA Intermont College - they dedicated the win to the memory of Emily Hilscher, an Animal and Poultry Science major who was a victim of the April 16th shootings at Virginia Tech. Note the VA Tech banner and hats in the award picture.

IHSA Western Semifinals, March 24, 2007



Lora Walls qualified for the IHSA Western Semifinals held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN, on March 24, 2007. This is only the second year that Virginia Tech has had a competitive Western team and Lora is the first rider to qualify for the Semifinals. Ben Craig, Western Team captain, traveled with Lora to the semifinals.

2006-2007 Club Officers

President:	Jessica Gould	jgould@vt.edu
Vice President:	Susan Wilson	sewilson@vt.edu
Public Relations:	Anna Guastello	aguastel@vt.edu
Treasurer:	Sonja Boras	sboras@vt.edu
Secretary:	Caitlin Cossaboom	caiti88@vt.edu
Historian:	Diana Webber	dnwebber@vt.edu
Webmaster:	Krista Bryant	klbryant@vt.edu
Advisor:	Teresa MacDonald	tmcdonal@vt.edu

VT Poultry Club

by Ashley Randall, President

<http://www.poultry.org.vt.edu/>

The Poultry Club has been very busy this semester. The club conducted several barbecues for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We cooked and served chicken for a new extension agent picnic and also helped serve at the retirement luncheon of Bob Meadows.

year was the CALS Fall Kickoff Picnic on September 20, 2007. The poultry club provided side dishes, chips and drinks. We also made and sold barbecue sauce jars with our special poultry club barbecue sauce for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for each home football game this year.

community service activities including Fourth Grade Days and Agtoberfest. The Poultry Club also had a team for Harvest Havoc, which was a blast this year! The Poultry Club has been actively recruiting this year and is trying to expand club activities.

One of our biggest events this The Poultry Club participates in

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Pre-Vet Club

by Morgan Agnew, President
<http://www.prevet.org.vt.edu/>

The Pre-Veterinary Medical Association at Virginia Tech has bi-weekly meetings on Mondays at 7:00pm in room 100 at the vet school. A professional involved in some aspect of veterinary medicine comes to speak at each meeting. Meeting topics this semester included large animal medicine, vet school admissions and small animal neurology.

Club members volunteer with the Giles County Animal Shelter and Pulaski County Humane Society. As volunteers, we help socialize the cats, walk dogs and give baths. The club members work with the Montgomery County Humane Society at the Annual Frog Pond Dog Swim. Members bring dogs to visit the retirement community, Warm Hearth Village, and also to the adult day care service on-campus, Adult Day Services. Once each semester, members pick up trash around the Duck Pond. At the Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue we clean stalls, help with landscaping and take a tour of the facility. We work closely with the Dalmatian Rescue as well as service orga-

nizations at the vet school. Volunteers from the club assist with research projects taking place at the vet school, walk the MDL Research Dogs and play with the research cats.

Along with our service projects the Pre-Vet club organizes fundraisers and group trips. In the fall we traveled to the Wildlife Center of Virginia, where members learned how reptiles, birds of prey and small mammals are rehabilitated. The Pre-Vet Club sells Christ-

mas stockings for cats and dogs as our major fundraiser for the year. Spring semester we host a pet-show where all proceeds benefit Saint Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation.



Pre-Vet club members volunteering at the Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue to build a pen for rescued puppies.

2007-2008 Club Officers

President:	Morgan Agnew	magnew@vt.edu
VP of Service:	Lauren Maxey	lmaxey@vt.edu
VP of Activities:	Anthony Fazio	fazio92@vt.edu
Student Gov't Rep:	Desiree Herrick	drmventi@vt.edu
Treasurer:	Lauren Deahl	ldeahl@vt.edu
Secretary:	Heather Cline	hcline@vt.edu
Historian:	Carrie Johnson	clj87@vt.edu
Sergeant At Arms:	Maggie Trefney	mtrefney@vt.edu
Webmaster:	Derek O'Dell	oudell@vt.edu
Advisor:	Mike Denbow	denbowdm@vt.edu

VT Poultry Club, continued from page 15...

Our annual trip to the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, GA is scheduled for January 23-25, 2008. At the Expo, there are many opportunities to interview for internships and full-time jobs as well as an opportunity to meet many people in the industry. The Trade Show provides an opportunity to interact with representatives from many companies that provide equipment and services to the industry - it is an amazing experience!

We do not have any barbecues planned for the spring semester but would love to help out and participate when there is an op-

portunity. We are looking forward to the spring semester and becoming even more active.

2007-2008 Club Officers

President:	Ashley Randall	arandall@vt.edu
Vice President:	Emilie Roush	roush@vt.edu
Treasurer:	Kristin Carr	kmcarr@vt.edu
Secretary:	Jessica Lyons	jlyons04@vt.edu
BBQ Chair/Reporters:	Caitlin Flynn	swiss04@vt.edu
	Heather Quay	heaq12@vt.edu
Advisor:	Audrey McElroy	amcelroy@vt.edu

Graduate Students Finishing in APSC

Fall 2007

- **Rebekah Cosden** (Westminster, MD)
MW (Staniar)
Insulin-like growth factor-I in growing horses and RNA isolation from small articular cartilage samples
- **Tania Cubitt**
PhD (Geor)
Long-term and Short-term Patterns of Glucose, Insulin, and Leptin in the Grazing Thoroughbred Broodmare
- **Sarah Denham**
MS (Splan)
Changes in conformation and walk kinematics of suckling and weanling warm blood foals
- **Carin Miller**
MS (Wong)
Developmental gene expression in the small intestine of chickens from lines divergently selected for high or low juvenile body weight.
- **Xialoun Sun**
PhD (Novak)
Effect of corn quality and enzyme supplementation on broiler growth performance, gastrointestinal enzyme activity, nutrient retention, intestinal mucin output, and jejunal gene expression
- **Miaozong Wu**
PhD (Jiang)
Nutritional regulation of serum insulin-like growth factor-I concentration in cattle

Summer 2007

- **Tina Herfel** (Mt. Horeb, WI)
MS (Novak)
A forty-nine day evaluation of bio-mos? Replacement of roxarsone in a commercially based broiler feeding program
- **Kathryn MacKinnon** (Midlothian, VA)
PhD (Notter)
Differential gene expression and immune regulatory mechanisms in parasite-resistant hair and susceptible wool sheep infected with the parasitic nematode, *Haemonchus contortus*
- **Yinli Zhou**
PhD (Jiang)
Effects of growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor-I on milk protein gene expression, nutrient uptake and proliferation of clonal bovine mammary epithelial cells

Spring 2007

- **Tuoyu Geng** (Yangzhou city, Jiangsu Province, China)
PhD (Smith)
Genomics-based Analysis of Antibody Response to Sheep Red Blood Cells in Chicken
- **Xiaojing Guan** (Tsingtao, Shandong Province, P. R. China)
PhD (Smith)
Genomic and Biochemical Analysis of Oxidative Stress in Birds
- **Smitha Boorgula** (Hyderabad, India)
MS (Lewis)
Assessing Hepatic Gene Expression in Response to Xenobiotic Exposure in Mice
- **Randy Borg** (Newman Grove, Nebraska)
PhD (Notter)
Phenotypic and Genetic Evaluation of Fitness Characteristics in Sheep Under a Range Environment
- **Lindsey George** (Moline, IL)
MS (Geor)
Glucose and Insulin Dynamics in Late Gestation Mares and Neonatal Foals
- **Bridgett Byrd** (South Kortright, NY)
PhD (Geor)
Circadian and seasonal variation in pasture non-structural carbohydrates and the physiological response of grazing horses

Fall 2006

- **David Cuddy** (Meadowview, Virginia)
MS (Hall)
Effects of High Fat Diet on Reproduction in Replacement Beef Heifers
- **Lawton Stewart** (Watkinsville, GA)
PhD (Scaglia)
Effects of Three Fescue Types and Lakota Prairie Grass on Copper Status, Dry Matter Intake, Animal Performance, and Alkaloid Appearance in Beef Steers
- **Bindu Vanimisetti** (Hyderabad, India)
PhD (Notter)
Genetic Evaluation of Ewe Productivity and Its Component Traits in Katahdin and Polypay Sheep
- **Jeff Wuenschel** (Sheffield Township, Ohio)
MS (Hall)
Effects of Feeding Supplemental Eicosapentanoic Acid and Docosahexanoic Acid to Beef Females on Reproductive Responses and Free Fatty Acids

State 4-H Horse Judging Team Competes at Arabian Nationals

by Celeste Crisman, Equine Extension Specialist

The Virginia State 4-H Horse Judging teams traveled to Albuquerque, NM October 22-28 to compete at Arabian Nationals. This is the last time Arabian Nationals will be held in Albuquerque as it moves permanently to Tulsa, OK next year. Albuquerque is such a great cultural experience for the youth, it is sad that we will no longer travel there! After several flight delays we arrived in NM on Monday night. Tuesday and Wednesday, the teams practiced judging skills, giving reasons on the classes at the show, and eating lots of great Mexican food. Thursday before the contest is usually a light workout day with some fun and relaxation mixed in! That was certainly no problem with this energetic group of 4-Hers as somehow they managed to turn into runway models for the afternoon. The story (as I heard it) was that a show vendor was so impressed with their manners when visiting her booth, she felt she could trust them to model her clothes at the Arabian National fashion show and have the clothes safely returned to her after the event!! Of course Yvonne and I were very excited they had been asked and were thankful that they weren't asking for "more mature" help! Well, let me tell you – this group can work a catwalk!! Zach McCann, being one of only two males in the show brought down the house on his debut! We couldn't have been prouder of them and they made the nightly news!

Now back to our true reason for being there – the contest! The eight-class contest included some high quality Arabian horses and the 4-H competition was fierce! Virginia's Team A was composed of two second-year members Rebekah Smith and Allison Hulvey, along with Erin Flathers and Erin Beach. Team B was composed of Zach McCann, Lauren Hartburg and

Hannah Duffy. Teams were coached by Yvonne Miller and Celeste Crisman. With one member short of eight (thus no dropped score for the three-member team) and five first-year members on the teams, we were a little under the odds but had great faith in the ability and determination of all the Virginia members! The results are as follows:

In Individual competition Beka Smith was 10th in Halter, 6th in Performance, 5th in Reasons and 11th Overall. Allison Hulvey was 4th in Performance and 9th Overall. Erin Flathers was 9th in Reasons and Lauren Hartburg was 10th in Reasons.

In Team competition, Virginia A was 3rd in Halter, 2nd in Performance, 2nd in Reasons and 3rd Overall. Virginia B was 5th in Reasons (with no dropped score due to only 3 members).

Saturday, after the awards banquet, we took off for our final excursion to visit the Acoma Sky City Indian dwellings on top of a 360-foot high mesa! The "City" is America's oldest continuously occupied city which began sometime between 700 (Indian date) – 1100 (archeologist date) AD and is still occupied by at least 12 of the original families. With no running water or electricity, most of the team was pretty definitive in their stance that the living conditions made it a nice place to VISIT!

Everyone returned home on Sunday evening with an award and a greater appreciation for the Southwestern United States! We are so proud of this team, not only for the accomplishments in competition but most importantly for their sense of camaraderie, sportsmanship, work ethic and all around positive attitudes!



Judging Team Members from left: Rebekah Smith, Bridgewater, VA; Erin Beach, Pennington Gap, VA; Alison Hulvey, Harrisonburg, VA; Zach McCann, Newport, VA; Erin Flathers, Rixeyville, VA; Hannah Duffy, Pennington Gap, VA; Lauren Hartburg, Scottsville, VA.



4-H Judging Team as models at Arabian Nationals: Pictured from left are: Erin Flathers, Rixeyville, VA; Lauren Hartburg, Scottsville, VA; Hannah Duffy, Pennington Gap, VA; Zach McCann, Newport VA; Allison Hulvey, Harrisonburg, VA; Rebekah Smith, Bridgewater, VA and Erin Beach, Pennington Gap, VA.

Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

By Celeste Crisman, Equine Extension Specialist

"I always receive compliments on how the Virginia youth conduct themselves and for that I thank you – their leaders and parents - for instilling values, ethics, morals and manners!"
 --Celeste Crisman



The final competition of the year for all Virginia 4-H Horse youth was the Eastern National 4-H Roundup in Louisville, November 2–4. Virginia had teams or individuals competing in Horse Judging (Rebekah Smith and Allison Hulvey of Rockingham County), Horse Bowl (Emma Taylor, Tori Ashley, Lauren Hartburg, Zoe Carroll and Skylar Brownfield representing Albemarle County), Hippology (Julie Carrington, Andy Carrington, Katie Strickland of South Boston and Valerie Harr of Dry Fork, VA), Public Speaking (Laurel Cox of Stanardsville, VA) and Individual Presentation (Erin Flathers of Rixeyville, VA). It was a whirlwind weekend but some managed to visit Churchill Downs or some of the large TB farms in Lexington on the trip to or from. Results of the weekend are:

Hippology Contest:

Written Phase team:
 Virginia – 10th place

Judging Phase Individual:
 Andy Carrington – 4th place

Judging Phase Team:
 Virginia – 2nd place

Station Phase Team:
 Virginia – 9th place

Individual Presentation Contest:

Erin Flathers tied for 10th but took 11th on the tie breaker!

Horse Bowl Contest:

Virginia – 9th place high team

Horse Judging Contest:

Halter Individuals:
 Allison Hulvey – 5th place
 Beka Smith – 7th place

Performance Individuals:
 Beka Smith – 11th place
 (just out of the ribbons)

Reasons Individuals:
 Beka Smith – 5th place
 Allison Hulvey – 9th place

Overall Individuals:
 Beka Smith – 7th place
 Allison Hulvey – 9th place

Please congratulate all these youth on their accomplishments!

Dates to Remember in Spring 2008

January	14	Classes begin
	16	VT Academic Quadrathlon
February	2-6	Southern ASAS Meeting in Dallas, TX
	23	Horse Judging Clinic
March	1-9	Spring Break
	14-15	Stockman, Meats and Livestock Judging Contest
	22	Horse Judging Contest
April	26	Ham Show and Little International
	30	Classes end
May	9	University Commencement
	10	CALS College Commencement

APSC Dean's List Spring 2007

Morgan E. Agnew	Karen B. Dalton	Christopher J. Knopp	Meghan A. Steele
Michelle Aguilar	Danielle N. Damiens	Ashley M. Kopanko	Charley G. Stull
James S. Aitken	Janet E. De Mena	Amanda N. Lahaie	Priya A. Subbarayan
Kimberly M. Allen	Lauren E. Deahl	Brandi N. Layton	Carly V. Sullivan
Kelsey S. Altholz	Hunter A. Dorman	Brittany D. Lower	Jennifer L. Surotchak
Samuel K. Altizer	David R. Dulaney	Jennifer L. Lyle	Anne Swartzwelder
Caitlin C. Ashton	Matthew P. Earman	Amanda F. Marino	Greg Swieter
Kelly L. Baccus	Heidi R. Eberly	Sarah A. Marpet	Stephanie C. Sysak
Katharine L. Barkley	Theresa J. Economos	Whitney R. Martin	Danielle A. Todd
Ashley N. Bath	Emma Kate Evans	Maryella G. Maynard	Heather L. Tomaszewski
Traci M. Batla	Katelyn E. Felts	Claire G. McGill	Virginia L. Topp
Virginia E. Batte	Richard A. Fiktus	Justin J. Merrifield	Amanda L. Trahan
Brittany L. Bean	Sarah P. Firebaugh	Kayla D. Minnick	Alissa Trang
Michelle A. Beauregard	Candace D. Flinn	Stephanie L. Mitchell	Riley E. Traywick
Kelli N. Beavers	Caitlin A. Flynn	Jacqueline M. Mlynarczyk	Monica E. Tubesing
Erika J. Beck	Brandy R. Foster	Jonathan H. Myers	Christopher B. Vanderhoof
Katherine L. Beckley	Phillip J. George	Stephanie J. Myers	Kiley L. Walawender
Ashley L. Bell	Aveetal Gershon	Bethany N. Osborne	Jessica N. Walters
Jennifer L. Bensen	Jessica M. Gilbertie	Laura A. Parr	Tiffanie L. Walters
Christina M. Blatcher	Jacob A. Gilley	Sarah E. Parsley	Ashley N. Walton
Amy M. Bonner	Genna L. Gomes	Ashley K. Perry	Kelly K. Waters
Danielle N. Botting	Jessica C. Gould	Jessica L. Preskitt	Matthew J. Watson
Thomas W. Bramble	Christopher T. Grams	Erin L. Rockwell	Amanda L. Weakley
Dejan J. Bratcher	Ashley L. Grapes	Jordan A. Rogers- Cotrone	Diana N. Webber
Ryan M. Brooks	Sylvia E. Grove	Thomas S. Rogers- Cotrone	Charles B. Wellings
Karen L. Brown	Charlotte M. Hatch	Jessica F. Romine	Catherine E. Werthmann
Nicole A. Browne	Daniel E. Hay	Abigail E. Schmidt	Amy G. Williams
Tam A. Bui	Eric T. Hilgartner	Corey E. Schoo	Lindsey M. Williamson
Jonathan R. Burner	Ashley S. Hodges	Danielle L. Shearer	Karen N. Wilson
Hannah V. Byrd	Adrienne E. Horner	Sarah Sheer	Todd E. Wiseman
Megan C. Carlidge	Brianna R. Horricks	Regina M. Shores	Krishna R. Witt
Ashley N. Clark	Elise M. Huff	Anna M. Sims	Jessica L. Wood
Christine L. Clark	Jessica A. Ihling	Heather M. Slivecky	Cody M. Yager
Meredith K. Clark	Joanna C. Jacob	Garrett P. Smith	Emari M. Yokota
Bethany R. Correa	Christine S. Jones	Shannon M. Smith	Bailey Zwarycz
Monica R. Crafton	Kari B. Jones	Shannon C. Snyder	
Elyssa D. Cramm	Katherine E. Jones	Jennifer R. Sottosanti	
Michael K. Cromer	Alexander J. Kilgore		
Zachary J. Crouse	Lauren E. Kinter		

New Undergraduate Curriculum In APSC

It has been more than 10 years since the last comprehensive review and revision of the undergraduate curriculum in Animal and Poultry Sciences. The departmental Undergraduate Education Committee has worked for more than two years to create a new curriculum that will preserve the most advantageous features of the older curriculum while improving and enhancing educational opportunities for our students. Changes and additions have been based on assessing the needs, talents and potential career paths of our students.

Several new courses will be developed for the new curriculum. Some existing courses will be revised or combined to streamline the educational process and update material offered to students. One of the most intriguing and important features of the new curriculum is the "Senior Capstone Experience". All students who graduate from the new curriculum will have participated in this activity during their senior year. The focus of the capstone experience is to provide the opportunity for students to culminate their college careers by integrating important concepts obtained from their coursework into an experience that is planned by each student with help

from a faculty advisor. The experiences will foster interdisciplinary partnerships and help cultivate related industry alliances. By its nature, each capstone experience will be unique to the student who designs it in consultation with his/her advisor.

Potential capstone experiences in the animals sciences may include, but are not limited to:

- Study Abroad
- Field Study / Internship
- Undergraduate Research
- Independent Study
- Other advanced academic endeavors

The new curriculum will be incorporated gradually over the next four years (beginning with Fall Semester 2007) so that introduction of the new features will be smooth and trouble-free.

Members of the faculty are very enthusiastic about the results of this undergraduate education revision and are confident that the new curriculum will provide our students with the outstanding education necessary to compete successfully in the 21st century.

Solving An Educational Dilemma Through Collaboration: A Graduate Distance-Learning Curriculum In Animal Breeding And Genetics

by Dr. Ron Lewis, Associate Professor



Diminishing numbers of faculty in the area of animal breeding and genetics have reduced opportunities for specialized coursework that would prepare future scholars in the field. Existing faculty must often focus on addressing basic content, limiting their ability to offer specialized instruction that could serve to develop higher-level skills and knowledge in their students. As a result, graduate students in this field are often not able to access necessary curricula that would build their own expertise and abilities in animal breeding and genetics.

A consortium of universities, led by Virginia Tech, are combining efforts to address this challenge by

developing a series of online courses designed to supplement graduate-level instruction for existing degree programs in animal breeding and genetics. Faculty from Virginia Tech, Colorado State, Montana State, and Cornell University are working together to create a curriculum that may be taken by students at universities and colleges across the United States. This project is funded by the Higher Education Challenge Grant Program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and began in August. It is very much a team effort. The Virginia Tech element involves the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, The Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education, and the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning. The first of seven online courses is currently underway with students from ten land grant universities participating.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Memorial Fund



The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is establishing individual endowed funds in memory of Emily Jane Hilscher, Julia Kathleen Pryde, and Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, victims of the tragic events of April 16, 2007.

The endowed funds will be used to support program areas, scholarships, or events within the College that were most important to the victims and their families. Dean Sharron Quisenberry and appropriate faculty will work with the families to identify the focus areas of support. The endowments will honor

Emily, Julia, and Jocelyne and help assure that the programs most meaningful to them will continue to benefit the students and Virginia Tech for many years to come. We would like to recognize the thoughtful students of the Poultry Club and the Block & Bridle Club for making significant contributions to these funds.

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Virginia Tech Breeds Top Colt

by Dr. Rebecca Splan, Associate Professor, Equine Science

This year, Virginia Tech was the breeder of the highest-scoring colt in the United States and Canada for the International Sporthorse Registry and Oldenburg Registry North America (ISR/OLDNA). ISR/OLDNA is the largest independent sporthorse registry in North America and registers over 500 foals per year. The impressive Windsor VT earned an overall score of 8.6, earning him Championship Colt honors at the inspection site and scoring higher than all other colts inspected during the entire 2007 season!

The youngster was also shown at several breed shows in the region by Virginia Tech seniors Alison Parker of Herndon, VA and Sierra Pollock of Heathsville, VA, participants in the 2007 Sporthorse Breeding Internship hosted at the Smithfield Horse Center. At Dressage at Lexington, the young ladies showed Windsor VT to Champion Young Horse and Reserve Grand Champion honors. Later in the year, Windsor VT placed 4th in the USDF/GAIG Breeders' Series Regional Championship, at Dressage at Devon, the most prestigious breed show in the country. Windsor VT is sired by the imported Hanoverian stallion Wild Dance, owned by Horses Unlimited of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and out of the outstanding Hanoverian mare Dom Perignon, donated to the Virginia Tech program by Dr. Steve and Bettie Carroll of Sullivan Farms in Walkertown, North Carolina.

At the 2007 ISR/OLDNA inspection at Virginia Tech, Dom Perignon scored 109 points and was named a "Premium" mare. We are delighted to announce that she was later named the 4th highest-scoring

mare on the East Coast this year! Windsor VT has recently been sold and will be raised as a stallion prospect by Grand Prix rider and USDF Gold Medalist Susan B. Cooper of Huddleston, Virginia.

The success of Windsor VT caps off a banner year for the Virginia Tech sporthorse breeding program. In 2007 Virginia Tech also celebrated its 10th anniversary of hosting ISR/OLDNA mare and foal inspections, which provide extremely valuable learning experiences for our students. The university is now the largest breeder of ISR/OLDNA horses in North America and has bred 20 premium-rated foals and 9 Site Champions or Reserve Champions since 2005. As our partnership with ISR/OLDNA has grown, so have the educational opportunities. In 2008, the organization will help sponsor a two-week study abroad program in Germany for Virginia Tech equine science students.



Windsor VT; Photograph by Vidal Photography

Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team Returns From Oklahoma City with Ribbons

by Julia McCann, Instructor

Coming together as a team for the first time this fall, students on the VT Horse Judging Team targeted their efforts towards the National Reining Horse Association Futurity Horse Judging Contest on November 29-30, 2007 in Oklahoma City. This contest is recognized as one of the most difficult judging contests but it represents an opportunity to witness some of the most athletic horses and finest trainers in the industry for this new Olympic sport. The VT team placed eighth among 24 teams from across the nation ranging from California to Florida.

Reining horses exhibit explosive power in a pattern event of eight required maneuvers, including spins and sliding stops that must be scored individually. To prepare for the reining competition, the team traveled to the Ohio Quarter Horse Congress to volunteer for the horse judging contest and watch the more seasoned teams at work. At home they studied the NRHA Rule book and reining video tapes. A trip to Williamston, NC for 2 days of scoring runs with three of the top judges in the industry was a real boost to the team's knowledge and confidence for the task at hand.

In the nineteenth year for the NRHA Horse Judging Contest, a record number of teams gathered for the two-day contest. The first day tested the competitors' knowledge of the rule book and ability to evaluate maneuver penalties on tape. The second day challenged the students to rank two sets of ten horses competing for the non-pro title at the most prestigious reining horse show in the country. Scores for the contestants were correlated with the



final scores from the five horse show judges for a major part of the team score. "The work ethic and dedication of this team throughout very long and intense hours of watching horses was admirable," said Dr. Julia McCann, coach of the team. Being VT's first time to compete in this contest against more experienced teams, the knowledge gained will pay dividends in the future horse judging contests.

Team members included: Sarah Barlow, Sr., Louisa, VA; Katrina Broas, Jr, Middletown, NY; Ben Craig, Jr, Raleigh, NC; Morgan Nati, Jr, Johnstown, PA; and Lindsey Williamson, Jr, Culpeper, VA. Under the leadership of Dr. Julia McCann, the team plans to knock on the barn doors of top facilities in VA as they prepare for the upcoming spring contests in Tennessee and Texas.

Funding Success by APSC Faculty

Allen Harper and Mark Estienne have received funding for the following grants:

- Management Practices for Specialty Market Pork Production from the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services.
- Technical and Educational Support for the Virginia Swine Industry from the Virginia Pork Industry Board.

Departmental Student Ambassadors

The purpose of the Student Ambassador Program is for students to develop professional leadership skills and to represent the department to prospective students, parents, employers, government leaders, and the livestock and poultry industries that we serve. Typically, there are twelve undergraduate student ambassadors with four coming from each the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. Each year, four rising sophomores are selected and they serve until they graduate. Individuals are selected based on their scholastic standing and extracurricular involvement. Student ambassadors receive training to learn about the department’s teaching, research, and extension programs and about faculty, staff, livestock and poultry centers, research laboratories, and industries.

2007-08 APSC Student Ambassadors

Sarah Barlow	Senior	Louisa, VA
Dixie Boyd	Senior	Winchester, VA
Jonathan Burner	Junior	Luray, VA
Emma Evans	Sophomore	Crozet, VA
Sarah Firebaugh	Junior	Salem, VA
Kim Fisher	Sophomore	Ona, WV
Jessica Gilbertie	Junior	Westport, CT
Jacob Gilley	Junior	Madison, VA
Jessica Gould	Senior	Mechanicsville, VA
Eric Hilgartner	Sophomore	Round Hill, VA
Anjeanne Johnson	Senior	Virginia Beach, VA
Samantha Renalds	Sophomore	Bridgewater, VA
Jessica Romine	Junior	Alexandria, VA
Virginia Topp	Senior	Newport News, VA
Ellis Traywick	Sophomore	Richmond, VA
Amanda Weakley	Sophomore	Madison, VA
Sarah Weaver	Sophomore	Madison, VA
Lindsey Williamson	Junior	Culpeper, VA

APSC Contact Information

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Newsletter design by:



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