Week of May 8, 2011

Finals Week May 9-13

Alumni News – Gerald Sturn, SW District Director, NDSU Extension Service
Penny Nester has accepted the Kidder County Extension Agent/Agriculture position and will begin June 16. Penny graduated from NDSU in 2005 with a degree in Animal Science and is currently a Master of Science candidate at North Dakota State University in Ruminant Nutrition. She has three years of experience working for the South Dakota Cooperative Extension system as Livestock Educator in Meade County, South Dakota, where she led an effort to establish an Extension Small Acreage Program. Penny is a 10 year 4-H member in Adams County and was also involved with FFA. She will be located in Steele, North Dakota, where she will join the Extension team.

RaeAnn Berg Receives Award
RaeAnn Berg was recently honored with a Campus Kudo award from the NDSU Staff Senate. The award reads, “While the Staff Senate recognizes quality work is a common occurrence at NDSU, there are times when an especially heart-felt thank you is in order. It is in the spirit of sincere appreciation that this certificate is given in recognition of work especially well done.”

The award comes with a certificate of appreciation and a NDSU gift certificate. RaeAnn was nominated by Roberta Dahlen. Congratulations!

Jessica Stylski, Graduate Student
Jessica Stylski grew up on a horse farm in Cambridge, Minnesota, where she had the opportunity to show her horses since the age of 5. Jessica was very active in the Minnesota Pinto Horse Association until she graduated in 2006 from NDSU with her B.S. in Equine Studies and Agribusiness. She then continued her education at Colorado State University where she learned advanced equine reproduction techniques. After working in Weatherford, Texas, and Elk River, Minnesota, as a breeding manager, Jessica decided to come back to NDSU to pursue her M.S. in Animal Science. She is working with Dr. Carrie Hammer. Jessica is housed in Hultz 108 and her phone is 231-7630.

A group of researchers from North and South Dakota is working on a project to help members of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation restore the land and raise cattle.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving nearly $5 million to the program as part of an initiative to boost local food systems and reduce hunger. Seven grants were awarded nationwide.

Project leader Robert Maddock of North Dakota State University says the goal is to increase beef production and ultimately develop a food processing center on the reservation.

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan says the grant is a “big thing” for tribal members because they’re interested in developing food sources that are compatible with American Indian traditions.

The Standing Rock reservation is home to about 9,000 people in the Dakotas.

Livestock Spotlight – International Guests visit the NDSU Sheep Unit – Skip Anderson, Sheep Herdsman

Ying Zhang, a Pharmacy student at NDSU, and her parents, Jianxiong Zhang and Yuelan Jiang, visited the NDSU Sheep Unit on Monday, May 9. Ying is graduating this semester with a degree in Pharmacy. Her parents came from China to celebrate her graduation. Ying’s parents are professors of Social Sciences and Education in Guangzhou University. Guangzhou, located on the southern coast of China, is the third largest city in China, with a population of over 10 million people.

While visiting the United States, Ying’s parents wanted to see a “farm” and experience American agriculture. Her family eats lamb occasionally during certain times of the year and during holidays. They enjoy eating lamb; however lamb at the markets in China is priced one to two times more expensively than pork. Ying also noted she has purchased lamb from the NDSU Meat Lab, and truly enjoyed the product.

If anyone was wondering, “yang” is how you say sheep in Chinese.