



Animal Sciences News

Week of August 19, 2012

Prezotto Name Graduate Director – Ligia Prezotto and Kendall Swanson

Ligia Prezotto, a Ph.D. student in Animal Science studying under the direction of Dr. Kendall Swanson, has been elected a Graduate Director for the Midwest Section of the American Society of Animal Sciences. As a Graduate Director, Ligia plans to continue to work on events that are traditional in the Midwest section and come up with new ideas to encourage better interaction between graduate and undergraduate students and between students and professors/researchers.



Animal Sciences Named Advance FORWARD Award Winner – Greg Lardy, ANSC Department Head

The department of Animal Sciences has been named the winner of the 2012 Advance FORWARD Department Award by the NDSU Commission on the Status of Women Faculty (CSWF) and FORWARD.

Three reviewers evaluated all the applications received, and the Department of Animal Sciences application was unanimously chosen to receive this year's award. The five target areas for the application were: climate, recruitment, retention, promotion, and leadership.

The award carries a \$5,000 award for the department. Presentation of the award will be at FORWARD's annual Kick-Off Celebration on Thursday, August 30, at 2:00 p.m., in the President's House.

The Animal Sciences application was developed by Drs. David Buchanan, Kim Vonnahme, and Erika Berg.

Lemley Accepts Position – Caleb Lemley

Caleb Lemley, Post Doctoral Fellow studying under the direction of Dr. Kim Vonnahme, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Reproductive Physiology in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University, beginning September 1. The position is 35% teaching and 65% research. Dr. Lemley's research program at MSU will focus on reproductive endocrinology with an emphasis on hormone bioavailability and novel hormone function during conceptus development.



Alumni News – Neville Named REC Director – Ken Grafton with Ellen Crawford, NDSU Agriculture Communication, August 21, 2012

Bryan Neville is the new director of North Dakota State University's Central Grasslands Research Extension Center near Streeter. He replaces Paul Nyren, who retired earlier this year after serving 30 years as center director.

"Dr. Neville, an animal scientist at CGREC, brings great vision and energy to this position," says Ken Grafton, vice president for Agricultural Affairs; dean of NDSU's College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; and director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. The Central Grasslands center is part of the Agricultural Experiment Station.



"I am confident that he will work with his advisory board and other interested stakeholders to provide the leadership necessary to solve the problems faced by farmers and ranchers in the Coteau region of the state," Grafton adds.

Neville, a native of Benkelman, Neb., earned a bachelor of science degree in animal science from the University of Wyoming in 2002, a master's degree in ruminant nutrition from NDSU in 2007 and a doctorate in ruminant nutrition from NDSU in 2010.

Before coming to NDSU, he was an agricultural research technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Dubois, Idaho, for two years. He joined the Central Grasslands center as an animal scientist in 2010.

His research is focused on a whole-systems approach to improving livestock performance. Areas of particular interest include the interaction of animal health and nutrition, range supplementation practices, and calf nutrition during receiving and backgrounding. He also serves as co-adviser for two graduate students.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead the staff at Central Grasslands," he says. "For me, NDSU, and especially the Streeter area, has always felt like home."

Recent Publication

Meyer, A.M., J.J. Reed, T.L. Neville, J.B. Taylor, L.P. Reynolds, D.A. Redmer, K.A. Vonnahme, and J.S. Caton. 2012. Effects of nutritional plane and selenium supply during gestation on visceral organ mass and indices of intestinal growth and vascularity in primiparous ewes at parturition and during early lactation. J. Anim. Sci. 90:2733-2749, <http://jas.fass.org/cgi/content/abstract/90/8/2733>

Sheep Unit Open House and Field Day – Skip Anderson, Sheep Unit Herdsman

The NDSU Sheep Unit hosted an Open House and Field Day on Thursday, August 16. Over 35 sheep producers and their families from across the region were in attendance.

The day started with a welcome from Dr. Greg Lardy, Animal Sciences Department Head, and Dr. Reid Redden, Extension Sheep Specialist. Dr. Redden and Skip Anderson gave a tour of the Sheep Unit and explained the management practices at the unit and discussed some of the new technologies being incorporated into the flock's management. Upon completion of the tour, Dr. Redden explained the benefits of collecting sheep performance data and further discussed the use of data in identifying superior genetics. An explanation of the National Sheep Improvement Program was given and how that program is being implemented at NDSU.

A lamb BBQ was served for lunch, and guests had the opportunity to visit with fellow sheep producers from across the region.

After lunch, the group made their way to the NDSU Meat Lab where Austen Germolus and Eric Kleman fabricated a lamb carcass, breaking it down from a whole carcass to individual cuts. Producers were shown a variety of lamb cuts and given an explanation of how lamb is priced as it moves through the production chain.



The next stop was the NDSU Diagnostic Laboratory where producers watched Lab Director Dr. Neil Dyer performed a necropsy on a mature ewe. Dr. Dyer explained how a necropsy can aid in the diagnosis of many sheep diseases and gave information on how producers can utilize the NDSU Diagnostic Laboratory.

The day wrapped up with the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association board meeting held at NCI.

Thanks to those who attended and helped make the event possible.



Equine Science, Mechanical Engineering Partner for Learning – It’s Happening At State, August 15, 2012, Pages 4-5

For the second year, the NDSU Equine Science program partnered with the Department of Mechanical Engineering to offer equine experiential team building and leadership training to students enrolled in the Pre-Engineering Education Collaborative. The collaborative, starting the third year of a five-year program funded by a \$4.8 million National Science Foundation Grant, connects NDSU with four North Dakota tribal colleges to prepare and support Native American students who want to pursue an engineering career. The goal is to improve the diversity and education of engineering graduates in the state and to expand the resource on reservations. This year, 13 individuals – nine students, three of whom are in their second summer experience, and four tribal college instructors – participated in the equine-guided training as part of the 12-day summer session at NDSU. Equine-guided experiential learning is based on the premise that human interactions with horses are essentially pure from the horse’s perspective. Horses survive by reading the body language of other animals and, consequently, offer a literal mirror of human intention and emotion.

After participating in specially designed exercises with the horses, participants process their actions and those of their team. Differences in leadership style as well as concepts of leadership, team building and communication are addressed through post-exercise discussions. Because the insights reaped from expertly guided sessions come out of experiential learning, the retention and impact of those experiences are greatly enhanced.

Bob Pieri, NDSU principal investigator for the grant and professor of mechanical engineering, said, “The students and instructors I’ve talked with say that they really saw leadership skills in a different light after the session. The horses have proven to be a great training aid. We are planning on continuing the session in the future.”

For more information on equine experiential learning opportunities at NDSU, contact Erika Berg at erika.berg@ndsu.edu.



IACUC Ice Cream Social – Skip Anderson

The NDSU Sheep Unit hosted an Ice Cream Social, sponsored by the IACUC Committee, on Wednesday, August 15. Even with a threat of rain, there still was a great crowd in attendance, including NDSU President Bresciani. Those who attended were treated to ice cream with all the toppings. Guests also had the opportunity to tour the Sheep Unit, try their hand at judging two classes of sheep, and play yard games. Numerous door prizes were given out. Shannon Eck won the Grand Prize – a \$25 gift certificate to purchase lamb at the NDSU Meat Lab. Thanks to all those who attended!

