Graduate Seminar – Eric Berg, Coordinator
There is no seminar this week. Seminar will be held on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. this semester.

Welcome Back Rex Sun
Xin (Rex) Sun returned to NDSU as a visiting scientist last week Wednesday. Here is what he had to say about himself by way of introduction.

“My name is Sun Xin (Rex). I was born in Yantai, China. I came to Fargo in 2010 as a visiting scholar and stayed here for two years working under the direction of Dr. Eric Berg. I finished my Ph.D. in 2013 and became a lecturer at Nanjing Agricultural University. My research areas are agricultural engineering, agricultural product processing, and meat science. I will work for Dr. David Newman as a temporary laboratory technician in the area of pork quality. I am looking forward to joining the Animal Sciences Department family again and beginning my new adventure!!!”

Rex will have an office in Morrill 209C. As yet he does not have a telephone number.

Recent Publication

Dyer to Serve as Interim Head – Janelle Quam
Dr. Neil Dyer, Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, has agreed to serve as interim chair of the Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences (VMS). Dr. Dyer served previously as interim head of VMS in 2010. A national search for a permanent head of the department will begin immediately.
Alexis Siomka is New Graduate Student

“Hello everyone my name is Alexis Siomka, but I go by Lexie. I am from Troy, Michigan, I moved to Fargo to pursue my Master’s degree in animal science focusing on meat science. I attended Michigan State University for my undergraduate career. There I received my B.S. in animal science, with a minor in crop and soil science and a specialization in food processing. While at Michigan State, I worked in the meat lab for three years, was on the meat judging team, and coached the meat judging team during the last semester of my senior year.

I do not come from an agricultural family background. Almost all of my family members have careers in human medicine. I am the first to explore a career in the agricultural world. Also, I am the youngest of four and have three older sisters. I love animals, especially cows and hippopotami, and my favorite food has to be bacon! Also I love to read in my spare time. So feel free to give me any recommendation on what to read next. My favorite book series is the amazingly wonderful Harry Potter Series. I often reread the books and will binge watch all the movies. I am a very adventurous and active person, so for fun/hobbies I love to rock climb, run, swim, scuba dive, and ski. I don’t have any pets of my own here, but my dog Tula stayed back in Michigan with my uncle. I also love to travel and explore new places around the world. I have been to Africa, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Honduras, and multiple places in the Bahamas. I am very excited to start this new chapter in my life at NDSU and cannot wait to explore what this Institution has to offer me.”

Lexie’s advisor is Dr. Eric Berg. Her office is in Hultz 108, her email is alexis.siomka@ndsu.edu, and her office phone is 231-7630.

Employee Travel Reimbursements Change – Ramona Adams, NDSU Accounting

Going forward, any travel and other reimbursements made to an employee will be paid via direct deposit to the employee’s bank account, as set up in HRMS. The bank account your reimbursement will go into, will be the main bank account you have set up in HRMS. In addition, the direct deposit slip will be mailed to the address you currently have set up in HRMS. Please review your mailing address in HRMS to make sure it’s current. To view and/or edit home or mailing address in the HRMS system, navigate to: Main Menu > Self Service > Personal Information > Home and Mailing Address. Once on that page, employees will be able to view and edit home and mailing addresses by clicking the pencil icon.

Animal Sciences Research Featured

The 2014 Annual Highlights (www.ndsu.edu/vpag/annual_highlights) magazine for the Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU Extension Service was released recently. Dr. Eric Berg’s research on the influence of growth-promoting steroidal implants on the onset of puberty in young girls is featured on page 27. Dr. Carl Dahlen’s research evaluating the sustainability of two breeding systems on beef operations throughout North Dakota is also featured on page 26. Hard copies of the magazine can be obtained in Hultz 102.
Extension Event – Feedlot School – NDSU Agriculture Communication
The Carrington REC will host its annual Feedlot School on January 20-21. This intensive course is for cattle producers, feeders, backgrounders, feed industry personnel, animal health-care suppliers, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about feedlot production, nutrition, waste management, and marketing.

Instructors include faculty from the Department of Animal Sciences, the Carrington and North Central REC, as well as others who have extensive experience working with northern Plains feedlots.