“How About Those Bison?”

Seems like you hear that phrase over and over again. There’s no question that it has been a stellar season for our football team. But we would like to take a few moments of your time to highlight the outstanding activities of our faculty, staff and students this fall semester and let you know about some of the accomplishments the department has achieved.

While we are at it, we want to remind you that the Little International is coming up on Feb. 13-14, 2015. The Saddle and Sirloin Club is the largest student organization on campus, and S/S members definitely have put a lot of planning and effort into Little I.

For alumni and parents, Little I is always an opportunity to see some of the accomplishments of the current generation of Bison and interact with the wonderful young people who come to campus to test their livestock judging and other skills. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Complete details will be available on our Facebook and Web pages.

We wish you the best in 2015 and hope you will keep in touch with us.

Sincerely,

Greg Lardy
Department Head
Retired Extension Dairyman Wows the Crowd at Dairy Convention

Clarence Olson drew from his many years as NDSU Extension dairyman to entertain and educate producers at the North Dakota Dairy Convention in Mandan in November.

NDSU has had only 10 dairy specialists. Olson started as the dairyman in 1947 and resigned to take a position with the University of Wisconsin in 1961. With that long of a tenure, Olson had a number of stories and insights to share.

Olson said that in searching through the files of his predecessor, he learned a lot of cows were being milked in the state. Some were Holsteins, but most were crossbred, and more than 90 percent of the milk produced was sold as farm-separated cream for butter. He concluded that a change needed to be made for dairy producers to make more money through selling whole milk from better-producing cows.

Olson relayed many stories about his career as NDSU Extension dairyman at the convention. One that drew much laughter was about a farmer who came into his office and asked Olson if he knew where the farmer could buy some cows. When Olson asked the farmer what breed of cows he was looking to buy, the farmer replied, “Don’t really care. I just want some cows to take care of and keep my boys out of the pool hall.”

Olson understood the need to bring artificial insemination to the state to improve the genetics of the milking herd. However, a local priest caught wind of this development and said of it in his sermon, “This was not God’s way of expanding Art’s herd.” Olson met with the priest and described how better cows from better sires could increase farm income. The following Sunday, the priest gave his blessing.

In addition to these stories, Olson discussed the beginnings of the State Dairy Show, the 4-H dairy judging contest, a state futurity show, an open-class dairy show, the organization of local artificial insemination co-ops across the border with Minnesota, and the introduction of sweet clover for cattle feed.

Olson also shared his thoughts on changes he would like to see in the dairy industry and suggested those in attendance keep their ears open for legislative bills that impact farm organizations.
Iron Chef Contest
A representative from each team picked up a cut of raw beef on Tuesday. The teams prepared the recipe of their choice and brought in their prepared food on Wednesday. Entries were judged on taste, originality and presentation by the panel of judges, which consisted of Eric Berg, Kendall Swanson and Skip Anderson.
Each team also had to complete a short quiz. The People’s Choice winner was decided by the more than 200 people who attended the event.
The winning team captains were: first place overall and People’s Choice, Kaitlyn Ebel; second place, Phil Wanner; and third place, Wyatt Whiteaker. The winning team was awarded the highly coveted Iron Chef trophy.
The event was sponsored by the Beef Checkoff and managed by the American National Cattlewomen and NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club.

Student Places in International Competition
Danielle Buskohl, an NDSU student from Wyndmere, N.D., placed eighth overall and was second high scorer among the female contestants at the 2014 World Ovinpiades Competition held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 in France.
The competition is open to college students/shepherds between the ages of 19 and 25. The American Sheep Industry Association’s Young Entrepreneur Committee arranged the application process and judging committees. Dani and Woody Babcock from Corvallis, Ore., were chosen from a field of eight U.S. applicants.
Twenty countries were invited to enter two participants in the two-day competition in which contenders challenged each other in multiple proficiency areas related to the sheep industry.

Veterinary Technology Week
The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America Inc., a nonprofit organization that represents and promotes the veterinary technician profession by providing direction, education, support and coordination for its members, proclaimed the week of Oct. 12-18 to be Veterinary Technician Week.
North Dakota made the same proclamation. Governor Jack Dalrymple’s proclamation stated, “The state of North Dakota acknowledges the contributions veterinary technicians make to better the health and well-being of all animals.” A number of events were held on campus, including a week-long trivia contest on the history of veterinary technology, a scavenger hunt, a Vet Tech show-and-tell game, animal dress day, sweet-treat potluck and a trip to Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton.
students volunteer at great plains food bank

on sept. 27 and again in october and december, a number of animal sciences graduate students volunteered with the backpack buddies program at the great plains food bank in fargo.

the group packed several hundred “backpacks” of food items for distribution to needy children across north dakota. the children receive backpacks at their school on friday afternoon and take them home so they have food on weekends when school food programs are not available.

the volunteer group consisted of mike bjertness, jena bjertness, dani black, mellissa crosswhite, kyle mclean, casie bass and faiithe doscher.

vet tech club students volunteer at endurance ride

students in the vet tech club volunteered at an endurance ride on saturday and sunday, oct. 4-5.

a 50-mile endurance ride and two 25-mile limited distance rides were held on saturday. two 25-mile limited-distance rides and a fun 10-mile novice ride were held on sunday.

before all the rides could commence, the horses had to get veterinary approval to compete. during the checkups, vet tech students scribed for the vets.

the veterinarians gave each of the horses letter grades based on the way they responded to the various checks. when the horses passed the vet check, the students wrote an assigned number on their rump to keep an easy account of each horse.

the students also took each horse’s pulse and respiration when it came in for its required vet checks during the ride. for the 50-mile run, the students helped out on four vet checks. for the 25-mile ride, they did two vet checks. when each rider completed his or her ride, the horse had to go through one final vet check.

the event had two veterinarians for the weekend and 30 riders each day. the students who volunteered were britley calkins, jennifer thomas, christina dulik, jenna melhoff and kristina shirk.
Academic Quadrathlon
Five teams competed in the NDSU Academic Quadrathlon competition Dec. 1-3. Each team competed in quiz bowl, lab practical, written test and oral presentation competitions.

The winning team, which placed first in all four categories, consisted of Jeff Neil, Rachel Schroeder, Quincy Carter and Mikayla Miller. The team will represent NDSU at the Quadrathlon competition at the Midwest Section American Society of Animal Science meetings in Des Moines, Iowa, in March.

De-stressing During Midterms
As part of Promoting Mental Health in the NDSU Community Week, NDSU students were invited to stop in Shepperd Arena on Oct. 22 to groom and brush horses as a means of easing the stress of midterm tests.

National Block and Bridle Convention Success
Five NDSU students, all members of Saddle and Sirloin Club, attended the national Block and Bridle Convention at Texas Tech University on Oct. 22-26 in Lubbock, Texas.

The NDSU club received third place in club activities, fifth place in website design and third place in yearbook.

While there, the students helped package meals for Kids Against Hunger. The students who attended were Leah Hawkins, Jeff Neil, Rachel Schroeder, Brett Levos and Nicole Wynsteker. Jordan Fellbaum accompanied the students on the trip as adviser.
Ag in the Classroom

Members of the NDSU Rodeo Team visited Mrs. Farkas’ classroom at Westside Elementary School on Thursday, Oct. 23, as part of Ag in the Classroom.

The team members presented information on products that come from different animals, showed students how to handle a rope, and shared information about the NDSU Bison Stampede Rodeo. Each child got a free ticket to the rodeo.

Mrs. Farkas included information about the visit in her blog (www.mrsfarkasclassroom.blogspot.com; “A Little Agriculture, A Little Rodeo and a Little Pizza”).

The NDSU Rodeo Team members who participated were Jacob Langlie, Shelby Braaten, Aaron Lalim, Carly Idso, Cora Huss, Tracey Ellig and Shannah Plehal.

Turkeys, Turkeys and More Turkeys

The Saddle and Sirloin Club again held its smoked turkey fundraiser. More than 830 turkeys were sold and available for pick up just in time for Thanksgiving.

Vet Tech Club Shelter Donations

The Vet Tech Club put up three giant Christmas stockings in Robinson Hall for donation of animal treats and toys to be delivered to Circle of Friends, the Humane Society of Otter Tail County and Cat’s Cradle, all of which provide animals used in the Vet Tech program.
Team Highlights

Dairy Judging Team – Todd Molden, Coach


All of the team members competed against a high level of competition and had a great showing at every contest. NDSU's Dairy Judging Team made a lot of progress throughout the year. They celebrated some successes and made incredible memories and friendships along the way.

Dairy Judging Team – Todd Molden, Coach


All of the team members competed against a high level of competition and had a great showing at every contest. NDSU's Dairy Judging Team made a lot of progress throughout the year. They celebrated some successes and made incredible memories and friendships along the way.

Livestock Judging Team – Justin Crosswhite, Coach

The 2014 Livestock Judging Team, which consisted of Justin Bartholomay, Sheldon, N.D.; Taylor Friesz, New Salem, N.D.; Alix Pearson, Hettinger, N.D.; Nicole Smith, McLeod, N.D.; and Laura Steffan, Belfield, N.D., began fall competition in September with the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minn.

That event was followed by the Ak-Sar-Ben competition in Omaha, Neb., where the team placed ninth. The team also made an appearance at the Minnesota State Fair and a mock contest at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

The season finished with the team traveling to Kansas City, Mo., to compete in the American Royal and to Louisville, Ky., to compete in the National American International Livestock Exposition. Laura Steffan placed 13th in beef at the national competition.

Meats Judging Team – Rob Maddock and Tyler Frick, Coaches


At the High Plains competition in Friona, Texas, Giedd placed sixth in lambs and the team placed fourth in lambs. Giedd also placed second in specs at the North American International Livestock Exposition, which was held in Dakota City, Neb.

The 2014 Meats Judging Team had a great year, and enjoyed the opportunity to travel all over the country and meet many great people along the way.
Equine Teams

Western Team - Tara Swanson, Coach

The 2014-2015 NDSU Western Equestrian Team consists of 28 team members, including undergraduates from a variety of majors. The team competed in four two-day shows during the fall competition season.

The season began on Oct. 4-5 at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. NDSU was named the reserve high point team on Saturday, and NDSU rider Janna Rice, a senior from Maddock, N.D., earned reserve high point rider recognition.

The next competition was held Oct. 25-26 at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. NDSU rider Nicole Anderson, a freshman from Fergus Falls, Minn., had a very impressive showing at UMC, finishing the weekend as the reserve high point rider on Saturday and high point rider on Sunday. In addition, NDSU was named co-champion high point team in the Saturday and Sunday competitions.

NDSU hosted a home show at the NDSU Equine Center on Nov. 8-9. At that show, NDSU gained the high point team honors on Sunday. Nicole Anderson earned the high point rider award on Saturday, and Janna Rice earned reserve high point rider on Sunday.

The fall semester of competition ended on Nov. 15-16 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where NDSU was named high point team on Saturday and reserve high point team on Sunday.

The spring competition season will begin January 31 with a dual against South Dakota State University.

Hunt Seat Team - Mattia Gunkelman, Coach

The Hunt Seat Equestrian Team first competed in St. Peter, Minn., in September. NDSU rider Alexandra DeFoe received the title of high point rider on Saturday and Kayla Young received the title of reserve high point rider on Sunday. The team also tied for reserve high point team on Sunday.

In October, the team traveled to River Falls, Wis., and received the title of reserve high point team on Saturday and took top honors of high point team on Sunday. Alexandra DeFoe was the reserve high point rider on Sunday.

The last show of the semester was again in River Falls, Wis., in November. The team did great work, tying for high point team on Saturday, with Kayla Young receiving the title for high point rider. The team received reserve high point team on Sunday.

The team is excited to continue its season in the spring semester. The team will compete at a regular-season show in the Twin Cities, followed by a weekend in Crookston, Minn., for the regional competition. Many of the NDSU riders already are qualified for the regional show.
89th Little International

“We Stand for the Brand” is the apt theme for the 89th Little International scheduled for Feb. 13-14, 2015.

Ray Bartholomay, a rancher from Sheldon, N.D., has been named the Agriculturalist of the Year (see his biography). He will be honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet.

The Little I manager is Maria Hager. Emcees for the event are David Leier and Brooks Zenker.

Watch for additional details on the Animal Sciences homepage and Facebook pages in the next few weeks. We hope to see you there!

Agriculturalist of the Year Ray Bartholomay

NDSU Little International Agriculturist of the Year Ray M. Bartholomay, 83, was born and raised in southeastern North Dakota near the town of Sheldon. He attended Sheldon Public School and graduated in 1949.

Bartholomay grew up with a passion for farming and ranching, so he could not foresee a different life for himself. In 1961, he married his wife, Janice. Their family consists of five sons (Daniel, Jon, Matthew, Ryan and Andrew) and one daughter (Naomi), as well as 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Bartholomay considered that developing a passion for farming was important for his children, so he gave each of them a John Deere tractor at the age of 14. He still has the old two-cylinder tractors stored in a shed. They make their annual appearance every July for the local Independence Day parade.

He has owned and managed a diverse crop and livestock operation for nearly 60 years. His pastures have been filled with a variety of livestock, including Holstein milk cows; commercial pigs; dapple gray Percheron draft horses; and Hereford, Simmental and Angus cattle. He also has raised corn, soybeans, spring and winter wheat, oats, barley, sunflowers, alfalfa and millet. His livelihood has been agriculture, and he enjoys sharing his farming stories with others.

He believes the future of agriculture lies with today’s youth, and he has been a catalyst for their growth and knowledge in the industry, especially through his county 4-H program. He has served as a 4-H leader for 37 years and been given the Friend of 4-H Award for being a role model to those youth.

Bartholomay understands and acknowledges the importance of incorporating his faith into stewarding the land. He has planted roughly 25 acres with more than 10,000 spruce, cedar, pine, ash, oak and cottonwood trees specifically intended for wildlife conservation. He sees nature as something to preserve and protect for future generations. For his respect of the land, he was awarded the Ransom County Conservation Award and Eleventh Commandment Award.

Bartholomay continues to farm and ranch on the family homestead, which now is owned and operated by his sons. He enjoys tending to his chickens and donkeys, spending time planting flowers, and going for Sunday drives while listening to polka music on the way to work the soil in his orchard and garden.

He has been fighting prostate cancer for more than 21 years. His drive to work hard and persevere while battling cancer are indicative of his character. He is willing to lend a helping hand to any neighbor in need, and give back to his community and church monetarily and through volunteer activities. He is a man who stands for his personal brand at all times.

Little International Royalty

Each year, three ladies are selected to represent the Saddle and Sirloin Club as the Little International royalty. They will serve as the face of S/S and Little International at media events, the coloring contest at West Acres and other events.

This year’s court consists of Queen Kristi Tonnessen, Towner, N.D.; and Princesses Dani Buskohl, Wyndmere, N.D., and Courtney Rudolph, Fredonia, N.D.
Department Accolades

- Greg Lardy, past president of the American Society of Animal Science, spoke to the joint meeting of the Argentina Association of Animal Production (AAPA) and the American Society of Animal Science on Wednesday, Oct. 22, in Buenos Aires during their beef symposium. He discussed trends impacting the global beef industry.
- Ten people were nominated by the department for the Agriculture and Extension Faculty/Staff Awards. They were:
  - Skip Anderson – Charles and Linda Moses
  - Justin Gilbertson – Rick and Jody Burgum
  - Char Kuss – Donald and Jo Anderson
  - Eric Berg – H. Roald and Janet Lund
  - Tara Swanson – William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
  - Kasey Carlin – Larson/Yaggie
  - Kim Vonnahme – Eugene R. Dahl
  - Justin Crosswhite – Myron and Muriel
  - J.W. Schroeder – AGSCO

All nominees were recognized at the awards program on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Obituaries

Richard M. Tokach, 81, of St. Anthony, N.D., passed away Sunday, Nov. 9. Tokach and his family were strong supporters of the Department of Animal Sciences and were lead donors who helped create the Russ and Helen Danielson Scholarship Endowment.

Tokach received the Saddle and Sirloin Club’s Agriculturalist of the Year award in 1993. He and his family have been heavily involved in North Dakota’s cattle industry for many years, and he had a strong record of service at the local, state and national level.

Several members of his family attended NDSU, majoring in Animal Science and Veterinary Technology, and participating in a variety of departmental clubs and organizations. Tokach was an active member of North Dakota’s Angus breeders organization.

Mike Dirk, 86, Fargo, N.D., was employed by the Department of Animal Sciences for 23 years. He retired in 1989. Dirk is survived by his wife, Leona, Fargo; children Dan (Coleen), Rogue, Ore.; Doug (Lisa), West Fargo; Constance (Kim) Brust, Fargo; Michael (Doreen), Fargo; Patricia (Paul Swanson), Fargo; Andy, Fargo; Robert (Jennifer), Fargo; daughter-in-law Jo Dirk; 11 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.
Alumni Updates

Morgan Boyum, B.S., ’14, Veterinary Technology with a Large Animal Vet Tech minor, will be working at an as-yet undetermined veterinary clinic.

Nichole Chapel, M.S., ’14, Animal Science, received the AABP Research Summaries Graduate Student Award at the 47th annual meeting of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners in Albuquerque, N.M. Her presentation was titled “The Effects of Flunixin Meglumine Treatment and Hoof Trimming on Lying Behavior and Locomotion in Dairy Cows.” The project was a component of the work Nichole did while earning her master’s degree at NDSU. Nichole is a Ph.D. student at Purdue University.

Jerry Doan, B.S. ’75, Animal Science, received the 2014 Agribusiness Award during the NDSU Harvest Bowl festivities held Nov. 21-22 in Fargo. The award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of agriculture and business. Some of Doan’s many activities/achievements include: first chair of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, chair of the North Dakota Ag Coalition and North Dakota Beef Commission, and past director of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association. He was a board member of the state 4-H Foundation, NDSU Alumni Association, North Dakota Junior High Rodeo Association and North Dakota High School Rodeo Association. He served on the National Beef Industry Council and National Livestock and Meat Board. In addition, he was active with the North Dakota Consultation Board, Governor’s Value-added Agriculture Board, Vision 2000 Committee, NDSU President’s Advisory Council and NDSU President’s Ag Club. He is president of Rural Leadership North Dakota, chair of the NDSU Central Grasslands Research Center advisory board and a mentor with the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition. Doan and his wife, Renae, have been married 40 years and have four children. He is a fourth-generation rancher and producer from McKenzie, North Dakota.

Jordan Fellbaum, B.S., ’12 Animal Science, is the assistant herdsman at Twin Spruce Farm. He is managing the registered show herd of red and white and black and white Holsteins and taking them to cattle shows across the U.S. Jordan previously was employed at the Department of Animal Sciences dairy barn.

Morgan Geer, B.S., ’14 Animal Science, will be working for Willmar Poultry.

Dalton Hanson, B.S., ’14 Animal Science, will be helping out on the family ranch and hopes to go to veterinary school next fall.

Kelcey (Holm) Hoffmann, B.S., ’12, Animal Science, began her role as the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) Extension agent for Cass County in Fargo on Oct. 1. Kelsey served as the ANR agent in Emmmons County from July 2012 to July 2013, after which she was employed by AgCounty Farm Credit Services in Lisbon and Valley City.

Theresa Jeske, M.S., ’10, Animal Science, accepted a position with Johnsonville Sausage as quality and food safety leader at its plant in Sheboygan Falls, Wis. Theresa has been a meat science research technician and assistant manager at the NDSU Meat Lab since 2011.

Angie Johnson, B.S., ’12, Animal Science, is the new agriculture and natural resources Extension agent in Steele County. Her first day on the job was Jan. 8, 2015, at the office in Finley. Angie also is an owner/operator of Johnson Livestock near Galesburg, N.D., where she monitors and assists in the management of all aspects of the operation. Angie worked as an Extension intern in the Steele County Extension office during the summer of 2014. In addition, Angie has served as manager of the Hope Greenhouse for the past two summers and responded regularly to client horticulture questions throughout the growing months. Angie is a lifelong 4-H member and serves as a volunteer leader for a local club. She also is the county dairy judging coach.

Dan Larson, B.S. ’03, Animal Science, MS., ’06, Nutritional Physiology works as nutritionist for Great Plains Livestock Consulting based in Lincoln, Neb. While he was here, he ran the NDSU feedlot at “old research.” Dan completed a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2009 under the guidance of Rick Funston. He is married to Nicole Larson and they have two young children: Dylan (2) and Elsa (0.5).

Ross Olson, B.S. ’75, Animal Science, was named vice chair of the board of American Federal Bank. With 39 years of banking experience, he is the bank’s executive vice president and director. He lives in Fargo.

Libbi (Sargees) Roed, B.S. ’10, Veterinary Technology, is a special education teacher in a high school in Hawaii. Immediately upon graduation, Libbi worked as an intern for an organization that rescued and rehabilitated harbor seals in Canada. In 2010-2011, Libbi worked at Sea Life Park in Hawaii training and caring for dolphins, sea lions, monk seals and penguins. From 2012-2013, she worked for Ihilani Marriott, also in Hawaii, training and doing medical care on fish, stingrays and sharks at the resort.

Chris Schauer, B.S. ’97, Animal Science, M.S. 2000, Animal and Range Sciences, was recognized for 10 years of service with NDSU in October. He received a Ph.D. in 2003 in Animal Science with a focus on ruminant nutrition from Oregon State University. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Hettinger Research Extension Center starting in 2003 and was named the director of the REC in 2006.

Kevin Sedivec, Ph.D. ’94, Animal and Range Sciences, was recognized for 25 years of service with NDSU in October. He is the NDSU Extension Service rangeland management specialist.

Megan Van Emon, Ph.D. ’12, is the Extension beef cattle Specialist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, Fort Keogh Research Station, in Miles City, Mont.

Contact Information
NDSU Animal Sciences, P.O. Box 6050, NDSU Department 7630, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-7641

For more information on this and other topics, see www.ag.ndsu.edu/ansc

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, (701) 231-7881.