



## ONWARD WE GO

Happy Holidays!

From my observation "post" in the Department, it is a rewarding and remarkable process to watch progress accelerate in the Department of Dairy and Animal Science. The title of my Introduction captures it....ONWARD WE GO. Our undergraduate major is thriving and is the most popular (based on size) in the College. As outlined in this issue of *Hoofprints* our student clubs and judging teams have excelled this Fall. We have just hired a second faculty member, Dr. Jon Oatley, as part of our Reproductive Biology Initiative (RBI). We have an ongoing search to fill a third position in the RBI, and have just launched a search to fill a dairy nutrition faculty position! Giving to the Department has increased significantly (see a list of scholarships and endowments at [das.psu.edu/giving/scholarships](http://das.psu.edu/giving/scholarships)). Our extension programs excel. One measure of this is the PSU Dairy Nutrition Workshop which was held on Oct 31/Nov 1; more than 450 individuals attended making it the largest dairy nutrition workshop in the U.S. Collectively, the concept of ONWARD WE GO is driven by the talented team of individuals who work in the Department. It is remarkably rewarding to work with such a great team!

The Holiday season is a special time of the year to celebrate. I encourage you to enter the New Year eager to pursue all that is possible in a way that moves society forward in a positive way.

As always, if there is anything we in the Department can help you with, please let me know ([tetherton@psu.edu](mailto:tetherton@psu.edu); 814-863-3665). Happy Holidays!

Terry D. Etherton  
Department Head *and*  
Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition

## Comings and goings

Bill Henning retired on September 30. The Department hosted a reception on October 6 to recognize Bill's many years of service to the university and the meat industry. Bill has requested that, in lieu of a gift, a contribution be made in his name to the William R. Henning Meat Science Enrichment Fund which will provide for teaching, research, and extension programs in Meat Science. Your contributions should be made payable to Penn State University with the name of the endowment listed on the memo line of your check and mailed to Carol Gene Ertley, 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

David Chapman, research support technician at Almquist Center, retired in June.

Gary Killian, Distinguished Professor of Reproductive Biology, retired on September 30.

Molly Martin has filled the position formerly held by Lila Conklin. During the summer and early fall, Dorcas Holt filled Lila's former position on a temporary basis. Erica Cowan is a program assistant in the department.

Laura Dininni is a new extension assistant in the department.

Dante Pighetti is a new barn worker-milker in the department.

## Awards and honors

Dale Olver received the 2006 American Dairy Science Association Hoard's Dairyman Youth Development Award at the national meeting in Minneapolis. The recipient of this award is highly regarded in the dairy industry for his or her role in personal development of dairy youth and enhancing knowledge of and interest in the dairy industry. Congratulations, Dale!

The Penn State Dairy Science placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the recent American Dairy Science Association Student Affiliate Division meetings in Minneapolis. Club members who attended included Jen Bechtel, Keri Connelly, Jared Daubert, Raechel Kilgore, Daryl Maulfair, Renee Norman, Jess Peters, Mike Phelps, Dave Sattazahn, Sarah Tuttle, Dave Wilson, and Emily Yeiser. Penn State students Margi White and Emily Marion were also part of our delegation. Results were as follows:

Web site--first place

Yearbook--first place (edited by Raechel Kilgore and Renee Norman)

Digital Yearbook--first place

Scrapbook--first place (Jess Peters & Sarah Tuttle)

Dairy Foods Undergraduate Paper--first place (Raechel Kilgore)

Overall Club--second place (first, VA Tech; third--LSU)

Dairy Production Undergraduate Paper--second (Keri Connelly)

In other events, Jared Daubert represented us well in the Undergraduate Original Research category, and the quiz bowl team of Jess Peters, Jen Bechtel, Dave Sattazahn, and Raechel Kilgore lost to eventual champion Iowa State on the last question of the semifinal round.

Emily Yeiser completed her term as President of ADSA-SAD, and Renee Norman was elected Secretary-Treasurer for this upcoming year.

Those receiving ADSA Undergraduate Student Recognition were:

Sophomores: Jared Daubert and Brent Schuler

Juniors: Raechel Kilgore, Cole McLaughlin, Katei Smith, and Emily Yeiser

Seniors: Joel Krall, Daryl Maulfair, and Mary Morrow

Congratulations to Animal Science students Jamie Brockett, Katie D. Smith, and Jodi Torock for receiving College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society Internship Awards. Over 100 students competed for internships. Judges were Marianne Fivek, Ken Kephart, and Nelson Loftus. The award winners received \$500 at the Scholarships and Awards Banquet on October 10.

Gabriella Varga, Distinguished Professor of Animal Science, was selected for the second consecutive year as the recipient of the Arthur W. Nesbitt Faculty Program Development Award in the College of Agricultural Sciences. The award represents a \$150,000 commitment by alumnus Nesbitt, who endowed this award to support faculty research, teaching, or extension activities in agribusiness, dairy science or food science. The award also aims to attract additional funding for the selected faculty member's program.

Varga has established an internationally recognized research program in dairy nutrition and has recently been investigating how livestock diets might affect gas emissions from dairy farms.

She has published or co-authored 57 articles in 11 peer-reviewed scientific journals and 61 abstracts. In addition, she has presented 53 invited seminars in five countries and has mentored 23 graduate students. She has been a strong advocate of undergraduate research, mentoring many honor students.

Nesbitt graduated from Penn State in 1950 with a degree in agricultural economics. He has had a long career in the agricultural industry, including serving as chairman, president, chief executive officer and director of Nasco International, a distributor of educational teaching aids, agricultural supplies and laboratory sampling products.

Nesbitt served as a Penn State trustee from 1987 to 1988. A long-time supporter of the university, he also has been a volunteer leader in Penn State fund-raising activities, first for the Snider Agricultural Arena and then for the university's first capital campaign, The Campaign for Penn State. He was named a distinguished alumnus in 1987, and an alumni fellow in the College of Agricultural Sciences in 1979. He currently is CEO of Awnward LLC and resides in Fort Atkinson, Wis.

## Stockmen's Club

The annual dinner and business meeting of the Penn State Stockmen's Club will be held **Saturday** evening, **January 6, 2007**, at the Harrisburg East Holiday Inn, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, Pa. Social hour will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM in the Lancaster Suite, followed by a brief business meeting and program. Our program will be by Ms. Christine Molinaro, National Beef Ambassador. Chris, who is a sophomore Animal Science major at PSU, will present the speech she gave at the National competition and share some information on the beef promotion program. Any alumnus or friend who would like to attend the banquet is encouraged to contact Jana Peters. The next event in 2007 is the Spring Dinner Dance, April 20, 2006 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center, State College, PA Penn Stockmen's Club membership is open to any graduate of a major offered by The Department of Dairy & Animal Science or former member of The Penn State Block & Bridle Club. Associate memberships are available to anyone interested in promoting and supporting Penn State and the PA livestock industry. For further information, contact Jana Peters at 814-863-4198 or at [jpeters@das.psu.edu](mailto:jpeters@das.psu.edu).

## **Student Clubs**

CHAPS - Collegiate Horsemen at Penn State - is a new student club being sponsored by the Department of Dairy & Animal Science this fall. The group began as a network of students who took lessons at Carousel Farms and has grown to include members with connections to many local stables. The club welcomes equestrians of all kinds - from barrel racers and trail riders to eventers and saddle seat riders. Many students are involved with Penn State's Equine Science or Animal Science programs, but some are business or language majors. Members are not required to own a horse or even have horse experience. The club is actually a great way to get introduced to new riding disciplines. Come to any meeting and the members will be happy to discuss their specific riding interests! A list of local stables is available on the club website. The club arranges car pools to lessons, horse shows, such as Dressage at Devon and the Quarter Horse Congress, and community service projects such as therapeutic riding events. CHAPS also holds socials, making it a great place to form friendships. The club held a hayride and Homecoming Game tailgate to celebrate their nominee for Homecoming court, past president Genevieve Sperring.

SRUA (Students for Responsible Use of Animals) The club welcomed many new members this fall. In October, the club co-sponsored Jeff Corwin as a distinguished speaker at Eisenhower Auditorium. Forty members and friends attended as the Animal Planet star shared his thoughts on world conversation, working with animals and making a difference in your own community. As co-sponsors, SRUA enjoyed VIP seating and a special reception after the show. Putting the idea of community service to work, a dedicated group ventured out to help T&D's Cats of the World prepare for the winter season by staining benches and fences and cleaning boxes, perches and feeding dishes. Their ongoing bi-weekly visits with pets to local retirement homes continue to be met with enthusiasm from residents, staff, and visitors (and homesick students enjoy borrowing a cat or dog of their own for an hour or two). A diverse and enthusiastic group, SRUA members look forward to a hayride, more guest speakers, holiday pet stocking fundraising, and raising money for Penn State's Dance Marathon this fall.

Block and Bridle The third annual club calf sale Penn State's Block and Bridle Club held a successful Club Calf Sale event on October 28th at the University Park campus, adding heifers to the sale for the first time. The sale provides quality calves for sale by auction to be next year's 4-H and show projects. A "fun" auction was held Friday night, with both events serving as fundraisers for future club activities. The sale is preceded by a show in which the consigned animals are evaluated for their future ability in the show ring. The calves are then auctioned in order, according to their placings in the show.

Block and Bridle gathered at Hoss's Steak and Sea House in State College on November 6 for a night with friends and good food! Hoss's donated 20% of the check's total to the club. The club's Semi-Formal was held on December 1 at Tussey Mountain Lodge.

Dairy Science Club The Club hosted the fifth annual OsteoChallenge 5K Race/Walk at the Dairy Research and Education Center on Penn State's University Park campus. Seventy people attended the event, and their donations to the National Osteoporosis Foundation totaled \$1,390. This was a record high for OsteoChallenge contributions to the Foundation. The donations will be used to promote awareness and education about osteoporosis, the bone crippling disease which affects more than 10 million Americans. Congratulations to all participants for a job well done. Also attending the event were the newly crowned Pennsylvania Dairy Royalty, Ms. Sarah Caldwell, Ms. Katie Waddell, and Ms. Vanessa Ebersole, as well as the Penn State Dairy Princess, Ms. Becky Detwiler. The 2006 OsteoChallenge Committee thank all of the sponsors and donors for their generous contributions who helped make OsteoChallenge 2006 a success.

The 23rd Nittany Lion Fall Classic was held on November 4, at the Snider Agricultural Arena. The sale is co-managed by the Penn State Dairy Science Club and the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. This year's sale included 75 lots with an average of \$2,522, making it the third highest average in the sale's 23 years. Sale chair was Doug Sattazahn, Womelsdorf; Assistant Chair was Rachel Ebert, Blairsville. Topping the sale was a red 9/06 Rampage calf from Richard Green selling in absentia. The calf, a daughter of Golden-Oaks Banner Rae-Red-ET, was purchased for \$6,000 by John J. and Daniel J. Park of Brookville. The second high seller was a three-year-old consigned by Jill and Michael Ammon of Lewistown and purchased by Larry Hill of Falconer, NY. A Toystory embryo package consigned by Shoremar Holsteins of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada and comprising seven #1 embryos from Cityview Aleecia (a granddaughter of Shoremar S Alicia) was purchased by Daniel Albright of Landisburg. The Nittany Lion Fall Classic is one of the club's main events, with committee members working over the summer to select top quality dairy animal consignments from throughout the state. One week prior to the sale the animals are transported to the Snider Agricultural Arena, and club members are responsible for feeding, clipping, milking and preparing the animals for sale day. Members are present around the clock to care for the sale cattle.

## Judging Teams

Horse The Penn State Horse Judging Teams competed at the All American Quarter Horse Congress on Wednesday October 11 with two teams: a Senior Collegiate Team and a Junior Collegiate Team, and two individuals in the Junior Collegiate Division.

The Senior team consisted of Morgan Bacher, Stacie Domer, Heather Eckstein, and Tara Snavely. There were 23 teams in the Senior College division and the competition was very stiff. In the end, Penn State finished 8<sup>th</sup> in halter, 11<sup>th</sup> in performance, 12<sup>th</sup> in reasons, and 12<sup>th</sup> overall. This result was extremely respectable in this difficult competition.

The Junior competitors were Cayce Walter, Callihan Schillaci, Hillary Grube, Elyse Debellis, Lacy Ramiza, Kristina Pry, and Danielle Breese. There were 11 teams in the Junior competition. The Penn State team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Halter, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Performance, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Reasons, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall. Additionally, individual team members fared well as shown below:

Cayce Walter – 4<sup>th</sup> in Halter, 9<sup>th</sup> in Performance, 4<sup>th</sup> overall  
Hillary Grube – 8<sup>th</sup> in Performance, 8<sup>th</sup> in Reasons, 10<sup>th</sup> overall  
Callihan Schillaci – 8<sup>th</sup> in Halter, 8<sup>th</sup> in Reasons, 12<sup>th</sup> overall  
Kristina Pry – 11<sup>th</sup> in Halter

Overall, this group of students did a fine job of representing Penn State at this national contest.

Livestock The 2006 PSU Livestock Judging Team built on their success this past spring winning two of five contests this fall. Team members were Andrew Dice, Kelly Dietrich, Kristy Dietrich, Allison Giraldi, Kevin Stahl, and Jodi Torock. The team won the Eastern National Livestock Judging Contest for the second year in a row. As a team they won Cattle, Swine, and Reasons. Allison Giraldi won Beef, Swine, and Reasons on her way to High Individual Overall. Kevin Stahl and Kelly Dietrich were third and fourth overall, respectively. The team then won the K.I.L.E. contest for the first time since 1991. They won Cattle, Sheep, and Reasons and were second in Swine as a team. Kelly Dietrich won Cattle and Reasons and was second in Swine and Sheep on her way to High Individual Overall. Kristy Dietrich and Jodi Torock were third and fourth overall. The team then traveled to Indiana for the Stockman's Contest to compete. The Stockman's Contest is an individual only contest with no team awards. Allison Giraldi finished in the top ten for Cattle against some tough western competition. The team then competed at the American Royal Contest in Kansas City and the North American International Livestock Expo, the national contest held in Louisville, KY. Competition was again tough but a few team members excelled individually. At the Royal, Kelly Dietrich had a good day in Sheep and Kristy Dietrich in Cattle, both finishing in the upper percentage of contestants in the respective species. At the National Contest, Kristy turned in a great performance against stout competition and finished 13<sup>th</sup> in Sheep and 20<sup>th</sup> in Cattle and 28<sup>th</sup> overall out of 130 contestants. As a team they finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Shorthorn cattle division and 14<sup>th</sup> in Cattle with just under 30 university teams competing.

The Penn State Livestock Judging Team won the Eastern National Livestock Show collegiate judging contest held in Timonium, MD. Team members were Andrew Dice, Kelly Dietrich, Kristy Dietrich, Allison Giraldi, Kevin Stahl, and Jodi Torock. Teams from Ohio State University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia, and Delaware Valley College competed in the contest. The team was high team in Beef, Swine, and Reasons. PSU had four of the top five in Beef and three of the top five in Swine and Reasons. Allison Giraldi won Beef, Swine, and Reasons on her way to

high individual overall in the contest. Kevin Stahl, Kelly Dietrich, Andrew Dice, and Kristy Dietrich finished 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 9th overall, respectively.

The Penn State Livestock Judging Team won the Keystone International Livestock Exposition Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest. This was the 50th year anniversary for K.I.L.E. The team won Cattle, Sheep, and Reasons, and was second in Swine. They are the first Penn State team to win the Keystone Contest since 1991. Team members are Andrew Dice, Kelly Dietrich, Kristy Dietrich, Allison Giraldi, Kevin Stahl, and Jodi Torock. Teams from Ohio State University, Virginia Tech, University of Tennessee, West Virginia, and Delaware Valley College competed along with Penn State. Kelly Dietrich was high individual in Cattle and Reasons and 2nd in Swine and Sheep on her way to high individual overall in the contest. Kristy Dietrich was 3rd high individual overall in the contest and 3rd in Reasons. Jodi Torock was 4th high individual overall and 2nd in Cattle. Kevin Stahl was 8th overall and 3rd in Cattle. Andrew Dice and Allison Giraldi were both in the top ten in Sheep and Reasons, respectively.

Dairy Our Louisville dairy judging team (coached by Dale Olver and Daryl Maulfair) was second to Michigan State. They also won the reasons portion of the contest. Individually, Dave Wilson was 6<sup>th</sup>, Nate Heim was 10<sup>th</sup> individually and 5<sup>th</sup> in Reasons, and Charlene Barlieb was 4<sup>th</sup> in Reasons.

The team took first place at the All American dairy judging contest in Harrisburg. They were also the first place team in Oral Reasons by a healthy margin. Emily Yeiser and Raechel Kilgore were first and second in Reasons, and both in the top 5 overall. Jared Daubert and Brent Schuler also did very well. Thirteen college teams participated in the contest, which also included 4-H and FFA divisions.

## Alumni News

Richard Saacke of Blacksburg, Va., has been named a 2006 Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. A professor emeritus of reproductive physiology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Saacke has focused his work on the improvement of reproductive efficiency using artificial insemination.

His research has focused on the structure and function of spermatozoa, ova, and the mammary gland. Areas of emphasis have related to optimizing semen preservation and identifying semen traits important to sperm transport in the female, to fertilization and, in more recent years, to embryonic development.

Saacke received the National Association of Animal Breeders Research Award in 1985 and the Physiology Award from Upjohn in 1988. He has also been recognized by the American Veterinary College of Theriogenology as an honorary diplomat (1997), Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences as a Distinguished Alumnus (1997), and Virginia Tech for excellence in teaching. Saacke, who received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, and his master's and doctoral degrees in dairy physiology from Penn State, has enjoyed support throughout his career from his wife and partner, Ann. They are the parents of five children and grandparents of 13.

Eight graduates of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences are recipients of 2006 Outstanding Alumni Awards. The awards recognize alumni for their achievements and provide opportunities for recipients to interact with the college's faculty, students and other alumni. Ronald Josephson, professor emeritus in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences at San Diego State University, earned his bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1964 from what was then the Department of Animal Science and Industry. His research has focused on cow milk and dairy products, goat milk, fish and shellfish, meat products, and medicinal foods. He taught numerous courses in food preparation, food proteins, nutrient analysis and food sensory properties, and served as advisor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students.

## Staff News

Wendall and Emily Landis have a son, Clayton James Landis, born on July 17.

Lila Conklin was promoted to the staff assistant position formerly held by LuAnn Weatherholtz in the Student Services Office.

## Faculty News

John Comerford was an invited speaker to the International Beef Cattle Conference in Santa Rosa, LaPampa, Argentina. The conference was sponsored by the LaPampa provincial government.

## Herds and flocks

**Sheep** A Penn State-bred sheep was awarded Reserve National Champion Dorset Female at the 2006 North American International Livestock Expo. in Louisville, KY Penn State 5189, sold for \$7500. in our April 2006 sale, is owned by Superior Farms of Oklahoma City, OK.

## In Memoriam

Lowell Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Animal Science, passed away suddenly on July 26.

## How to Reach Us

**(Area code 814)**

### Offices

*Administrative Office* ..... 865-1362  
*Student Services Office* ..... 865-7638  
*Extension Office* ..... 865-5491

### Club Advisors

#### *Block & Bridle Club—*

Vivian Baumer ..... 865-1363  
Ken Kephart ..... 863-3671  
Dan Kniffen ..... 865-7809

#### *Dairy Science Club—*

Ron Kensinger ..... 863-0558  
Dale Olver ..... 863-3914

#### *Students for Responsible Use of Animals—*

Nancy Dreschel ..... 863-4197

#### *Collegiate Horsemen at Penn State (CHAPS)*

Karen Vines ..... 865-3097

### Judging Team Coaches

*Dairy Cattle* —Dale Olver ..... 863-3914  
*Horse*—Brian Egan ..... 863 3957  
*Livestock* —Wendall Landis ..... 863-0831

### Facilities Contacts

#### *Beef-Sheep Center—*

Pete LeVan ..... 355-1662  
Don Nichols ..... 863-0831  
Dick Kuzemchak ..... 865-5893

#### *Dairy Center and Almquist Research Center—*

Ginny Ishler ..... 863-0835

#### *Deer Center—Don Wagner* ..... 865-8470

#### *Horse Center—Ed Jedrzejewski* ..... 863-0834

#### *Meat Laboratory—Glenn Myers* ..... 865-1787

#### *Swine Center—Mark Kriedler* ..... 865-5651

### Alumni Club Contacts

#### *Dairyman's Club—Nicole Fearnley* 570-623-2027

#### *Stockmen's Club—Jana Peters* ..... 863-4198

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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