



From Terry Etherton Reflection

Reflection is an activity that I engage in more than you might imagine. It provides me a means to assess the many, many accomplishments of the Department, evaluate how many colleagues (including “me”) have done, and assess the countless activities, programs, and classes we conduct. Think of this reflection as a broad-based quality control program. This approach has been instrumental in further building the brand name of the Department. My assessment is that we are a world-class department, and headed towards “higher excellence”.



One activity that I “look at” is the annual DAS Tailgate, held this year before the PSU-Northwestern football game on November 5. It provides a terrific opportunity to “hear” what alumni and friends think of the Department, and to offer ideas for consideration. This year, about 300 people showed up for the get-together. There were countless conversations, many of which conveyed how much the Department is appreciated. I am thankful for that. And, importantly, it reflects well on all the hard work my colleagues engage in to do the “greater good” for society. In short, it is richly-rewarding to know that our alumni and friends greatly value all that we do.

As always, the Holiday Season is a time to celebrate and savor -- to reflect. So, at this special time of the year, please celebrate all that you have. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a happy New Year!

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

Alumni News

Mick Colvin was honored on campus November 4-7 as the 2010 College of Agricultural Sciences Outstanding Alumnus.

Alan Bair was honored on campus November 11-14 as the 2010 Distinguished Dairy Science Alumnus.

Stockmen’s Club The Club’s annual business meeting will be held January 8, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, with social hour at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Newsletters with information about the annual election have been mailed to members. Any alum of the department or former member of the Block & Bridle Club who wishes to become a member is encouraged to join by contacting Jana Peters (814-863-4198 or jpeters@psu.edu).

DAS Tailgate IV The Penn State Dairymen’s Club and the Stockmen’s Club hosted the fourth annual football tailgate on Nov. 5, 2010 at the Snider Ag Arena prior to the PSU vs. Northwestern game. The tailgate attracted nearly 300 people and was a grand time. The Stockmen's Club raised nearly \$1600 for the freshmen scholarship fund through a silent auction. The date for next year’s tailgate has been tentatively set for Oct. 29, 2011 (PSU vs. Illinois).

Faculty News

- * **Alex Hristov’s** research was featured on Penn State Live <http://live.psu.edu/story/48055/nw69>.
- * **Jon Oatley’s** research was featured in the summer/fall issue of AgScience and a story on Penn State Live <http://live.psu.edu/story/47283/nw3>.
- * Department research was featured at Ag Progress Days in August <http://live.psu.edu/story/47696/nw63>.
- * **Chad Dechow** was interviewed about the dairy industry in a story on Penn State Live <http://live.psu.edu/story/47419/nw1>.
- * **Mike O’Connor** discussed the effects of heat stress on cows in a summer story on Penn State Live <http://live.psu.edu/story/47453/nw1>.
- * **Kevin Harvatine’s** research was featured on Penn State Live <http://live.psu.edu/story/47065/nw69>.

Graduate Student News

Ann Macrina defended her dissertation, “Induced Lactation in Heifers” in June. Ann was co-advised by **Terry Etherton** and **Dan Kniffen**.

Expanded Version of Hoofprints Online

Visit das.psu.edu/hoofprints for detailed versions of the articles you see here; additional articles; and a pdf of the expanded version.

New Arrival

Laurie Hubbard and husband Greg are proud parents of Mackenzie Rachael, born on November 8.

Judging Teams

Dairy Cattle The Team had another successful campaign. The team placed 1st both overall and in oral reasons at the Eastern States Exposition.

Joshua Ebert placed 2nd overall, **Peter Yoder** placed 3rd, **Elaina Rader** placed 5th, and **Amy Yeiser** placed 11th. Yeiser was high individual for Guernseys, and Ebert was high for Jerseys. At the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, the team placed 6th overall and 4th in oral reasons. From Harrisburg, the team traveled to Madison, WI for the National Intercollegiate Contest, where they earned 4th place overall honors and placed 3rd in oral reasons. The team also placed 2nd in Ayrshires and Holsteins, 3rd in Jerseys, 4th in Milking Short-horns, 6th in Brown Swiss, and 9th in Guernseys.

Ebert was 5th high overall individual and 3rd in oral reasons, while **Rader** and **Yoder** also earned All-American recognition. In November, another team traveled to Louisville, KY for the North American Livestock Expo Contest. The team placed 2nd overall and 4th in oral reasons. **Hannah Wentworth** was the 3rd high overall individual, followed closely by **Philip Bachman** in 4th. **Nathan Oleniacz** was high individual for Jerseys. The team placed in the top five for every breed.

Horse The team of 12 students had a lot of success at the 2010 All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, OH in October. The senior team had a good day, placing 8th in halter, 9th in performance, 8th in oral reasons, and 9th overall. Individually, students on the senior team all placed in the top 50 overall, highlighted by **Constance Anderson's** placing 5th in performance and 15th overall. In the junior college and limited divisions, all students gained crucial experience at the national level, highlighted by **Kylie Mitchell's** 2nd place finish in the halter division of the limited. In November, a group of PSU students competed in the collegiate horse judging contest at the AQHA World Championship show in Oklahoma City, OK. The team represented the department extremely well in a very competitive contest. The team placed 7th in halter judging, 7th in performance judging, 6th in oral reasons, and 6th overall. Fourteen full teams competed, with a possible 3600 points per team. The PSU team was only 8 points out of 3rd place overall and 15 points away from earning Reserve World Champion status. Individual highlights included **Jamie Lau** placing

14th in halter judging and 8th in oral reasons as well as **Harrison Frantz** placing 13th in halter, 11th in performance and a fantastic 7th overall.

Livestock Judging The team competed in five contests this fall. At Eastern National the team placed 3rd overall. **Warren Soergel** was 2nd in beef and 5th in reasons; **Ryan Fairbairn** was 5th in sheep. **Fairbairn** and **William Nichols** both finished in the top 10 individuals overall. The Keystone collegiate contest was the largest in recent years, with 9 universities competing. The PSU team finished 4th in swine. **Joshua Ebert** was the high individual for PSU, finishing 11th in swine and 12th overall. The team competed at two contests in Indiana. At the American Royal, **Joshua Ebert** was the high individual on the team, finishing 20th overall in swine. The team finished 18th out of 27 teams. At the North American International Livestock Exposition, the team was 20th out of 31 universities.

Student Clubs

Block and Bridle Continuing members welcomed about 50 new students to B&B at the annual Welcome Back picnic in early September. Several members talked to prospective members at the college's club fair and also helped with the PA 4-H Horse Program during their annual competitive trail ride. Over 20 members helped run the Livestock Judging Contest at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg in October while five club members assisted at the Eastern National Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Wyalusing. On October 15 the annual Fun Auction was held to benefit the 94th Little International Livestock Exposition. The next day, 4-H and FFA members and their families attended the Club Calf Sale, featuring 29 steers and 7 heifers consigned by breeders. The sale was organized, managed and staffed by club members. That weekend 9 other members attended the 91st National Convention at Michigan State University, where the Club won 3rd place Scrapbook, 2nd place Yearbook, 1st place Webpage, and 1st place Chapter Activities for the third straight year.

Horse enthusiasts in the Club sponsored Ann Swinker's presentation about the proposed environmental protection rules concerning manure management as part of the Equine Speaker series in October. The club raised \$150 for the CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk on October 24. Members attended a mixer with high school students at the Animal Sciences Prospective Student Open House, and then opened

their dorm rooms for the night to give the students a “taste of college life”. Members collected items for Operation Christmas Child and donated hams to Froggy 98 as part of the 12 Days of Christmas, which benefits 12 needy families in the County. Other fall activities included grooming mares and foals at the horse barns and other fund raising events. Social events included intramural sports, Ag Hill Olympics, a hayride with both the Dairy Science and Agronomy clubs, and the Holiday Semiformal with the Dairy Science Club.

CHAPS The members of Collegiate Horseman’s Association at Penn State have been very active this semester. Members volunteered at the local Easter Seals’ therapeutic riding program. CHAPS is participating in THON canning weekends and other activities. In October, a group of members traveled with club advisor Karen Vines to the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY. CHAPS officers conducted a group trail ride for all of the horse-related clubs in the College. CHAPS participated in the Ag Hill Olympics and added the challenge of a “Stick Horse Obstacle Course.” Fun gatherings included movie nights, Thanksgiving dinner, and attending the Secretariat movie premiere. CHAPS also participated in the PSU Equine Speaker Series, hosting various members of the local farm community who spoke about the programs they offer. Spring semester promises to be equally busy. In January, members will attend the annual National Convention with the American Collegiate Horseman’s Association (ACHA) in Fort Worth, TX. Other activities include THON canning, trail riding, and trips to various events and facilities. More information on CHAPS is available at <http://www.wix.com/chaps55/home> or from Karen Vines (kvines@psu.edu).

Dairy Science The Club had a busy fall semester. Over 40 new members joined the club in September. Major activities included Osteochallenge, a 5-kilometer walk/run that raised over \$1000 for the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and the Prospective Student Open House. Club members conducted the PA Junior Dairy Show in Harrisburg for approximately 400 4-H and FFA youth. The Nittany Lion Fall Classic held in November averaged \$2,341 on over 80 lots. Spring events will include the Spring Judging Contest on March 19, Dairy Expo on March 16, and Cow Camp from May 20-22.

Small and Exotic Animals Club (SEAC) After 20 years, the Students for the Responsible Use of Animals (SRUA) voted to change their name to the

Small and Exotic Animal Club (SEAC) to reflect better their current mission and activities. With nearly 50 active members, the club has expanded their community service and fund-raising activities. By helping out with special events at Centre County PAWS, participating in low-cost/high volume spay/neuter clinics, volunteering at T & D’s Cats of the World, and visiting elderly residents of local nursing homes with pets, members are learning new skills and getting hands-on experience with companion animals. To raise money, they ran food booths at horse shows and are gearing up for the annual pet stocking sale. They continue to support THON and are also collecting food and donations for the Pet Pantry, a local pet food bank for Centre County residents. As they prepare for their spring trip, they are open to ideas and suggestions from friends and alumni on places to visit or serve.

Awards and Honors

Gabriella Varga received the Fellow Award at the American Dairy Science Association’s Annual Meeting in Denver, CO in July. The Award recognizes Dairy Foods Division and Production Division members of the American Dairy Science Association who have rendered distinguished service to the dairy industry over 20 years or more.

Ed Mills received the Outstanding Teacher award from the American Meat Science Association during the Reciprocal Meats Conference.

Eight Penn State students, all members of the PSU Collegiate Chapter of Farm Bureau, attended the 60th Annual Meeting of the PA Farm Bureau in Hershey. Ann Swinker advises the club. During the event there was a discussion meet in which student contestants were put in situations where they had to analyze agricultural problems and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The discussion meet is designed to help members build communications skills, develop an understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool resources to reach a consensus and solve problems. Penn State students **Allison Bordella** and **Jean Haldeman** won the meet and received all-expense paid trips to Orlando, FL to compete at the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet as part of AFBF’s Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is the state’s largest farm organization, with a volunteer membership of more than 50,000 farm and rural families, representing farms of every size and commodity across Pennsylvania.

Undergraduate students traveled to the AMSA Reciprocal Meat Conference, hosted this year by Texas Tech. The team of **Dustin Brown, captain; Jenna Pannone, Allison Bardella, and Kristen Stuftt**, alternate, placed higher than 22 other teams representing 14 other universities. Penn State was among the top 3 universities making it to the final rounds.

Awards were presented at the department's holiday luncheon on December 15. **Ann Macrina** received the Outstanding Staff Member Award and **Shenna Kubeja** the Vern Hazlett Outstanding Student Barn Worker Award.



Hoofprints

Edited by **Dr. Daniel Hagen**, Hoofprints brings alumni and friends of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science up to date on the recent notable activities of the faculty and staff in the department. Hoofprints is available online at das.psu.edu/hoofprints. You will also find at this location an archive of previous issues as well as a link to subscribe to the Hoofprints mailing list.

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Alumni Clubs

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Stockmen's Club: Jana Peters	863-4198
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