



From Terry Etherton Changes

The College of Agricultural Sciences is restructuring. Last year, Dean Bruce McPheron engaged a strategic review process to evaluate the current College structure. This has resulted in a proposal that the Dean publicly announced on June 10, 2011. The proposal is a draft recommendation that nine new academic departments (currently there are 12) will constitute the future College of Agricultural Sciences (please visit <http://agsci.psu.edu/ag-futures/draft-academic-restructuring-proposal-june-2011.pdf> to learn more about the details and implementation timeline).



You might ask, what would this mean for the Department? The answer is that the Department of Poultry Science would merge with the Department of Dairy and Animal Science to create a new Department of Animal Sciences. Operationally, the transition would be seamless since the two departments work together closely. For years, the two departments have co-managed our undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, there are ongoing research programs that span the two departments.

The Dean has invited comments on his proposal. After the comment period ends on July 5, the Dean will prepare a final proposal for consideration by the Provost, who is responsible for submitting the proposal to the University Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate will review the proposal and make a recommendation to President Spanier on the restructuring proposal. Ultimately, the Board of Trustees will consider the proposed restructuring of the College.

The proposed timeline for implementation is July 1, 2012. We in the department look forward to continuing our legacy of excellence in fundamental and translational research, highly relevant and recognized Extension education programming, and education of career-ready graduates.

If you have any questions about the structure of the new Department, please let me know.

With all best wishes,
Terry D. Etherton, Department Head and
Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition

Alumni News

Andrew Herr's new job experience was featured in a Penn State Newswire story, <http://live.psu.edu/story/50884#nw1>.

Chet Hughes is the 2011 Distinguished Animal Science Alumnus. **Cliff Marshall** is the 2011 Distinguished Dairy Science Alumnus. Chet works for Cooperative Extension in Lancaster. Cliff is Vice President of Production at Select Sires in Plain City, OH. Chet was honored on April 15 and 16. Cliff will be honored during the Nittany Lion Classic weekend in November.

The 2011 Alumni Tailgate will be held on October 29 (PSU vs. Illinois). Information will be mailed to members of the Dairymen's and Stockmen's Club later this summer.

Comings and Goings

- * **Suzanne Reding**, research technologist, left the department in May to accept a position outside the University.
- * **Karen Racicot** left the department in May for a postdoctoral position at Yale University.
- * **Robert Goodling** joined the department in May as a dairy extension associate.
- * **Jon and Melissa Oatley** will leave the department, effective June 30. Jon is taking a faculty position at Washington State University.

New Arrival

Katie and Kevin Harvatine are excited to announce the birth of Russell Paul in February.

Expanded Version of Hoofprints Online

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

Awards and Honors

Internship Awards Ten students in the College recently received Internship Awards from the college's Alumni Society. The awards with 750 stipends were based on students' performance during the internship, their written final reports about their experiences and evaluations offered by internship supervisors. Four of the awardees are Animal Sciences majors. **Kristen Annunziata** of Middletown, NJ, interned with Centre Wildlife Care in Port Matilda. **Benjamin Cashell** of Chambersburg interned with the Mason Dixon Farm in Gettysburg. **John H. Frantz** of Waynesboro interned with Capital Area Resource Conservation and Development in Carlisle. **Sharon Ng** of Elmhurst, NY, interned with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Brooklyn, NY.

Extension Award The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association presented **Virginia Ishler**, extension associate with Penn State Extension Dairy Team, with its 2011 Extension Award at the Pennsylvania Dairy Summit in Lancaster. Dave Smith, executive director of the association, recognized Ishler's "leadership and dedication" and her extensive contributions focusing on improving dairy farm profitability. Ishler is well-known throughout the dairy industry for her work in precision feeding, nutrient management and, more recently, risk management with income over feed costs and cash flow planning.

Beef Quiz Bowl Students representing the Department competed in the National Beef Quiz Bowl at the 2011 Cattle Industry Conference in Denver, CO, February 2-5, placing second for the second straight year. The University of Florida won the contest. Members of the 2011 team included **Ben Cashell, Joshua Ebert, Ryan Fairbairn, and Natalie Niehls. Dan Kniffen** advised the team. The team competed in Rhode Island last year to earn the right to represent the Northeast in the national competition. Since the contest's inception in 1993, Penn State has represented the Northeast Region 15 times, winning the national championship nine times and placing second six times.

Student Clubs

Block and Bridle The Block and Bridle Club had a very busy and exciting spring semester. In early February, a team of two Block and Bridle members and two Dairy Science club members earned Reserve National Champion honors in the National Beef Quiz Bowl competition. Sixteen Block and Bridle students joined forces with Dairy Science

Club members at the University of New Hampshire in February to compete in livestock judging, quiz bowl, and paper presentations. With a total of eight teams, Penn State was privileged to be named the Top Overall University at the competition.

In early March, weeks before the PA Bull Test, members clipped more than 100 bulls in a record of just three days of hard work. In mid March, the club and the livestock and horse judging teams conducted a spring judging workout for 4-H and FFA members from across the state. More than 350 youth and the Penn State collegiate team members judged livestock. The last weekend in March, members helped at the Bull Test sale and at Beef Expo. Youth from across Pennsylvania participated in the quiz bowl on the Friday night before the sale and in the skill-athon, hosted by the club, on sale day. Members also assisted with the Junior Show.

In early April, many attended the Ag Ball, where Block and Bridle was named outstanding club for fund-raising and community service. The Ag Ball culminated with recognition of Block and Bridle as the club of the year.

Later in April the club held its annual Beef Up the Blood Supply. It was a record year with 138 units collected. On Earth Day, Block and Bridle participated in the college's annual Harvest to Home event, also called Ag Day.

Little International, or Little I, is one of the club's most anticipated events of the year. Block and Bridle would not be complete without this long-standing tradition. This year's show was in the capable hands of **George Peters** (show manager) and **Courtney Cowden** (assistant show manager). The club held its 94th Little I with 82 students participating from the college along with students from all over the University Park campus. Participants showed a sheep, hog, horse, or beef heifer. Students honed their fitting and showmanship skills and were given the opportunity to display their hard work to a full Snider Agricultural Arena. The Little International Champion Showman was awarded to Tony Miller with the reserve champion showman going to Josh Ebert. At the evening banquet, the Little I dedicatee, **Pete LeVan**, and honorary member **Molly Martin** were recognized. Other awards included the Outstanding Senior awarded to **Constance Anderson** and Outstanding Junior to **Brianna Isenberg**.

CHAPS This was an exciting year for CHAPS! In the fall, CHAPS members volunteered at a local therapeutic riding facility, assisting with multiple tasks. In January, several CHAPS members attended the National CHAPS convention hosted by Texas A&M University in Fort Worth, TX. While they were at the convention, CHAPS members visited the North Texas Horse Farm, toured the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards, and attended a livestock show and a rodeo. CHAPS members learned more about the organization and heard presentations on careers in the horse industry. This year, CHAPS began to take a more active role in Penn State's THON by raising funds. In late spring, officer elections were held. Incoming president, **Laura Wodzinski**, is working with the other officers to plan activities and volunteer opportunities for the coming year.

Dairy Science The members completed another active spring semester. In January, the club sponsored a youth dairy judging contest at the PA Farm Show, and in February members coordinated the PA Holstein Quiz Bowl and Dairy Jeopardy contests in Scranton. Block and Bridle and Dairy Club members defended their championship at the Northeast Affiliate meetings held at the University of New Hampshire.

During spring break, 43 club members visited farms, a cheese plant, and a banana processing facility in Costa Rica. In late March, more than 180 youth attended the annual spring judging contest and club members conducted the PA Jersey Jeopardy Contest at the state Jersey convention in Williamsport. At Dairy Expo on April 16, 35 contestants showed in three different divisions based on dairy experience. Two siblings won top honors. **Hannah Bachman** was named Overall Champion; **Philip Bachman** was named Reserve Overall Champion.

The club held its awards banquet on April 28. **Adam** and **Lisa Sonnen** were named club dedicatees. **Joel Krall** received the Young Dairy Leader Award. **Sarah Wickard** received the William R. Davey Award (Outstanding Senior in Dairy Science). **Stephen Bond** received the Branding Award that recognizes a behind-the-scenes junior in the club. The Muller Award (Outstanding First Year Member) was presented to **Hannah Bachman**. American Dairy Science Association Scholarship Recognition awards were presented to sophomore **Nathan Ulmer**, junior **Philip Bachman**, and seniors **Joshua Ebert**, **Laraya Foresman** and **Kolby McIntyre**.

Penn State Equine Research Team The team had several achievements during the academic year. They completed a study of growth hormone profiles in young growing Quarter Horses. More than 80 volunteers were involved in all aspects of the study and learned about what it takes to conduct a study. The results from that study were presented at the 2011 Equine Science Society meeting. At the same meeting, team member and new Animal Science graduate student, **Linsey Etz**, presented results from a study on leucine supplementation in Quarter Horse yearlings. Linsey won first prize at the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference for a presentation of her study.

In April, the team co-organized the first Undergraduate Student Equine Research Symposium with undergraduate students at Virginia Tech. The two-day meeting involved more than 50 undergraduate students and was held at Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

In May, a group of 16 students attended and helped do set-up for Alltech's 27th International Animal Health and Nutrition Industry Symposium. They had the opportunity to visit a number of important equine landmarks around Lexington, KY. This summer, some team members are collecting data to understand the relationships between feeding practices and the body condition of horses.

Small and Exotic Animals Club (SEAC) The club had a good spring semester. A successful holiday stocking sale led to selling home-made pet valentines. Other fund-raising activities included running the food booth at the Little International/Dairy Expo and a chocolate bar sale. Members visited the Hearthside and Brookline nursing homes, and took pets to the Village at Penn State, where they were welcomed by Penn State alumni. Other community service activities included volunteering at and sponsoring the Wild About Animals event for Centre Wildlife Care, cleaning and socializing dogs at Nittany Greyhound Rescue, and organizing volunteer opportunities at Centre County PAWS. Guest speakers this semester included **Dr. Tracy Langkilde** from Biology and representatives from the 100 Cat Foundation and the Nittany Greyhounds.

Graduate news

Javier Suarez, advisee of **Jud Heinrichs**, defended his M.S. thesis in June.

Daniel Rico, advisee of **Kevin Harvatine**, passed his comprehensive exam in June.

Undergraduate news

Experiential learning at the horse barns was featured in mid-May in a Penn State Live story, <http://live.psu.edu/flickrset/72157626750902594>.

Larry and Elizabeth Specht have established a scholarship to support students in Animal Sciences. Larry retired after 38 years of service; Elizabeth was a member of the college's support staff. The scholarship will be offered to an incoming freshman who has excelled in the 4-H Dairy program and has an interest in dairy cattle breeding and genetics and to an Animal Sciences major with an interest in dairy genetics.



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

<i>Dairymen's Club:</i> Nicole Fearnley	570-623-2027
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<i>Stockmen's Club:</i> Jana Peters	863-4198
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