

January 2014
Newsletter

University of Connecticut Department of Animal Science

Welcome To a New Semester of a New Year!



Greetings.

Although snow is in the air and the temperatures are below zero, welcome back to campus and the start of the spring semester. As always, spring semester will be busy. We look forward to our annual Horse Auction, the Dairy Show, equestrian and polo team events, the Horse Symposium, numerous club activities, Open House, graduation ceremonies and the end of the semester barbecue. Many thanks to the students that participate in each of these events.

For students graduating this May, make sure that your completed Plan of Study is submitted. Remember, you need your advisor's signature and the department signature before it is sent to the degree auditor. This needs to be completed within the first two weeks of the semester. Please make an appointment with your advisor to complete these

forms and make sure that they get signed and turned in.

Join me in congratulating Mary Margaret Cole and the staff at the Kellogg Dairy Center for being selected as a 2013 Gold Winner in the National Dairy Quality Awards Program of the National Mastitis Council. This is an excellent follow-up to earning top milk quality honors from AgriMark this year! This high quality milk is one of the ingredients that makes UConn ice cream the best in the state.



Congratulations to the UConn Field Hockey team for winning the 2013 National Championship. Three members of the team (Megan Palmisano, Darby Smith, and Asia Crawford) are Animal Science

students.

Also, congratulations to Katelyn McFadden, ANSC major, for being named a University Scholar and earning an IDEA grant for her undergraduate research efforts (see page 3).

We have just completed a search for a new faculty member and I am happy to announce that Dr. David Magee from University College Dublin has agreed to join the Department of Animal Science. Dr. Magee is a genomics expert and will be teaching the undergraduate genetics course beginning in fall 2015

Good luck with the semester.

- Dr. Zinn,
Professor & Department Head





Spring Programs & Events...

- Connecticut Horse Symposium – March 1st-2nd
- Spring Recess – March 16th-22nd
- UConn's Spring Horse Auction – April 26th

For more event information, visit www.animalscience.uconn.edu

Special Merit Award...



Dr. Jenifer Nadeau has been awarded a Special Merit Award by the Board of Directors and staff of the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District. She received this award in recognition of her support to the District's equine community outreach and education work.

New ANSC Faculty Member Receives Award...

Dr. Dennis D'Amico, Assistant Professor, received an award in December from the Innovation Center for US Dairy in recognition for Outstanding Leadership, Collaboration, and Education for his work on the US Dairy Food Safety Initiative.



Award Winning Milk...

Join us in congratulating Mary Margaret Cole, Executive Director of Livestock, and her staff for earning the Agri-Mark Top Milk Quality Award in the Region. UConn had been #2 for a few years and it is a credit to Mary Margaret and her staff that we have moved up to the #1 spot in the Region. In addition, the Kellogg Dairy Center has been selected as a 2013 Gold Winner in the National Dairy Quality Awards program of the National Mastitis Council.

Equestrian Team Home Show...

The UConn Equestrian Team's Home Show on November 16th was a huge success. Bob Cacchione, the president of IHSA, attended and had nothing but good things to say about our program. The Equestrian Team finished in first place in a three way tie between Sacred Heart University, Trinity College, and UConn.

Recent Donations to ANSC...

The Department of Animal Science received a number of financial donations this fall. We appreciate that donors want to help support our educational, teaching, and research programs and especially our students.

Give A Gift...

Many donors choose to honor a loved one or friend with a gift to support UConn in his or her name. Perhaps the gift is in memory of someone who loved UConn's animals, from an alum who attended the Department of Animal Science, or in honor of an inspirational professor. Gifts may be made by mail or online. For more information, visit www.foundation.uconn.edu

ANSC Students and Faculty Welcome Your Support!

If you would like to contribute to a scholarship or to the general ANSC fund, please complete the information below or make a donation online at www.foundation.uconn.edu and click GIVE NOW at top right.

____ I/ we would like to contribute to the ANSC department. Please indicate amount:

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 Other

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to the *University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.* On the memo line indicate the *ANSC Department Fund* or name of a particular scholarship.

For more information, contact Jennifer.Simoniello@uconn.edu via phone (860) 486-1088 or mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, 3636 Horsebarn Road Ext., Storrs, CT 06269-4040.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt not-for-profit corporation dedicated to UConn. Donors to the Foundation have the right to request in writing that their identity be anonymous.



ANSC Undergraduate Research

Kaitlyn Way, an ANSC junior, is working with Dr. Sheila Andrew, conducting research evaluating a rumen sensor technology. The technology stands to impact the dairy industry tremendously making tasks such as monitoring nutrition and basic vital signs as easy as looking at a computer screen. Kaitlyn spent the summer working with Vital Herd and Dr. Andrew testing the technology and will soon be getting ready to test the first prototype.

Kaitlyn also plans to start another project with Dr. Andrew this fall monitoring the transition period from dry cow to fresh cow in UConn dairy cattle and investigating nutritional strategies to keep cows healthy during this metabolically active time in their lives. Kaitlyn plans to use these experiences to enhance her career as a vet.



ANSC Senior Just Named University Scholar

Katelyn McFadden, an ANSC Senior, was just named a University Scholar. The University Scholar Program is one of the most prestigious programs for undergraduates at UConn (no more than 30 students are selected each year), which allows students to design and pursue an in-depth research project and craft an individualized plan of study that supports their intellectual interests during their final 3 semesters. Katelyn will complete her work under the direction of Dr. Kristen Govoni with an advisory committee of Drs. Reed and Zinn from Animal Science and Dr. Lee from Nutritional Sciences. Previous to this semester, Katelyn was awarded an IDEA grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research for her work entitled "Effects of Poor Maternal Nutrition on Liver Development in Lambs".



Grad Student Outreach

On September 25th, graduate student members of International Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA), UConn chapter, volunteered at the Connecticut Food bank in East Haven to help inspect, sort and pack food. Connecticut food bank distributes food to over 650 local emergency food assistance programs throughout Connecticut.

An Internship in Russia!



Genevieve Flock (ANSC M.S. student), interned at the US Embassy in Moscow, Russia for the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for 12 weeks during the Fall 2013 semester. During this paid internship, she was able to learn about FAS responsibilities and co-wrote a report on the state of African Swine Fever in Russia and surrounding countries. She also analyzed trade data, wrote blogs about FAS events, and created Russian commodity graphs and maps. Genevieve also attended meetings and tradeshows with her mentors. Want to learn more about Genevieve's experience? Visit...

<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/InternshipsAndEmployment/internships.php>

Study Abroad!

The Sustainable Ag, Food and Environment Program in Florence, Italy is held during the fall semester. This program offers an interdisciplinary and comparative look at sustainable food systems. Through a mixture of in-class teaching and field work, students (including Animal Science majors) experience Italy's uniquely rich food culture characterized by innovative approaches to

environmental and economic sustainability and quality food production and nutrition. Dr. Andrew, ANSC Professor, taught for 3 weeks in Italy this past fall about comparative dairy production (US v. Italy) - discussing GMOs and organic conventional biodynamic dairy production. Students visited a Parmigiano-Reggiano facility and various dairy farms where they were able to learn directly from Italian farmers and producers, processors, sales and marketing professionals and chefs. Day trips were arranged and the photo above captures one of many. To learn more about this unique experience, visit

www.studyabroad.uconn.edu. Photo taken at Piazza della Signoria. L-R: ANSC Undergraduates Nicole Sandusky, Andrew Muller, and Katherine Hermonot.



Dr. Andrew's Travel Course...

Students enrolled in Dr. Andrew's ANSC 2690/ SAAS 290 *Animal Science Field Excursions: New England Regional Dairy Travel Course*, just returned this month from a 4 day trip to local dairy farms. UConn Animal Science students met up with more ANSC students from UMass, University of Maine, and University of New Hampshire and together toured more than ten dairy farms across the CT, MA, and NY region. Among the CT dairy farms visited was a co-op farm of Farmer's Cow in Lebanon, a farm that utilizes solar panels in Hebron, a hand milking farm in Bethlehem, and the founding farm of "CowPots" in Canaan.

Compliance Corner

Attention Students, Faculty and Staff: The Department of Animal Science has launched a new webpage entitled Compliance Corner (<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php>), devoted to the training and compliance requirements in the department's animal units and laboratories. Potential and current student employees and student researchers are particularly encouraged to visit this webpage. Detailed explanations on training requirements as well as training dates and locations can be found on this site. The link can be found under the Popular Pages section of the Animal Science homepage. Please contact the Victor DeLaire, Compliance Coordinator, Victor.DeLaire@uconn.edu with any additional concerns.

Congratulation Dr. Sarah Reed! 2nd Place ASAS Innovate Poster Competition Winner...



The 2013 Innovate Conference was held in Braselton, Georgia from September 22 - 24 focused on "Innovations in Animal Growth and Health: The Next Generation of Cell Biology". In order to link the social and scientific aspects of Innovate 2013 and to enhance networking activities, the Innovate 2013 Program Committee (a joint committee between the American Society for Nutrition and American Society of Animal Science) added a poster competition to the conference. The

poster competition was open to all attendees (students and professionals) and the posters were required to be research based and focused on Growth Biology.

There were numerous outstanding posters on display at the 2013 Innovate Conference and three of those were chosen as winner of the poster competition. Congratulations Dr. Sarah Reed on winning 2nd Place for your research entitled "Poor Maternal Nutrition During Gestation Alters Postnatal Muscle Development in Lambs".

UConn Creamery Excited to Return to Cheese Production...

The UConn Creamery has been an integral part of the Animal Science Department since 1953. As the winner of countless "Best of" awards, the demand for the famous UConn ice cream is ever increasing.

In response to growing demand, Dr. Dennis D'Amico joined UConn's Department of Animal Science this fall as an Assistant Professor. Dr. D'Amico, a food microbiologist who specializes in dairy foods, will utilize the Creamery as both a research and teaching unit. Dr. D'Amico begins... "While there are a lot of people interested in learning the art and science of cheese-making as a general interest, hobby or career, there are very few credible places they can learn how to do that. My goal is to strengthen and enhance value-added dairy production through my appointment with UConn Extension. I want to encourage sustainability of rural working landscapes in the northeast and elsewhere."



If you have enjoyed these excerpts, read the article in its entirety at www.extension.uconn.edu/documents/Cheese-webfinal.pdf



ANSC Club Feature...

The UConn Dairy Club is a student run organization that has been on the University of Connecticut's campus since 1948. The club focuses, but is not limited to, topics with dairy cattle and the dairy cattle industry. Every year, the club takes trips to Toronto to go to The Royal Agricultural Fair or tours farms in the Northeast. The club holds a big fundraiser at the Big E, where they provide milking demonstrations and educate the public about dairy cows. A dairy show is held each spring and all UConn students are invited to participate. Club members teach students how to show and fit a dairy cow. The club is open to all majors and if you have any questions visit their Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/pages/Uconn-Dairy-Club/148220145267684

Little I Results...

<p><u>Beef</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Margaret Hall <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Tasia Kellogg <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Julia Bedos <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Ashley Allard-Rauci</p>	<p><u>Poultry</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Angela Young <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Elizabeth Brennan <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Ashlie Johnson <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Katie Speer</p>	<p><u>Premier Novice Champ</u> Annie Rathbun</p>
<p><u>Dairy</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Nicole Sereda <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Gabrielle Gallucci <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Abby Orzell <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Brittany Fuchs</p>	<p><u>Sheep</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Carrie LaSala <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Gabrielle Natter <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Valerie Wartschow <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Andrew Mordasky</p>	<p><u>Premier Novice Reserve</u> Margaret Hall</p>
<p><u>Horse</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Monica Harrington <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Erica Anderson <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Devon Bodey <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Samantha Smith</p>	<p><u>Swine</u> <u>Novice Champion</u> - Annie Rathbun <u>Novice Reserve</u> - Veronica Ramirez <u>Experienced Champion</u> - Kelsey Deutsch <u>Experienced Reserve</u> - Sara Kumiega</p>	<p><u>Premier Experienced Champ</u> Ashlie Johnson</p> <p><u>Premier Experienced Reserve</u> Sara Kumiega</p>

Equine Club Photo Fundraiser

The UConn Equine Club held their 4th Annual Holiday Horse Photo Fundraiser this past November! There was a great turnout and everyone had loads of fun! "THANK YOU" to everyone that came out and helped support the UConn Equine Club!



Sophomore Honors Certificate

Sophomore Honors is an award given to Honors students who are making the most of their first two undergraduate years. During the first four semesters, Honors students work to satisfy the requirements of Sophomore Honors by engaging in Honors coursework and being involved in the Honors community. In October, students who fulfilled all the requirements were recognized at the annual Fall Honors Ceremony with a certificate. Congratulations to the following ANSC Sophomore Honors Students: Cara Dooley, Alexandra Gallina, Ellen Harness, Emma Lavigne, Katelyn McFadden, Julie Notestine, Allison Schauer, Clarissa Spadanuta, Bethany Sullivan, Ellen Valley, and Olivia Vitali.



An Interview With Your Favorite Horse Barn Manager!

Most students at UConn's Horse Barns can say that Mr. John Bennett is the kind of person to light up anyone's day. He has been telling jokes and enlightening students at the UConn Horse Barn facilities for twenty-seven years. Mr. Bennett first started at the University of Connecticut in 1968, in the Ratcliffe Hicks two year program, he then proceeded to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resource program and fell in love with a five year plan - not in love with just the program, but with the lovely lady he calls his wife (who together now have 3 children and 4 grandchildren -



Jacob, John IV, Leah, and Cameron). Mr. "B" had started his career with horses when he rented a barn off his father's dairy farm and began to train. He now owns his own barn and loves his "quiet corner" in northeastern Connecticut where he and his daughter run their facility.

Mr. Bennett said that he was hired to manage the barns, but the "frosting on the cake" was being able to teach classes. Some of his classes he teaches are "Developing the Driving Horse", "Light Horse Training", and a judging course. Not only are horses his hobby, but he loves to go antiquing, announce/ judge shows, and auctioneer UConn's annual horse and beef calf auctions. His daily chores start at five in the morning and last to about seven at night, which include meetings, academic classes, independent studies, demos for student groups, and of course managing the barns. Mr. "B" stated that his job as a faculty member is more than just teaching students, but there is a pride that runs through his veins when he rounds the corner and sees the white fences with the animals grazing peacefully in their pastures - there is an incredible sense of UConn pride he feels to be a part of the community and faculty.



He and his students have watched horses foal, train, and win blue ribbons. Some of his proudest moments here at UConn were seeing his daughter graduate, guiding U.C Doc Sanchez and graduate Kayleigh Meyer to win a blue ribbon, and watching his "favorite department head" (Dr. Zinn) drive a pair of UConn's team horses. Not only is Mr. "B" a favorite with the horses, his students adore him too. He jokes "all in good fun," he states, "because you should never take life too serious and you should enjoy every day to the fullest since you don't know what tomorrow is going to bring". His advice to his students is to work

hard, play hard, and go to class. "It is the best four years of your life so enjoy it!" Plus the best yet is, UConn is the land of opportunity, grasp it!