

# Animal Science E-Newsletter

November 2020



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## Researcher Invited to Speak at International Forum on Modern Pig Genetics and Genomics



Tsung Cheng Tsai, program associate and researcher for the Department of Animal Science within the U of A System Division of Agriculture, was invited to speak at the International Forum on Modern Pig Genetics and Genomics celebrating 50 years of the Department of Animal Science at Chinese Culture University, Taiwan.

Tsai's virtual presentation aimed to show the improvement of swine production over the years in the United States and showcase the importance of genetic selection on breaking through genetic potential in swine.

Additionally, Tsai provided some background information on the swine research program at the Department of Animal Science within the U of A System Division of Agriculture that included herd size, research focuses, and highlights from specific projects.}

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## Equine Judging Team Competes in World Show

The equine judging team made a trip in early November to the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) World Show in Oklahoma City to compete in the National Reining Horse Association Horse Judging Contest (NRHA).

The contest consisted of judging 20 live runs during junior and select reining classes. The team also took a written exam over the NRHA rules and also a penalty clip test where students had to identify each penalty displayed in a short clip. Students competed with 15 other colleges and universities during the contest.

Team members include: Braylen Jones, Kelsea Davis, Delaynee Parsley, Madison Kennedy, Emily Schoggin, and Coach Jordan Shore. The University of Arkansas placed 6th overall with students just outside of the top 15 individuals.}

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## Faculty Invited to Speak at Area Beef Conferences



Shane Gadberry, Department of Animal Science professor within the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, was invited to speak at the North Mississippi Area Beef Conferences Oct. 22 and 23 in Ripley and Batesville, Miss.

He spoke about mineral nutrition, including economically important traits that are affected by mineral deficiencies, how to determine which minerals may be deficient, and the different chemistry forms found in commercial mineral supplements.}

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## Animal Science Hosts Fourth Session of Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class in Fayetteville



With social distancing and other safety precautions in place, the Department of Animal Science hosted the fourth session of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class (YCLC) Oct. 26-28 in Fayetteville.

The 18 participants in attendance gained an understanding of the processes their beef product undergoes from the harvest to the plate. In understanding those processes, they will be better educated to tell the industry story at the meat case or an online blog as necessary. The program focused on beef cuts and the processes necessary to provide retail meat case products. Members of the class participated in processing their steer and were involved in a

sensory and beef tenderness demonstration.

Special thanks to faculty members Kelly Vierck and Janeal Yancey, and Tim Johnson (Manager, UA System Division of Agriculture Red Meat Abattoir) for coordinating this event. This program was funded by the Arkansas Beef Council.}

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## Infrastructure Renovations Begin at Savoy Facilities

Renovations have been initiated at the U of A System Division of Agriculture Stocker/Receiving Unit; Cow/Calf Unit; and the Swine Unit at Savoy.

The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) generously provided much needed funds to Animal Science for roof replacements, lighting/electrical systems updates, floor repairs, and an upgrade of our hydraulic handling chute for cattle research. To further enhance our cattle research facilities, AAES provided funding to install stanchions for intensive animal data collection at the Physiology/Parasitology Farm on Harmon Road. A precision feeding system was recently installed at the Swine Unit allowing gestating sows within a pen to be fed individually. This system has the ability to feed up to two diets and is capable of feed blending.

All of these renovations to our animal research infrastructure will result in the department being more competitive in USDA and SARE grant funding opportunities. Animal Science faculty extend our sincere appreciation to the Arkansas Agriculture Experiment Station for these funds.}

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## Team Up Fundraiser Nets Over \$42,000 for Teams

COVID-19 has presented many challenges for numerous people and organizations, including the University of Arkansas Department of Animal Science teams and their fundraising efforts.

Typically, our judging and horse team members will provide community services via camps, clinics, and other educational training sessions that assist in funding their programs. This year, however, our teams have had to creatively branch out and explore new avenues, such as the creation of the crowdfunding campaign, “*Team Up to Support our Animal Science Teams.*”

The campaign earned a grand total of \$42,425 that will support departmental teams, including the ranch horse, livestock judging, and equine judging teams, in addition to the animal science general fund. The department would like to thank everyone for their extremely generous donations.}

**University of Arkansas Department of Animal Science**

<http://animal-science.uark.edu/>

Fayetteville, AR 72701

479-575-3195

