ANSC Grad Students Gain Unique Swine Experience

Department of Animal Science graduate students Elizabeth Backes, Haley Bartimus and Jamie Hawley were recently given the opportunity to work with Tyson Foods. The grad students traveled to the Holdenville, Okla. area where they spent three days on seven different farms inoculating over 13,000 sows and gilts against influenza. They were supervised by Dr. Justin Cagle, DVM.

While on this trip the ladies were able to learn about Tyson swine procedures including: handling, day to day management and biosecurity measures.

“It was a privilege to observe the differences in size, facility and management techniques of the various swine production facilities,” Hawley said.

All three ladies have ruminant backgrounds, and were thrilled to have the chance to gain swine experience. “Growing up with cattle and sheep, learning about swine production and getting a look at day to day operations and having it be a positive experience made this one of the best experiences I’ve had,” Backes said.

Bartimus agreed, “Working with Tyson and seeing how they care about animal production was such a positive experience, I wish more people could see this.”

Bartimus is working toward her MS while both Backes and Hawley are PhD candidates. They wish to thank Tyson for this incredible experience and opportunity.

Notes...

• Daniel Potter will join our faculty in January as an Equine Instructor and the new Equine Judging Team Coach.

• Congratulations to Kenny Simon on being a recipient of the Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award. This award was established to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Division of Agriculture.

• Congratulations to the Livestock Plus team for winning the Academic Quadrathlon. Team members include: Will Pohlman, Jacie Sweeney, Emily Hasenauer and Morgan Marley.

UNBRANDED Screening a Success with Students and Community

The Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center was the perfect place to host a movie night, and on December 2, about 200 people from both campus and the community agreed.

Everyone was greeted by equine program students, and free popcorn was handed out. UNBRANDED is the story of four young cowboys who hatch an outrageous plot to adopt, train, and ride a string of wild mustangs 3,000 miles from Mexico to Canada through the wildest terrain of the American West. The trip became an epic journey of self-discovery, tested friendships, and iconic landscapes that included runaway horses, a sassy donkey, perilous mountain passes, rodeos, sickness and injury.

The program hopes to have an opportunity to Skype with Ben Masters, one of the films cowboys in the Spring.

UNBRANDED screening at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center.

Happy Holidays from everyone in the Department of Animal Science.