

CHOICE NEWS

Spring Edition

MEAT SCIENCE UPDATE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY | ANIMAL AND FOOD SCIENCES | LUBBOCK, TEXAS



Tech Meat Judging Team Dominates Spring Contests

Texas Tech University's meat judging team proved once again that it was tops in meat judging as they walked away with first place honors March 8 at the Houston Livestock Show's Meat Judging Contest for the fifth year in a row. The contest is the third win of 2009 for the 15-member team and the eighth consecutive win for Texas Tech's meat judging program.

The Red Raiders dominated the competition, winning first (4087) and second (4010) with their teams. Other top finishers, in placement order, were Colorado State University (4006), Texas A&M University (3980), Oklahoma State University (3936) and Kansas State University (3935). Thirteen universities were represented at the contest.

"All of the hard work and long hours that these students put in has rewarded them with one of the most successful and dominating springs in recent memory," said Travis O'Quinn, Texas Tech graduate student and coach.

This is the first time in Texas Tech history that the school's meat judging team has won eight consecutive contests, Mark Miller, Tech's San Antonio Livestock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Science said. The 2008 team won five consecutive contests and the 2009 team has won three consecutive contests including contests in Denver, Ft. Worth and Houston.

Four of the top-ten individuals were from Texas Tech. Meagan Igo, a sophomore from Plainview, took first, Collin Corbin, a sophomore from Webster, ranked second, and Amber Krause, a sophomore from Florence, placed third. Abby Long, a sophomore from Boerne, was the tenth place individual in the overall competition.

In addition to Igo, Corbin, Krause and Long, team members include:

- Matt Bruton, a sophomore from Throckmorton
- Sarah Calhoun, a sophomore from Weatherford
- Adam Copeland, a sophomore from Katy
- Tate Corliss, a junior from Estancia, N.M.
- Kelsey Fletcher, a sophomore from Universal City
- Josh Hasty, a junior from Cleburne
- Kelly Hutton, a sophomore from Castle Rock, Colo.
- Jett Mason, a sophomore from Brownfield
- Josh McCann, a sophomore from Newport, Va.
- Brandon O'Quinn, a sophomore from League City
- Henry Ruiz, a junior from Eagle Pass

The team is coached by Miller and Travis O'Quinn.



Kneeling, left to right: Meagan Igo, Collin Corbin, Adam Copeland, Sarah Calhoun, Coach Travis O'Quinn & Abby Long. Standing, left to right: Coach Mark Miller, Ph.D., Kelsey Fletcher, Josh Hasty, Tate Corliss, Josh McCann, Matt Bruton, Jett Mason, Brandon O'Quinn, Henry Ruiz & Amber Krause.

Upcoming Banquets

Department of Animal & Food Sciences Spring Banquet
Saturday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at Cagle's Steakhouse
\$10 per person
RSVP to Brenna Baumann at brenna.baumann@ttu.edu

Meat Science Homecoming Banquet
Friday, October 9 at United Spirit Arena
Special Recognition of 1999 National Champion
Meat Judging Team - More Information to Follow





Starkey Joins Meat Science Faculty

Adapted from a story written by Sean Cleveland

Jessica Starkey has been named an assistant professor of meat and muscle biology in Texas Tech University's Department of Animal and Food Sciences, according to officials with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. She began her teaching and research duties on Jan. 1.

A cell and developmental biologist by training, Starkey's research at Texas Tech will focus on how nutrition, stress, and disease affect the molecular regulation of pre- and postnatal skeletal muscle growth and development of livestock.

"Our research group will conduct research in economically important meat-animal species, as well as transgenic mice to further our understanding of the molecular interactions that control skeletal muscle growth and development," she said.

Noting the potential implications of her research beyond the agricultural sciences, Starkey said "increasing our understanding of how muscle biology is affected by nutrition and stress could also have positive implications in the treatment of devastating human myopathies such as age-related sarcopenia and muscular dystrophies." Sarcopenia is characterized first by a decrease in the size of the muscle, which causes weakness and frailty.

Prior to joining Texas Tech, Starkey was a graduate research and teaching assistant in the University of Connecticut Department of Molecular and Cell Biology in Storrs, Conn., and had served previously as a research project assistant at The Pennsylvania State University Department of Poultry Science, and the Kansas State University Growth and Development Laboratory Manager in Manhattan, Kan.

A native of Kansas, Starkey grew up on a commercial beef cattle ranching and farming operation in northwestern Kansas and was active in 4-H and FFA throughout her youth. She received her bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry with an emphasis on business and her master's degree in animal sciences and industry from Kansas State University. Her doctorate in cell and developmental biology is from the University of Connecticut.

In addition to numerous national and regional conferences, Starkey has published her scholarship and research in the Journal of Animal Science and the Journal of Biological Chemistry. She is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, the American Meat Science Association, and Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture.

Product Development Team Takes First Place at NMA

The Texas Tech University Product Development Team took first place honors at the National Meat Association's (NMA) Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. on Wednesday, Feb. 25 with their product, "Blueberry Sausage Patties."

The team of four Texas Tech Meat Science students distributed their product to conference attendees. The different products were then voted on, where Texas Tech finished in first place by one vote. After finishing ahead of ten other universities, the team was awarded a plaque and a cash prize.



The team consisted of Shanna Ward, a junior from Coffeyville, Kan., Heather Veltri, a senior from Ft. Collins, Colo., Cassie Chancey, a senior from Santana, Kan., and Paden Daniels, a senior from Athol, Kan. Additional graduate students represented Texas Tech at the conference.

The MEATEXPO is the NMA's biennial suppliers' exposition. It began in 1948 and has evolved into a well respected, focused trade show. The exposition brings together consultants, equipment manufacturers and other professionals in the industry to give them a first-hand view of the newest in industry equipment, packaging and related services.

Congressman Neugebauer Recognizes 2008 National Champion Teams

On Feb. 16 the Honorable Randy Neugebauer, U.S. House of Representatives, 19th District of Texas, visited the Department of Animal and Food Sciences to congratulate the three 2008 National Champion judging teams.

Members and coaches of the livestock judging team, meat judging team, and the meat animal evaluation team were there to speak with Congressman Neugebauer. Each team was also presented a United States flag, which was flown over the U.S. Capitol in their honor. We would like to thank Congressman Neugebauer for his visit and his support of our students and judging program.



2008 National Champion Meat Team



2008 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team

