Texas Tech’s Department of Animal and Food Sciences cited outstanding student academic and extracurricular performances April 10 at its Annual Spring Awards Banquet at Cagle Steaks in Lubbock.

“There has never been a time in history that we have as many accomplishments to recognize and celebrate,” said Kevin Pond, chairman of the AFS department. “It’s been a true banner year.”

One of the evening’s highlights was the presentation of individual trophy belt buckles and national flags flown over the U.S. capitol for each member of the department’s 2009 National Champion Livestock and Meat Judging Teams. These awards were presented by the evening’s guest speaker, Coach Tommy Tuberville.

The Meat Judging Team was also awarded the Doug Hardison Memorial Outstanding Judge Award, the Markus F. Miller Spirit and Motivation Award, and the 1996 Team Scholarship Award. A new award, the Katie Robinson Perseverance Award, was given to Kelly Hutton, a member of the 2009 team.

The department also honored its first national championship team for 2010, the Meat Animal Evaluation Team.

The evening also recognized outstanding individual performances, as well. Among those honored were:

• Outstanding AFS PhD Student: Argenis Rodas
• Outstanding AFS MS Student: Jennifer Martin
• Bob Albin Graduate Research Awards: PhD: Matt May (1st), Matthew Quinn (2nd), Lisa Welch (3rd) MS: Ansen Pond (1st), Praveena Sunkara (2nd), Derek Finck (3rd)
• San Antonio Livestock Exposition Graduate Student Awards: Argenis Rodas and Jennifer Martin
• Outstanding Meat Science Graduate Student: Sandi Parr and Jessie Vipham
• Outstanding Food Science Senior: Samantha Stephenson
• Outstanding Animal Science Senior: Clayton Cobb

• Most Outstanding Department Senior: Clayton Cobb
• Outstanding Senior Academic Achievement Awards: Terrell Bibb, Clayton Cobb, James Gant, Cade Halfmann, Tyler Harris, Kaleigh Janota, Stephanie Parker, Martin Shaw, Samantha Stephenson, Austin Voyles, and Tanner Young.

• Senior Leadership Awards:
  Clayton Cobb, Cade Halfmann, Tyler Harris, Brianne Hight, Kaleigh Janota, Maddee Moore, Kendra Pond, Henry Ruiz, Samantha Stephenson, and Shanna Ward.
  • Block and Bridle Club awards included Outstanding Freshman, Mandy Jo Laurent; Outstanding Sophomore, Loni Woolley; Outstanding Junior, Meagan Igo; Outstanding Senior, Maddee Moore; Workhorse Award, Loni Woolley.
  • Block and Bridle officer recognition went to Shanna Ward, President; Clayton Cobb, Vice-President; Lexi Galloway, Secretary; Meagan Igo, Treasurer; Maddee Moore, Historian; Angie Gilbert, SOAC Representative. Ag Council Representatives were: Emilio Sanchez, Abby Cowden, Loni Woolley and Jett Mason.
Texas Tech Ranch Horse Team Repeats ASHA National Championship Win

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences' Ranch Horse Team clenched the American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) Collegiate National Championship at the Texas Tech Equestrian Center in Lubbock on April 25 for the second consecutive year. The win culminated an undefeated season for the 15 Texas Tech students who competed on the team.

“We are fortunate to have outstanding students, first class equestrian facilities and a coach who challenges the team to new heights,” said Kevin Pond, chairman of the AFS department. “Their hard work, extensive preparation and drive to be the best paid off! We are proud of our student athletes who repeated as National Champions!”

To accompany the team crown, the team members clenched six class individual national championships. These included: Brianne Hight who finished first in the Non-Pro Trail and Pleasure classes; Cooper Cogdell who finished first in the Non-Pro Cowhorse class; Will Wallendorff who finished first in the Limited Non-Pro Cowhorse class; and Kelsey Stokes who finished first in the Novice Trail and Reining classes.

Team Members in the Non-Pro Division Included:
- Cooper Cogdell, an agribusiness major from Silverton
- Alicia Daugherty, an agricultural communications major from Alpine
- Brianne Hight, an animal science major from Clovis, N.M.
- Jay Ray Sageser, an agricultural leadership major from Cotton Center
- Jordan Williams, an economics major from Weatherford

Team Members in the Limited Non-Pro Division Included:
- Dusty Burson, an animal science major from Silverton
- Mattie Dunshee, an agricultural communications major from Alpine
- Luke England, an animal science major from Winters
- Will Wallendorff, an animal science major from Headley
- Ashley Palmer, an agricultural communications graduate student from Cypress

Team Members in the Novice Division Included:
- Justine Boswell, a nursing major from Goshen, Utah
- True Burson, an animal science major from Silverton
- Amanda Cage, an animal science major from Ponder
- Robert Rivers, an animal science major from Elgin
- Kelsey Stokes, an agribusiness major from Afton

The team is coached by Levi Williamson, a graduate student in the department.

In addition to their national championship victory, the Texas Tech (Black) Team placed second. New Mexico State University, Texas A&M University and Sam Houston State University rounded out the top-five in the team competition. Nine universities and eleven teams competed in the event.

Texas Tech Rodeo Teams End on Winning Season

Texas Tech’s rodeo teams finished their season with a strong showing at the Tarleton State University National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo in Stephenville. Out of 16 schools participating this season, the Tech men’s team finished third, while the women’s team took fourth place in the Southwest region’s year-end standings.

For the men’s team, Luke Creasy dominated in the bronc riding event by placing first in go round one, and he took first place in the finals, winning the championship in the bareback bronc riding event. He also nearly doubled the points for the year with 1,370, while second place Tarleton State University’s Craig Wisheart took 735 points.

Teammate Logan Allen placed fourth in go round one of the bull riding, and finished in the top 10 in team roping and bareback riding. The Crescent, Iowa, native finished third in the region’s all-around standings and fifth in the saddle bronc riding for the year.

C.J. Kerr was crowned reserve regional champion steer wrestler. Along with Creasy, the freshman animal and food sciences major will compete for the national championship at the 62nd annual College National Finals Rodeo June 13-19 in Casper, Wyo. Kerr, from Paradise, qualified by finishing second for the year in the steer wrestling event for the Southwest region.

In the women’s category, after finishing fourth in go round one, Taylor Langdon, an animal and food sciences major from Sanger, placed first in the finals and first overall in barrel racing.

Teammate Dani McGuire, an agriculture and applied economics major from Odessa, placed fourth in the first go round of the breakaway calf roping and finished fifth overall. Erica Creswell, a senior psychology major from Weatherford, Okla., finished the year in third place in the goat tying standings. Along with Kerr and Creasy, she will represent Texas Tech in Casper.

—Written by Erin Hawes
Meat Animal Evaluation Team Wins National Championship
Fourth Consecutive Year

Texas Tech University’s Meat Animal Evaluation Team won first place in the National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest held at the Oklahoma City Stockyards and Oklahoma State University on March 25-26. This win earns the team the title of national champions.

Teams from Texas Tech have won the contest for an unprecedented four years in a row.

“I am really proud of these students and what they have accomplished,” said Coach Ryan Rathmann, an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. “Members of this team have demonstrated an unmatched level of intelligence, work ethic, and comprehension of the meat and livestock industries.”

This year, Texas Tech won the sheep evaluation, beef evaluation, market animal and meats divisions. The team posted a total score of 8,770 points, outdistancing the second place team by more than 126 points.

Twelve universities from across the nation competed in the event. Oklahoma State University, Colorado State University, the University of Illinois and Iowa State University rounded out the top five teams overall.

“On behalf of Texas Tech University and the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, I am grateful for this team’s selfless efforts to help make our student programs the best in the nation,” Rathmann said.

Individually, Ben Scott led the team as second high point individual. He was followed by teammates Matt Bruton, Collin Corbin and Josh McCann who also finished in the top-ten individuals.

Team members include the following:
• Brittany Boxwell, a junior from Perryton
• Matt Bruton, a junior from Throckmorton
• Kirby Carpenter, a junior from Kiowa, Colo.
• Chelsea Clifton, a junior from Kingfisher, Okla.
• Adam Copeland, a junior from Katy
• Collin Corbin, a junior from League City
• Tate Corliss, a senior from Estancia, N.M.
• Josh Cribbs, a junior from Plant City, Fla.
• Caleb Crosswhite, a junior from McKinney
• Kelsey Fletcher, a junior from Universal City
• Meagan Igo, a junior from Plainview
• Amber Krause, a junior from Florence
• Josh McCann, a junior from Newport, Va.
• Stormie McClurg, a sophomore from Nazareth
• Maddee Moore, a senior from Cove, Ore.
• Chance Neff, a junior from San Angelo
• Brandon Reeves, a sophomore from Mt. Solon, Va.
• Ben Scott, a junior from Douglas, Ga.
• Martin Shaw, a junior from Hilmar, Calif.

The team is coached by Travis O’Quinn and Rathmann.

According to contest officials, the contest was specifically designed to encourage students to seek a more complete understanding of the food supply from conception to consumer.

The contest took place over a two day period. On the first day, team members were challenged in their knowledge of market animal evaluation. The team also gave a ten minute oral presentation on a current issue related to the agricultural industry that was scored by a panel of judges. During the second day of competition, they were challenged in breeding animal evaluation and in the meat division where they also completed a grading rail.

2010 Livestock Judging Team
The 2010 Livestock Judging Team won first place honors at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. They won every division – including cattle, sheep, goats, swine and oral reasons. The team will start their fall season in September and conclude in November at the International Competition in Louisville, Ky.

2010 Meat Judging Team
The 2010 Meat Judging Team finished the spring with a perfect record, winning contests at the National Western Stock Show, the Southwestern Livestock Exposition and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. They will begin competition again in the fall at the Eastern National Contest in Wyalusing, Pa.

2010 Wool Judging Team
The 2010 Wool Judging Team finished their season with a second place finish behind Colorado State University at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Additionally, the team proudly represented Texas Tech at the National Western Stock Show and the San Antonio Stock Show.
Ryan Rathmann, Texas Tech University’s livestock judging coach, emphasizes a bigger picture that extends beyond claiming multiple consecutive national championship titles. Rathmann, who has won six national championships – one for every year he has been a coach – has a selfless attitude when it comes to coaching and inspiring his students.

Although Rathmann attributes much of his success to luck, anyone can see that it’s a lot more than just luck that’s earned him the title of “the winningest coach in livestock judging history.” Indeed, the importance of being selfless and acting as part of a team, can be seen through his reaction to his team’s success.

Positive Experience. “It’s a satisfying accomplishment,” he said. “But, it’s more satisfying to know that all of the students I’ve coached over the years have had a positive experience and have accomplished something they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.”

Livestock judging isn’t the only team that’s garnered national championships at Texas Tech, as the university’s meat judging team is also known for excellence and developing skills in students that will help them succeed later in life. Mark Miller, professor and San Antonio Livestock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Science as well as coach of Texas Tech’s meat judging team, said it’s very humbling to have such a successful program, which he says is possible because of the hard work of the students.

Develop Skills. “I am honored to be at Texas Tech and to get to work with such great students,” Miller said. “I feel a tremendous amount of pride and excitement about the team’s accomplishments.”

Miller said being a member of these judging teams helps students develop skills that will help them down the road. “The program is not about winning,” he said. “It’s about developing skills in students that they can take with them and use to help them get a job and to be successful both personally and professionally.”

Competitive Environment. Rathmann said livestock judging is extremely effective in developing public speaking skills, which can make a difference in terms of how successful students can be in their chosen careers. “I could go on and on about the skills students gain from competing in livestock judging;” Rathmann said. “But, the number one skill is communication. Students also learn rational decision making skills and the ability to excel in a competitive environment under pressure.”

Aside from the various skills students develop, they are also able to build connections in their fields, which can later lead to career opportunities. Rathmann said the majority of students on the judging teams will end up working in agriculture.

University Benefits. “Through traveling across the country while on judging teams, students gain exposure to different types of production systems and to a network of people;’ Rathmann said.

Miller and Rathmann both agreed that the university also benefits from the success of its judging teams, as well. Texas Tech receives national exposure when its teams excel, and their success helps the university bring in potential students. “Success begets success,” Rathmann said. “It’s a lot easier to recruit when you have a successful program. But, that is something we’ve earned.”

National Championships. Miller said there are students from all over the country who come to Texas Tech because of the success of the meat judging program. Rathmann said the university supports the judging teams and all their accomplishments.

“For me, coming to Texas Tech because of the success of the meat judging program. Rathmann said the university supports the judging teams and all their accomplishments.

“From top to bottom at different levels they care about what we’re doing and they support the kids;’ Rathmann said.

Livestock Judging Team Establishes New Endowment


The teams announced a collective pledge of $10,000 which they raised by hosting judging camps and judging contests, selling holiday hams, and serving at caterings. If you are interested in contributing to the endowment which will benefit future judging teams, please contact the Jane Piercy in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources’ Development Office at (806)742-2802.
Graduate Student Spotlight

Matt May

“May was an outstanding student in all aspects of his graduate program... The greatest contributor to Matt’s success is his strong work ethic. He works hard and gets things accomplished.”

Distiller's grains have a long history of being fed to our nation's livestock. A by-product of whiskey and fuel ethanol production, approximately 3.2 to 3.5 million metric tons are produced in North America annually. In a world focused on sustainability, Texas Tech University graduate student Matt May is one of many researchers working to better the livestock industry while helping the planet at the same time.

Raised on a family farm and feedlot in Stratton, Colo., May said he'd always had an interest in the feedlot nutrition business. After receiving his bachelor’s and master's degrees in animal nutrition at Kansas State University, May chose to attend Texas Tech to continue his education and research.

Under the guidance of Texas Tech Horn Professor Michael Galyean, May studied the optimal roughage concentration in diets containing wet distiller's grains. It was Galyean's reputation as one of the best ruminant nutritionists in the U.S., May said, that drew him to West Texas.

"Dr. Galyean is very well-known," May said, "so just having the opportunity to work with him has been rewarding." During his time at Texas Tech, May spent much of his time at the New Deal Farm working on his research projects as well as helping others with theirs. May said he credits his success to the diverse background he's been able to draw from due to all the different perspectives he's encountered.

"It's good to get lots of different perspectives," May said. "At Kansas State, I was trained one way, and then here I was taught different techniques and statistics designs. It helped me grow as a researcher."

Galyean said May was an outstanding student in all aspects of his graduate program. However, Galyean was easily able to identify what he felt had enabled May to succeed.

"The greatest contributor to Matt's success is his strong work ethic," Galyean said. "He works hard and gets things accomplished, which is generally associated with success in graduate studies and in life."

Galyean also credited May's success to his industry background.

"Compared with most of our graduate students," Galyean said, "he has a much greater understanding of the practical side of the business. I think this has allowed him to frame the fundamental knowledge he has learned in his graduate program in a practical context."

May agreed his family's cattle business, both in the cow-calf and feedlot segments, had encouraged him to pursue his doctorate in the field.

"The best part about going to graduate school and doing research in this area is that when I'm done, I can apply the things I learn right away," May said. "I am able to see the importance of my research on the bottom line in our feedlots when I get to help make some of the decisions we implement."

After graduation, May has already accepted a job as a feedlot nutrition and production consultant for Feedlot Health Management Services in Canada. There, he will work with a group of veterinarians, nutritionists and epidemiologists to consult feedlots based on current research in feeding regiments, health protocols and vaccine programs.

"My goal here was just to have an open mind and learn as much as I could," May said. "But I've been pretty fortunate and additionally have gotten to work with some great people here at Texas Tech. Some of the relationships I've had here are the most important, both personally and professionally, that I will have for the rest of my life.” –Written by Kelsey Fletcher
Tech’s Meat Judging Program Receives AWC ‘Headliner Award’

Texas Tech University’s Meat Judging Program was recently named a recipient of a ‘Headliner Award’ from the Association of Women in Communications in Lubbock. The annual honors were presented Apr. 20 to individuals and organizations that have brought widespread, positive attention to the region.

Tech’s meat judging team has certainly brought plenty of attention to Texas Tech and the South Plains by continuing its championship tradition with multiple victories in national competitions this past season. The Red Raiders dominated the spring, taking top honors at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Southwestern Livestock Show’s Meat Judging Contest in Fort Worth and Denver’s National Western Stock Show competition.

This year’s season built upon more than 72 years of meat judging at Texas Tech. In 1982, the program won its first intercollegiate meat judging competition at the Southwestern Meat Judging Contest. The program won an additional eight contests during the 1980’s, ending the decade with the program’s first national championship in 1989. Tech’s total number of national championship teams has now reached eight with the addition of wins in 1991, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2008 and 2009. Tech now boasts the third most national championship wins of any university.

Winning contests is only one emphasis of the meat judging program. Additionally, students are encouraged to strive for honor in the pursuit of excellence and develop themselves into leaders for the agriculture industry. While serving others unselfishly, students learn valuable life lessons that aid them in pursuing their future careers.

The program has produced medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lawyers, meat judging team coaches and faculty members at other universities and colleges, teachers and agriculture extension agents, USDA and industry meat graders, and industry leaders who have impacted the meat and food industries. Alumni of the program have developed and researched notable products including Lunchables, Slim Jims, and thousands of other food products for companies such as H.E.B. and Frito Lay.

The Association for Women in Communications is an Alexandria, Va.-based professional organization that champions the advancement of women across all communications disciplines by recognizing excellence and promoting leadership. Past winners of the award include the 2008 Texas Tech Football Team, Chancellor Kent Hance and the Lubbock Christian University Baseball Team.

Student Accomplishments

Bryan Bernhard
AFS Graduate Student
Top-five finisher in the graduate poster competition at the 2010 Plains Nutrition Council’s spring conference and recipient of a $500 scholarship

Collin Corbin
AFS Senior
Recipient of an Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award from the American Meat Science Association

Kaleigh Janota
AFS Senior
Recipient of the Texas Tech Parent’s Association Student Academic Citizenship Award

Abby Long
AFS Senior
Recipient of an Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award from the American Meat Science Association

Sandi Parr
AFS Graduate Student
First-place in the graduate student poster competition at the 2010 Plains Nutrition Council’s spring conference and recipient of a $1000 scholarship

Matt Quinn
AFS Graduate Student
Top-five finisher in the graduate poster competition at the 2010 Plains Nutrition Council’s spring conference and recipient of a $500 scholarship

Argenis Rodas
AFS Graduate Student
Selected as the college’s outstanding graduate student at the Gamma Sigma Delta honors banquet

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Heather Hernandez
Texas Tech Therapeutic Riding Center
Selected as the NARHA Region 8 Instructor of the Year

Sam Jackson
Associate Professor
Named to the Texas Tech Teaching Academy

Mark Miller
Professor
Named to the Texas Tech Teaching Academy

COWamongus! Staff
First place food booth at Lubbock’s Mardi Gras fundraiser for Meals on Wheels

Summer Event Schedule

Texas Tech Meat & Livestock Judging Camps – Two Sessions: May 30-June 1 & June 6-June 8

2010 Reciprocal Meat Conference – June 20-23
For more information, visit www.meatscience.org

ShowRite Goat Camp – July 8-9
For more information visit www.showritecamps.com

National Junior Southdown Show & Sale – July 14-17
For more information, visit www.southdownsheep.org

Youth Beef 706 Programs – Two Sessions: July 20-21 & July 22-23
For more information visit www.meatscience.ttu.edu or contact Moriah Beyer at moriah.beyer@ttu.edu

4-H Livestock Ambassador Program – July 26-28
For more information visit www.afs.ttu.edu or contact Wendy Scott at wmsscott@ag.tamu.edu

Texas Junior Livestock Association Camp and Show – July 30-Aug. 1
For more information contact Kevin Pond at kevin.pond@ttu.edu
Hernandez Tapped as NARHA Region 8 ‘Instructor of the Year’

A talented horsewoman with Texas Tech’s Therapeutic Riding Center has been honored as the ‘Instructor of the Year’ for the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association’s Region 8. Program Director Heather Hernandez was presented the award at the organization’s national conference in Denver.

“We’re so fortunate to have a nationally recognized professional,” said Heidi Brady, executive director of Tech’s Therapeutic Riding Center. The region includes Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Hernandez is a NARHA Advanced Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Special Olympics equestrian coach and assists as a mentor for instructors in training. She is recognized as an Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association Level 1 equine-assisted psychotherapy facilitator.

Hernandez received her bachelor’s degree in social work from Baylor University and is currently completing her master’s degree in counseling at Texas Tech. She previously served as president of the Baylor Riding Association and worked as head wrangler at Camp John Marc, a Meridian-based camp for children with special needs.

“Horses can be a powerful catalyst to create learning and growth,” Hernandez said. “They have great potential to help people in multiple levels.”

The North American Riding for the Handicapped Association provides equine-assisted activity and therapy programs in the United States and Canada through a network of some 800 member centers, according to program officials. Each year, more than 42,000 individuals with disabilities benefit from their activities that include therapeutic riding, equine facilitated psychotherapy, interactive vaulting and competition.

Officials claim that the group, which is headquartered in Denver, aims to change and enrich lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities. The association boasts 5,500 individual memberships, nearly 800 programs and more than 5,000 screened and trained horses. Founded in Virginia in 1969, it serves as a clearinghouse for information on therapeutic riding, which evolved in Europe in the ’50s.

Emerging Technology Fund Award Linked to AFS Research

Texas officials announced March 29 the approval of an Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) award, of up to $1.5 million for MicroZAP, a biotechnology company specializing in food safety. MicroZAP was spun off from patented technology developed through cutting-edge food sterilization research at Texas Tech.

“Not only could this new technology lead to significant advances in food safety for everyone, but also this ETF grant hopefully will help MicroZAP grow into a thriving biotech company that creates new jobs and economic development opportunities for Lubbock,” Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said.

Directional Microwaves. MicroZAP uses directional microwaves delivered at varying doses and intensities to target disease-causing microorganisms with great precision. The technology has even demonstrated the ability to kill deadly antibiotic-resistant bacteria (MRSA).

“The EFT funds will allow us to move the MicroZap technology forward, thus providing safer food products in the supermarket, which will ultimately reduce the number of food-borne illnesses and lead to safer food on America’s dinner tables,” said Mindy Brashears, director of Tech’s International Center for Food Industry Excellence.

Tier One Status. “It’s this kind of research, development and commercialization that will help universities like Texas Tech achieve Tier One status in Texas,” Dewhurst said. “Creating more Tier One universities is critical to our state’s future; not only will they provide greater opportunities in higher education for our fast-growing population, they will lead to more life-saving and life-improving innovation that can be commercialized and create new jobs.”

Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock) said the announcement reflects an essential step toward advancing Texas’ position as a leader in new technology. “This research presents tremendous potential for our community, our nation’s food supply and our university’s future Tier One status,” he said.

Milestones Ahead. MicroZAP will receive $500,000 at the beginning of the company’s contract with the state. As the company achieves milestones agreed to in the final contract, it may receive up to $1 million in additional ETF award funds. The state will take an equity position in the company for its investment.

The Texas Legislature created the ETF in 2005. The governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House must jointly approve each ETF grant based upon the review and recommendations of a 17-member advisory committee made up of leaders in the fields of business and research.

~Written by Cory Chandler
Save the Date

2010 Homecoming Weekend
November 5-6
Texas Tech vs. Missouri

Animal and Food Sciences Hall of Fame and Meat Science Recognition Banquet
Friday, 5:30 p.m. in the City Bank Room of the United Spirit Arena

CASNR Homecoming Breakfast
Saturday morning* in the livestock arena

Alumni Meat Judging Contest
Saturday morning* in the Gordon W. Davis Meat Science Laboratory

Tailgating Luncheon
Saturday* in the Animal and Food Sciences Building and parking lot

*Exact time pending football game schedule