



TROTTING TO THE TOP

Success is measured by putting one hoof in front of the other. The department of Animal and Food Sciences is taking the reins to improve their equine program.

There are several factors for a successful program to bloom the way it should. The faculty and staff of a program are important in making the inner workings proficient and successful. The College of Agricultural Sciences and

Natural Resources is committed to finding the best faculty to run its programs.

New Faculty

Texas Tech University hired

Jane Bagley, who has her Ph.D. in equine science from Texas A&M University. Bagley has an ample amount of experience in the equine industry from working on a ranch to owning her own breeding business with her husband.

"This semester we have reworked the curriculum for horsemanship, and we plan on improving and expanding our equine course offerings in the future, Bagley said. "My job also includes coordinating the

Equestrian, Ranch Horse and Horse Judging Teams, as well as, supervising the director of the Equestrian Center."

Kim Lindsey was hired by Texas Tech as the new director of the Texas Tech equestrian center last February. Lindsey is also the director of the Stock Horse of Texas Association (S.H.O.T) and she has also helped manage a ranch with her husband for many years.

"I supervise everything that goes on around here," Lindsey said. "The construction that is going on right now goes through the center."

Just like home improvement, the equine center needed improvements to enhance the functionality of the center and help it run better for the students and faculty. The equestrian center has made many improvements to make it better working for the staff and students.

Construction

One of the biggest improvements was adding fencing to the covered outside arena which is connected to the

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indoor arena that is used by the students to practice and work their horses.

"The Cogdell family donated money to help build the fence," Lindsey said. "We are really excited to have that addition to the center, and that is why it is named the Cogdell Arena."

Lindsey said the equestrian center has also taken action to improve the communications between with the people who board their horses in the stalls. As well as with potential donors to keep their relationship strong for the facility and the students.

Leslie Thompson, the department chair, said the goal is to be the best program in the nation and Texas Tech is on track for that because the program has the varied components to make a great program.

"We see that we are in a very strong equine area in the United States," Thompson said. "We are close to the American Quarter Horse Association so I think we have a lot of good partnerships in the area."

Thompson feels the department is on the right track to becoming the top in the nation and she feels the therapeutic riding program is where Texas Tech stands first in the nation. Also, Texas Tech is one of the only institutions that has this type of program because it consists of hippotherapy, therapeutic riding, and equine assisted mental health. The department is also in the process of getting approval for an animal science undergraduate degree with options in equine assisted therapy and an equine option.

"We have had quite a few schools come to Texas Tech to learn about our program," Thompson said, "so they can take it and start building their own similar programs."

Extracurricular

The Animal and Food Sciences department does a great job with helping students find something they love. The department takes pride in conducting the best judging and extra-curricular programs for

students to participate in. The programs in the equine department are going to help make the department stronger.

The equestrian team is a group of students who enjoy riding horses and want to become better

riders. Horse judging is a competitive team that judge horses based on conformation, as well as performance. Bagley trains the team and takes them to the competitions and has hopes to make practice stronger to provide a more competitive team.

The ranch horse team works on reining, working cattle, stock horse pleasure, and versatility trail. There are also tryouts for this team and they travel to several competitions in the spring. Kelsey Watring, a senior animal science major who transferred to Texas Tech from a community college in Wyoming has had a long connection with Lindsey by working for her through an internship on a ranch.

"We are like a family out here," Watring said. "We all look out for and help each other with whatever is needed."

Bagley is excited to get this program up and running even stronger than it already is. With her knowledge and the team of people she has together, this program has potential to do great things. Bagley said the department has plans to implement many

recruitment trips to different events around the state to help build the program and get the word out to prospective students on what the program has to offer.

"I want people to know what that degree means when they look at it and see Texas Tech with a focus in equine," Bagley said. "The goal is for them to know exactly what the person sitting in front of them has learned."

