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Animal Science E-Newsletter, March 2014

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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Animal Science E-Newsletter



Animal Science Department Educational Opportunities

Incoming students majoring in Animal Science or interested in the Animal Sciences now have new options to consider. Pending approval from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, students majoring in Animal Science will be able to choose between three different concentrations of study: General Animal Sciences, Pre/Professional Animal Sciences and Equine Sciences. Non-Animal Science majors will continue to be able to earn minors in Animal and Equine Science.

These new concentrations give the students more class options, more hands-on opportunities, and a more sound and intense science background in both the Animal Sciences and in their chosen concentration. According to a new policy, (*University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1621.10*) these new concentrations will also be designated on the student's transcript.

Our mission is to enhance and broaden students' educational/experiential learning op-

portunities that better prepare them for career placement and life-long learning. "The addition of these concentrations to the Animal Science curricula allows us to strengthen our program," said Dr. Michael Looper, Head of Department of Animal Science. "I am excited about the faculty's decision to implement this new initiative."

For more information you can contact the Department of Animal Science at ansc@uark.edu. ▶

Enough: The Fight for a Food Secure Tomorrow



Dr. Jose Carreia de Simas will present *Enough: The Fight for a Food Secure Tomorrow* seminar on Thursday, April 24 at 2 p.m., in Hembree Auditorium (AFLS E107). Hosted by the Department of Animal Science, de Simas' seminar will involve

the issue of food security, and the window of opportunity to meet the challenge.

De Simas is responsible for the Product Development team in the research and development area of Elanco Animal Health. Over the last 12 years, he has held positions

internationally and in corporate offices with technical, sales and marketing, and research and development organizations. De Simas earned his master's and doctorate in animal nutrition and physiology from the University of Arizona with post-doctoral work at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Elanco is a world leader in developing products and services that enhance animal health, wellness and performance. Products contribute to the production of an affordable and abundant supply of food while also helping ensure the safety of that food. Elanco supports a food secure world. ▶



Animal Science Students Capture High Honors'

Two University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Animal Science students won big in student competition. Brandon Smith, a masters candidate and Taylor Drane, a senior student both competed in the American Society of Animal Science's graduate and undergraduate competitions. Both Smith and Drane earned second place honors.

Held during the ASAS Southern Section annual meeting, in Dallas last month; the student competition allows each competitor 15 minutes to make their presentation, and allow time for questions from the audience and the judges. Smith and Drane both presented for 12 minutes and left 3 for questions. Judging is based on how well the competitor presents the information, how knowledgeable they seem about the topic, and how they answer the questions presented to them, among other criteria.

A total of 9 abstracts were presented in the undergraduate competition, Drane's presentation was titled Magnesium bioavailability from dolomitic using ram lambs. Her advisor is Drs. Ken Coffey and James Caldwell (Lincoln University).

While Smith presented: Production, digestion and ruminal fermentation by beef cattle limit-fed co-product feedstuffs. There were 28 abstracts presented during the graduate competition. Smith's graduate advisor is also Dr. Coffey. ▶



Taylor Drane and Brandon Smith at Southern Section in Dallas Texas.

Broodmare & Neonate Care A Unique Experience

Watching a foal take its first breath is a life changing experience, and for the 28 students in the newly developed Broodmare and Neonate Care class, it's also a unique learning experience. Along with eleven students that are currently enrolled in the "Applied Equine Care" course, they spend some of their free nights waiting, watching and hoping they get to practice what they have learned and see the foaling first-hand.

Offered for the first time, the course is a perfect blend of lecture and hands-on learning experience. The lecture hours include topics such as: what to expect when a mare foals, and the associated times lines; using milk calcium tests to determine when foaling will occur; how to determine specific gravity of colostrum; how to determine if a mare is in trouble while foaling; basic physiology and anatomy of a foaling mare; and determining the health of a foal. The lecture portion of the class utilizes presentations, webinars, discussions and journal articles to deliver information. While the students are learning the information given to them during the lecture portion of the class, what they really look forward to is applying what they have learned in the hands-on portion of the course.

During the mare and foal watches, which

are held at Sunrise Ranch, students are required to keep records on the mares they are watching and any resulting foals. The students have the opportunity to be present when a local veterinarian assesses the mares and the neonates. The students are well supervised during the watches. Animal Science Alumnae, Caitlin Barnett and farm manager, Chad Vanlandingham, are present for the foaling and help guide the students through the process.

Course instructor, Kathi Jogan, believes that this is a great way for students to see what they are learning put into practice – and will be a way for them to practice newly acquired skill-sets. Senior, Emily Enslow, agrees "I like to learn in a hands-on environment, it's really hard for me to learn any other way. I don't retain the information as well until I can put it into practice." Enslow is coming into the course with no horse experience, and is hoping to learn as much as she can before she buys her first horse.

The response to the course has been overwhelmingly positive. "Many students are already reporting back that they are 'hooked' on foaling -- and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if a few of these students pursued a career in the equine breeding industry." Jogan said. ▶