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Animal Science e-Newsletter

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University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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# Animal Science E-Newsletter

July 2014



## Three Department Faculty Awarded Grants for Work

Three of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Department of Animal Science faculty recently received grants, from the Arkansas Beef Council and the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, funding their most recent research projects. In all the Department received a total of almost \$100,000 in grant funding for the three projects.



Dr. Charles Maxwell

Dr. Charles Maxwell received an ABI grant for his project titled "Effects of Rearing Environment on Development of the Immune System in Neonates: the Pig as a model." To be eligible to receive an ABI grant, the project objective must fall into the category of agricultural research with medical implications. ABI grants are funded by the settlement the state of Arkansas received from a 1998 tobacco settlement.



Dr. Fred Pohlman

Dr. Fred Pohlman and Dr. Jason Apple both received grants from the Arkansas Beef Council. Pohlman's research is titled "Evaluating the Relationship of Animal Well-Being and Temperament to Carcass Characteristics and Meat Quality;" and Dr. Apple's project is titled "Effects of Proportion of Bull/Cow Blended Trimmings on the Color Stability of Precooked Ground Beef Patties."

The Arkansas Beef Council grants are funded through the Beef Checkoff program. }

## Animal Science Trio Appointed to Society Positions

Apple, Looper, Rosenkrans named to American Society of Animal Science posts

Jason Apple, Mike Looper and Charles Rosenkrans from the Department of Animal Science in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas have been appointed to positions with the American Society of Animal Science.

Looper, department head, was elected president of the ASAS and will serve a three-year term as president-elect in 2014, president in 2015 and past-president in 2016.

Apple, a professor who focuses his research on meat quality, was elected president of the Midwest Section and will serve a three-year term beginning this year.

Rosenkrans, a professor whose research includes animal toxicology, was elected to serve as secretary-treasurer for the Southern Section. After serving a five year term, during which he will also serve as Vice-President; he will become president in 2017. Ending his service term as Past-President.

"At no other time in history have so many people depended on so few for food production, and at no other time have animals contributed so meaningfully to enhancing



Dr. Jason Apple



Dr. Mike Looper

human life by providing companionship, recreation and human well-being," said Looper. "The society has played a critical role in the successes of animal agriculture as well as the development of numerous professional careers. It's important to give back to an organization that has provided so much to so many. I am excited about the opportunity to provide leadership in ASAS."



Dr. Charles Rosenkrans

Apple earned his bachelor's in animal science from Oklahoma State University, and his master's and doctorate from Kansas State University in animal science with an emphasis in meat science and muscle biology.

"I've been going to Midwest Animal Science meetings since 1989, and I was truly honored to have been asked to run for president; so, I am ecstatic about serving for the next three years," Apple said.

Looper earned his bachelor's and master's in animal science from the University of Arkansas, and his doctorate in reproductive physiology from Oklahoma State University.

Rosenkrans earned his bachelor's and master's in animal science from the University of Missouri, and his doctorate in reproductive physiology from Kansas State University. }

## Alumna Believes Hands-On Experiences Key in Preparing Students for Future in Animal Science

As if being a first generation college student, and holding a B.S. and a M.S. by the age of 27 wasn't enough; Stephanie McKenna's attitude towards her future will blow you away. "I cannot stagnate," she says. "I need to continue to move forward and find ways to inspire my students."

In July, McKenna moved across the country to take a position as the Equine Lecturer and Enterprise Manager for the Quarter Horse Unit at California State University, Fresno.

A job, she says, her time at the University of Arkansas helped prepare her for in more ways than just earning her degree.

Stephanie believes that one of the greatest aspects of her education was the hands-on experience and opportunities the Department of Animal Science offered her. She truly can't voice her support for hands-on education loud enough. "We all need to push for and support active hands-on learning, because there is no lecture, no handout, no assignments and no videos that can compare to real experiences." Stephanie firmly believes that she would not be where she is today, if she had just sat



Animal Science alumna, Stephanie McKenna, recently accepted a job to teach Equine Science at California State University, Fresno.

in the classroom. "The hands-on experiences, leadership opportunities and industry exposure all made me a competitive candidate at Fresno State," she says.

Looking to the future, Stephanie's goal as an educator is to help prepare her students to be industry professionals. She would love to use continued education and industry involvement as a way to help positively shape the future of animal science.

Stephanie and her fiancé, Hunter met at the UofA, through the equine science program actually, which is just one of the many great things in her life she attributes to the program. "Dr. Jack and Kathi Jogan challenged, pushed and encouraged me," she says. "They completely changed my life."

Stephanie has a B.S. in Animal Science with an Equine Science minor and a M.S. in Agricultural Education and Extension both from the UofA.

At California State, Stephanie will be responsible for teaching all equine science classes, six in total each year, and will advise equine science minor students. She will also be in charge of farm operations at the Quarter Horse unit, which include: breeding, teaching, training and sales. }

## ANSC Graduate Students Honored as Presenters at ASAS Joint Annual Meeting

Two Department of Animal Science student research posters were recently honored as "presidential picks" during the annual American Society of Animal Science's Joint Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

Masters candidate, Ashley Young and doctoral candidate, Jamie Hawley were invited to present their posters to the JAM attendees before the ASAS awards presentations.

Young's presentation, titled "Effects of Amino Acid Supplementation of Reduced Crude Protein (RCP) Diets on Fatty Acid Compositions of Subcutaneous Fat and Muscle." The objective of Young's work was to test the effects of a reduced crude protein with supplementation of amino acids on fatty acid compositions of subcutaneous fat and muscle.

Hawley's presentation, "Effects of Excess Dietary Sulfur on Beef Carcass Characteristics and Quality After Aging" found that supplementing beef cattle diets with a 0.40% sulfur had no appreciable effects on steer performance or beef carcass characteristics.

Young and Hawley's posters were two of the 36 chosen, from over 1200 entered. The Past President, President and President-Elect of the ASAS choose the "presidential picks." This is the third year the ASAS has incorporated the poster presentations into the awards ceremony.

Young said she was a little nervous to present her work at JAM, because there were more people present than usual. However, she found everyone to be very nice and felt that they asked great questions, that made her think.

JAM is an annual meeting of the ASAS, the Canadian Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association. }