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Animal Science

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Welcome Dr. James Koltes

We are excited to welcome Dr. James Koltes, Assistant Professor of Epigenetics, to the Department of Animal Science. Koltes comes to the University of Arkansas from Iowa State University. Recently we sat down with Dr. Koltes and asked about his role in the Department.

• What is your job title, what is your role in the Department?

Assistant Professor of Epigenetics (though I will cover genetics and genomics as well)

Lots of folks ask me what is epigenetics. Well, Epigenetics is the study of heritable factors passed from parents to offspring “above” the DNA. Epigenetics seeks to understand how the environment (including everything from diet, management, the natural environment, stress, disease, medicine, etc.) can impact how your DNA blueprint works to shape growth, health, reproduction and other traits and how these “environmental” factors in one individual can impact these traits in the next 1-2 generations of offspring. A hot topic in epigenetics that was named a top area of interest to beef producers was the impact of maternal programming on calves.



Dr. James Koltes

• Tell us something about yourself.

I grew up on a dairy farm in southern Wisconsin. Working with dairy cattle breeding started my interest in genetics as well as living near ABS Global (now Genus PLC), which is the world’s largest cattle breeding company.

• Are you a native Arkansan?

I am originally from DeForest, Wisconsin (near Madison), though I was living in Ames, Iowa for the last 5 years.

• What is your educational background?

B.S., University of Wisconsin with majors in dairy science and genetics; Ph.D., Iowa State University, major in genetics; Fulbright Fellow, University of Liege, Belgium

Post Doctoral Fellow Positions include:

NIH CIBM fellow at the University of Wisconsin, and NIFA fellow at Iowa State University

• What do you do with your weekend? (In other words what are your hobbies and interests?)

I am an avid fisherman and I enjoy following sports, especially college basketball, the national football league, and major league baseball.

• Do you have a favorite food?

BBQ (beef or pork), though it’s hard to beat a good steak.

• What is your favorite book, TV show or movie? (share all three if you want)

Movie: The Avengers; TV Show: The Voice; Book: Profiles in Courage by John F Kennedy.

• Please share something about your family with us.

I have an 18 month old daughter (Ellie), and my wife Dawn is also an animal scientist and a native Arkansan.

• What is your favorite time of year/holiday?

My favorite time of the year is spring since the weather is improving and the fishing is usually the best.

My favorite holiday is probably Christmas because I enjoy the time with my family.

• What is your ideal vacation?

I love to get away and enjoy adventures. I especially enjoy getting away from everyday life and enjoying a new place with family. I went on a fishing trip last year to Canada. I also really enjoy traveling in Europe. When I lived in Belgium, I was able to travel to France to see the castles in the Loire Valley and see where my family originated from in the fjords of Norway.

• Where were you working before the UofA? What was your position there?

I was a post-doctoral fellow in Jim Reecy’s lab within the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University. My primary role was to conduct research on the genetics of production traits in cattle and disease response traits in pigs.

• What is your favorite thing about Fayetteville/ University of Arkansas so far?

Fayetteville is just the right size with lots of things to do, but not too big. I really enjoy the natural surroundings of northwest Arkansas, especially the view of the Boston Mountains around town and from campus. At the university, I really enjoy the friendliness of folks. Within the Division of Ag and Bumpers College, I feel a strong commitment to agriculture that not all universities have and I greatly appreciate this. }

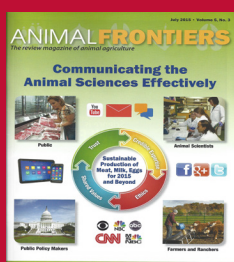
Quick Notes...

In the News

Dr. Jiangchao Zhao’s paper, The Evolution of the Gut Microbiota in the Giant and the Red Pandas, was published in the *Scientific Reports* on *Nature.com*. This same was referenced by The Washington Post in their article, Why Giant Pandas Have to Eat and Poop All Day. }

Published

Dr. Janeal Yancey’s paper, Communicating Animal Science to the General Public, was published in the July 2015 issue of *Animal Frontiers*. Yancey also gave a presentation on the topic at the 2015 American Society of Animal Science and Dairy Science Association Joint Annual Meeting earlier this month in Orlando. }



Job Openings

Full Time 9 Month Equine Instructor

The person will be expected to contribute to the department by teaching three to four undergraduate classes per semester in the areas of introductory equine, animal handling laboratories, and coordinate several applied, hands-on equine courses in Animal Science.

Qualifications required

Minimal requirements include a M.S. in Animal or Equine Science, or related fields; demonstrated teaching experience is desired.

The candidate also must have demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills. Must have previous experience managing and training horses; and experience in management of equine associated facilities.

Apply on-line at <http://jobs.uark.edu/postings/7912> with a letter of application, statement of teaching philosophy, curriculum vita, official transcripts, and contact information of three references.

Program Technician

This position is responsible for hay harvest, and applying fertilizers in correct portions to hay pastures to optimize yields. The person in this position will need to keep farm equipment maintenance records and do general repair and upkeep of farm tractors and equipment for safe operation and condition of same. Will need to service farm tractors and equipment on a scheduled time. Day to day care of beef animals including regular health checks. Assist research personnel with data collection and supervision of part-time labor.

Qualifications required

B.S. or B.A. in a related field. Must have handling experience of large animals and experience with farm equipment.

Apply on-line at <https://jobs.uark.edu/postings/8051> }

Troxel Honored as Fellow of Animal Science Society



Dr. Tom Troxel, with Dr. Michael Looper, accepting his fellow award.

Tom Troxel, associate head-Animal Science for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, has been named a Fellow in Extension of the American Society of Animal Science.

The honor was bestowed on Troxel during the society’s annual conference July 12-16 in Orlando, Florida.

“I never dreamed I’d get that award,” Troxel said. “What was special about it was that it came from my peers in Animal Science.”

“I’ve been very fortunate to work with really good people,” Troxel said. “Good county agents, good faculty, good producers. The award reflects on working with good people, with good ideas and good results. They’re all part of this as well.”

The Fellow award in the Extension category is granted to American Society of Animal Science members who have rendered very distinguished service to the animal industry and/or to the American Society of Animal Science, in addition to having continuous membership in the Society for a minimum of 25 years. The American Society of Animal Science is a professional organization that serves more than 5,000 animal scientists and producers around the world.

Troxel earned a B.S. from West Texas A&M University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. At the University of Illinois, he studied physiology of reproduction with an emphasis in postpartum beef cows. }