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University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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Benton County 4-H Wins 4-State Dairy Days Quiz Bowl

Animal Science faculty and graduate students, along with Jessica Street from the Benton County Cooperative Extension Service, participated in the 28th Annual 4-State Dairy Days at the Benton County Fairgrounds on the first weekend in June.

The four states involved in the annual event are Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. This year, there was a record 56 exhibitors with 143 cows and heifers.

The three-day event consists of several youth activities and contests, a cattle show, and a heifer sale. Youth contests include dairy olympics, dairy ambassador, showmanship, quiz bowl, dairy judging, skill-a-thon, and a heifer fitting contest. Several Animal Science graduate students volunteered to conduct the quiz bowl and assist with the skill-a-thon.

Four senior and five junior division teams participated in the quiz bowl competition, which consisted of several single-elimination rounds. Each year, the winners of the senior division quiz bowl have the opportunity to attend the National Dairy Quiz Bowl at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY in November.

This year, the Benton County 4-H team for displayed amazing knowledge and skill and will be representing the four-state area at the national competition. The department is very proud of these budding ag leaders!

4-State Dairy Days is hosted by the Benton County Dairy Industry Association. }



Pictured left to right: Benton County 4-H members Joshua Kay, Abigail Proctor, Alisun Watson, and Julie Griffin with Animal Science department head Dr. Michael Looper.

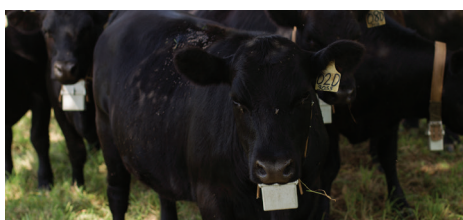


Animal Science volunteers Dr. Michael Looper, Caleb Weiss, Taylor McKinney, Maryanna McClure, and Elizabeth Palmer ask questions and keep score at the Dairy Quiz Bowl.

Heifers Wear GPS Collars

Collaborative research between the U of A and Iowa USDA ARS studies the effects of different types of soils and grasses on where cows choose to graze.

As part of the research, a group of ten heifers graze a ten acre paddock of native grasses and orchard grass patches while wearing GPS collars. The collars track where the cows choose to spend their time and which grass patches they prefer. The cows will graze the paddock for six weeks. This research could help Arkansas farmers understand what grass types cows choose to graze and when. }



Heifers wearing GPS collars for research.

Faculty Visit Department of Correction Farm

Animal Science faculty toured the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) farm in Grady, AR last month.

The purpose of the visit was to further develop collaborations for development of best management practices for animal and forage production. With land and animal resources, a partnership between Animal Science faculty, UA Cooperative Extension personnel, and the Department of Correction farm can be mutually beneficial to all groups.

Several opportunities exist for faculty to address important production issues that face all farms and ranches in Arkansas while working to increase overall efficiency of the Correction Farm. The ADC grows most of the feed that goes into its animal feeds, which is processed through the feedmill located at the Cummins Unit in Lincoln County.

Dr. Shane Gadberry of Extension commented on the partnership that “The unit is

working toward tuning their feed rations for various stages of production, maximizing use of farm raised feeds, and improving mix consistency.”

Corn silage is grown for their dairy cows and is used as a supplement for beef cows. Previous tests have shown corn silage at a very good quality for Arkansas grain.

“The unit has a good pasture base with excellent potential to reduce hay feeding and extend the grazing season with only a few simple changes,” said Extension faculty Dr. John Jennings.

“We look forward to a working partnership with the U of A Cooperative Extension,” said Farm Administrator for the ADC, Davey Farabough. “Working together will allow the Ag Division of the ADC to move forward and reach new production goals. In turn, that relates to a savings for the taxpayers of Arkansas.” }