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Animal Science E-Newsletter, April 2020

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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Animal Science E-Newsletter

April 2020



U of A System, Division of Agriculture and Animal Science Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

The U of A System, Division of Agriculture and Department of Animal Science have stepped up to the plate to continue to provide support, information and various resources as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect each of our daily lives. Read on to discover some of the ways we are very much #StillOnTheJob:

- The U of A System Division of Agriculture has developed a comprehensive website for COVID-19 resources. We encourage you to visit www.uaex.edu/COVID19 for more information.
- Three Animal Science faculty will participate in a U of Arkansas Honors College Forum (HNRC 300VH): PANDEMIC during the May 2020 Intersession (open to honors students and community members). This forum will be via the Microsoft TEAMS venue, and it will also be available on the Honors College website at <https://honorscollege.uark.edu/>.
- With COVID-19 wreaking havoc on the livestock markets, the U of A Division of Agriculture and the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association connected on March 26 with nearly 200 cattle producers in an online webinar to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on the cattle industry and offer guidance for navigating an unpredictable future. If you were unable to participate, the webinar can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/7RhpUMfmvmk>.
- Animal Science faculty, along with numerous other university faculty, donated surplus supplies when the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences ran low on personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies due to the COVID-19 outbreak. You can read more at <https://www.uark.edu/determined/index.php>.
- Animal Science faculty member, Chelsea Kimbrough, teamed up with her sister, Crystal Ahrens, to host a Facebook Live chat that discussed small ruminants on Friday, April 10. Dr. Kimbrough talked specifically about basic sheep and goat management practices, which is becoming especially important given the large amounts of rain in the area so far this year; and Ms. Ahrens discussed various topics related to meat quality. The duo recorded their live chat in order to upload the video and embed the link onto the U of A Extension Services website. }



Your Resource for
COVID-19 INFORMATION
for Agriculture, Families & Communities



Published Research by Animal Science Faculty Featured in the Journal *Applied Animal Science*

Research conducted and published by Animal Science faculty that was funded by the Arkansas Beef Council was chosen to be featured as April's Editor's Choice in the journal, *Applied Animal Science*.

The research, *Comparison of meat quality and health implications of branded and commodity beef*, compared beef labelled as “naturally raised” and conventional beef to see if there were differences in meat quality. Department of Animal Science researchers within the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station included: Cari Keys Fuller, Jason Apple (retired), Janeal Yancey, Tim Johnson and Mike Looper.

The full article and published research can be accessed on the Applied Animal Science website, found [here](#). }

Animal Science Graduate Student Awarded Grant to Investigate Respiratory Microbiome in Cattle

Animal Science graduate student, Jianmin Chai (pictured), was recently awarded a grant from the Office of Research and Innovation and Graduate Professional Student Research Council to investigate the respiratory microbiome of beef cattle and the influences on bovine respiratory disease (BRD) using next-generation sequencing.

Chai, who will team up with U of A System, Division of Agriculture, Animal Science faculty member, Jiangchao Zhao, aims to characterize the nasal microbiome from pre-BRD and BRD cattle, as well as their healthy controls using a MinION nanopore sequencing platform. The nanopore sequencing is a cost-effective way



to profile bacterial communities, and detect, simultaneously, DNA and RNA virus species since the MinION is small, portable and runs on a laptop.

This design will work to better understand the longitudinal shifts of the microbiome in healthy and BRD cattle after entering the feedlot, and cross-sectionally compare the microbiome community between healthy and BRD afflicted cattle.

Two Animal Science Students Receive Academic Awards, Katie Long Named ANSC Ambassador

Animal Science students, Ian Gilbert and Mesa Kutz, were named winners of annual academic awards within Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, while Katie Long has been announced as the department's Bumpers College Student Ambassador.

Gilbert, a triple-major in animal science, biology and Spanish from Springdale, was named the college's Presidential Scholar.

Kutz, a double-major in animal science and poultry science from West Fork, was named a Dale Bumpers Distinguished Scholar, recognized as the undergraduate transfer honoree.

Long, an animal science major with a focus on pre-veterinary studies, will represent the Department of Animal Science among the newly unveiled team of Bumpers College Student Ambassadors. }



Ian Gilbert



Mesa Kutz



Katie Long

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