Poultry Judging Team wins national judging contest

The Texas A&M Poultry Judging Team won the 2015 U.S. Poultry and Egg National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest held April 16-17 in Baton Rouge, La. Nine teams from across the country competed in the two-day competition hosted by Louisiana State University.

This championship marks the 17th win in the last 19 competitions since 2006 for the Texas A&M Poultry Judging Team program.

The team placed second in the breed selection, second in market products, and fourth in the production. The team consisted of Eryn Crow (second place – breed selection, fourth place – production, and second – overall individual), Jill Wright (second place – market products, third place – breed selection, and third overall individual), Katie Bennett (third place – market products, fourth place – breed selection, and fourth overall individual), Brooke Bodle, and Alyssa Nakamura (alternate). The team is coached by Dr. Jason Lee and assistant coach Jacob Price.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the 2015 Poultry Science Weekend scheduled for Oct. 23 – 24 in College Station. The weekend will kick off with the annual Steak Fry on Friday evening at Bachmann Park. Steak Fry will begin at 4 p.m. with food and fun for the whole family. Events continue on Saturday with Skeet Shooting at Gunsmoke Shooting Range in Snook, followed by a game watching party (location to be determined) for the Texas A&M vs. Ole Miss football game. Times of the Saturday events will depend on kick-off time of the game which will be held in Oxford, MS. All current and former students, their families, faculty, staff, retirees, and industry friends are invited to help us celebrate Poultry Science at Texas A&M. More details will be posted at posc.tamu.edu as they become available. We hope to see you there!
A message from the Department Head

By Dr. David Caldwell

Howdy! Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter, Texas Aggie Poultry. We hope you enjoy reading the current offering of our departmental newsletter where we describe the success and accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students.

Summer is sometimes a quieter time within the academic year here in the department as many of our students are off campus for summer internships in the industry, and faculty and staff are attending conventions, conferences and taking family vacations. This summer, however, has been action-packed.

With support from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Texas A&M Study Abroad Office, the department successfully introduced and completed our first-ever study abroad trip to Central Mexico in June. The focus of this program was to compare and contrast Mexican/Latin American broiler production with production systems in the U.S. We greatly appreciate Pilgrim’s Mexico for hosting and supporting our students and faculty on all industry site visits. Overall, our first attempt at offering a study abroad was a tremendous success, and we are currently working on plans for next year’s program.

The Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting will be held July 26-31 in Louisville, Ky. The Department will be well represented at the meeting by 11 faculty members and 21 students. Even before arriving, it is already shaping up to be a banner meeting for the department.

Two faculty members will receive awards for research and extension accomplishments. Dr. Tri Duong will be recognized as the recipient of the Hy-Line International Research Award and Dr. Gregory Archer will receive the PSA Early Achievement Award for Extension. The Aggie Leadership Council will receive the PSA Student Recruitment Award for success in undergraduate recruiting. Three current students, Timothy Broderick, Kyle Brown and Hunter Walters, will receive Jones-Hamilton Company Undergraduate Student Travel Grants. Additionally, current junior undergraduate Katie Burt will be identified as an Andrew Giesen III Undergraduate Internship Participant for her summer internship with Hy-Line International in Iowa.

In closing, our department has many things for which to be proud. In this edition, you have the opportunity to read several examples of our successful programs, which are made possible by the dedication and commitment of our outstanding faculty, staff and students.

Poultry Science students receive Senior Merit Award

The Department of Poultry Science is proud to announce that four undergraduate students were recognized by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as 2015 Senior Merit Award recipients. The Senior Merit Award is the highest award given to undergraduates by the College and is based on leadership, scholarship and service at the department, college and university level.

Recipients, pictured from left to right, are Kacie Gallegos, Austin Jasek, Hunter Walters and Timothy Broderick. Congratulations to these outstanding students!
With support from the College of Agriculture and Life Science and the Texas A&M University Study Abroad Program, the Department of Poultry Science offered its first Poultry Science Study Abroad Program in Mexico.

The program was led by Dr. Christine Alvarado with the support of Dr. Chris Bailey. Students participating were graduate students Amie Marie Jones Ibarra, Katie Burchfield, and under graduates Paul Exley, Cambria Nierdieck and Annie Mejias.

The group began their trip on Sunday, June 7 and stayed in Mexico for two weeks learning the culture and expanding their knowledge of Mexican poultry production and processing. The group visited local markets to see the differences in marketing and consumer purchasing. Participating students completed a formal course created for the program, POSC 489/689 Mexican Broiler Production, and made site visits to regional production, processing and retail operations.

A special thank you is owed to Pilgrim’s Mexico for allowing the students to visit a hatchery, live production, feed mill and processing plant in the area. The program was based at Hacienda Santa Clara just outside of San Miguel de Allende in Guanajuato State.
A visit to Washington D.C.—
POSC students build leadership skills, learn agricultural policy

The Department of Poultry Science Aggie Leadership Council (ALC) traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 25-28, 2015.

The group was led by Drs. Christine Alvarado and Craig Coufal, and aimed to further develop the students’ leadership skills and knowledge while gaining insight into agricultural policy and the legislative process. During the visit to Washington, D.C., the group met with representatives of the National Chicken Council, National Turkey Federation, USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Honorable Bill Flores, U.S. Representative from the central Texas area including College Station.

“We are extremely grateful to all our hosts in Washington, D.C. who took time out of their schedules to visit with the students and share valuable insight and wisdom.” Coufal said.

In addition, the group toured many of the national monuments and museums in the city including a special tour of the U.S. Capital where they sat in the gallery in the House of Representatives while the House was in session.

Members of the 2014-2015 ALC included Brooke Bodle, Alex Williamson, Austin Jasek, Hunter Walters, Katie Burt, Alex Jacks, Lacee Popham, Katie Bennett, Kolton Page, Brittany Rocha, and Micah Osburn. Poultry Science Club officer Katie Burchfield also went on the trip.
2015 Poultry Institute for Youth welcomes students to Aggieland

The Department of Poultry Science, along with the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, sponsored the 2015 Poultry Institute for Youth held June 14-16 on the Texas A&M campus.

The department welcomed 31 high school students from across the state to attend the three-day program. The program gives high school students a chance to learn more about poultry science as a field of study and become better acquainted with the poultry industry through hands-on activities. The participants interacted with Texas A&M University faculty, staff and students, as well as leaders from the poultry industry.

The participants increased their knowledge and gained experience in various aspects of poultry science and production such as anatomy and physiology (pictured right), processing and products, embryology and waste management. Participants were able to really “feel like an Aggie” by staying in the dorms on campus for the two nights they were in College Station. The students even got to cook their own omelet breakfast (pictured below) while learning about the egg industry. The department extends a special thank you to Sanderson Farms, Inc. for allowing the students to tour the processing facility in Bryan.

It was a great three days, and we hope to see the participants again someday as students in the Department of Poultry Science.
Dr. John Carey appointed Editor-in-chief of journal

Dr. John Carey, Professor in the Department of Poultry Science, has been appointed as the Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Applied Poultry Research (JAPR). The Editor-in-chief is appointed to a three-year term with a one year renewal option. The JAPR is one of two scientific journals published by the Poultry Science Association (PSA), and is dedicated to publishing research reports, field reports and reviews on topics of interest to those involved in the production of poultry for meat and eggs. Dr. Carey served as President of PSA in 2007-2008, and was named a Fellow of PSA in 2014. Congratulations, Dr. Carey!

Dr. Tri Duong promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Tri Duong was recently promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure. He joined the department in 2009 as an assistant professor of microbiology and runs an active research program and mentors graduate students. His research seeks to develop a mechanistic understanding of microbial functionality in probiotic and bioprocess applications with the overall goal of developing microbe-based biotechnology solutions for animal agriculture, bioprocessing and human health. In addition, he teaches POSC 429 Advanced Food Bacteriology. Congratulations, Dr. Duong!

Lesley Gleason joins the department as program coordinator

The Department of Poultry Science welcomed Lesley Gleason to the department as Program Coordinator on June 1. She received a bachelor’s degree in poultry science from Texas A&M University in 2008 and earned a master of science degree in educational leadership studies with an emphasis in college student development from Oklahoma State University. As Program Coordinator, Lesley will participate in many of the undergraduate programs including student advising, recruitment, and other academic needs of the department. Please join us in welcoming Lesley to the department.

Dr. Audrey McElroy helps lead international conference on necrotic enteritis

Dr. Audrey McElroy served on the scientific committee for the 1st International Conference on Necrotic Enteritis in Poultry held in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 11-12. This meeting brought together over 150 scientists, industry and stakeholders with interest in clostridial infections and necrotic enteritis in poultry from across the world to share scientific and applied information. During the three day meeting, participants addressed all aspects of necrotic enteritis and other clostridial diseases in broilers, turkeys, and other poultry species. Topics included genetics, clinical evaluation, pathology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, control, and prevention. Participants discussed new research discoveries and ideas to manage this intestinal challenge in commercial poultry operations. More information about the meeting can be found at: http://www.conferencemanager.dk/necroticenteritisinpoultry
Extension Highlights

Texas Commercial Egg Clinic held at the Brazos Center

The annual Texas Commercial Egg Clinic was held April 22, 2015 at the Brazos Center in Bryan. The program included presentations about disease control and management, vaccination, hen house ventilation, hen housing systems and egg marketing by experts from around the country.

Commissioner Sid Miller of the Texas Department of Agriculture presented a lunch-time address to the attendees. The commissioner also visited with Dr. Christine Alvarado and several of the Aggie Leadership Council students who were in attendance (pictured right).

Market Poultry Workshop draws large crowd of youth and parents

The annual Market Poultry Production and Selection Workshop was held on May 9, 2015 at Pearce Pavilion on the Texas A&M University campus.

Over 170 youth and parents attended the workshop to hear presentations from our faculty and staff about raising poultry for youth market livestock shows in Texas. Presentations discussed brooding, feeding, housing, and culling and selection of broilers and turkeys for livestock shows. Participants were also able to get hands-on training on handling and selection of birds. It was another very successful workshop.

2015 Texas Broiler Symposium to be held in Nacogdoches

The 2015 Texas Broiler Symposium will be held on Sept. 15-16 at the Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center. Activities on the 15th will include a dinner and time for socializing with horseshoe pitching and washers. The 16th will consist of the educational program with speakers from across the U.S. addressing topics including avian influenza preparedness, biosecurity, poultry house lighting options and management, water line and litter management, aging hatchery management, chick quality evaluation, and other topics related to broiler production. A block of rooms is available at the Nacogdoches Holiday Inn Express. Registration and sponsorship opportunities are now available on the Texas A&M AgriLife Conference Services website at https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Poultry.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting**  
  July 27 - 30, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky
- **Texas Broiler Symposium**  
  September 15 - 16, 2015 at Nacogdoches Expo Center, Nacogdoches
- **Poultry Science Weekend**  
  October 23 - 24, 2015 in College Station

Poultry Center renovations, additions continue

Work continues at the Poultry Science Center in an effort to increase research, teaching and extension capabilities and capacity.

The laying hen barn was recently upgraded with an evaporative cooling pad and automated tunnel ventilation system. This will allow for more precise heating and cooling of the building to provide the best environment possible for the hens and allow for research trials to be conducted throughout the year.

Two areas of the main building, formally incubation and hatching rooms, have been renovated for further processing areas. A raw meat processing room is set up for margination and batter breading of raw product. The second room has been refitted into a further processing cook room. These areas have increased the further processed products capabilities of the department.

The Poultry Center also acquired a new Ecodrum™ brand in-vessel composting unit for composting of bird mortalities, processing wastes and litter and manure. The composting unit will not only be used to turn wastes into valuable fertilizer, but will also be a valuable teaching and extension demonstration tool.