

ANIMAL AND FOOD SCIENCES

Reconnecting
with our alumni

UK College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Animal and Food Sciences

September, 2019

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On the web

<http://afs.ca.uky.edu/>



<https://www.facebook.com/UKAnimalandFoodSciences>

It's fall and that means football and family reunions...

Plans are underway for the 2019 Animal and Food Sciences Reunion, to be held "under the big tent" on Friday night, September 13. We hope you have plans to join our "family" as we gather to share great memories, renew old friendships, and sample some delicious "homemade" food! It's the night before the big game between the Cats and the Gators, so there'll also be a lot of football talk.

As the AFS tradition dictates, supper will be in the form of "commodity tasting stations." It will include delicious smoked beef, lamb, and pork prepared by the Block and Bridle Club and served by some of your favorite faculty members. The culinary folks in the UK Meats Lab are busy creating a special entrée just for the reunion; it's sure to be a delightful surprise. In addition to the carnivore cuisine, we'll have mouth-watering dessert crepes served by the always entertaining poultry personnel and old-fashioned fruit cobblers topped with ice cream provided by the Dairy Club.

In between eating and socializing, you'll have the opportunity to bid on some great items in the 8th Annual Silent Auction to benefit the AFS Undergraduate Scholarship Program. Find the Block and Bridle Scrapbooks from when you were a student and you can reminisce about dances, the Little North American, and all those other extracurricular activities that made your college experience great.

After supper, this year's Distinguished Alumnus will be recognized and the 2019 Animal and Food Sciences Hall of Fame member will be inducted.

So come join our "family" for this year's reunion. You'll be glad you did!



Dr. Debra K. Aaron,
2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient



Dr. David Williams,
2018 Hall of Fame member

Department Update

Greetings from the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences. We are excited and making plans for this year's Animal and Food Sciences Reunion and hope you will be able to join us. The Reunion gives us a chance to share many of the past year's department happenings and provides an opportunity to renew old friendships and start new ones. It is also a great time to sample scrumptious meat products and crepes prepared and served by the department's faculty and staff. You will want to save room for cobbler and ice cream.

The past year has been a successful one. Our undergraduate student numbers remain strong and the graduate program continues to train high quality students. Graduates are in high demand and are going on to successful careers in a variety of professions. The extracurricular activities provided by the department (Block & Bridle, Dairy Club, Livestock Judging, Dairy Judging, Meats Judging) continue to provide important ways for students to network and improve their soft skills.

The department continues to be blessed with a faculty and staff committed to the success of teaching, outreach, and research programs. Their excellence led to several receiving awards and recognitions this past year. A listing of these can be viewed in this newsletter. We are currently conducting a national search for a new Beef Cattle Extension Specialist who will be located at the Research and Education Center in Princeton. This will refill the position that was opened when Dr. Roy Burris retired.

Plans are currently in the works to relocate the Poultry and Dairy Units. The plan is for the Poultry Unit to be constructed at the C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles, and will entail modern facilities that will enable conduct of cutting-edge research to benefit Kentucky's poultry industry. We are in negotiations with Eastern Kentucky University to establish an agreement that will allow us to move our Dairy Unit to their Meadowbrook Farm in Richmond. This agreement will allow continuance of cow comfort and technology-based research while continuing our commitment to provide hands-on teaching for our students and important outreach programs to dairy producers.

Let me close by stating that the department truly values the relationships we have with all of you, our alumni. Your support and thoughtful insights are essential as we strive to remain the place where your children want to come for their educational pursuits and the place that you look to for technologies and practices that keep you profitable and sustainable.

I hope to see you at the Animal and Food Sciences Reunion on September 13th "under the big tent" and at other events across the state throughout the year. Anytime you are in Lexington, please stop by and say "Hi".

Richard Coffey

Department Chair

Graduate Programs

Sarah Elefson, 2019 Outstanding MS Candidate

Sarah, a native of Texas, grew up in Indiana and received her BS in Animal Science from Purdue University in 2017. While at Purdue, Sarah was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority (serving as External Philanthropy Chair and Alumni Relationship Director) and she participated in a study abroad program in Ireland and France. Sarah was also active as an undergraduate worker in several labs, including the swine nutrition lab. Her time in Europe and in the various projects in which she assisted as an undergraduate piqued her interest in research and the possibilities that it offered. Sarah began her MS program at UK in January 2018 under the supervision of Dr. Merlin Lindemann. Her thesis project involves documentation of the development of visceral organs in pigs from late gestation to six weeks postweaning with particular emphasis on the morphological changes in intestinal villi and microvilli at multiple locations in the intestinal tract.



Sarah Elefson

Amanda Egert McLean, 2019 Outstanding PhD Candidate

Amanda was born in Michigan, but has lived in Canada and South Korea. She received a BS in Animal Science from Michigan State in 2012, and began an MS program at UK to study ruminant nutrition with Dr. David Harmon. Amanda studied consumption of ergot alkaloids on contractility of bovine mesenteric vasculature and rumen motility. For this effort, she received the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding MS student in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. For her PhD, Amanda examined the feeding behavior, ruminal parameters, and forestomach motility of cattle during the transition from forage to high grain diets. She served as President of the Animal and Food Sciences Graduate Student Association. Amanda completed a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning. During her graduate program she presented five scientific papers and authored five research publications. She plans a career in industry as a ruminant nutritionist.



Dr. Amanda Egert McLean

Undergraduate Programs

Extracurricular Activities

The University of Kentucky has a rich tradition of livestock and dairy evaluation, beginning with local, regional, and state 4-H judging contests and culminating at the collegiate level. Collegiate livestock and dairy team members spend countless hours practicing their evaluation abilities and enhancing their oral reason skills.

Students' collegiate experiences with livestock (beef, sheep, swine, and goats) begin in the fall semester when they enroll in the livestock evaluation class. For some this might be the first time they have evaluated any livestock, for others they might have judged for several years. In the spring, the team competes in the Dixie Nationals, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and the All-East. Over the summer, some members judge at county fairs and shows. They finalize their collegiate judging careers during the following fall at the Keystone International Livestock Expo, the Purdue Boiler-maker, the Premier Stockman, the American Royal, and ending at the North American.



2019-2020 UK Livestock Judging Team: Paige Geer, Kelsey Hargadon, Jaycie Heath, Callie Hicks, Megan Parsons, and Taylor Tyo. Coaches: Steven Austin (spring) and Corbin Cowles (fall).

Similarly, students on the dairy judging team have the opportunity to learn how to evaluate dairy cattle and develop their speaking skills while traveling the country. The dairy evaluation class is offered every spring. No

dairy experience is required and the class helps build characteristics that will help students be successful no matter their career goals. The following fall, the team travels to Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and throughout Kentucky to judge some of the best dairy cattle in the world.

Overall, judging provides students the opportunity to interact with leaders of the livestock and dairy industries. They also develop a keen sense of judgment and confidence to make and defend their decisions.



2018 UK Dairy Judging Team: Tanner Goodlett, Paige Cecil, Luke Babb, and John Riney. Coach: Derek Nolan.



Animal and Food Sciences Alumni Scholarship

Funds raised through the Animal and Food Sciences Reunion Silent Auction support the Animal and Food Sciences Alumni Scholarship. This year that scholarship was awarded to Isaac Thompson, a senior majoring in Animal Sciences, with a minor in Agricultural Economics. His enthusiasm for animal agriculture started at young age as he was raised on a Hereford cattle farm in Taylor County. He exhibited cattle at county, state and national shows and was a member of 4-H and FFA. Since arriving at the University of Kentucky in 2016, Isaac has been a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and Block and Bridle. In his spare time, when he's not studying, Isaac enjoys spending time on the farm and in the great outdoors. Isaac will graduate in May, 2020 and plans on attending veterinary school, eventually returning to practice in Taylor County.



Isaac Thompson

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. James E. Sullivan has served animal agriculture for more than 40 years. Jim grew up on a dairy farm in northern Illinois, where his appreciation for animal agriculture began. This appreciation continued through his education with a BS degree in Animal Science at the University of Kentucky (1970) and MS and PhD degrees at the University of Illinois (1972 and 1975, respectively).

Over his career, Dr. Sullivan has held key positions in animal nutrition companies. In 1993, he transformed the Ag Division of the International Distributing Corporation into the International Ingredient Corporation (IIC), a leader in development of specialty feed ingredients from food industry byproducts. During his tenure as IIC President, he started the IIC Nutrition Advisory Board, a rotating group of university and industry research scientists, which continues to this day. In 2004, Dr. Sullivan initiated a program to support and encourage graduate students in animal, pet, and aquaculture nutrition. The program is called the IIC Pinnacle Awards. To date, 108 graduate students from 16 universities and 20 countries have received a Pinnacle Award. This includes 10 students from UK.



Dr. James Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan has also served the animal industry through membership and leadership roles in the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), the American Feed Industry Association, the U.S. Dairy Export Council, and the American Dairy Products Institute. He was named an ASAS Fellow at the 2019 ASAS Annual Meeting. Today, Dr. Sullivan continues to serve animal agriculture through his consulting business. Anyone who knows him would agree that he is a noted scientist, a pioneer within the animal feed industry, and a long-tenured servant to animal agriculture.

Hall of Fame Induction

Dr. Karl Dawson was born in Nevada, and earned degrees from Utah State University (BS), the University of Wyoming (MS), and Iowa State University (PhD). In 1979, he joined the University of Kentucky Department of Animal and Food Sciences, where he worked his way up through the ranks from Assistant to Full Professor. In 1999, Dr. Dawson accepted the position of Director of Worldwide Research with Alltech®. He remained in that position until 2011 when he was named Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer. Dr. Dawson retired in June of this year, but continues to work with Alltech® as a consultant.



Dr. Karl Dawson

Dr. Dawson's research has focused on strategies for improving animal performance and health by altering microbial activities and digestive processes in the gastrointestinal tract. His strength as a researcher and teacher lies in his in-depth understanding of the many different aspects of animal agriculture. His excellent grasp of how farming and agriculture is shifting and changing has led him to innovative areas of research, such as feed antibiotic alternatives and nutrigenomics.

To expose undergraduate students to research, Dr. Dawson started an internship program in his lab at Alltech®. In addition, more than 50 graduate students in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences have received sponsorships of their graduate research programs through his influence at Alltech®. Under his guidance, Alltech® has gifted over \$10 million to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment through research contracts, student sponsorship, research alliances, and philanthropy.

Dr. Karl Dawson is an individual who has spent his life dedicated to agriculture: living it, teaching it, researching it, improving it, and making it more efficient. However, his greatest impact on agriculture in Kentucky and the world, is the legion of agricultural scientists that he has mentored, developed, and supported to continue the advancement of agriculture.

2019 Faculty, Staff, and Student Awards

Dr. Greg Rentfrow, Extension Award, Southern Section American Society of Animal Science

Dr. Merlin Lindemann, Animal Industry Service Award, American Society of Animal Science

Dr. Robert Coleman, Distinguished Teacher Award, American Society of Animal Science

Dr. Suman Surendranath, International Lectureship Award, American Meat Science Association; Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Alumni Association

Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips, M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension, KY Association of State Extension Professionals

Dr. Bernhard Hennig, Research-Extension Impact Award, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Dr. Richard Coffey, Board of Directors, American Society of Animal Science; Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction, Oklahoma State University

Drs. Anthony Pescatore and Sunday Adedokun, Excellence in Multistate Research Award, Northeastern Regional Association of State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors

Dr. Jacquie Jacob, Phibro Extension Award, Poultry Science Association

Frank Berry, 2018 Outstanding Staff Award, UK College of Agriculture Food and Environment.

Lauren Nolan, Maurice Stein Fellowship Award, Poultry Science Association

Ashley Fowler, Emerging Young Scholar Award, Southern Section American Society of Animal Science; Graduate Student Research Travel Award, DSM Nutritional Products

Gustavo Mazon, 2nd place, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment 3-Minute Thesis Competition

Morgan Pyles, 3rd place (tie), UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment 3-Minute Thesis Competition

Caroline Loos, 3rd place (tie), UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment 3-Minute Thesis Competition

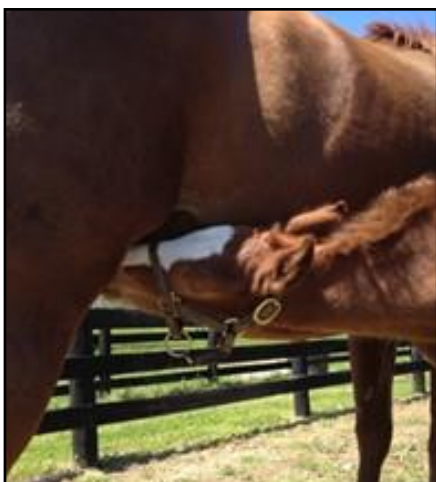
Around the Farms



“On the Mark, Get Set, Go.” Researchers at the UK Beef Unit measure “chute exit velocity” to better understand how temperament relates to growth and efficiency in beef cattle.



“Baa-dy Builders.” White Dorper rams, all enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program, are ready to go to work at the UK Sheep Unit (Photo by Eric M. Vanzant).



“Got Milk?” Researchers at the UK Equine Unit are investigating the composition of mare’s milk and how it contributes to a healthy gastrointestinal tract in foals.

In the AFS Alumni Spotlight

Bill and Nanci Sexten of Washington Court House, OH didn’t know how the University of Kentucky would impact the future of their family when their oldest son, Justin, enrolled at UK in the fall of 1994 to major in Animal Sciences.



The Sexton Family

The relationships established that first semester would influence the Sexten family forever. Justin worked at both the swine and sheep units. He was active in Block and Bridle (B & B) and the livestock judging team. Justin met his now wife, Julie Mossbarger from Terre Haute, IN, in a UK chemistry class. Both finished degrees in Animal Sciences in 1998 and completed advanced degrees at the University of Illinois: Justin (MS and PhD in ruminant nutrition) and Julie (MS in Ag and Consumer Economics). Justin is now VP of Strategy at Performance Livestock Analytics. The couple live in Columbia, MO with their three daughters. Julie is a homemaker and co-director for connections ministry for The Crossing Church.

Soon, two other Sexten children would be enrolled at UK. Alison joined her older brother in 1996 and majored in Ag Ed, with a minor in Animal Sciences. She served as an Ag Ambassador and was active in the Dairy Club, Ag Ed Society, and B & B. It was in B & B where she met her husband, Daniel Smith, of Scott County. Daniel was majoring in Animal Sciences and was a member of the livestock judging team while working at the beef unit. He completed his degree in 1998 and returned to the family farm outside of Georgetown. After completing a MS in Ag Ed at Oklahoma State University, Alison returned to Kentucky to work for the Kentucky Beef Council. Alison and Daniel have four children. All are involved on the family farm and in local and state 4-H.

Bill and Nanci’s second daughter, Jenna (Pol), chose to follow her passion for fashion design at Kent State University (BA, 2003). She and her husband, Larry, reside in Chagrin Falls, OH with their two sons.

The youngest of the Sexten children, Austin, enrolled at UK to major in Animal Sciences and minor in Ag Economics. He became involved in B & B and was a member of the meats and livestock judging teams, and worked at the sheep unit. At UK, he met his future wife, Andrea Lunsford, a double major in Animal Sciences and Ag Biotechnology from Jessamine County.

Austin and Andrea served as President and VP of B & B during the same term. After graduating with BS degrees, she earned MS and PhD degrees in ruminant nutrition at UK and Oklahoma State. After completing his BS at UK, Austin managed an Angus operation outside of Georgetown before completing his MS in ruminant nutrition at Oklahoma State. Andrea now holds a faculty position at Eastern Kentucky University and Austin is employed as a nutritionist for Burkmann Nutrition. They make their home in Jessamine County with their two children.

Looking back, Bill and Nanci Sexten could have never imagined how connected to UK they would become when they moved their oldest son into an apartment adjoining a swine feeding floor on the old Coldstream Farm. Now there are seven BS degrees and one MS degree from UK within their family.

Address Service Requested



Animal and Food Sciences Reunion

September 13, 2019

5:30 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Tasting Begins

7:00 p.m. Program

**RSVP by Friday, September 6, 2019 to Robin Notton at (859) 257-7508
or Robin.Notton@uky.edu
Tickets \$10 for adults, free for children under 12.**