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On the web

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



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

Calling all AFS Alumni

It's that time of year again. We're busy getting ready for the **2017 Animal and Food Sciences Reunion**, to be held under the big tent on Friday night, **October 6**. We hope you plan on coming!

Supper will be in the form of the "commodity tasting stations" you've come to expect at the AFS Reunion. As always, 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. You'll also be the first to sample the new "Cheddar Cats," created by the culinary folks in the UK Meat Lab. In addition to all 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 socializing and eating, you'll have the opportunity to bid on some great items in the **6th Annual Silent Auction** to benefit the AFS Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

After supper, this year's Distinguished Alumnus will be recognized and the 2017 Animal and Food Sciences Hall of Fame member will be inducted.

Following the award presentations, we'll hear from one of the most energetic and motivating people you'll ever meet. Nick Mingione, head coach of the Kentucky Wildcats



Coach Nick Mingione

baseball team, will share his "student, person, and player" philosophy of developing a team. He'll also give us an update on the new stadium and tell us what we can expect from UK baseball in 2018. You won't want to miss Coach Mingione! Just as he pumped up the UK baseball team, and their fans, on the way to winning the 2017 NCAA Lexington Regional, he'll pump you up to do things in your own lives that you've never done before.

So, come join us under the tent for this year's reunion. You'll be glad you did!



Dr. Stanley Poe,
2016 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient



Dr. Robert Harmon,
2016 Hall of Fame member



Animal and Food Sciences Reunion

October 6, 2017

5:30 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. Tasting Begins
7:00 p.m. Program

RSVP by Friday, September 22, 2017 to Robin Notton at (859) 257-7508
or Robin.Notton@uky.edu
Tickets \$10 for adults, free for children under 12.

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 with you many of the past year's department happenings, and provides an opportunity for you to renew old friendships and start new ones. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you over the past year as our paths have crossed here in the state of Kentucky and across the country. Your friendship, support, and concern for the department is vital for our success.

As you can see from some of the information provided in this newsletter, this past year has been a successful one for the department. Our undergraduate programs are strong, and our graduate student program continues to train high quality students. Our graduates continue to be in high demand and go on to successful careers in a variety of professional fields. The extracurricular activities provided by the department (such as Block & Bridle, Livestock Judging, Dairy Judging, Meats Judging) continue to provide important ways for students to network and improve the soft skills that employers look for in the graduating students they hire.

The department continues to be blessed with outstanding faculty and staff who are committed to the success of our teaching, outreach and research programs. This past year we hired two new faculty. Dr. Rachel Schendel joined our Food Science group and will be involved in both research and teaching. Dr. Joao Costa is a new member of the Dairy faculty and he, too, will be involved in research and teaching.

As many of you are aware, the W.P. Garrigus Building (which houses many of the department's faculty and staff) is starting to show its age and has many features that limit its usefulness. More office space, larger and better-equipped classrooms, and updated and modern laboratory spaces are

needed. This past year the college completed a "Master Facility Development Plan" that involves potential new construction for many of the college's on-campus facilities. These new plans include a new Animal and Food Sciences building, as well as a Teaching Pavilion that will be used to bring animals to campus for instructional purposes. The planned site for these two facilities will be adjacent to the Gluck



Dr. Rachel Schendel



Dr. Joao Costa

Equine Research Center. The plans also include remodeling the historic Cooper House which sits on the corner of Limestone and Cooper Drive. All that's needed now is a lot of money so we can start construction!

Please know the department truly values the relationships we have with each of you, our alumni. Your support and thoughtful insights are essential as we strive to remain the place where students want to come for their educational pursuits and where you look for new technologies and practices that will keep you profitable and sustainable. I look forward to seeing you at the Animal and Food Sciences Reunion on October 6th "under the big tent" and at other events throughout the remainder of the year. Anytime you are in Lexington, please stop by and say "Hi".

Richard Coffey
Department Chair

Gift Supporting Undergraduate and Graduate Food Science Students

A recent gift of \$3.1 million will provide full tuition scholarships into the foreseeable future for undergraduate and graduate students in the department's Food Science Program. Donna Alford (pictured at right) provided the gift in memory of her late husband and food science pioneer, Ezra "Demp" Alford. Demp spent many years working for Brown and Williamson Tobacco, where he contributed to several patents. After taking early retirement at age 54, he worked for a few smaller companies before deciding to set up a laboratory in his basement, where he worked full time in food science consulting until his death in 2015. Donna indicated it was Demp's dream to set up a scholarship fund in food science and her gift has made this a reality.

The first three scholarship recipients, chosen this past July, are Nakoma Ehrhart of Louisville, and McKenzie

Miller and Brittany Adkins, both of Lexington. Ehrhart was president of the UK Food Science Club last year.



Donna Alford



UK White Dorpers named Reserve Champion Ewe and Ram at 2016 NAILE

From Wool to Hair ...

In the early 2000s, sheep producers began to inquire about hair breeds of sheep to make their flocks more adaptable to environmental conditions of Kentucky. Another reason for their interest was the annual shedding of the hair coat, so there is no cost or labor associated with shearing as quality meat animals are produced.

Drs. Debra Aaron and Don Ely decided if Kentucky producers wanted to raise hair sheep, the University of Kentucky should know something about them. Because one of the main goals of the UK sheep program is to demonstrate to clientele how to efficiently produce quality lamb, the White Dorper was selected as the demonstration breed. While this breed was concurrently being imported into the U.S. from South Africa, UK had only two breeds, the Polypay and Hampshire (both wool breeds). It became evident if UK wanted a White Dorper flock it would have to be developed by grading up from a wool breed.

After a White Dorper ram from out-of-state was donated, Aaron and Ely began mating him to Polypay ewes. After 10-plus years of grading up from Polypays to White Dorpers, UK now maintains a flock of purebred White Dorpers along with the existing Polypay and Hampshire flocks. Along the way, White Dorpers were evaluated for reproduction, lambing rates, mothering traits, lamb gainability, and carcass quality. Results show White Dorpers compare favorably with Polypays for maternal and growth traits and excel in carcass quality as they take advantage of Kentucky forages.

The crossbreeding and grading up research used in development of the White Dorpers has been valuable to students and Kentucky clientele. Students are able to visualize first-hand the concepts of genetics and animal breeding. Kentucky sheep producers have learned what to expect from White Dorper sheep. To this extent, the population of White Dorpers in the state has increased dramatically in the last 10 years.

In the AFS Alumni Spotlight

The 2017 AFS Alumni Spotlight is on two couples, **Mike and Shelley (Wade) Meyer** and **Kevin and Shannon (Wade) Farrell**, all of whom graduated from UK in 2008. Mike, Shelley, and Shannon received B.S. Degrees in Animal Sciences while Kevin earned his degree in Ag Communications. All four were members of the UK Livestock Judging Team. Each couple married shortly after graduation and together founded Double Diamond Farm, which is now widely recognized for the production of outstanding Simmental, Gelbvieh, Balancer, and SimAngus cattle.

The Meyers and Farrells dedicate much of their time and talents to helping others learn about agriculture. All are heavily involved in UK Cooperative Extension. Mike is in his ninth year as 4-H Youth Development Agent in Harrison County and Shelley is in her sixth year as 4-H Youth Development Agent in Pendleton County. Shannon was the Ag and Natural Resource Agent/4-H Youth Development Agent for Robertson County for nearly 8 years and just recently transferred to Clark County 4-H. Kevin manages the farm for the families. He is also a certified livestock leader for Harrison County 4-H and coaches their 4-H Livestock Judging Team.

These young couples are excited to share their passion of agriculture and livestock with their growing families. Mike and Shelley have a son and daughter, Ronin and Willow. Kevin and Shannon have two daughters, Kamber and Hazel. Both couples are expecting their third child in 2018.



The Farrell and Meyer families

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Sarah (Sally) L. Northcutt was born and raised in Lexington, KY. She attended the University of Kentucky and received a B.S. in Animal Sciences in 1985. She received her M.S. in Animal Sciences under the direction of Dr. Fred Thrift in 1987 and her Ph.D. in Animal Breeding at Iowa State University in 1990.



Dr. Sarah (Sally) Northcutt

From 1991 to 1999, Dr. Northcutt served as Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist at Oklahoma State University. After four years as a private consultant, she became Director of Genetic Research for the American Angus Association (AAA). While at AAA, she developed programs for genetic evaluation of growth, maternal, and carcass traits in Angus cattle. She expanded this technology to include economic values with Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). Incorporation of genomic information soon followed. Under her leadership, AAA began distributing updated genetic information to Angus breeders on a weekly basis, the first time this had ever been done. During Dr. Northcutt's 10-year employment at AAA, yearling weaning weight EPDs doubled compared with the EPDs during the 10-year period prior to her arrival.

In 2014, Dr. Northcutt founded Method Genetics LLC, a company designed to provide genomic-based genetic values for commercial beef cattle producers using Angus bulls. This was an industry first. Currently, 138 herds representing 260,000 high-percentage Angus cattle are participating in this program. Genetic evaluation is an evolving science and Dr. Sally Northcutt is a major contributor of this technology to the beef cattle industry.

Hall of Fame Induction

Dr. Gary L. Cromwell earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from Kansas State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Nutrition from Purdue University. He had a long, distinguished career at the University of Kentucky as a researcher, teacher, and leader in swine production.

Dr. Cromwell's broad-based and world-renowned research in mineral nutrition provides the basis for current diet formulation in the poultry and swine industries. In 2002, he received the Morrison Award from the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). This is the highest award granted by the Society and recognizes research excellence of direct importance to livestock production. In addition, since 2014, ASAS has annually presented the Gary L. Cromwell Award for Research in Mineral Nutrition to a researcher who has achieved excellence in the area of livestock mineral nutrition. Other ASAS awards presented to Dr. Cromwell include the Animal Industry Service Award and the Animal Nutrition Research Award.



Dr. Gary Cromwell

During his illustrious career, Dr. Cromwell taught undergraduate and graduate courses. He directed or co-directed the research of 71 graduate students, many of whom have prominent roles in the feed industry or academia. He is the author or co-author of more than 950 publications, including 180 refereed journal articles. Cromwell was a leader in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, having served as swine group coordinator and chairing numerous committees in the department and college. He was, and continues to be, a loyal colleague. Dr. Cromwell is respected for championing the work of others and working towards recognition of their efforts. He has been instrumental in nominating faculty, staff, and students for numerous local, regional, and national awards. It is only appropriate that Dr. Cromwell, himself, be recognized for his vast contributions to worldwide animal agriculture.

Department Faculty, Staff, Graduate Student Awards from Past Year

Dr. Darrh Bullock, Animal Industry Award, American Society of Animal Science

Dr. Roy Burris, High Impact Research/Extension Award, CAFE

Dr. Fernanda Camargo, Teacher Who Made a Difference Award, UK

Dr. Richard Coffey, President-Elect, Midwest Section, American Society of Animal Science

Dr. Bob Coleman, Executive Director, Equine Science Society

Dr. Robert Harmon (retiree), Award of Excellence, National Mastitis Council

Dr. Jamie Matthews, George Mitchell Outstanding Faculty Service Award, Gamma Sigma Delta

Dr. Kyle McLeod, Thomas Poe Cooper Research Award, CAFE

Dr. Tony Pescatore, Outstanding Extension Coordinator Award, Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals

Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension, Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals; Teacher Who Made a Difference Award, UK

Dr. Surendranath Suman, Bobby Pass Excellence in Grantsmanship Award, CAFE

Dr. Paul Vijayakumar, Outstanding New Extension Faculty Award, Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals

Dr. Youling Xiong, Fellow, International Academy of Food Science and Technology

Caroline Loos, 1st Place, Equine Biosciences Section, Equine Science Society Meeting

Ning Lu, 3rd Place, Ph.D. Poster Competition, Midwest American Society of Animal Science Meeting

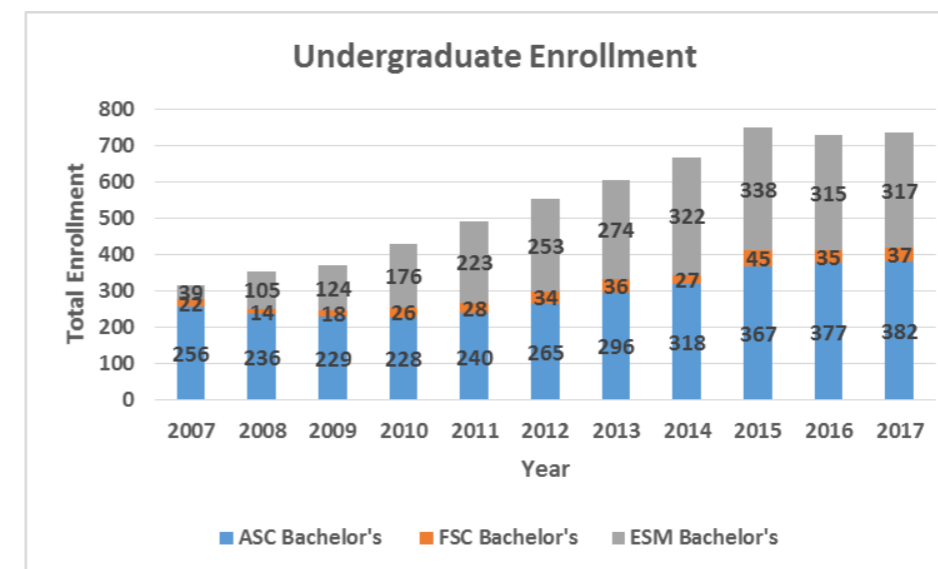
Derek Nolan, 3rd Place, Ph.D. Poster Contest, American Dairy Science Association Meeting

Morgan Pyles, Travel Fund Award, UK Graduate Student Congress; 3rd Place, Nutrition Section, Equine Science Society Meeting

Undergraduate Programs

Undergraduate Life

Changes to the university landscape continue on UK's campus. Two new residential halls opened this fall, the Lewis Honors dorm, constructed where the AGR fraternity was located and the Flats, apartment housing for upperclassmen and graduate/professional students. Commonwealth Stadium received a new name, Kroger Field; Seay Auditorium in Ag North underwent renovations, and ground was broken for the new baseball stadium on Alumni Drive.



Undergraduate Enrollment

Animal Sciences (ASC) saw another large freshman class starting in August 2017, as the undergraduate enrollment continues to increase in Animal Sciences (shown in the graph above). For the first time in the history of Animal Sciences, over 80% of the total population is female and 20% are first generation college students. Food Science (FSC) and Equine Science and Management (ESM) also welcomed new students in the fall, maintaining their total enrollment from the previous year. Uniquely, 75% of all Equine Science and Management students are from outside Kentucky.

Undergraduate Achievements

Undergraduates in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences continue to excel academically. During the 2016-2017 academic year, 64 young men and women graduated with a B.S. in Animal Sciences; 42% graduated with honors (cum laude or higher). With regard to CAFE scholarships, 81 Animal Sciences undergraduates were awarded a total of \$221,225 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The 2016 dairy judging team, coached by Matthew Borchers, was the high team overall at the All-American Dairy Show, a first for the University of Kentucky since 1972 and was the 5th high team overall at the North American International Livestock Expo. The 2016 livestock judging team, coached by Kyle Wood, finished their fall season traveling to Keystone International, Purdue's Boilermaker, Stockman, American Royal and NAILE contests. Coaching responsibilities for the 2017 livestock team were turned over to Kane Austin. The 2017 livestock judging team competed in the spring at

the Southeastern Livestock Expo, Houston Livestock Show and All-East. The team will be competing at the Keystone International, Stockman, American Royal, and NAILE this fall.

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 the scholarship has been awarded to Paighton Lewis, a junior majoring in Animal Sciences. Paighton's passion for animal

agriculture started at a young age as she was raised on a sheep farm in Southwest Ohio. Alongside her grandparents and mother, they raised Hampshire and Suffolk crossbred sheep, which Paighton exhibited as a member of Liberty Livestock 4-H Club. Since arriving at the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2015, Paighton has



AFS Alumni Scholarship Winner Paighton Lewis

been active in Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority, and Block and Bridle. In her spare time, when she is not studying, Paighton enjoys reading, crafting and playing fetch with her dog, Jill. After graduation in December 2018, Paighton hopes to become a 4-H or agriculture extension agent and own her own sheep farm.