

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCES



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Winter 2007



THE STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. K.E. Webb, Interim Department Head

The state of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences is excellent. Undergraduate enrollment has been stable at around 400 students over the course of the past seven years. Extramurally funded research and graduate student enrollment are at all-time highs. The new Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena is now in use and has expanded the department's opportunities for undergraduate activities as well as a location for both youth and adult Extension programs. The department's relationship with the livestock and poultry industries is strong.

Clearly the strength of a department depends upon the motivation and productivity of the faculty and staff. The Department consists of 26 nationally and internationally recognized full time faculty. There are also three active emeriti, members of the faculty. An additional member will join the faculty in January. There are 31 dedicated support staff in the department including farm technicians, research technicians, administrative assistants, a fiscal technician, a computer technician, and a general farm manager.

To enhance its programs across all missions, the department is always seeking extramural support, funding, and resources. As research scientists have expanded their outside support, likewise gifts and endowments that support teaching programs and undergraduate students have also increased. Endowments that support undergraduate scholarships in the department have increased by one million dollars over the past 5 years. Gifts of sheep, cattle, and horses for the teaching and research herds have provided a vital, financial foundation for these herds, which provide critical support to the missions of the department. These kinds of gifts are not possible without the generous support of alumni and friends.

The undergraduate teaching program continues to be recognized for its exceptional instructional quality both within the university and by our peer land grant universities. All of the achievements document the exceptional quality of our faculty, staff, and students. In addition to class related activities such as the Hokie Harvest Sale, other opportunities exist to give students multiple chances to be involved with the department. The

Volunteer Program, which places students each semester at animal units and in research labs, and the Student Ambassador Program, a highly selective group of students, are two examples. They all support the department's philosophy of "development of the total student" both academically and professionally.

The quality of the teaching faculty in the department is second to none. Our faculty members have received three university-wide Wine Awards, four Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Excellence awards, and four professional society awards. This past year they taught 49 different classes to 2,257 students, and advised 394 students plus 19 double majors, along with numerous clubs, teams, and events. Our curriculum has a strong science base with extensive hands-on experience with animals in numerous course laboratories and volunteer experiences, of which we are very proud. The department also continues to have one of the best undergraduate advising programs on campus.

The department conducts a highly productive research and graduate training program with national and international stature. World-class programs are conducted in Animal Nutrition, Animal Breeding and Genetics, Poultry Genetics and Behavior, Physiology, and Biotechnology. For the year 2005, grants totaling more than \$2.3 million were awarded to the faculty. They published 49 refereed journal articles and four book chapters.

Over the past ten years, graduate student enrollment has remained relatively constant at between 35 to 40 graduate students. During the period 2001 to 2006, the trend has been for graduate enrollment to increase. We currently have an enrollment of 43 graduate students. This growth is at least partly attributable to the quality programs being developed by the younger members of the faculty.

The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences also conducts nationally recognized Extension programs in youth livestock, performance testing and sire evaluation, cow/calf management, forage utilization and management, animal identification systems, biological security, and livestock and poultry production systems. The Extension faculty

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members are collectively the youngest group of faculty in the department and all tenure track faculty members have achieved promotion and tenure with one member under consideration. They should have a long and productive future. During the past few years, our Extension faculty received Service Awards from the American Society of Animal Sciences, the National Extension Agents Association, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Egg Council, the Virginia Beef Cattle Association, and the Virginia Pork Producers Association, a record that is second to none.

Hopefully it is evident from the preceding comments that the state of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences is very solid and improving. We are composed of an outstanding faculty, staff, and student body and we serve seven progressive livestock and poultry industries. Our future is bright. The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences is poised, as a component of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to be an active contributor to the university's vision of becoming a top research university with a new intensity of scholarship and outreach.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Teresa McDonald..... 231-3555

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Beef Center 231-6280

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Swine Center..... 231-6250

Poultry Center 231-5810

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Campbell Arena 231-3555

Judging Pavilion..... 231-9150

Alphin-Stuart Arena..... 231-9150

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GRANTS RECEIVED

Audrey McElroy, associate professor of animal and poultry sciences, was awarded a research grant from the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association for January 2007 to January 2009. This grant is entitled "Impact of Incubation/Hatcher Temperature on Performance and Immune Function of Selected Lines of Commercial Broilers."

A USDA National Research Institute grant entitled "Does genetic selection for body weight in chickens alter the brain's ability to regulate feed intake and energy balance?" was recently awarded to **Mike Denbow**, professor of animal and poultry sciences, **Mark Richards**, U.S.D.A research animal scientist; **John McMurtry**, U.S.D.A. supervisory research animal scientist; and **Paul Siegel**, professor emeritus animal and poultry sciences. The specific objectives of this grant are to: 1) To determine the effects of selection of chickens for high and low body weight on the function and expression of specific genes regulating feed intake and energy balance, 2) To determine the relationship between high and low body weight phenotypes and the expression of genes encoding AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), and 3) To determine if selection for body weight has altered the brain's response to selected neurotransmitters, and to determine if such differences are due to a differential affect on the brain AMPK system.



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT

By Ron Lewis, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

The excellence of a department is seen in many ways: its engagement with its students and stakeholders through teaching and outreach, its success in attracting research funding, and its publication of the innovations that result from that research. Yet there is another important sign of excellence of a department: the recognition by peers, students, and clientele of the quality of a faculty member's program through honors and awards. However, before winning an honor or award, there is a central at times overlooked step: a deserving individual needs to be nominated. In January 2006 a new committee was established in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences – the Honorifics Committee – with the task to identify honors and awards fitting the nature of our faculty, to encourage individuals to apply for these recognitions and, lastly, to assist with the building of a nominee's application materials. The committee members are Jim Knight, John Hall, Honglin Jiang, with Ron Lewis as the Chair.

As a compliment to our faculty, the committee's work has proven quite easy. Each year the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences offers an award for Research Excellence for mission-oriented (applied) research. Dave Notter, professor of animal breeding and genetics within our Department, was nominated for the award and, to our delight, won. At the awards luncheon, Notter's significant and sustained impact on the genetic improvement of livestock throughout the United States was cited. His

delivery of information to the livestock industry was noted as one of his many strengths achieved through his extensive involvement in industry programs and organizations. This award is a tremendous accolade for Notter, and for our department.

Happily, our successes grew further. Each year the University offers an Alumni Award in Graduate Advising. As implied by its name, this award recognizes excellence among faculty in their advising and mentorship of graduate students. Our nominee was David Kronfeld, professor emeritus of animal and poultry sciences and graduate advisor. His graduate training program was in equine science with his students' own research primarily conducted at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center. From the letters from four of Kronfeld's former graduate students endorsing his nomination for this award, his positive influence on their professional and personal growth both during and after their graduate studies was exemplary. Clearly the University award committee agreed since Kronfeld was honored with the 2006 Graduate Alumni Advising Award.

Nominations for other awards and honors recognizing the merit of our former students and faculty have been submitted. In future editions of this newsletter, we anticipate reporting on further accolades reflecting the quality and enthusiasm that defines our Department.

SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE, INC. MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO THE EQUINE PROGRAM

Houston Staton, director of marketing and promotions for Southern States Cooperative, Inc. presents a \$25,000 contribution to support Virginia Tech's equine programs at the 2006 Hokie Harvest Sale. The in-kind gift will benefit teaching and student activities such as the Equine Sciences Program and the Equestrian Club. Vernon Meacham, corporate relations officer for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, stated "the gift represents the ongoing commitment Southern States has to sustaining a great partnership with Virginia Tech and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences." Pictured from left to right: Mark McCann, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension; Rebecca Splan, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences; Vernon Meacham, Corporate Relations Officer for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Houston Staton, Director of Marketing and Promotions for Southern States Cooperative, Inc.; and Teresa McDonald, Equitation Instructor In Animal and Poultry Sciences Department.

Photo by Lori Greiner





ALPHIN-STUART LIVESTOCK TEACHING ARENA: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

By Dan Eversole, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences; Scott Greiner, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences; and Rebecca Splan, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Since 1908, the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech has had a strong commitment to its students, the citizens, and the animal industries of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through time and changes, hands-on experience with animals has constantly been an integral part of the learning process for students. In continuing this tradition, the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences dedicated the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena on April 24, 2004, which was a culmination of more than 20 years of effort and planning.

Approximately half of the funding for this \$3.02 million, state-of-the-art facility, which supports the department's teaching and outreach missions, was a product of gifts from more than 450 Tech alumni, friends, businesses, and organizations. The Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena is named for the two largest private contributors, Col. and Mrs. Horace E. Alphin and the late Patricia Bonsall Stuart. Virginia Tech, through its budgetary process, requested matching funds from the Virginia General Assembly in the 2000 session for the 2000 – 2002 biennium.

The facility includes a 125'x 250' ring with a prescription earthen floor, 2,000 square feet of classroom space, bleacher seating for 450, limited temporary animal holding pens, and a kitchen/concession area. This is somewhat smaller and has fewer features than was originally planned and this precludes its use for some intended activities such as cattle, sheep, and horse consignment sales, commodity trade shows, and livestock and horse industry shows. With the current specifications, however, the facility is well suited to host a wide variety of teaching and outreach activities associated with the missions of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Since its opening, the facility has been actively utilized and has provided a venue for excellence in teaching. Animal

and Poultry Sciences, Agriculture Technology, and other classes are taught on a daily basis in the facility, including Introduction to Animal and Poultry Science, Livestock Evaluation, Livestock Merchandising, Beef Production, Sheep Production, Swine Production, and equitation courses. The combination of classrooms for lecture instruction and space for lab exercises with animals has proven to be an asset to the teaching program.

The 12th annual Hokie Harvest Sale was held October 27, 2006. Students enrolled in both Livestock Merchandising and Equine Behavior and Training assist with preparation and execution of the sale, and it is a one-of-a-kind learning opportunity for our students. The Arena provides an outstanding venue for presenting sale horses, and also houses the equine clerking area and servery for the complimentary dinner that accompanies both the horse and beef cattle sales. In the fall semester, the Arena also serves as the host site to a mare and foal inspection conducted in association with the International Sporthorse Registry and Oldenburg Registry of North America. Students enrolled in both Equine Evaluation and Equine Behavior and Training classes help prepare Virginia Tech's warmblood mares and foals for inspection and grading in late September by an international panel of judges, and learn about the European system of judging and selecting breeding stock.

In addition to formal class instruction, the Arena also hosts numerous activities and events for the Block and Bridle, Poultry Science, and Equestrian clubs. Faculty and students from Virginia Tech also collaborate with local schools to provide introductory agricultural education for elementary students. Three days of multi-departmental education centered around SOLs are hosted for fourth graders annually. An additional two days of experiences are offered for kindergartners and first graders.

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STUDENT RECOGNITION

Elizabeth R. Gilbert, a Ph.D. student in animal and poultry sciences, was the recipient of the Student Research Paper Certificate of Excellence awarded at the Annual Poultry Science Association Meeting held July 16-19, 2006 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. This award is given in special recognition of high-quality research and excellence of presentation. Elizabeth's oral presentation was entitled "Developmental regulation of peptide and amino acid transporter mRNA in the small intestine of broilers." Gilbert was also awarded first place for her poster presentation entitled "Developmental regulation nutrient transporter mRNA in the small intestine of chickens" in the Agriculture and Animal Sciences section of the 22nd Annual Research Symposium and Exposition sponsored by the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly.

Ashleigh Waddle, a senior dual major in animal and poultry sciences and dairy science, has been selected as a National Collegiate Agriculture Ambassador. The program's focus is to develop and implement a sustainable agricultural awareness program that influences and activates teachers and students at the community level to

share the importance of agriculture. In early August Waddle enjoyed a week of training with the other 14 ambassadors selected from around the nation in Indianapolis, Ind. Ambassadors are trained and will give presentations to high school classes, community organizations, and other interested groups that wish to learn more about the importance of the agriculture industry. If you are interested in having Waddle speak at an event, please contact her at waddle@vt.edu. Waddle received a \$1,500 scholarship and a digital camera for her year-long commitment. She also received a laptop computer and LCD projector to use during the year.

Jennifer Sottosanti, a senior studying poultry science, was a recipient of the National Poultry and Food Distributors Association scholarship. Competition for the scholarship is extremely intense, open to all students majoring in Animal Science, Poultry Science, Food Science, and Agricultural Economics across the United States. The other recipients for this year's scholarships were from Penn State University and Michigan State University. Congratulations to Jennifer on an impressive accomplishment.

PARENT'S DAY OPEN HOUSE

By Bill Beal, Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Parents of students in the Introduction to Animal and Poultry Science class were invited to an open house at the Beef Cattle Reproduction Center at Kentland Farm on Saturday, November 4. Bill Beal, professor of animal and poultry sciences, and graduate teaching assistants Forrest Axson, Kathryn Mackinnon, and Danielle Farmer conducted a mock lab in which students and parents performed many of the beef cattle handling procedures that are taught in the introductory course. Henry Dickerson, livestock supervisor at Kentland Farm, demonstrated freeze branding techniques and Matt Utt, an APSC research assistant showed parents how to diagnose pregnancy in cattle with ultrasound technology. Forty-five parents participated in the event. Many of them used a squeeze chute, learned how to halter a calf, and took the rectal temperature of a cow for the first time. The event was an excellent way for parents to share the "college experience" with their son or daughter.



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The Alphin-Stuart Arena also serves an important function in outreach and Extension missions. Through a variety of educational and service programs, the facility serves as a venue for interaction between campus and industry. Examples of educational programs hosted at the Arena include the National Angus Tour in 2005, Virginia Beef Industry Convention, Virginia Hereford Association field day, Virginia-North Carolina Shepherd's Symposium, and numerous others with regional and state audiences. Local 4-H groups and producer organizations regularly utilize the Arena for meetings and events.

Last spring, the new facility enabled Virginia Tech to hold the All-East Livestock Judging Contest, which brought college students representing 12 universities from across the eastern U.S. to campus. Both the state 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests are hosted annually at the Arena, along with contests hosted by the Block and Bridle Club and the department on a regular basis. Additionally, the Arena serves as host to a

number of intercollegiate horse shows conducted by Virginia Tech's Hunt Seat, Western and Dressage teams and the Virginia Tech Equestrian Club. Some of the other events held at the arena include riding and judging clinics for students, youth and adult audiences; youth horse judging contests; and the Southwest Virginia Dressage Association's "Educational Sunday," a day of seminars, workshops and demonstrations related to horse health and various riding disciplines.

In addition to the numerous education-related events and activities conducted at the facility, the Arena has also become a preferred venue for hosting alumni, college, and departmental gatherings.

Virginia Tech is indebted to the many partners that enabled the vision of this much-needed facility to become a reality. In two short years, the Alphin-Stuart Arena has proven to have a profound impact on the Department, College, University and public by providing a facility that serves many missions.



2006 HOKIE HARVEST SALE

By Dan Eversole, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences and Cindy Wood, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

The 2006 Livestock Merchandising Class entertained a spectacular crowd of more than 800 friends and supporters on a rainy, muddy evening at the 12th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 27.

This year's sale included something new — the inaugural auction of a select number of swine from the Virginia Tech Swine Center breeding herd. Six bred crossbred gilts and two commercial boars were sold by a silent auction prior to the 26 horses and 42 head of beef cattle. This year's sale gross totaled \$167,515, which is the second highest grossing sale since the inception of the Hokie Harvest Sale in 1995.

The beef cattle sale grossed \$75,425 with a sale average of \$2,357 with the following breed totals: Angus - \$43,500; Hereford - \$16,325; Simmental - \$3,450; Gelbvieh - \$1,850; Commercial - \$8,750 and Charolais - \$1,550. The horse sale grossed \$90,100 with a sale average of \$3,465 while the eight breeding swine averaged \$249.

More than 200 buyers from Missouri, Florida, Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Connecticut, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia registered to participate in the sale.

A collaborative effort between the swine production class and the livestock merchandising class, the swine auction took place in the south end of the livestock teaching arena prior to the horse and cattle auctions. The gilts, a cross-section of those in the breeding herd at Virginia Tech, averaged \$265.00 per head. They carried litters sired by boars standing at Lean Value Sires in Ohio. The boars, one a terminal cross and the other a maternal cross, sold for an average of \$200.

In the cattle sale of five different breeds, Lot 8 topped the bred cow/calf division at \$4,650. She is a daughter of Bon View New Design 1407 and is an exciting performance blend backed by the herd-sire producing Tibbie family. This three-year-old Angus cow sold to Pleasant View Farms, Wayside, W.Va. Her stout bull calf, sired by SAF Strategy 9015, sold to Thomas Thompson of Natural Bridge Station, Va.

In the yearling heifer division, Lots 1, 15 and 16 drew identical bids of \$3,200. The Lot 1 Angus bred female is a featured daughter of the Pathfinder and carcass leader GAR Precision 1680 and is out of the famous Rita family. She sold to Wallens Ridge Farm of Boones Mill, Va. Lots 15 and 16 are half sisters sired by DR World Class 517 10H, the

#2 multiple-trait EPD sire in the Hereford breed. Both bred heifers sold to Griffin Farms of Dugspur, Va.

VPI Distributor 5R15 (Lot 12) topped the yearling bull division at \$1,725. This LF New Trend 4100 son is out of a highly productive Unique daughter and was the service sire for the eight commercial bred cows. He sold to Darrell Bird, Sr. of Dublin, Va.

The top selling horse was Lot 14, Fox Nuri VT (Foxfire), which sold for \$15,000 to Michael Arrington of Goode, Va. This

2003 gorgeous grey gelding is a stylish show hunter prospect and was champion colt of his ISR/Oldenburg NA inspection.

Lot 9, Noble Oath VT (Othello), drew considerable interest from bidders due to his impressive pedigree for jumping and his tremendous talent for dressage. This 2004 bay Oldenburg N.A. gelding was purchased by Kenneth Agee of Pataskala, Ohio.

The 78 students did a marvelous job of preparing for the sale. They gained hands-on experience in sale management, budgeting, cataloging, advertising, livestock photography, clerking, and health requirements.

A special thanks is extended to Jeff

Marsh and Ken Brubaker for serving as auctioneers for the horses and beef cattle, respectively. Students Dale Flugel, Woodstock, Va.; Bethany Johnson, Nokesville, Va.; Brian Price, Blacksburg, Va.; and Martin Smith, South Hill, Va. served as ring people for the beef cattle sale while Cole Heizer, Staunton, Va. worked the ring. Bid-takers for the horse sale were Allison Jones, Williamsburg, Va.; Cary Proferes, Gainesville, Va.; Chris Smith, Annapolis, Md.; and Cliff Williamson, Reva, Va. Students who were clerking 'in the block' were Matthew Earman, Weyers Cave, Va. and Micah Orfield, Meadowview, Va. for the beef cattle and horses, respectively.

The Food and Beverage Committee, with assistance from the Block and Bridle Club, served a complimentary barbecue dinner to more than 800 guests.

The response from the registered horse, swine, and beef cattle buyers and feedback from the students in the class continue to be overwhelming in favor of hosting another student-run livestock sale. Plans are currently underway for the 13th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 26, 2007. We hope to see you there!



Cliff Williamson, animal and poultry science junior, takes a bid during the horse sale.



JACKSON S. "JACK" COPENHAVER

Originally from a farm in Tazewell County, Jack Copenhaver moved to Blacksburg with his mother, sister, and three brothers following the death of his father. Upon graduation from high school, Copenhaver attended Virginia Tech. In 1942, at the age of 20, Copenhaver graduated with a B.S. degree in Animal Science. He then went on to manage two purebred Angus farms before returning to Virginia Tech as a member of the faculty in 1946. Jack was the farm manager and superintendent of livestock in the Animal Science Department for many years. He received his master's degree in 1956, and was then promoted to associate professor.

While at Virginia Tech, Copenhaver was recognized for his work in the development of the purebred sheep flock, the development of the Eastern Stud Ram Sale, and his contributions to the sheep research program. His research included work with multiple lambing and early lambing, grazing sheep, creep feed rations, using electric fences with sheep, as well as intensive lamb production.

In addition to his significant contributions to research and education, Copenhaver took a sincere interest in students. He taught several lab courses, and a course on livestock management. Copenhaver realized the value of an open door policy so students could learn from him whenever needed and served as a mentor and advisor to many classes of Animal Science undergraduates. In 1985, Copenhaver retired, ending his 39-year career in the Department of Animal Science at Virginia Tech.

When not working on research, inspiring students, or supporting the community, Copenhaver remained active. He loved the outdoors; fishing and hunting were two of his favorite pastimes. Copenhaver also enjoyed watching Virginia Tech play football and basketball, and hardly ever missed a game. He was an active member at the Blacksburg United Methodist Church.



Jackson S. "Jack" Copenhaver was a long-time faculty member of the Animal Science Department at Virginia Tech. His involvement with managing the Animal and Poultry Science Department's farms and his particular interest in the Sheep Center made great impacts on the success of these facilities. Jack bequeathed the following gifts to Virginia Tech and the Community Foundation:

The Virginia Tech Foundation Jack Copenhaver Scholarship Endowment provides 10 \$1,000 scholarships per year.

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley Endowment provides approximately \$10,000 per year for scholarships.

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley Gift provided \$20,000 to the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences for Ram Research.

Matt Earman, a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences, and Virginia Topp, a senior majoring in animal and poultry sciences, recently interviewed George Allen, a retired animal science faculty member and good friend of Jack Copenhaver's, to obtain information about Copenhaver's background and life's work. Matt and Virginia submitted this summary of their visit.

Professor Allen, a former colleague and neighbor of Copenhaver's, stated Copenhaver's motivation came from his love for life and the people in it.

Even though Copenhaver never married, he dedicated his life to his work and his family. A devoted son, Copenhaver lived with his mother and took very good care of her. Although he never had children of his own, Copenhaver was a favorite uncle to his nieces and nephews, and took them fishing and hunting. He loved to spend time with them outdoors and inspire their interest in nature.

Jack Copenhaver's deep concern for students' well-being and education continues to have an impact on Animal and Poultry Sciences students today. His legacy of helping students has been carried on by the creation of the Jack S. Copenhaver Scholarship. In 1992, Jack Copenhaver endowed a scholarship for undergraduates in the Department of Animal Science. Currently this endowment is providing 10, \$1,000 scholarships to students. As a result of his many accomplishments the Virginia Tech sheep center was named in honor of Jackson S. Copenhaver, in 1996. Upon his death, Copenhaver left a very generous donation to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. This money will provide scholarships for Virginia Tech Animal and Poultry Science students as well as provide a permanent and growing funding source for non-profit organizations in the region. Copenhaver's endowments are providing much financial support for students as well as the community.

The life of Jack Copenhaver was a one full of passion for his work, family, community, and world. His dedication to his work and his generosity towards his family and community continues to aid many people today. We can learn much from the example he set by living a frugal life yet giving generously to anyone in need. Copenhaver lived his life to the fullest, and left behind a legacy of generosity and hard work.



2006-2007 ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Litton Sheep Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Charley Stull—Newcastle, Va.

Ralph Hunt Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Todd Wiseman—Harrisonburg, Va.

Lorenz Neuhoff, Jr. Pork Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Jennifer Lyle—Butler, Pa.

Lou Dixey Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Brent Wellings—West Union, W. Va.

Fred Campbell Horse Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Amanda Winn—Portsmouth, Va.

Denver D. Bragg Poultry Science Student Leader Scholarship

Anjeanette Johnson—Virginia Beach, Va.

Rocco Lamb Farms Student Leader Scholarship

Tim Gregory—Java, Va.

Animal and Poultry Sciences Scholarship

Danielle Botting—Williamsburg, Va.

Tam Bui—Herndon, Va.

A.L. "Ike" Eller Scholarship

Sarah Blevins—Abingdon, Va.

Jonathan Burner—Luray, Va.

James Gibson—Abingdon, Va.

Rachel Swortzel—Blacksburg, Va..

Tiffanie Walters—Wytheville, Va.

E.A. & H.H. Livesay Scholarship

Lois Wallace—Rocky Mount, Va. – Declined

Ashe-Lockhart Scholarship

Hannah Byrd—Arlington, Va.

Kelly Doyle—Valencia, Pa.

Amanda Richardson-- Rescinded

Kiley Walawender—Virginia Beach, Va.

Owen Thomas, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Beauregard—Silver Spring, Md.

Kari Jones—Roanoke, Va.

K.C. and Polly Williamson Scholarship

Charlotte Hatch—Leesburg, Va.

Richard S. Ellis, IV and Roy A. Meek, Jr. Scholarship

Thomas Rogers-Cotrone—Drakes Branch, Va.

Ashleigh Waddle—Saltville, Va.

George G. Green Scholarship

Sarah Parsley—New Kent, Va.

Harry Wyatt Scholarship

DJ Bratcher—Charlottesville, Va.

Jonathan Ferguson —Lebanon, Va.

Lou Dixey Scholarship

Samuel Altizer—Riner, Va.

Crystal Baer

William Earl Browning Scholarship

Rebecca Arnold—Martinsville, Va.

Ralph Hunt Scholarship

Dixie Boyd—Winchester, Va.

Bethany Osborne—Pearisburg, Va.

Rocco Lamb Scholarship

Kristin Carr—Mount Sidney, Va.

Virginia Pork Industry Scholarship

Michael Cromer—Churchville, Va.

Mary Howe diZerega Memorial Scholarship

Kelli Beavers—Rosedale, Va.

William T. Bailey, Sr., Livestock Judging Scholarship

Whitney Lindsey—Ringgold, Va.

General J.E.B. Stuart-Real Daughters (of the Confederacy) Award

Katie Kaulius

Jack S. Copenhaver Scholarship

Morgan Agnew—Wyndmoor, Pa.

Kathryn Bradley—Kannapolis, N.C.

Jared Burner—Luray, Va.

Matthew Earman—Weyers Cave, Va.

Jessica Gilbertie—Westport, Conn.

Rachael Hall—Tempe, Ariz.

Justine Hryczaniuk—Louisa, Va.

Sierra Pollock—Heathsville, Va.

Virginia Talley—Providence Forge, Va.

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Jan.	19-20	Virginia Tech Academic Quadrathlon
Jan.	25-28	Block and Bridle Convention, Orlando, Fla.
Feb.	10	Block and Bridle Horse Judging Clinic
Feb.	10	Second Annual Feeder Pig Sale
Feb.	24	Horse Judging Clinic
March	16-17	Stockman's, Meats and Livestock Judging Contest
March	24	Block and Bridle Horse Judging Contest
March	31 – April 1	Virginia Tech Equestrian Alumni Society Weekend
April	1	IHSA Zones Horse Show hosted by Virginia Tech
April	7	Block and Bridle Horse Show
April	14	Little International and Ham Sale
May	4-7	IHSA National Horse Show, Springfield, Mass.
May	11	University Commencement



LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

Members of the 2005-2006 Virginia Tech Senior Livestock Judging Team included Sarah Barlow, of Louisa, Va.; Kelli Beavers, of Abington, Va.; Dixie Boyd, of Winchester, Va.; Brett Childs, of Berryville, Va.; Tim Gregory, of Java, Va.; and Brett Whiteman, of Edinburg, Va. Tracy Tomascik, graduate student in animal and poultry sciences, coached the team.

The students competed at four contests, devoted most weekends to practice, and still found time to attend class and be very active in other clubs and organizations. While increasing their knowledge of livestock, the team members had the opportunity to meet many leaders in the agricultural industry, and visit farms and production operations that are leaders in their fields.

Contests included the Eastern National, Mid-South Fair, Keystone International and the North American International Livestock Exposition Judging Contest. Six teams competed at the Eastern National in Timonium, Md. where Virginia Tech placed third. Individual recognition within species competition was given to Tim Gregory in sheep and beef judging, Kelli Beavers in swine and overall point total, Dixie Boyd in beef judging, and Sarah Barlow in oral reasons.

VIRGINIA COW/CALF MANAGEMENT COURSE OFFERED THIS FALL/WINTER

By John Hall, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Seventy-five participants from five states are enrolled in the Virginia Cow/Calf Management Course for 2006-2007. This basic course for cow/calf producers in the Mid-Atlantic region and surrounding areas provides information and skill building in cowherd nutrition, genetics, health, reproduction and marketing. Extension beef cattle specialists, Extension agents, veterinarians, and experienced beef producers serve as instructors for the course. The program is led by course developer and coordinator John Hall, Extension beef cattle specialist. Since 1999, more than 600 beef producers have completed the course.

The 2006-2007 Cow/Calf Management course combines at-home learning with an intensive two and one half-day hands-on session. The at-home portion of the course is received through mailings or over the Internet. Each month from October through March beef producers receive a section of the course complete with study questions. The course consists of almost 30 lessons grouped into five different topic areas. Producers are able to ask questions of instructors through an electronic bulletin board or via telephone.

VT Cow Camp will be March 9-11, 2007 on the Virginia Tech campus. This two and one half day hands-on session

At the Mid-South Fair held in Memphis, Tenn., the Virginia Tech team placed sixth out of nine teams. Tim Gregory, Brett Childs, and Dixie Boyd all finished in the top 20 individuals in either cattle or swine judging.

The Keystone International was held in Harrisburg, Pa. where six teams were present and Virginia Tech placed third. Individual results were awarded to Brett Wightman who finished sixth overall, fifth in oral reasons, and fifth in beef evaluation. Sarah Barlow placed tenth overall and ninth in swine evaluation. Tim Gregory earned ninth place in beef selection and Dixie Boyd was third in sheep selection.

The final and most esteemed contest of the year was the North American International Livestock Exposition Livestock Judging Contest held in Louisville, Ky. in mid-November. Virginia Tech placed 20th overall out of 26 teams competing with individuals placing well. Most notably, Brett Whitman placed 41st in cattle evaluation and then 38th in oral reasons of cattle placing and Tim Gregory placed 34th in sheep evaluation and 52nd overall.

with cattle will teach producers how to body condition score cows, process baby calves, vaccinate cattle, and handle cows and calves. Sessions on selection of bulls and heifers, and applied genetics will be included. Producers will learn how to handle calving problems and weak newborn calves. Reproductive anatomy, breeding soundness evaluations, the latest estrus synchronization systems, and reproductive management will be taught.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Ying Wang ('05 Ph.D.) from Nanjing, China, is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University Medical Center. Ying Wang won an Endocrine Society Travel Grant Award for her presentation at the Endocrine Society's 87th Annual Meeting in San Diego, California in 2005 and the Honor Society of Agriculture Gamma Sigma Delta V.P.I & S.U. Chapter Graduate Dissertation Award in 2005.





THE POULTRY SCIENCE CLUB

By Jennifer Sottosanti, Poultry Club

The Poultry Science Club kicked off the fall semester in full swing by assisting with many events for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The club barbecued chicken for several events including the first annual Kickoff Picnic, Homecoming, football tailgates, and the administrator retreat. These activities have certainly kept club members active this fall.

The club decided to take a break from cooking at the home football games this fall, but plan to do them again next fall. Members also got the opportunity to visit with Virginia Tech Poultry alumni during this year's reunion. The poultry club cooked a great barbecue chicken meal at the Turkey Research Farm for the group and got a rare opportunity to find out what the program was like in years past.

The club meetings, held biweekly, continue to be both fun and educational with frequent visitors from the poultry industry, while social events such as visiting a local pumpkin patch and "movie nights" are also scheduled regularly. Students participated in this year's college career fair looking for either internship or job opportunities in the poultry industry. Members are also looking forward to attending the annual Southern Poultry Science Society Poultry Expo in Atlanta, Georgia in January 2007.

The club is always looking for new service, social, or catering opportunities. Ideas can be e-mailed to Club President Jennifer Sottosanti at jrsotto@vt.edu or e-mail Curtis Novak, club advisor, at cnovak@vt.edu.

POULTRY CLUB OFFICERS 2006-2007

President: Jennifer Sottosanti
Vice President: Monica Crafton
Treasurer: Kristin Carr
Secretary: Ashley Randall
Reporter: Amy Bonner
BBQ Chair: Jerry Andes
Faculty advisor: Curtis Novak
Website: www.poultry.org.vt.edu

POULTRY ALUMNI REUNION



A group of poultry alumni, former and current professors, former and current staff, and students gathered at the Virginia Tech Turkey Farm for chicken barbecue and fellowship for the first annual poultry alumni reunion. More than 50 people from industry and academia in the United States and internationally turned out for this event held on September 22 to socialize and reminisce. The Virginia Tech Poultry Club prepared their signature chicken barbecue and held a silent auction of poultry memorabilia and club items.

POULTRY STUDENTS SHADOW POULTRY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

By Audrey McElroy, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

The Poultry Production Systems Management class participated in a job shadowing experience with the commercial poultry industry in Virginia. Students spent an entire day shadowing a person working in the poultry industry and participating in job activities, which varied from personnel management, live bird production, poultry processing, safety, production scheduling, and hatchery operations. All poultry companies in Virginia, including Ag Forte, Cargill Turkey Products, George's, Inc., Perdue Farms, Inc., Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, Tyson Foods, Inc., and the Virginia Poultry Grower's Cooperative, Inc. participated in this worthwhile experience for the students.

VIRGINIA TECH POULTRY JUDGING TEAM

By Amy Parsons, Graduate Student in Animal and Poultry Sciences

In April 2006, The Virginia Tech Poultry Judging Team participated in the 59th U.S. Poultry & Egg Association National Poultry Judging Contest at Louisiana State University. Members of this year's Spring Judging Team were selected based on performance in Virginia Tech's Poultry Evaluation course instructed by Curtis Novak, assistant professor ion animal and poultry sciences. Josh Boothe of Floyd, Va., Veronica Hall of Chesapeake, Va., Laura Neff of Woodstock, Va., and Caitlin Flynn of Centreville, Va., competed against 11 other teams from across the country in broiler breeder selection, past production hens, future production hens, breed selection, interior egg quality, exterior egg quality and broken out egg quality. The team finished eighth in production, seventh in market products and tied for third with teams from West Virginia University and Louisiana State University in the team breed selection category resulting in an eighth place overall team finish. Of 46 contestants three of the four members finished in the top half. These students did a wonderful job of representing Virginia Tech! Congratulations Spring Team 2006!

The fall judging team recently competed in the 41st Annual National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest at the University of Arkansas. Twelve teams competed in categories including interior and exterior egg quality, broken out egg quality and past production hens (Division I), and carcass quality, broiler and turkey breeder selection (Division II). Team members included Caitlin Flynn, Veronica Hall, Laura Parr of Vesuvius, Va., and Heather Quay of Ridgefield, Conn. This year's contest presented some stiff competition. Individual total scores differed by only 400 points out of a possible 1500 points. Team member Veronica Hall finished in the top half in Division I, II and Overall. Caitlin Flynn also finished in the top half in Division I. Though not ranking in the top five teams the team did an outstanding job.



THE VIRGINIA TECH EQUESTRIAN ALUMNI SOCIETY

By Kate Fraga, APSC '02

The Virginia Tech Equestrian Alumni Society (VTEAS) was created as a means to connect with old friends and as a resource to support the equestrian club and teams. It all began in the fall of 2004 when Ashley Duda ('05) invited some equestrian alumni to the Fall IHSA Horse Show at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena hosted by the Virginia Tech IHSA Equestrian Team. As the alumni were watching the horse show and reminiscing, we realized that so much of our time as undergraduate students was spent at the barn and at horse shows forming friendships, but sadly after graduation we had lost track of one another. Well not anymore. Another alumni reception was held the following spring and the VTEAS was created. Now we have a way to contact each other and also a unique opportunity to help our fellow equestrians.

Part of what we hope to accomplish as the VTEAS is a way to give back to our undergraduate equestrians. We want to offer students a network of Alumni to turn to for support and answers to those important questions about making job contacts, internships, where to relocate after graduation or even a good place to board horses. With the creation of the Alumni Classified link off of the Equestrian Club's web page there is now a forum to share advice and exchange ideas.

Over this past summer the VTEAS has created its own foundation account so that we have a means to financially support the riding program by making monetary donations toward the Virginia Tech Equestrian Club. We were able to establish the account with the support of Kenneth E. Webb, Jr., interim head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, and are now ready to receive donations. All the decisions on how to spend the money collected will be directly decided by the alumni. At the VTEAS Alumni Reception during the IHSA Hunter show each fall, the VTEAS will discuss the needs of the equestrian club and teams as expressed by Coach Teresa McDonald and will decide what to donate to the club from the funds collected from the alumni within the past calendar year.

Over the past two years, the VTEAS has grown from eight members to more than 80 and more and more alumni keep popping up! We welcome everyone to the VTEAS, whether you were in the Equestrian Club, rode on a team, or you are simply a Hokie horse enthusiast. All we ask for "membership" is that you give us your contact information (VTEAS@vt.edu) so that we know you're interested in what's happening at Virginia Tech. For all of the latest information about the VTEAS and the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program, please visit our website: <http://www.equestrian.org.vt.edu/Alumni.html>.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Jen Wolz has recently joined the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program as the new assistant instructor and stable manager.

Wolz has lived the majority of her life in the New River Valley. She attended Virginia Tech for her undergraduate studies and received a B.A. in Communication Studies with minors in Philosophy and Creative Writing in 2002. After completing her undergraduate studies, Jen attended Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia and received her law degree in 2005. She has since passed the Virginia Bar Exam and is a licensed attorney.

Wolz has been involved with horses for as long as she can remember, thanks to the influence of her mother, who is still a very active horsewoman. She was a member of the United States Pony Club, where she was introduced to the sport of eventing. While attending Virginia Tech, she was involved with the equine program first as stable staff through the work-study program, and second as a member of the school's Intercollegiate Dressage Team. One of her fondest memories from riding on the team is receiving the advice from equestrian instructor Teresa McDonald to ride with a big smile when things aren't necessarily going as planned. Jen has utilized that advice in every competition since then.

Most recently, Jen has enjoyed the success she has had with her horse, Charlie, who she purchased off-the-track in 2005 and has personally brought along to begin his eventing career. She is also an active participant in the Blue Ridge Eventing Association where she works with other eventers to help improve the local eventing community. Staff and students of the Virginia Tech Equine Program are delighted to welcome Wolz to her new position.



Picture courtesy of Trey Wolz



EQUESTRIAN CLUB AND EQUITATION TEAM

The Virginia Tech Equestrian Club and Equitation Team had a very busy fall.

Preseason Tournament of Champions Classic

The Equitation Team faced-off with some of the best riders in the country at the Preseason Tournament of Champions Classic hosted by Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. on September 23. The eight members on the Virginia Tech team at this competition were highly competitive. The open over fences rider Jennifer Palmisano of Manassas, Va., and the open on the flat rider Amanda Cronin of Blacksburg, Va., both placed seventh in their respective classes. Lindsay Williamson of Reva, Va., the intermediate over fences rider, also took seventh place. Meredith Clark of Street, Md., the intermediate on the flat rider, had a very impressive ride that put her in third place in her class. The novice over fences rider Lindsey Woodburn of Glen Allen, Va., had a lovely course, winning fourth place. The novice flat rider Jessica Gould of Mechanicsville, Va., edged out nearly all of the competition putting her in second place in her class. Amanda Lenhart of Stafford, Va., shined in her advanced walk, trot, and canter class, earning a fourth place finish. The final rider of the day was the walk-trot rider Chasity Cox of Fredericksburg, Va., who competed in a very tough class and won sixth place. The highlight of the day was Palmisano riding in the premier medal class. Palmisano was one of the few riders to be selected out of a large class of open flat riders to compete over fences. After an extraordinary round of fences, she placed ninth overall in the medal class.

St. Andrews Presbyterian College Show

The Virginia Tech Equestrian Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Team competed in their first show of the season at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina on October 2. Virginia Tech riders competing at the St. Andrews IHSA Show were: Jennifer Palmisano, Amanda Cronin, Meredith Clark, Lindsey Williamson, Kristen Marley of Amelia, Va.; Lindsey Woodburn, Cary Proferes of Gainesville, Fla.; Susan Wilson of Phoenix, N.Y., Allison Jones of Williamsburg, Pa.; Laura Welch of Centreville, Va.; Michelle Beauregard of Silver Springs, Md.; Jennifer Surotchak of Purcellville, Va.; Megan McCarthy of Chesterfield, Va.; Shelby Clark of Mechanicsville, Va.; Jessica Gould, Anna Guastello Springfield, Va.; Amanda Lenhart, Brittany Lower of Roanoke, Va.; Kelly Southern of Falls Church, Va.; Chasity Cox, and Sonja Boras of Glenwood, Md. The team performed extremely well, and received fourth overall. In addition, Clark and Jones won first place in their



Intermediate Flat classes, Marley won first place in her Intermediate Fences class, and Proferes won first place in her novice fences.

IHSA Show Hosted by Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech Equestrian Club hosted its largest intercollegiate show to date on October 15. Twelve teams participated in the show held at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. Members of the Equestrian Club spent weeks preparing for the show including cleaning the arena, setting the jump course, planning the order of the show, decorating and much more. These collective efforts were rewarded with an exceptionally problem-free show and many compliments.

Sandra Vine of Middleburg, Va. judged the show, and placed the University of North Carolina – Charlotte as the first place team. Virginia Tech had many riders place very high throughout the day including three first place riders: Amanda Cronin, Allison Jones, and Jennifer Palmisano. Palmisano was also the high point rider of the entire show, receiving first place over fences, first place on the flat, and obtaining her stance after a ride against UNC – Greensboro's rider, Courtney Clayton, who also received two firsts throughout the show.

The Virginia Tech Equestrian Club and Equitation Team members would like to thank the wonderful sponsors of the show including Donna Yeck of Shamrock Horse Necessities, Ben and Jerry's, Eades and Lower Insurance, Ken and Jackie Boras of BCS, Incorporated, Flying Change Design Studio, Wildwood Smokehouse, and CollegeTack (founded by Beth Klein, a Virginia Tech Equestrian Team alumnus).

North Carolina State University Show

The Equestrian Team attended their third intercollegiate show of the semester hosted by North Carolina State University at their off-campus facilities located at Chapel Ridge Farm on October 23. Thirteen schools competed in the show. Patty Heukereth of Southern Pines, North Carolina, judged the show. Saint Andrews Presbyterian College took high point team with Virginia Tech tying for reserve along with Virginia Intermont College. The show was so close that it came down to the last class of the day to decide who would take home the reserve ribbon. Virginia Tech had many riders place very high throughout the day including three first place riders: Lindsey Woodburn, Allison Jones, and Cary Proferes.



VIRGINIA TECH DRESSAGE TEAM

The Virginia Tech Intercollegiate Dressage Team members participated in two competitions this fall. The team traveled to Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., on September 30. Virginia Tech fielded one team of four riders, who are all brand new to intercollegiate showing and did well enough to place fifth place overall. Crystal Baer of Marshall, Va. placed seventh in First Level, Kate Lawrence of Buchanan, Va., placed sixth in Upper Training Level, and Alyssa Eveleth of Sparks, Md. placed fifth in Introductory Level. Jenni Bensen of Downers Grove, Ill. and Susan Wilson of Phoenix, N.Y. also competed and they both rode at the Lower Training Level, where Bensen earned a fourth place and Wilson placed seventh.

On October 8, the Virginia Tech Intercollegiate Dressage Team traveled to North Carolina to compete in the season's second Intercollegiate Dressage Association's (IDA) competition hosted by North Carolina State University at the Thoroughbred Training Center in Mocksville, North Carolina. Virginia Tech competed against NCSU, Saint Andrew's, Virginia Intermont, Elon, Averett, and Furman. TTC is an expansive facility, consisting of several barns, arenas, and a tack store. We were unprepared for the cold day, and the competition was held in an outdoor ring. Nevertheless, the Hokies did well, with the A team placing third overall, just behind Virginia Intermont's two teams. In addition, Abby Chase of Radford, Va. placed third in First Level, Lawrence placed third in Upper Training, Veronica Brennan of Heathsville, Va., placed third in Lower Training, and Eveleth placed second in Introductory Level.

BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB 2006 ACTIVITIES

The Block and Bridle Club of Virginia Tech has continued its tradition of excellence and active participation during the 2006 fall semester. Block and Bridle kicked off the year by providing food for the First Annual College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Picnic. The rain did nothing to hamper guests' appetites or mood, and the event proved to be a success.

The club participated in the Fourth Grade Agricultural Experience on September 13 through 15. Members showcased livestock and taught local elementary school children the role livestock plays in daily life. The club discussed proper care of livestock, as well as products derived from each species. The Block and Bridle station was an obvious favorite of the young students, whom were reluctant to leave.

The Virginia State Fair serves as the club's primary public relations function and fundraiser during each fall semester. The fair was held in Richmond from September 28 through October 8. Cooperation between state fair officials, Block and Bridle alumni, and club members

INTERNS SCORE AT REGIONAL BREED SHOW

Three summer sport horse breeding interns, who have been mentored by Rebecca K. Splan, associate professor of equine science and faculty coordinator for Virginia Tech's Smithfield Horse Center, and Sarah Denham, a master's student in equine biomechanics, successfully exhibited two young horses owned and bred by Virginia Tech at the prestigious Dressage at Lexington horse show and were rewarded with two first, two second, and a third prizes at this regional breed show.

In late April, the three interns, who were chosen from a highly competitive pool of 20 applicants are Katie Campbell of Bristol, Va., Shelby Clark of Mechanicsville, Va., and Kathy Wilson of Hattiesburg, Miss. They have been spending the summer assisting with reproductive work, developing skills in herd health management and horse training, helping with numerous equine research projects, and learning about the global sport horse industry. As part of their internship, the three students also prepared two youngsters bred by Virginia Tech for their debut at Dressage at Lexington.

Virginia Tech is the only land-grant university to fully incorporate a sport horse breeding program into its undergraduate curriculum. The breeding herd is of extremely high quality and was well represented by the young stock exhibited at the show.

was invaluable to the achievement of the club. Under the supervision of Barbecue Chairperson Michelle Huntington of Laurel, Md., and Josh Stephens of Fort Valley, Va., members cooked and served 600-1,000 plates each day. Two weeks of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to the animal and poultry science industry proved successful. The club grossed more than \$62,000 in sales of pork, beef, chicken, baked beans, and coleslaw. Members gained a greater respect for the food service industry, had the opportunity to meet club alumni, and witnessed the accomplishment made possible by teamwork and devotion.

The Block and Bridle Club also cooked barbecue for the Hokie Harvest Sale and participated in several other college events throughout the remainder of the semester. The club looks forward to a busy spring semester of agricultural awareness and outreach. For more information about the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club, please visit our website at www.apsc.vt.edu/clubs/BlockandBridle/index.htm.



HANDS-ON LEARNING LEADS TO CHAMPIONSHIP HONORS FOR HORSE PROGRAM

By Rebecca K. Splan, Associate Professor of Equine Science

On Saturday, September 23, Virginia Tech hosted its 8th annual International Sporthorse Registry/Oldenburg Registry North America (ISR/Oldenburg NA) Mare and Foal Inspection, at the Alphin-Stuart Teaching Arena on the beautiful campus of Virginia Tech. The student-run event was hugely successful, with Virginia Tech horses earning many top honors despite tough competition.

ISR/Oldenburg NA is the largest independent sport horse breeding organization in North America, and complies with the highest international standard of sport horse selection and evaluation. Each year, its representatives travel from Germany to Blacksburg to evaluate the breeding stock and genetic progress of Virginia Tech's sport horse breeding herd, and also inspect mares and foals owned by other breeders in our area. Mares and foals are judged both on their conformation and gaits. Mares must achieve sufficient scores from the judges before they are accepted as breeding stock, and foals must be sired by approved stallions and deemed of sufficient quality to be registered. This year, breeders brought nearly 40 horses to the event from across the Mid-Atlantic region, making the Virginia Tech site one of the largest in the country.

Eight mares owned by Virginia Tech, and 10 foals from its breeding program were presented for inspection by Joseph Amory, a former Animal and Poultry Sciences major, now a student at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and Ryan Brooks, a current Animal and Poultry Sciences senior. Students currently taking the Equine Behavior and Training course worked hard to train and fit Virginia Tech mares and foals that were presented, and students enrolled in the Equine Evaluation course

STATE 4-H HORSE JUDGING TEAM COMPETES AT THE YOUTH WORLD QUARTER HORSE SHOW

By Celeste Crisman, Equine Extension Specialist

The State 4-H Judging Team competed at the Youth World Quarter Horse Show in Fort Worth, Texas August 7 through 12. The team had a great week in Texas visiting several ranches for workouts. The team visited an aqua exercise facility where the halter horses workout on an under water treadmill to build muscling; visited several Texas sized tack stores and ate Texas style (large) when only the 4-Hers could really afford to do so (and I am not talking about money!).

Two Virginia teams competed against 24 4-H/FFA teams, 96 individuals. Virginia Team A members included Claye Paca and Lindsay Bishop of Hanover County, Rebekah Smith of Rockingham County, and Kelly Stoneburner of Augusta County. Virginia Team B members were Margaret Paca of Hanover County, Allison Hulvey of Rockingham County, and Kelly and Kerry Cummings of Virginia Beach.

participated in the organization and execution of all the day's events. A large group of spectators was on hand to enjoy the highly informative critique and scoring of each horse by the inspectors.

Judges for the day were Ekkehard Brysch, CEO for ISR/Oldenburg NA, and Christian Schacht, the organization's Breeding Director. Both judges were incredibly impressed with Virginia Tech's equine program, and remarked frequently on the high quality of Virginia Tech's horses and beautiful facilities. During the lunch break, Brysch gave a very well received lecture on Modern Sport Horse Breeding in the United States and Europe, and both of Virginia Tech's breeding stallions were presented to an enthusiastic crowd.

The success of the Virginia Tech breeding program was obvious throughout the day, as fully half the foals bred by Virginia Tech were named "Premium," the highest designation possible. Virginia Tech also swept the championship honors with Champion Colt and Filly titles going to homebreds. As icing on the cake, two of Virginia Tech's mares were also named "Premium," with one Dutch Warmblood earning sufficient marks to place her among the top 10 mares inspected in the United States this year.

We would like to thank all the students who helped make the day possible, as well as the outside breeders and spectators who attended. We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the many generous donors who have supported the equine science program through their contributions of such outstanding breeding stock and stallion services, allowing our unique breeding program to be so successful.

Celeste Crisman, equine Extension specialist, and Lisa Arbogast of Rockingham County, coached the teams.

The Virginia Team A finished as the third high team overall with the Virginia Team B finishing fifth high team overall. Margaret Paca was sixth overall, Claye Paca was seventh overall, and Kelly Stoneburner was ninth overall.

In halter, Claye Paca was fifth high individual. In Performance, fourth went to Kelly Stoneburner and sixth to Margaret Paca. Kelly Stoneburner took eighth in reasons overall.

In team competition, Virginia Team B was fifth in Halter and the Virginia Team A placed third in reasons and fifth overall.

Huge congratulations to each team member for their efforts and dedication!



STATE 4-H AND FFA HORSE JUDGING TEAMS COMPETE AT THE ARABIAN NATIONALS

Photo by Celeste Crisman

The 2006 State 4-H Horse Judging Team competed at Arabian Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky and left it's mark with all eight team members bringing home an award! Competing on Team A were Claye Paca of Hanover County, Lindsay Bishop of Rockingham County, Rebekah Smith of Rockingham County, and Kelly Stoneburner of Augusta County. Team B members were Margaret Paca of Hanover County, Allison Hulvey of Rockingham County, Kerry Cummings of Virginia Beach, and Kelly Cummings of Virginia Beach. Celeste Crisman, equine Extension specialist and Yvonne Miller of Rockingham County, coached the teams. This is the last time Arabian Nationals will be held in Louisville as the show will be permanently relocated to Tulsa, Okla. in 2008 and they really put on a final show for the Louisville crowd.

Many past champions were brought back and spotlighted, and some were retired at this show. We all experienced the magic of the most recognized Arabian horse of all time: Walter Farley's Black Stallion with the Arabian Nights Dinner Theatre Road Show bringing a fairy tale to life on horseback during opening ceremonies. Forty-nine teams participated this year in the three divisions: 4-H/FFA, Junior AHA and Senior (collegiate and Sr. AHA).

4-H Judging contest results are as follows:

In halter:

Kerry Cummings – 5th place

Claye Paca – 7th place

Virginia Team B placed 3rd high team in the halter division

Virginia Team A placed 6th.

In performance:

Claye Paca – 7th place

Rebekah Smith – 10th place

Virginia Team A placed 2nd high team in the performance division

Virginia Team B placed 9th.

In Reasons:

Rebekah Smith – 2nd place

Kelly Stoneburner – 3rd place



2006 State 4-H Horse Judging Team. Pictured from left to right are: Claye Paca, Hanover Co.; Allison Hulvey, Rockingham Co.; Kerry Cummings, Virginia Beach; Margaret Paca, Hanover Co.; Kelly Cummings, Virginia Beach; Rebekah Smith, Rockingham Co.; Lindsay Bishop, Hanover Co.; not pictured - Kelly Stoneburner, Augusta Co.

Claye Paca – 6th place

Virginia Team A placed 1st team in reasons

Virginia Team B placed 6th.

Overall competition:

Claye Paca – 7th place

Virginia Team A placed 4th high team overall

Virginia Team B placed 6th high team overall.

In addition, a Virginia FFA team competed at Arabian Nationals. The Virginia FFA team members were Baily Leonard, Sabrina Arnold, Jodie Knott and Lucinda Worrell from Carroll County. They were coached and escorted by Myra Leonard of Carroll County. Team member Sabrina Arnold placed fifth in performance and eighth high individual overall. The FFA team was 10th in Halter, 12th in performance, 13th in reasons and 11th high team overall.

In the collegiate division, former state 4-H team member Rachel Bandy of Botetourt County competed individually for Hollins College. Rachel was fifth in Halter, second in Performance, second in Reasons, and first place individual overall for the Sr./Collegiate division.

The 4-H teams have done an outstanding job this year while learning lots, judging high quality horses of all breeds and disciplines and having some fun along the way. Please congratulate all the Virginia competitors on a successful Arabian Nationals competition!



45TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA STATE 4-H CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE AND PONY SHOW

By Celeste Crisman, Equine Extension Specialist

The 45th State 4-H Horse show proved to be the largest in Virginia's history with 592 horses on the grounds and more than 650 exhibitors including those participating in the horseless competitions. The show, held September 14 through 17 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Va., ran smoothly without a major hitch and everyone had a great time.

A few of the winning participants included Ashleigh Ramey of Orange County as overall High Point Hunter, Senior Division; Ginny Melton of Gloucester County won Champion Gymkhana Horse, Senior Division; Fluvanna County Horsin' Around Pony Team won the Drill Team competition; High Point Western Pleasure winner was Christopher Ringer from Isle of Wright County; and High Point Saddlebred winner was Shauna Prasse of Orange County.

Show awards ranged from class ribbons to four-foot perpetual trophies, and showmanship champions and reserve champions received \$300 and \$150 savings bonds respectively. \$4,500 in savings bonds was given as awards at this year's show to stress the importance of continued education. Embroidered chairs and embroidered bridle bags were given to classic winners.

Some of the additional educational competitions at the 2006 show were Horse Bowl, Hippology, District Challenge, Stable Management Competition, and Stall Decorations contest. Holly Hall of Mathews County won "Best of Show" in the artwork competition and her artwork will be featured on the cover of the 2007 show program. The Leg Up Award was won by Charles Tribble of Highland County, and new this year was a Project Book competition won by Lissy Heffner of Fauquier County in the senior division and Morgan Roush of Fauquier County in the junior division. There was a 30 percent increase in the number of Knowledge contest participants this year.

This show would not be possible without the support of our gracious major sponsors: Virginia Horse Industry Board, Virginia Horse Council, Southern States Cooperative, First Bank & Trust Company, Virginia Farm Bureau, and Blue Ridge Trailers.

SEVENTH ANNUAL VIRGINIA TECH SHEEP CENTER PRODUCTION SALE

By Scott Greiner, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences

The Virginia Tech Sheep Center hosted its Seventh Annual Production Sale on Saturday, September 2, 2006 at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. A large crowd was on hand, and strong interest in the sheep and active bidding resulted in a record-setting sale with a total of 46 lots averaging \$344 per head.

Sale averages were as follows: 11 Suffolk ram lambs averaged \$505 per head, 5 Dorset ram lambs averaged \$330, 6 mature Suffolk ewes exposed for January lambing averaged \$325, 15 open Suffolk ewe lambs averaged \$236, and 9 mature Dorset ewes exposed for January lambing averaged \$351.

The sale was paced by a Suffolk ram lamb, which sold to Anthony Stowers of Hampstead, Md. for \$1,000. Stowers also purchased the high-selling Suffolk ewe lamb for \$350. Justin Lyles of Gallatin, Tenn. was the successful bidder on the high selling mature Suffolk ewe for \$360. Two Dorset ram lambs each commanded \$350, one selling to Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Mich. and the other to Andy Grim of Floyd, Va. A sale attraction was the select group of mature Dorset ewes, with Tera and Jacob Fair of Greenfield, Ind. selecting the high lot at \$390. Sheep sold to buyers from seven states including Virginia, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Tennessee, and West Virginia.



The Sheep Center's annual production sale was first hosted in 2000 as a result of public demand for genetics from the Virginia Tech flocks. Students are an integral part of the sale as they help to prepare for and conduct the event. All sale proceeds are utilized to support the sheep teaching, research, and outreach missions of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. The 2007 Production Sale will be held on September 1. For additional information visit the Sheep Center link on the department's web site [www.apsc.vt.edu](http://apsc.vt.edu) or contact Scott Greiner, associate professor of animal and poultry sciences, at (540) 231-9159 or e-mail sgreiner@vt.edu.



Virginia Tech Suffolk rams on display prior to the Production Sale.



4-H LIVESTOCK, STOCKMENS, AND MEATS TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

By Mark Wahlberg, Associate Professor and Extension 4-H Livestock Specialist

Three different national competitions occur in the fall of the year in livestock-related contests. Virginia participated in all three of these events.

Meats Judging - The Washington County 4-H Meats Judging Team represented Virginia at the National 4-H Meats Judging Contest hosted by Kansas State University in October. Sixteen teams, represented by 61 contestants, participated in this event. The contest consisted of judging beef carcasses and short loins, pork carcasses, and hams, Porterhouse steaks and blade Boston roasts. Oral reasons were delivered on three of these classes. In addition, contestants had to identify 30 different retail cuts as to the species of origin, wholesale cut, retail cut name, and method of cooking.

Texas was the winning team, and the high individual came from Wyoming. The Virginia team finished ninth overall. Within the divisions, Virginia was fourth in pork judging, fourth in retail cut judging, seventh in beef judging, and sixth in oral reasons. Individual honors went to Katie Blevins (ninth in oral reasons and 12th overall), and to Bradley Copenhagen (seventh in retail cut judging, eighth in beef, and 10th in pork). Garrett Cook was the 3rd member of the team, which was coached by Phil Blevins, Washington County agriculture Extension agent. The Virginia Beef Industry Council provides financial support for Virginia's 4-H Meats Judging program.

Livestock Judging - Virginia's 4-H livestock judging team consists of high-ranking individuals from the state contest, held in Blacksburg in June. The National contest is held annually in Louisville, KY as part of the North American International Livestock Exposition. The 2006 contest included teams from 32 states, represented by 125 individuals.

The contest includes judging 10 classes of beef cattle, sheep, and swine, with market classes and breeding animals within each species. Detailed performance data is available on all breeding animals. Members also provide oral reasons and answer questions about certain classes.

The winning team came from California, with their team members finishing first, second, and third as individuals. The Virginia team finished 12th overall. Within the species, Virginia was sixth in sheep, tenth in swine, seventh in cattle, and sixth in oral reasons. Josh McCann of Giles County was 14th in sheep, seventh in cattle performance, and 12th in oral reasons. Brad Bennett of Augusta County was 20th in swine, second in cattle (lost the tiebreaker

to a California member), sixth in cattle performance, and sixth in oral reasons. Clara Nelson of Rockbridge County and Will Earhart of Augusta County rounded out the team. Mark Wahlberg, Extension animal scientist at Virginia Tech, coached the team. The Virginia Pork Industry Board and the Virginia 4-H Livestock Endowment support the meats judging team.

Skillathon - The Skillathon contest is a broad-based competition involving applied knowledge of livestock management. The national contest is held annually in Louisville, KY as part of the North American International Livestock Exposition. The winning 4-H team at the State Fair Stockmens Contest, held in Richmond in early October, comprises Virginia's entry in this competition. The 2006 team came from Augusta County.

In the Skillathon contest members are asked to identify feeds, breeds, retail meats cuts, and livestock equipment. They judge hay, wool, and meats, and take a general-knowledge quiz. Team activities included grading and pricing beef carcasses (from photos), determining marketing methods for pens of feedlot cattle, completing a keep/cull exercise on a group of meat goat does, and demonstrating handling and medication procedures on lambs.

Seventeen state teams competed in three general categories including identification, evaluation, and quality assurance. Brad Bennett was fourth in identification, third in evaluation, and second place individual overall, just three points short of the winning individual who was from Wisconsin. Stephanie Willis placed fourth in evaluation and fifth overall. In team competition the Virginia group was fourth in both identification and quality assurance, second in evaluation, and second overall, just 10 points behind the winning team from North Carolina. Brandon Reeves and Danielle McPherson were the other team members, who were coached by Eric Stogdale, volunteer 4-H leader and Vocational Agriculture teacher at Riverheads High School. Various local sources and the Virginia 4-H Livestock Endowment support the Skillathon team.



PROFESSOR DAVID S. KRONFELD

Professor David S. Kronfeld, died on December 17, 2006. David was born November 5, 1928 in Auckland, New Zealand. He received both his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Queensland. David received his Ph.D. in comparative physiology from U.C. Berkeley in 1959. In 1972, David received a Doctorate of Science from the University of Queensland based on his research over the prior 20 years. His Ph.D. advisor was Professor Max Kleiber, and David often referred his graduate students to *The Fire of Life* for perspective on research problems they were addressing. David served as a teacher and researcher in four universities for 52 years and 10 months.

While physiology remained at the foundation of David's teaching and research, he expertly blended the arts, literature, and a personal passion for athletic endeavors into all that he pursued. David published more than 700 papers with 188 co-authors, including 248 refereed papers and 56 book chapters. He received 16 honors and awards, including 7 international, an *honoris causa* master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania for excellence in teaching and the 2006 Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising at Virginia Tech. David's approach to teaching and advising was one of a conversational interaction aimed to stimulate the interest of students in helping their animals. David was involved



Professor David S. Kronfeld

in the development of clinical specialties in veterinary medicine—a founding diplomate of the ACVIM and ACVN, as well as a founding member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

David joined the faculty in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech as the Paul Mellon Distinguished Professor of Agriculture in 1988. He was charged with development of the newly established Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center as an internationally recognized center for research in equine science, with particular emphasis on study

of the training and nutritional needs of the elite equine athlete. In many ways, David was able to come full circle with the position at the MARE Center as it reminded David of the Trelawney Stud in Cambridge, New Zealand where he worked two summers as a groom in his late teens.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution to continue in perpetuity David's influence on future generations of graduate students may do so by sending a check payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. Kindly mail to the MARE Center, 5527 Sullivans Mill Road, Middleburg, VA 20117 to the attention of Dr. Ray Geor or Catherine Larmore. Please note on the check that it is for the Kronfeld Endowment (Fund # 886265).

THE PRE-VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By Sarah Marpet, President, PVMA

The Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (Pre-Vet Club - PVMA) at Virginia Tech is a club designed to acquaint students with pre-veterinary studies and with the veterinary medical profession while encouraging scholarship, service, and community awareness.

To achieve these goals the club has conducted and participated in a variety of activities. Members recently attended a behind the scenes tour of the Virginia Beach Marine Science Museum and performed a mass dissection of a loggerhead sea turtle at the museum's marine stranding center. Members have also participated in service activities including regular visits to Warm Hearth Assisted Living, Virginia Tech Adult Day Services, and assisting on the Angels of Assisi spay and neuter shuttle. In addition, PVMA promotes the education and awareness of animals in the humane education program, which teaches children concepts like bite prevention and what to do when encountering a stray animal.

The club is now focusing its fundraising efforts on selling over one thousand stockings in the annual pet stocking sale whose proceeds benefit St. Francis of Assisi, the service dog foundation of Virginia.

PRE-VET CLUB OFFICERS 2006-2007

President: Sarah Marpet

Vice President of Service: Lauren Maxey

Vice President of Activities: Kiley Walawender

Student Government Representative: Alana Barnes

Treasurer: Lauren White

Secretary: Morgan Agnew

Historian: Anthony Fazio

Sergeant At Arms: Maggie Trefney

Webmaster: Caroline Garrett

Faculty advisor: Mike Denbow

Website: www.prevet.org.vt.edu

THE DEPARTMENT OF
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UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION. We are interested in knowing what you are doing! Please help us keep our mailing list current by completing and returning this form to the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech (0306), Blacksburg, VA 24061 or email vtapsc@vt.edu with the following information.

Name: _____

Year and Degree: _____

Home Address: _____

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Work Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

News about Yourself: _____

Would you like to be contacted concerning support of one of our scholarship programs or extra-curricular group activities?

Yes No