Congratulations!

- To Dr. Robert Thaler, on being chosen 2014 Distinguished Alumni by the Animal Science and Industry Department of Kansas State. Dr. Thaler received his PhD in Swine Nutrition and Immunology from KSU in August, 1988 and joined the Animal Science faculty at SDSU in November, 1988.

- To Dr. Anna Taylor, who has joined the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center in Carrington, ND as an animal scientist. Her research will focus on animal nutrition, including ruminant nutrition, feedlot management and cow-calf production systems. While at SDSU, Anna conducted post-doctoral research with Dr. Robbi Pritchard. Dr. Jeff Clapper (pictured left) congratulated her on her new position at a farewell held November 7.

- To Rebecca Whitlock (pictured right) who will begin a 4-year program of study in January at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts, Caribbean. Rebecca, a former AS graduate student, was an instructor of Equine Science at SDSU this fall semester.

- To Jim Krantz, Cow/Calf Extension Field Specialist, Mitchell Regional Office. Jim retired December 21 after 25 years of service. A surprise farewell was held in Brookings December 17 where Dr. Cassady presented him with “Sunday Surprise” by artist Terry Redlin as well as other gifts from friends and associates. In retirement he hopes to spend time with grandchildren and caring for his cows.

Condolences

- Are expressed to the family of William “Bill” Heylens who passed away in Arlington, SD on November 19. In 1971 Bill was hired by the Animal Science Department to manage the Swine Research Farm. He retired from SDSU in 1992, and continued to raise cattle and hogs on his farm near Bruce.

- Are expressed to Dan Gee on the passing of his mother, Sylvia Lillian Gee, on November 23 in Marshall, MN. She and her deceased husband, Harold, farmed and raised their family near Cottonwood, MN.
- Are expressed to the family of Phil Plumart who passed away in Brookings on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. Dr. Plumart accepted a position in the SDSU Poultry Science Department in 1961 and retired in 1989 as a Professor Emeritus and Extension Poultry Specialist.
- Are expressed to the family of Lea Minyard who passed away December 30 in Eau Claire, WI. Lea was the widow of deceased AS faculty member Joe Minyard, who passed away in June, 2005.

Recent Grant Awards

Dr. Robert Thaler, Efficacy of Soybean Meal in Reducing the Effect of a PRRS Challenge in Finishing Pigs. ND Soybean Council

Dr. Robert Thaler, Efficacy of Soybean Meal in Reducing the Effect of a PRRS Challenge in Pigs – Minnesota Portion. Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

Dr. Keith Underwood, Joshua Cribbs, SDBIC: FY15 SDSU Meat Evaluation Team. SD Beef Industry Council

Dr. Crystal Levesque, NPB Swine Research and Education Experience (SREE) Program: Determination of Nutrient Digestibility of Cold-pressed Soybean Meal. National Pork Board

Dr. Derek Brake, Effects of Postruminal Protein Flows and Small Intestinal Starch Digestion on Carcass Quality and Adiposity in Cattle. SD Beef Industry Council

Dr. Amanda Blair, Effects of nursing-calf implant timing on growth performance and carcass characteristics. SD Beef Industry Council

Dr. Keith Underwood, SDSU Beef 2020. SD Beef Industry Council

Dr. Keith Underwood, SDSU Meat Lab-Beef Harvest & Cut Loss/BBQ Boot Camp/Beef Value Cut Demo. SD Beef Industry Council

Dr. Keith Underwood, Capture in finishing swine Diets: Form-A-Feed, Inc. Form-A-Feed, Inc.

News…..

Dr. Kristi (Hiemstra SDSU AS ‘99) Cammack, an animal geneticist at the University of Wyoming, visited the SDSU campus and Animal Science Department on the afternoon of Friday, November 14th. While here she gave a presentation on the rumen microbiome and its relationship to feed efficiency.

Approximately 750 people attended a Farmland screening on Thursday, November 13th at the Performing Arts Center on the SDSU Campus. The screening was sponsored by the SDSU Swine Club and the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance. Following the screening, Swine Club President Caitlyn Brandt (pictured right) introduced members of a discussion panel which included Ryan Veldhuizen from Edgerton, MN (who was in the movie) Dave Iverson, a Toronto farmer and member of United Soybean Board and South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council; Scott VanderWal, President of South Dakota Farm Bureau and owner/operator of a Volga beef feedlot and farm; Brad Greenway, a Mt. Vernon livestock producer and farmer and on the Board of Directors for U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance®; Jim Gilkerson, a Brookings organic dairy farmer; and Jason Ramsdell of Flandreau who operates Dakota Layers.
Thank you to Zoetis for their recent financial contribution to the new Swine Education and Research Facility. Pictured right are Dr. Joe Cassady, Dr. Robert Thaler, Jim Anderson, Zoetis, Greg Lage, Zoetis, Mike Barber, SDSU Foundation; Dean Barry Dunn, College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Thank you to Ralco for their recent financial contribution to the new Swine Education and Research Facility. Ralco believes it will assist in providing a safe and abundant global food supply. Both contributions will enable SDSU’s investment in the next generation of swine production leaders to go forward.

Kevin Vander Wal, Cow/Calf Unit Manager, reports the Cow/Calf Unit held a bred female "phone auction" December 3. Thirty-six females were sold averaging $3108; all buyers were repeat customers.

Dr. Jeff Held and Sheep Unit Manager Ann Kolthoff hosted the SDSU Sheep Shearing School December 10-14 at the Sheep Unit. Three professional shearers assisted with instruction of fourteen participants who attended from SD, ND, NE, WI, IA and MD. Topics covered included professional shearing techniques, equipment maintenance and repair, wool handling and preparation. It was sponsored by the SDSGA Wool Committee with cooperation from SDSU Extension.

Dr. George Perry, Jim Kranz, Warren Rusche, and Robin Salverson held an A-I School in Brookings December 18-20. The schedule included sessions on cow anatomy, heat cycle, A-I technique as well as bull selection and reproductive management/nutrition considerations. Twenty participants attended.

2014 Meats Judging Team
The Meats Judging Team competed in contests this fall at the American Royal Meat Judging Contest, Omaha, NE; Cargill High Plains Meat Judging Contest, Hereford, TX; AMSA International Meat Judging Contest, Dakota City, NE. At the American Royal Danielle Evers was 6th in Lamb Judging; at Cargill High Plains Danielle Evers was 7th in Pork Judging; at International Josh Kirchenbauer was 7th in Beef Judging. Jesse Topel also received the AMSA Rachel Hamilton Team Spirit Award.

Team members: Danielle Evers, Josh Kirchenbauer and Jesse Topel. Coach: Darcy Burton Assistant Coach: Heather Rode

2014 Livestock Judging Team
The Livestock Judging Team competed this fall in the following contests: National Barrow Show, Macomb, IL; Flint Hills Classic, Wichita, KS; AK-SAR-BEN Contest, Omaha, NE; American Royal Livestock Contest, Kansas City, MO and the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY.

Coach Joshua Cribbs reports the team finished 8th at the North American International Livestock Exposition this year. Zach Post was 14th overall in the contest while finishing 9th overall in the sheep division and 6th overall in the swine division. The team was also 4th overall in the sheep division. They
capped off a competitive fall, finishing each contest in the top 10 as a team. We are proud of their work ethic and competitive finish.

2014 Livestock Judging Team at the North American International Livestock Judging Expo, Louisville, KY.  
Back row: Kate Anderson, Laura Schoneman, Evan Koep, Jerad Brown, Dusty Compart, Theresa Claey's, Coach Joshua Cribbs.  Front row: John Weber, Matt Purfeerst, Brandi Raatz, Dakota Thomas, Zach Post

2014-2015 Wool Judging Team  
The Wool Judging Team began the year by participating in the Tri-State Collegiate Wool Judging Clinic in Belle Fourche, SD December 17-20. Their coach is Zach Smith.

Our Thanksgiving Feast  
Our faculty, staff, graduate students and their families celebrated Thanksgiving on November 20 by sharing an evening meal together. The good food was plentiful; it was a great time to get acquainted or reacquainted, and the kids, big and small, enjoyed creating their own paper turkey.
2014 Fall Graduation Candidates

Danessa Anderson
Meadow, SD

Brooke Brunsvig
Winfred, SD

Theresa Claeyss
Winnebago, MN

Christina Fehrman
Lake Benton, MN

Miranda Ford-Bonnema
Hendricks, MN

Jennifer Gummine
Lake Benton, MN

Elizabeth Hicks
Utica, SD

Caitlin Hoff
Fremont, NE

Samantha Jensen
Wabasso, MN

Renae Johnson
Luverne, MN

Seth Johnson
Waterloo, WI

Caleb Karls
Oakland, NE

Desiree King
Stillwater, MN

Katherine Kabacki

Janae Mogler
Alvord, IA

Curtis Price
Arlington, SD

Sheila Price
Redfield, SD

Brandi Raatz
Jasper, MN

Leah Rommerlein
Alcester, SD

Joshua Schmidt
Alexandria, MN

Laura Schoneman
Bingham Lake, MN

Kelsey Sears
Cleghorn, IA

Jesse Topel
Cambridge, WI

Michelle VanWyk
Orange City, IA

Amy VanderWerff
Garretson, SD

Kyle Walker
Algona, IA

Whitney Zylstra
Brookings, SD

Travel Notes

November 2-4  2014 Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL

Dr. Amanda Blair, Dean Barry Dunn and Provost Laurie Nichols attended sessions at the meeting in FL.

November 4-6 National Angus Convention and Trade Show Kansas City, MO

Dr. George Perry met with producers and discussed the role of estrus detection in pregnancy success.

November 10-13 Basic Sausage Shortcourse    Ames, IA

Adam Rhody attended the short course to study new sausage processing techniques as well as methods of developing ingredients for products.

November 7-9 Bull Sale in Ranburne, AL

Kevin VanderWal attended the bull sale and networked with industry personnel.

November 15-19 National American International Livestock Exposition
Louisville, KY

Dr. Rosie Nold served as an official for the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest. Dr. Joseph Cassady attended the judging awards banquet. Josh Cribbs coached the SDSU Livestock Judging Team in judging competition.

November 16 International Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Dakota City, NE

Dr. Keith Underwood, graduate students Jesse Fulton, Kaleigh Kerns, Zach Smith as well as undergraduate students in AS 200, Introduction to Meats Judging, served as group leaders for the contest.

November 30-December 3 Data Collection, University of IA
Ames, IA

Dr. Crystal Levesque assisted with data collection on a collaborative research project.

December 3-5 National Swine Improvement Federation Conference Lincoln, NE

Amanda Cross, graduate student, attended the conference on swine improvement.

December 9 Lamb Feedlot Meeting in Sheldon, IA

Dr. Jeff Held spoke to producers on “Managing Market Lambs to Minimize Shrink”.

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https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aimal-Science-Department-South-Dakota-State-University/259477894091902
The office Christmas party for faculty, staff, graduate students and retirees was held in the Wahlstrom Room the afternoon of December 17. Current faculty and staff enjoyed a time of visiting with former employees.

A large crowd of faculty, staff, graduate students, retirees and their families attended the annual Christmas Potluck which was held December 12 in the Brookings Activity Center. A BIG thank you to the social committee consisting of Keith Underwood, Julie Walker, Crystal Levesque, Reid McDaniel and Sara Tanner for organizing the event and for planning activities for adults and children. Following supper, several tables were set up for sugar cookie decorating. All supplies were provided with enough to eat and share. Michael Gonda was proclaimed the winner of the ugly Christmas sweater contest (see pictures following page). Young and old alike enjoyed a visit from Santa and his Elf who came with gifts for the children. The evening ended with the Round-the-Table Christmas Gift Game. Unwrapped items were placed in the center of the table and participants rolled a dice for the opportunity to choose a gift. The evening was a success – good time had by all!

Submitted by Carol Kleinjan, Editor