

# ANIMAL SCIENCE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008

## *Learning is Doing*

Ever tried wrestling a sheep to the shearing position when he's about the same size as you are? Before my Animal Science 150 class I sure hadn't, and let me just say, those sheep are tough! Some other activities I had never personally had the opportunity to do so include farrowing pigs, preg-checking cows, and wing-tagging chicks. In the Animal Science department we're all about hands-on learning.

Nearly every class in the Animal Science department has some element of hands on experience involved. For some classes this is lab time and for others this is included in lecture. Then there are some classes that are made for the purpose of giving students a chance to learn by doing. Animal Science 150, taught by Dr. Reiling is one of these classes. This class is 99% hands on learning. Even those students who come in with a lot of experience with animals express excitement over the new things they get to try. This class incorporates all livestock species; from dairy cows, to swine, to sheep, this is a great opportunity to experience things first hand.

Another great class for getting some first hand experience in is Animal Science 260, Basic Equitation taught by Libby Michaud. In this class students with all levels of experience are brought together to improve each of their horsemanship skills. From the city kid who perhaps has only pet a pony at the zoo to the hardened ranch hand, everyone has something to learn in this class. And then there are some like me, who have just a bit of experience but love the opportunity to be out there and working with the horses! From the start students are interacting with their horses.



*Kim Corradi, Senior*

Libby helps to ensure every person is gaining something from the exercises done (and let me tell you, some of them are hard work). Working from the ground up is the approach in this class.

Both ASCI 150 and ASCI 260 serve as examples of the kinds of opportunities Animal Science has to offer. Professors here have learned that the best way for students to learn is by doing. Not to mention it makes it a bit easier to get up on those early mornings!

*-Maria Lewis, Animal Science Ambassador*



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## **COMPANION ANIMAL CLUB**

SEECA, Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals is a new student organization that was formed

for students with an interest in exotic and companion animals. The organization provides opportunities for students with an interest in companion, exotic, or zoo animals to become acquainted with one another and to improve the knowledge and understanding of these animals! The club invites speakers involved in a variety of fields to come and talk at their meetings. Some speakers are involved in things like zoo work, animal clinics, and animal nutrition. Members will be helping out at a Dog Expo at the Lancaster Event Center, putting on a Dog Training Seminar, and having a Flea Dip for animals in the community. Helping others and having fun while they are at it!

- Kristin Norwood, SEECA Club President

## **CAMPUS JOBS**

Worried about what to do about money in college? Look no further than Animal Science. The Animal Science Department employs over 100 students every year in many different areas. The most common areas that students work in are the research labs, the teaching livestock area, the meat lab, and the horse barn, and as office help. Students who work in the research lab participate in every area from ruminant nutrition, non-ruminant nutrition, reproductive physiology, breeding and genetics, and meats. The student workers who help in the research areas are responsible for helping with everything from cleaning the lab to helping run analysis and working with graduate students on projects. Students who help with teaching livestock, in the meat lab and the horse barn are responsible for the day to day operations of these areas. All of these areas are always looking for students to work every time of the year. You don't have to look far for a job that will work with your schedule if you work in the Animal Science Department.

- Jessalyn, Schrock Animal Science Ambassador

## **A Sorority On East Campus... That You Just Might Love!**

As students make the transition from high school to college they have many things to contemplate. One of these things includes choosing if they want to join a fraternity or sorority. For several years now UNL has had many options for boys that have an interest in Agriculture to join one of the four fraternities that UNL has. But what do the female students that would like this same opportunity do? Until recently the only option for them was to join a sorority on City Campus. This has now changed thanks to twelve girls that wanted something more than what Greek Life offered them on City Campus. The Alpha Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha became an official chapter on August 24, 2008.

Sigma Alpha is different from the sororities that are currently available on city campus. There is no house, so no member is required to live in a house. This makes the cost to join Sigma Alpha far less than other sororities. It is also not affiliated with Greek Life. Sigma Alpha is a group of young women who have a sincere interest in Agriculture and what it represents. They gain valuable connections in the Agricultural Industry, great leadership skills and form lasting friendships along the way.

Sigma Alpha is a great way for any young women interested in agriculture to take a step in the right direction by enhancing her leadership skills and while having some fun along the way. You will soon find Sigma Alpha members standing out as leaders on the UNL campus and in the Nebraska work-force. We are dedicated to the motto: Women Excelling in Agriculture.

- Amanda Pflasterer, Animal Science Ambassador, Sigma Alpha President



*Sigma Alpha Girls Celebrate*

## Career Opportunities in Animal Science

One exciting aspect of the Animal Science major is the diversity of job opportunities available. As our Ambassadors like to say, "If you can dream it, you can do it," with an Animal Science major. If you take a second to explore the options available within the Animal Science major (Biology, Business, Companion Animal Science, Equine Science, Meat Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Production and Management), it becomes apparent that many career opportunities would stem from this diverse major. I have provided some examples of positions currently held by graduates from the Animal Science program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

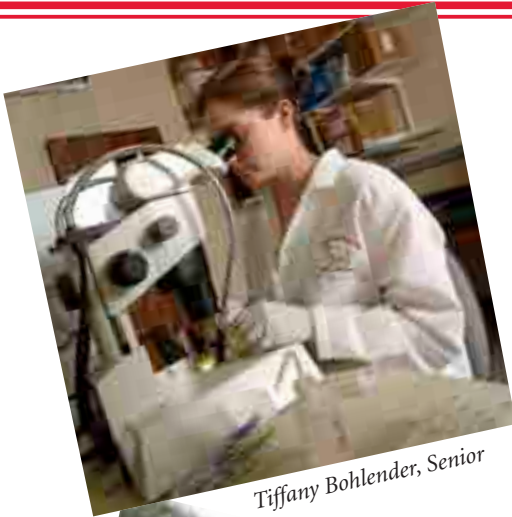
- Veterinarian, Self-Employed
- Breeding Program Specialist, Genex Cooperative, Inc.
- Cattle Procurement Trainee, Cargill, Inc.
- Farmer/Rancher, Self-Employed
- Farm/Ranch Underwriter, State Farm Insurance
- Nutritionist, Land O'Lakes, Inc.
- Food Scientist, Cargill, Inc.
- Molecular Geneticist, ARS USDA
- Zoo Keeper, Garden City Zoo
- Companion Animal Food Development Specialist, Purina Mills,
- Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Of course, many graduates of the Animal Science program opt to continue their studies by pursuing professional programs. A large percentage of these students enter a professional Veterinary Medicine program. In addition to Veterinary Medicine, students within our department have completed other professional programs, including Business, Medical, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Dental and Law school. Some students will seek graduate programs (M.S. and Ph.D. degrees) in specific areas of research.

Whenever potential students visit our department, I always enjoy discussing career opportunities. There is one particular story that I use as an example. I teach a course entitled, "New Techniques in Reproductive Biology." As part of this course, we take a field trip to a human in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic at Methodist Hospital in Omaha. This trip tends to be a real "eye opener" for students enrolled in the course. At the end of the tour, we ask employees at the clinic about their college backgrounds. Approximately 3 out of 4 employees say that they have a degree in Animal Science! To many students, this is an option they had never considered, infusing them with energy about this newfound career opportunity. This is just one example of careers in the human biomedical field applicable to students with degrees in Animal Science.

In summary, the career opportunities available to Animal Science majors are endless. Whether you have an interest in livestock species, horses, companion animals or exotic species, including marine and zoo animals, this is the major for you. Whether you are interested in applied animal production, a veterinary practice, basic scientific research on human health, or anywhere in between, we can offer you multiple career opportunities. Please consider joining our collegiate family. If you have further inquiries, don't hesitate to contact us!

-Dr. Brett White, Associate Professor of Animal Science



Tiffany Bohlender, Senior



Jeremy Haack, Senior



Dr. Jones, Meat Science Professor

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

## WHAT'S COMING UP

- **December 5:** Red Letter Day
- **January 15:** Application Deadline
- **January 16:** Red Letter Day
- **February 8:** Big Red Road Show
- **February 15:** ASCI Scholarship Application deadline
- **February 16:** Red Letter Day
- **February 21:** Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Judging Contest
- **February 23:** Red Letter Day
- **March 13-15:** Nebraska 4-H Stampede and Nebraska Horse Expo
- **May 1:** Enrollment deposit deadline

## Inside Animal Science

Greetings future CASNR students! It has been a busy fall here on East Campus. We had Experience the Power of Red in October, and I enjoyed meeting several of you here. We have also had the Annual Nebraska Youth Beef leadership Symposium and the Companion and Conference on campus this month. The Equestrian Team and the Livestock and Meats Judging Teams have been on the road for contests...I could go on and on! I know you all have been busy too, so I want to make sure to give you some helpful reminders of things coming up.

Most importantly, if you are thinking about filling out your UNL application and wondering about

SCHOLARSHIPS I have good news for you! We have great opportunities in CASNR for students to get scholarship support. CASNR scholarships are awarded based on your admissions application. If you are applying specifically to the Animal Science major, you can also apply for department scholarships by filling our one page application on line. You will be able to find the new application soon on [www.animalscience.unl.edu](http://www.animalscience.unl.edu).

Also, if you are still weighing your college options, we can help you out in the process. Just call the East Campus Visitors Center at 402-472-2942 to schedule a CASNR visit. You can visit just about any day that is convenient for you! During a typical visit, you will tour East Campus and City Campus, meet with students and faculty in your program of interest, learn about Financial Aid at UNL and much more.

-Anita Ferrell, Animal Science Admissions Coordinator

\*This newsletter was created by an Animal Science Ambassador.



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