

Texas State University-Agriculture Department, (512) 245-2130



2007-2008 School Year in Full Swing

The Texas State Agriculture Department is in full swing after just a few weeks back.

With 236 undergraduates and 12 graduates enrolled, the Agriculture Department had a 3% increase in enrollment compared to last year. That is compared to the Universities overall enrollment of 2.3%.

Much of the enrollment increase can be contributed to the vigorous recruiting campaign and the number of scholarships

awarded. There were 20 undergraduates that received scholarships totaling \$45,500. Those scholarships were awarded through the Houston Livestock Show, San Antonio Livestock Exposition, and the Ag Faculty Memorial (T.R. Buie).

With the number of students increasing, there is much excitement over the functions headed up by the department clubs. There are 5 clubs returning;

including Ag Ambassadors, Collegiate FFA, Delta Tau Alpha, Hortus Colere, Pre-Vet Society, and the addition of the Livestock Judging Team. These clubs are already hosting and planning numerous activities in the agriculture department. Check out the dates in the upcoming events section of this newsletter.

We are all looking forward to a great year in the Texas State University Agriculture Department!

Livestock Judging Added to Ag Dept

The Texas State Agriculture Department takes another step towards establishing itself as one of the premiere leaders in agriculture.

The Collegiate Livestock Judging Team was added to the list of organizations that are supported by the Ag Department. Texas State students will be participating in livestock judging contests locally and nationally, traveling as far away as Minnesota. These students will use their knowledge of livestock to compete against such universities as Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, and LSU.

The team is coached by Texas A&M graduate Ty Chumbley. Chumbley received his bachelors in Agriculture Science at A&M and is working on his Masters Degree at Texas State.

When asked his thoughts of starting this new team, he said "The opportunity for these students to travel to contests around the nation and be part of starting a judging team is very special. Many students don't get to be part of starting a team and the team will set the foundation of a winning tradition here

at Texas State."

The team consists of 15 students ranging in classification of freshman to seniors. Their first contest was the Blinn Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest held at the Blinn Jr. College campus on Friday Sept. 21, where they placed 5th overall and 2 members placed in the top 25.

If you would like to make a donation to the team please contact Ty Chumbley at 210-722-1622 or tychumbley@txstate.edu

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"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

2007 Annual "Meat and Greet"

The Agriculture Department hosted the Annual "Meat and Greet", Wednesday September 19th. This year's event was bigger and better than last years.

The "Meat and Greet" gives new students an opportunity to meet the returning students and faculty. There were 140 students and faculty in attendance at this year's event held at the Freeman Ranch. The attendance more than doubled compared to last year.

Everyone enjoyed an

evening of barbeque and games, including horseshoes, washers, darts and tug-of-war. Prizes were given out to winners and the Hortus Colere Club brought home the gold in the tug-of-war competition against the other clubs. Along with Hortus Colere, the faculty beat out the seniors in the faculty vs. seniors' tug-of-war competition.

Thanks to all that joined in and worked hard to make this years "Meat and Greet" a huge success!



Graduate Student Enrollment Doubles

The 2007-2008 school year has also brought an increase number of graduate students to the Texas State University Agriculture Department.

The number of graduate students has nearly doubled to 12 compared

to last years 7. All 12 graduate students are working towards a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education.

Three of the graduate students; Ty Chumbley, Melody Baker and Jennifer

Smith are working at Texas State through assistantships awarded by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Former Grad Student Turning Heads with Green Research

Amy McFarland graduated in May with a Master's in Agricultural Education and her thesis has already caught the attention of people across the country.

McFarland researched the benefits of campus green spaces and the perceptions of quality of life of university students. She began her research with questions on a project that had already been started on the Texas State University campus.

The "Gray to Green" project looked at the amount of industrialized areas compared to the green spaces currently on campus. A plan is being looked at for adding green spaces and the plants that will make up this area.

McFarland's thesis got the attention of the National Public Radio (NPR), which resulted in McFarland being interviewed. In July, she attended the 2007 American Society for Horticultural Science National Meeting in

Scottsdale, Arizona, where she presented the abstract entitled "The relationship between student use of campus green spaces and perceptions of quality of life." The article on her thesis has also been accepted for publication in HortTechnology.

McFarland is continuing her education by attending Texas A&M University this fall, where she is working on her doctoral.



Annual Kill It and Grill It Contest

The Texas State Agriculture Department is getting ready to fire up the grills for the Annual Kill It and Grill It Contest.

The contest is held in conjunction with the Universities Homecoming festivities. This years event will be held on Saturday October 20th before the Bobcat football game.

The Kill It and Grill It has been an agriculture department favorite for many years, but it has

quickly become a campus and City of San Marcos favorite.

The contest has grown from just two categories; Grilled it and Baked it, to 4 categories; Bought it, Killed it, Grew it, and Baked it.

Prizes are given to the first and second place winners in every category and to the team that demonstrates overall showmanship. In past years the prizes have been donated by area businesses and residents that have taken an interest in campus activities.

We are hoping for a larger turn out this year with a goal of at least 20 teams participating. This contest is open to not only students, staff and faculty, but to the general public.

If you are interested in either participating or donating to the Kill It and Grill It, please contact the main office of the Agriculture Department. You can also go to the Agriculture website, www.ag.txstate.edu for more details. Along with details there is also an online entry form that can be found under Ag Events if you are interested in competing.

Even if you are not the "grilling" expert you should plan on attending the festivities as we celebrate Homecoming Week at Texas State University-San Marcos.

Faculty Outside the Classroom

The professors in the Texas State Ag Dept. fill their days with not only teaching class and assisting students, but with hours of research. The research is for articles, presentations, and government funding.

- Dr. Doug Morrish, Dr. Aditi Angirasa, Dr. Greg Pollard, and Yolanda Quintanilla were recently funded for \$440,000 from the USDA Hispanic Serving Institutions program. The monies will develop a 3-year program for scholarships, distance education, and summer trips. The Dept. of Agriculture will be partnered with Laredo Comm. College and Southwest Texas Junior College.
- Dr. Doug Morrish and Dr. Aditi Angirasa were also funded \$7,100 through the Research Enhancement program at Texas State to work on a project entitled "An Analysis of Factors Affecting Academic Performance of College Freshman."
- Dr. Doug Morrish recently submitted an article to the NACTA Journal entitled "Relationships Between Student Teacher Placement Methodology and the Quality of the Student Teacher Experience." The article is in review.
- Dr. Aditi Angirasa recently submitted a paper to Southwestern Journal of Economics entitled "Impact of Trade

Liberalization on Economic Growth and Development: Case of China, India, Brazil, and Mexico." The article is in review.

- Dr. Greg Pollard spoke at a Goat Workshop in conjunction with the Hays County Extension Office. His workshop covered nutrition, health maintenance, facilities, and quality.
- Dr. Greg Pollard and Dr. Reed Richardson presented a number of abstracts at the 2007 ADSA PSA AMPA ASAS Annual Meeting. The abstracts presented are entitled "Energy costs of steam-flaking corn with different chemical grain conditioning agents", "Effects of cellulolytic enzymes and seaweed extract on performance and carcass characteristics in meat goats fed a non-pelleted diet", "Evaluation of level of crude protein and undegradable intake protein level in diets of growing Boer goats fed a complete pelleted ration", "Effects of stabilized rice bean on growth, feed efficiency, carcass characteristics, and occurrence of urinary calculi in wether Boer goats fed a complete pelleted diet", "Effects of dietary yeast culture supplementation on milk production and somatic cell counts at a commercial dairy", and "Effects of

fibrolytic enzymes and seaweed extract on performance and carcass characteristics in meat goats fed a non-pelleted diet".

- Dr. Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade and associates have had two articles accepted for publication in the HortTechnology and one in HortScience, "The relationship between student use of campus green spaces and perceptions of quality of life", "Growing environmental stewards: The effect of a youth gardening program on environmental attitudes and environmental locus of control of elementary school children", and "The effect of live plants and window views of green spaces on employee perceptions of job satisfaction".
- Dr. Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade and M. Abbott will be funded \$350,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency for a project with the Rivers System Institute entitled "Large scale composting system as a means of control for Eichhornia crassipes, Water Hyacinth and see eradication.
- Dr. Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade presented a poster at the 2007 American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting entitled "Consumer preferences of nutritional attribute of pecans."

Agriculture in the Changing World

By Andrew Zwarun



Our world has entered the stage in which the climate is warming; water resources are becoming more scarce; and soils are beginning to decrease in their capabilities to produce food through deforestation, desertification, salinization, and urbanization. Many of these factors contain a strong human component. Add to this the factor of increasing population, and it becomes obvious that our ability to sustain ourselves on this planet is diminishing.

I feel that it is up to our department to sensitize all agricultural students to the science and sociology of these trends. Agriculture, the production and distribution of food, is the core of all human life. If our students become acquainted with these problems, some now urgent, they would be in a leadership position to do something about them.

We should insert the study and discussion of these trends (and potential solutions) into all our departmental courses.

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Spotlight on our Alumni

This area is for you, the Texas State University Agriculture Alumni. We want to hear from you!

The AGcast is available to not only the Alumni, but to faculty and current students. It would be wonderful if our Alumni sent in some encouraging words for the students that are currently

enrolled at Texas State. We would also like to know what is going on in your lives since you graduated from Texas State.

Please contact me at js51573@txstate.edu if you have something to add to *The AGcast*. Also, don't forget to go to the Texas State University Agriculture

website, www.ag.txstate.edu, to update your information. We want to make sure you get all the updates and information on the Agriculture Department.

Upcoming Events

September

21st – Livestock Judging Team competes at Blinn Junior College

October

10th – Area VII-Land, Range, & Plant ID Contest (Freeman Ranch)

13th - Bobcat Days

14th – 20th – Homecoming

20th – 9th Annual Kill It & Grill It (See the Ag Dept. website for more information)

27th – CFFA Prospect Show at the Hays County Civic Center

November

10th – Bobcat Days

14th – Leadership Development Events (LDE) in Seguin, TX



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ag.txstate.edu

