Recent departmental publications include:


ASSOCIATIONS

TRAVELS

Jerry Holechek gave a presentation on grazing management at the Arizona Grazing Lands Conservation Association in Globe, Arizona on December 4. He also gave an invited paper on "Range Livestock Production: An Industry with a Bright Future" at the Malpai Borderlands Group in Douglas, Arizona on January 7-8.

Andrés Cibils and Santiago Utsumi attended a GPPS-GIS workshop in Uvalde, Texas on December 9-11. On December 17-18, Andrés and Laurie Abbott visited CIRENA (Centro de Investigacion de Recursos Naturales) in Jimenez, Chihuahua, Mexico to explore research and education collaboration possibilities.

Assisting in an ethanol byproducts conference on December 10-17 in Garden City, Kansas was Sergio Soto-Navarro.

Derek Bailey gave a presentation at the “Don’t Fence Me In” section at the Range Beef Cow Symposium in Fort Collins, Colorado on December 8-11. He then traveled to Ramah, Jordan on December 11-18 where he presented range reclamation and grazing behavior studies at TAI.

Carlos Ochoa attended the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco on December 12-14.

Representing the WAC Athletic Conference at the Sugar Bowl on December 30-January 1 was Jack Thomas. Jack also attended the NCAA convention in Nashville, Tennessee on January 9-14.

Milt Thomas attended the USDA-NRI meeting, NRSP-8 (Cattle, Sheep, Goat meeting), and the International Plant and Animal
Genome Meeting in San Diego on January 8-15. He presented a paper, “Bovine growth hormone receptor (BGHR) gene: 5′UTR re-sequencing, SNP detection, and association with performance in Brangus bulls” at the Genome conference.

Nick Peterson, meat lab manager, attended an E. coli workshop for small and very small plants in Albuquerque on January 9.

Dennis Hallford will be attending the American Sheep Industry national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 23-27.

Traveling to the Society for Range Management meetings in Louisville, Kentucky on January 26-30 are Laurie Abbott, Kelly Allred, Derek Baily, Andrés Cibils, Kirk McDaniel and graduate students Santiago Utsumi, Jacob Martin, Barbara Witmore, Hector Ramirez, Adam Ortega.

**FACULTY HONORS**

Chris Allison was presented the “Bud’s Contract Award” at the Joint Stockmen’s meeting in Albuquerque on December 6-8.

At the New Mexico Society for Range Management meetings held January 8-10 in Las Cruces, Manny Encinias of the Clayton Livestock Research Center was named Rangeland Manager of the Year.

**FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR**

Sam Fernald has been selected for a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship to conduct research abroad. He will study and present lectures at the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina from January thru April. He will discuss theory and application of integrated surface water-groundwater computer models at the University while his research is titled “Characterization of Lower Rio Chubut Surface Water and Groundwater Interactions for Enhanced Watershed Management.” Sam will be accompanied by his wife, Katherine and their two daughters.

**STUDENT TEAMS**

The Wool Judging Team participated at the Texas Invitational Wool Judging Contest in San Angelo on November 30-December 1. Kaitlyn Vega placed 3rd in line score while Marissa Ham was 4th in placings and reasons. Pate Chavez is also a member of the team, coached by Tim Ross and assisted by Trevor Gray and Cody Terpening. The team will compete at the National Western Wool Judging Contest in Denver on January 14-20 and the Houston Livestock Show on March 9-15.

The Range Plant Identification and URME Teams will travel to the SRM Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, on January 26-February 1. Team members are Rachel Davis, Chase Skaar, Josh Miller, Amelia Underwood, and Brandon Sanders.

**FALL GRADUATE HONORS**

Chris Teske, range science major from Alamogordo, was honored as the “Outstanding Student
in Agriculture” and graduate with Highest Honors from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at the Fall 2007 Commencement. He was also presented a departmental “Distinguished Graduating Senior” medallion. Other students receiving medallions were Marie Cadieux and Sarah Searle (animal science) and Josh Miller (range science). Marie graduated with Honors.

NEW GRAD STUDENTS

New graduate students who have joined the department this Spring Semester include:

Emily Eastman – MS
(Petersen)

Flint Harrelson – PhD
(Petersen/Ivey)

ETC.

Joby Priest has accepted the position of Horse Farm Manager following the retirement of Lou Berkompas this past fall. Joby will continue to teach some horse courses in the department, while Sarah Wallace has been hired as a temporary to teach the Western Equitation courses.

Congratulations to Dana Wiebe, Secretary II with the department, has been named recipient of the “2007 NMSU Foundation/FirstLight Federal Credit Union Staff Achievement Award.” The award of $1,500 was presented at the Spring Convocation on January 15.

Sympathy is expressed to:

Gail and Robert Silver on the death of her father on December 20 in Florida;

and

Greg Baldaramma and Mary Lou Tellez on the death of his mother on December 30 in Las Cruces.

Congratulations to Mariedad and Terrell “Red” Baker on the birth of twin girls, Brynn Loyal and Maevé McCord, on January 11, 2008. Red has also been named as co-director of the Range Improvement Task Force (RITF) along with John Fowler.

Welcome back to Karl Wood, who will be teaching RgSc 318 (Watershed Management) this spring while Sam Fernald is on sabbatical leave.

Jill Benavidez, who received her M.S. degree in animal science in December, has accepted a job with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in San Angelo as a lab technician, beginning February 1. Her advisor was Dennis Hallford.

Kathryn Malcolm-Callis, who received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in animal science from NMSU, has been named president-elect of the New Mexico Cowbelles.