

February 23, 2009

PETERSEN TO MONTANA

After 18 years at NMSU, Dr. Mark Petersen will be retiring from this institution and head to Montana where he will become the Research Leader at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City. Mark came to NMSU in 1991 from Montana State University, having also worked with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. His research has focused on range ruminant nutrition and he has been recognized for his efforts with the WSASAS Young Scientist Award and the WSASAS Service Award.

PUBLICATIONS

Recent departmental publications include the following:

“Case study: Scrotal circumference in beef bulls – Prediction of measures at 365 days of age from measures at 240 days of age with data from the Tucumcari Bull Test,” **Jared Decker, Pablo Luna, Manny Encinias, R. M. Enns, and Milt Thomas.** 2008. *The Professional Animal Scientist* 24:488-493.

“Seasonal changes in one-seed juniper intake by sheep and goats in relation to dietary protein and plant secondary metabolites,” **Santiago Utsumi, Andrés Cibils,**

Rick Estell, **Sergio Soto-Navarro,** and Dawn VanLeeuwen. 2009. *Small Ruminant Research* 81:152-162.

“Single nucleotide polymorphisms in Brahman steers and their association with carcass and tenderness traits,” T. Smith, **Milt Thomas,** T. D. Bidner, J. C. Paschal, and D. E. Franke. 2009. *Genetics and Molecular Research* 8(1):39-46.

“Influence of toxic endophyte fescue on sperm characteristics and endocrine factors of yearling Brahman-influenced bulls,” Mike Looper, R. W. Rorie, C. N. Person, T. d. Lester, **Dennis Hallford,** G. E. Aiken, C. A. Roberts, G. E. Rottinghaus, and C. F. Rosenkrans, Jr. 2009. *Journal of Animal Science* 87:1184-1191.

TRAVELS

Andrés Cibils will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina (February 14-20) and Punta Arenas, Chile (February 21-March 2) working with colleagues from Universidad de Mar del Plata, INTA, and INIA on regional grazing distribution projects. They will be using GPS collar data to describe grazing distribution patterns of cattle and sheep. He will also meet with the 2011 International Rangeland

Congress organizing committee while in Buenos Aires.

Clint Löest and Boone Carter will be attending the Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference in Tempe, Arizona on February 26-27.

NEW GRAD STUDENTS

Joining the department this semester as new graduate students are:

Masad Batil Alanazi (MS, Soto); Chelsea Felker (MS, Hallford), Noe Gonzales (MS, Abbott), Roxanne Long (MS, Hallford), Francisco Rivera (MS, Hagevoort), Kirsten Romig (MS, Allred) and Morgan Russell (MS, Bailey)

SRM MEETINGS

The annual Society for Range Management meeting was held February 9-12 in Albuquerque. Papers/posters presented by departmental personnel include:

Our scientific history” – Kelly Allred

“Treated vs untreated understory forest response following wildland fire in the Southwest: Implications for range managers” – Doug Cram, Terrell Baker, Carl Edminster

“Hydrologic functions of a valley-scale rangeland riparian area” – Carlos Ochoa, Sam Fernald, Steven Guldan, Vincent Tidwell,

Phillip King, Yeliz Cevik, and Ciara Cusack

“Grazing and grazing exclusion effects on Chihuahuan Desert vegetation trends” – Francisco Molinar, Joseph Navarro, Jerry Holechek, Dee Galt, and Milt Thomas

“Long-term response of African rue and associated vegetation to herbicides” – Laurie Abbott, Kein Branum, Nina Klypina, and Tracy Sterling

“The magnitude of locoweed poisoning in New Mexico and the collaborative research between NMSU and the USDA/ARS poisonous plant lab” – David Graham

“Do animal-to-animal variations in locoweed ingestion patterns offer opportunities to reduce intoxication rates of naïve yearling cattle?” – Andrés Cibils, Kyle Jackson, Jacob Martin, David Graham, Dale Gardner and Bob Wesley

“Managing woolly locoweed (*Astragalus mollissimus*) toxicity of grazing beef cattle in Northeastern New Mexico” – Manny Encinia, D. Calderon-Mendoza, F. Loya, C. Murdock, David Graham, and M. H. Ralphs

“Herbicide control of locoweeds” – Kirk McDaniel

“Use of PGS and GIS technologies to develop and evaluate new approaches to

manipulate cattle distribution” – Derek Bailey

“Influence of weather and animal related factors on grazing distribution of livestock” – Andrés Cibils, Christine Rubio, Bob Wesley, Mark Petersen, Ed Fredrickson, Miguel Brizuela, and M. Slivia Cid

“Potential for amendments to improve in-vitro fermentation of diets containing honey mesquite” – Barbara Witmore, Derek Bailey, Mark Petersen

“Brush management and conservation: New perspectives on an old problem” – Steven Archer, Kirk Davies, Timothy Fulbright, Kirk McDaniel, and Brad Wilcox

“Changes in digestibility of mature forage with addition of *Juniperus monosperma* or alpha-Pinene” – Christine Roof, Laura Dawdy, Shanna Lodge-Ivey, Mark Petersen

“Effect of *Juniperus monosperma* on rumen bacterial diversity” – Laura Dawdy, Shanna Ivey, Johnette Browne-Silva, Christine Roof, and Mark Petersen

“Comparing beef cow behavioral syndromes to measures of productivity and spatial use of rangelands” – Bob Wesley, Andres Cibils, Emily Pollak, Shad Cox, Travis Mulliniks, Mark Petersen, and Ed Fredrickson

“Under-canopy and interspace soil moisture and temperature of one-seed juniper

stands” – Hector Ramirez, Sam Fernald, and Andrés Cibils

“Effects of acequias and groundwater levels on riparian vegetation, evapotranspiration, and restoration” – Ciara Cusack, Sam Fernald, Steven Guldan

“Soil moisture response to tree thinning in central New Mexico” – Sam Fernald, Ferhat Gokbulak, Hector Ramirez and Dawn VanLeeuwen

Serving as session monitors and chairs were:

Laurie Abbott – Chair of technical session on Wildlife II

Sam Fernald – Monitor – Climate and Climate Change Co-moderator: Rangeland Eco-hydrology: Key concepts and application to state and transition model development

Sam Smallidge – Moderator: Wolf-livestock interactions: Using science to develop innovative management to protect natural and cultural resources.

The NMSU Range Club received **FIRST PLACE** in the University Chapter Display. Members representing the local club were Monty Lane, Chase Elkins, Nick Padilla, Carson Taylor, Donald Schoederbeck, Craig Lamy, Brad Cooper, Rachel Suazo, and Kenton Martin.

ACADEMIC QUADRATHLON

Three teams competed in the NMSU Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon on February 20-21. The Block and Bridle team, Brock Graham, Denny Barnett, Lori Richardson, and Andrea Stapp finished first and will represent NMSU at the WSASAS Regional competition in Utah in March. Second place went to "Aggies R Us" (Megan Coleson, Scott Gutierrez, Kenton Martin, Heath Tjaden) and third place was the "Ramrod" team (Jason Runyan, Jim Armendariz, Trevor Gray, Scott Jones). Sergio Soto-Navarro and Kasey DeAtley serve as sponsors of the group.

ALUMNI NEWS

Rodney Kott, Extension Sheep Specialist with Montana State University, was awarded the American Sheep Industry "Flock Guardian Award" at the ASI meeting in San Diego in January. He was recognized for his 30 years of implementing sheep and wool educational programs throughout Montana. Rodney received his PhD from NMSU in 1980 working with Jack Ruttle.

Jason Crawford, who received his degree in animal science in 2005, will be graduating from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine in

May, 2009 and will be joining the 43rd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service) as 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas.

Mike Looper, former Extension Dairy Specialist at NMSU, received the Southern Section, American Society of Animal Science "Young Scientist Award" at that section's recent meetings.

ETC.

Sympathy is expressed to:

Calvin and Debbie Bailey on the death of his sister;

Chris and Stephanie Allison on the death of her father, William Bower, on February 8 in Albuquerque;

Neil and Marilyn Burcham on the death of her daughter, Patty Jennings, on February 14 in Roswell.