TRAVELS

Derek Bailey, Milt Thomas and Pablo Luna toured the La Compana Bull Test facility in Chihuahua, Mexico on July 6-7 to study this facility which might be useful for collaborative research in the beef cattle breeding program at NMSU.

Milt Thomas and Sergio Soto-Navarro attended the American Society of Animal Science meeting in Montreal, Canada on July 10-16. Milt serves on the ASAS Board of Directors.

Attending the botanical meetings of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists in Salt Lake City on July 25-29 will be Kelly Allred. He will also in Taos, New Mexico on August 6-9 for the Native Plant Society of New Mexico meeting.

Andrés Cibils has been invited to give a presentation, “Manipulation of grazing behavior of rangeland-raised livestock,” at the V Argentine Rangeland Congress meeting in Corrientes, Argentina on August 13-14, 2009. He will also attend IX International Rangeland Congress organizing committee meetings.

Manny Encinias and Jason Turner will be guest speakers at the annual Field Day at the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari on August 6, 2009. Manny will talk on the use of DNA markers and performance test data for beef cattle improvement, while Jason’s topic is “Turner’s tips for managing horses in drought conditions.”

PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications by departmental personnel include:

“Color Patterns for Crossbred Beef”, Extension Guide B-211, reviewed by Chris Allison

“Chemical Weed and Brush Control for New Mexico Rangelands,” Extension Circular 597, revised by Keith Duncan and Kirk McDaniel

POSITION OPENINGS

Search committees for the five open faculty positions in the department have been established. Interviews for the Companion Animal position have been tentatively set for August 11 (Dr. Amy Fischer), August 19 (Dr. Kari Ekenstedt), and August 25 (Dr. Gaylene Fasenko). Jack Thomas serves as chair of this committee. Other openings include Ruminant
Nutrition (formerly held by Mark Petersen), committee chaired by Dennis Hallford; Reproductive Physiology (formerly held by Dean Hawkins), committee chaired by Milt Thomas; Vegetation Management (previously held by Kirk McDaniel), committee chaired by Sam Fernald; and Equine (formerly held by Jason Turner whose time is now 75% Extension, 25% research), committee chaired by Jack Thomas.

ETC.

Two former students in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences have recently accepted new positions in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Jeff Bader, who received his MS in animal science in 1985, has been named the Cooperative Extension Service Northern District department head. Sam Smallidge has accepted the position of Extension Wildlife Specialist. Sam received his MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and PhD in range science at NMSU. He also has served as Extension Range Management Specialist in Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources for the past 2 years.

Sympathy is expressed to John and Jim Winder and their families on the death of their mother, Maggie Winder Beck on July 19, 2009.