PUBLICATIONS
Recent departmental publications include:


“Using a supplementation program as a grazing management tool,” Manny Encinias and Sam Smallidge. AES Guide B-818.


TRAVELS
Attending the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco on December 13-17 were Sam Fernald, Carlos Ochoa, and Hector Ramirez-Garduño.

Sergio Soto-Navarro met with faculty at the University of Chihuahua on January 8-12 to discuss collaborative research efforts.

Milt Thomas attended the USDA-AFRI project directors meeting, the NRSP-8 meeting and the Plant and Animal Genome meeting in San Diego on January 7-13. Postdoctoral student, Sunday Peters also participated in the Plant and Animal Genome conference. Presentations by Milt and Sunday include “Identification of molecular markers to improve fertility in beef cattle,” “QTL, hypothalamic-transcriptome and candidate gene query suggest bovine chromosome 2 influences heifer pregnancy,” and “Bayesian QTL inference from whole genome growth and carcass analyses in Brangus heifers.”

The New Mexico Section of the Society for Range Management held their annual winter meeting in Albuquerque on January 7-8. Presentations were given by the following faculty and graduate students:

Laurie Abbott – “Revitalizing rangeland education: An outlook on trends in higher education”

Ahmed Mohamed – “Evaluation of QuickBird satellite imagery for identifying dominant
vegetation types in Chihuahuan Desert rangelands”

Laura Jacobson – “Targeted grazing of white locoweed with sheep in northeastern New Mexico”

Morgan Russell – “Grazing patterns of Angus, Brangus, and Brahman cows in the Chihuahuan Desert”

Hector Ramirez – “Soil water flux in a mixed conifer forest stand in New Mexico”

Doug Cram, Range Science doctoral candidate working with Red Baker, received the NM Section-SRM President’s Award while Nick Padilla, range science undergraduate, was recognized with a plaque from the NM Section-SRM for his work as president of the NMSU Range Club.

The Southwest Beef Cattle Symposium was held in Tucumcari, New Mexico on January 20-22. Presentations by NMSU personnel included:

Clay Mathis – “Nutrition tools: Fat, urea, and chelated minerals”

Manny Encinias – “Genetic tools: DNA assisted selection and $Value EPDs”

John Wenzel – “Health tools: BVD-PI testing and diagnostic labs”

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Eric Schollejegerdes has accepted the ruminant nutrition position formally held by Mark Petersen and will join the faculty on April 12. Eric comes to NMSU from USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, North Dakota. He received his B.S. degree in animal science from the University of Missouri while his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in ruminant nutrition were earned at the University of Wyoming. Eric’s research focuses on nutritional and managerial methods to improve efficiency in grazing livestock and on fat supplementation. He currently serves as Production Section Editor for the Journal of Animal Science.

STUDENT TEAMS

The Wool Judging Team participated at the National Western Wool Judging Contest in Denver on January 11-17, finishing in 10th place overall. T.J. Wood placed 1st in handspinning and Sara Rush was 8th in handspinning. Other team members are Shannon Norris, Megan Nystrom, Dalli Chavez, and Sara Rush with Patricia Black as the team coach.
NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS
New graduate students joining the department in Spring 2010 include:
Fatima Al-Lataifeh (PhD, Löest) and Vanessa Prileson (MS, Cibils)

ETC.
Congratulations to Jason and Mindy Turner on the birth of their son, John Lee on December 23, 2009.
Laura Jacobson, Range Science master’s student working with Andrés Cibils, has been awarded the Mike Watts Outstanding Leadership Graduate Fellowship by the NMSU Graduate School.

Student Credit Hours (SCH) in Animal and Range Sciences have increased 14.8% in Spring 2010 over SCH in Spring 2009.