



*This newsletter was written and designed by Animal Science Ambassador Dustin Renken*

## Student Research

### Brizett Cole



*“We have determined that females that produce excess androgens are less fertile and have similar characteristics to infertile women who have androgen excess disorders such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. Thus, our goal is to better understand how this infertility occurs (excess androgen) and potentially be able to treat infertile cows as well as translate some of this information to help infertile women.”*

**Hometown:** Syracuse, NE  
**Major:** Animal Science  
Pre Vet Option

**Supervising Professor:** Dr. Jennifer Wood, joint with Dr. Andrea Cupp

The goal of Brizett’s research is to determine if there are differences in vasculature of ovarian cortices

from cows and how this correlates to fertility. It has been seen in women with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), that there is an increased production of androgens and increased vasculature which causes over stimulation and we see a lot of follicles developing, but none ovulating. This is similar to cows, in that, the cows with increased androgen production are more infertile and vice versa.

### Peter Sojka



*“Having the opportunity to perform surgeries on mice under anesthesia as an undergraduate has provided me with a wealth of animal experience that I would normally not receive until veterinary school.”*

**Hometown:** Omaha, NE  
**Major:** Animal Science  
Pre Vet Option  
**Supervising Professor:**  
Dr. Merlyn Nielsen

Peter performed feed intake studies on mice with high and low levels of heat loss in the Small Animal Lab. This was followed by implantation of transmitters under anesthesia which

measured locomotor activity and internal body temperature. The mice were allowed to recover for 3 days, followed by 4 days of measurement. As was anticipated, the high heat loss line of mice had significantly greater body temperature and locomotor activity than the low heat loss line. However, they have altered the times that they are active both in light and in darkness. The data gained from the study will aid in further selection of the mice and a better understanding of their characteristics.

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# Student Organizations

## Block & Bridle



Block & Bridle's mission is to promote a higher scholastic standard among students of all phases of Animal Husbandry, and bring about a closer relationship among the men and women pursuing animal husbandry as a profession. The Nebraska Chapter accomplishes these goals by inviting professionals from the industry as speakers, as well as hosting events to promote agriculture and animal welfare. The Club is also touring several businesses to gain a better understanding of different opportunities available in the agriculture industry. For more information contact Melissa Matulka at [melissa.matulka@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:melissa.matulka@huskers.unl.edu)

## Equestrian Team & Club

The Husker Equestrian Team is a group of undergraduate equine enthusiasts. They consist of riders of all levels, and compete around the nation as part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). It is comprised of two teams, Western and Hunt Seat, which practice on a weekly basis at the Animal Science Complex on East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The team competes in IHSA Zone 8, Region 5 where they have been Regional Champions for the past eight consecutive years, and finished 3rd at the 2012 IHSA National Championship Show. The Husker Equestrian Team welcomes riders of all levels to try out at the beginning of the semester. Contact: Dr. Lena Cottle, advisor, at [lcottle2@unl.edu](mailto:lcottle2@unl.edu) or Lori Jaixen, coach, at [ljaixen2@unl.edu](mailto:ljaixen2@unl.edu).



## Horse Judging Team



The UNL Horse Judging Team is coached by Dr. Kathy Anderson. Full-time students of Junior Standing are eligible to compete in the Fall, while those not meeting those requirements are able to compete in the Spring. The Fall team travels to the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, and the AQHA World Championship Intercollegiate Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Spring team participates in the Principles of Horse Evaluation class and travels to Alvarado, Texas, for the American Paint Horse Association Intercollegiate Horse Judging Spring Sweepstakes. For more information on the Horse Judging Team please contact Kathy Anderson at [kanderson1@unl.edu](mailto:kanderson1@unl.edu).

## Meat Animal Evaluation Team

The University of Nebraska Meat Animal Evaluation Team serves as the capstone judging activity for those interested in the meat animal production industries. The team annually competes in the National Collegiate Meat Animal Evaluation Contest. Without question, this competition may be described as the most rigorous, rewarding, and educational of all contests that a collegiate judge may partake. For further information regarding the MAE Team, please contact Dr. Bryan Reiling at [breiling2@unl.edu](mailto:breiling2@unl.edu).

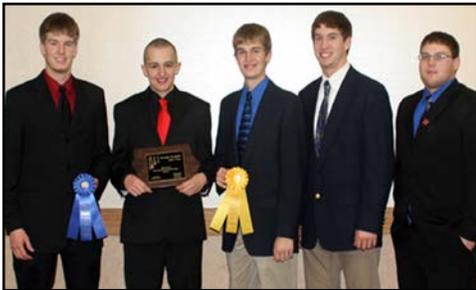


## Livestock Judging Team

The livestock judging team is not only rich in tradition of successful livestock evaluators but also; more importantly in preparing students for future career success. Each year, the UNL Livestock Judging Team visits over 60 of the top livestock operations in 15 states to prepare for national competitions. Currently, the team participates in ten regional and national competitions throughout the year. The 2011 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team finished 5th, and in the top five for the second time in three years, at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY and 4th at the 2012 Dixie National Cattle Judging Contest. The opportunity to participate on the livestock judging team exists for all UNL students regardless of major, and the skills gained as a result of this experience will be of major benefit in any career. For more information contact Matt Ellicott at 402-472-8834 or [mellicott2@unl.edu](mailto:mellicott2@unl.edu).



## Meats Judging Team



The Meat Judging team teaches students how to critically evaluate the carcasses and wholesale cuts of beef, pork, and lamb. Students will also become effective at determining beef carcass yield and quality grades. As a member of the team, students will get an up close look at many processing facilities, and a chance to visit numerous other university meat laboratories. Contests include: the National Western, Houston, Iowa State Invite, the American Royal, the Southeastern, the High Plains, and finally the International. Students are encouraged to take part in the Principles of Meat Grading and Evaluation course before competing in contests. For more information contact Dr. Dennis Burson at [dburson1@unl.edu](mailto:dburson1@unl.edu).

## Rodeo Team & Club

The mission of the UNL Rodeo Club is to confidently promote the sport of rodeo within, as well as beyond, the arena; encourage a higher level of scholastic achievement, preserve our western heritage, and maintain the highest regard for livestock.

Club members are responsible for all aspects of the UNL rodeo, including hosting the UNL Rodeo April 19-22. UNL also has a competitive Rodeo Team that competes throughout the Midwest. For more information contact Jamie Bauman at [jbauman3@unl.edu](mailto:jbauman3@unl.edu).



## Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals **SEECA**



SEECA is a student organization that was formed for students with an interest in exotic and companion animals. The organization provides an opportunity for students with an interest in companion, exotic, or zoo animals to become acquainted with one another and to improve the knowledge and understanding of these animals. The club does this through inviting speakers involved in a variety of fields related to exotic and companion animals to speak at regular meetings. In addition, the organization seeks to increase the awareness of companion and exotic animals on campus and within the community. For more information contact Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at [lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu](mailto:lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu).

# Award Winning Faculty

## Dr. Terry Klopfenstein



Recipient of American Feed Industry Association's New Frontiers in Animal Nutrition Award from the Federation of Animal Science Societies and

recipient of the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Industry Leadership Award, Klopfenstein's accomplishments

are described as "pioneering and innovative research relevant to the nutrition of animals that benefits mankind and the nutritional value of foods from animals," by the Federation of Animal Science Societies. As a recipient of the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Industry Leadership Award, Terry has "demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service and has made significant contributions to the advancement of the cattle-feeding business," as well as mentored more than 150 graduate students throughout his career.

## Dr. Dennis Burson



Dr. Burson received the American Meat Science Association's Signal Service Award. Established in 1956, this award is given to members in recognition of devoted service and lasting contributions to the meat industry and to the association. Burson is respected for his innovation in meat science and food safety.

## Dr. Matthew Spangler



Spangler was named Top 10 Industry Leaders Under 40 by The Cattle Business Weekly. Matt Spangler, an assistant animal science professor and UNL Extension beef genetics specialist, is involved in statewide and national programming in beef cattle genetics. He is also in charge of the university's teaching herd,

which is about 220 seedstock Angus and red and black Sim-Angus cattle. One of Spangler's classes puts on the university's annual bull sale, and he also coordinates the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars.

## Dr. Chris Calkins



Calkins is a 2012 winner of the Innovation, Development and Engagement Award, a University of Nebraska system-wide honor that recognizes faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the university in ways that have enriched the broader community. Calkins is well known for his groundbreaking beef muscle-profiling research.

For more awards visit: <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ANSCRecognitionArchive>

## And Many More...

**Lisa Karr-Lilienthal**- Selected recipient of the Teaching Award of Merit Award from the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta and recognized for Recognition for Contributions to Students by the UNL Teaching Council/Parents Association.

**Jennifer Wood**- Recipient of the 2011 Dinsdale Family Faculty Award from IANR.

**Chris Calkins**- Recognized for Recognition for Contributions to Students by the UNL Teaching Council/Parents Association.

**Galen Erickson**- Appointed the Nebraska Cattle Industry Professor of Animal Science.

**Rodger Johnson**- Selected recipient of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association Outstanding Pork Service Award.

**Steve Jones**- Selected recipient of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association Outstanding Pork Service Award and recognized for Recognition for Contributions to Students by the UNL Teaching Council/Parents Association.

**Terry Mader**- Recipient of Animal Science Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award from Oklahoma State University.

**Roger Mandigo**- Selected the 2012 Honoree of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

**Merlyn Nielsen**- Recognized for Recognition for Contributions to Students by the UNL Teaching Council/Parents Association.

**Rick Rasby**- Recipient of Animal Science Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award from Oklahoma State University.

**Bryan Reiling**- Recognized for Recognition for Contributions to Students by the UNL Teaching Council/Parents Association.

**Matt Spangler**- Recipient of a Junior Faculty Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence from IANR.

# Ambassadors

## Animal Science Department Contact Info:

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www.facebook.com/

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animal-science2@unl.edu

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Admissions Coordinator  
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**November 2-5:** Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium

**November 3:** CASNR Experience the Power of Red Open House

**November 3-4:** Husker Equestrian Team Show @ RB Warren Arena

**November 30:** Block and Bridle Kids Day

**December 5:** Companion Animal & Wildlife Career Day

**January 13-14:** Animal Science Overnight

**February 2:** Husker Equestrian Team Show @ RB Warren Arena

*Happy Holidays*  
from  
*Animal Science*

**Right:**  
2012-2013  
Animal Science  
Ambassadors  
from left to right:  
Melisa McDonald,  
Ryan Grafel,  
Dustin Renken,  
& Alec Ibach.



*Melisa McDonald*

**Hometown:** Lincoln, NE

**Major:** Animal Science - Business  
Agribusiness Minor  
Spanish Minor

*"My advisor has been the same since my freshman year. She is a professor in the department and knowledgeable about classes and instructors."*

*Ryan Grafel*



**Hometown:** Hastings, NE

**Major:** Animal Science - Pre Vet  
*"You cannot learn to swim unless there is water to swim in." Animal Science has the facilities and ability to promote this type of kinesthetic learning which I believe cannot be achieved by just reading from text."*

*Alec Ibach*



**Hometown:** Sumner, NE

**Major:** Animal Science - Business  
*"I am an Animal Science major at UNL because I have a passion for the animal agriculture industry, and for the tremendous faculty, staff, and students in this department."*

*Dustin Renken*



**Hometown:** Bertrand, NE

**Major:** Animal Science - Pre Vet  
*"Animal Science has always been a place where I can call home. We are so lucky to have caring faculty that are genuinely interested in our career and development as both students and young individuals."*

