



Cattle Team to IA Beef Expo

The Cattle Show Team traveled to the Iowa Beef Expo in Des Moines, Iowa on Sunday, February 10th with two heifers from the University Farm. Dr. Wehner and students Sheila Rustemeyer, Kelsey Witte, Catie Burke, Anne Jaspering and Marie Zumalt worked to prepare the Gelbvieh heifers for the show and sale at the Expo.



The group attended a dinner and meeting held by the Iowa Gelbvieh Association on Monday night where the students were able to experience a producer's meeting and view how a breed association meeting is conducted.

"It was an educational opportunity to talk to industry representatives, and for the students to learn about marketing cattle and

getting them ready for sale," Wehner said. The heifers sold on Tuesday, bringing \$800 and \$950, respectively. "The cattle sold where they should be, although the crowd was soft because of the weather."

Sheila Rustemeyer thought the whole experience was positive. "We worked the cattle every afternoon during the week and have hand-fed, watered and handled the heifers two times a day for the last two weeks. We've learned a lot about handling, gentling, and showing through this process."

The Show Cattle Team was revived two years ago after a period of inactivity, and current members encourage more students to get involved in coming years, so they can share their experiences and knowledge.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lt. Governor Peter Kinder has announced the appointment of **Carl M. (Mike) Greenwell** of Shelbina to Truman's Board of Governors. Mr. Greenwell is a partner in the firm Greenwell & Wilcox. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Truman (1983) and a JD from the University of Dayton.

From the Chair

New Equine Science Professor

As the newsletter "goes to press", we are finalizing the process of hiring a new faculty member to fill the tenure-track position in Equine Science. We will introduce our new faculty member in the March newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

The faculty will serve an **Alumni Pancake Breakfast** on Homecoming Weekend, **Saturday, October 4, 2008 (7:30-9:00)** at the University Farm. Make sure to put it on your calendar!

Alumni Profile: Andrea Finzel

Andrea Finzel graduated from the Truman Agriculture Department in 2004 with an emphasis in Animal Science. Her favorite part of Truman was the size of the agriculture department. She liked that it was small and allowed for opportunities to be close to the professors and everyone in the department. The variety of organizations that are put before students to get involved in is another aspect of Truman that she enjoyed. After leaving Kirksville, Andrea got a job at a small animal vet clinic working as a veterinary assistant and receptionist, where she currently works part-time. However, Andrea is now fully employed as a Research Technician in the Equine Department at Land O'

Lakes Purina Feed LLC at LongView Animal Nutrition Center in Gray Summit, MO, in between St. Louis and Rolla. Her job there consists of taking care of 70 head of horses. At Land O' Lakes, they have 3 areas of research they focus on: growth and development, exercise and physiology, and palatability. G&D is done on foals up until 2 years of age with monthly evaluations of weight, heart girth, height, and rump width. A high-speed treadmill and a calorimeter are used for E&P. Palatability to a taste test for horses! Andrea manages the herd health which consists of deworming, vaccinations, and veterinary calls. She believes that her degree from TSU has really helped her in her field and without it she wouldn't have an understanding or

appreciation for animal nutrition and research.



Equestrian Team Competes at Wash. U.

The Equestrian Team of Truman State University traveled to Washington University in Saint Louis the weekend of February 16-17. The team competed against 15 other hunt teams at Baskin Farms in Wildwood, MO, a western suburb of Saint Louis. Each show consisted of 10 different classes of riders including: Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice, Novice over Fences, Intermediate, Intermediate over Fences, Open, and Open over Fences. Truman is always competitive against the other schools, usually placing in the top 5 both days.

This weekend, the team didn't place as well as expected overall, but many individuals did well, placing high in their classes. Some of the riders receiving a blue ribbon include: Joanna Russell, Intermediate over Fences; Corrine Smith, Novice on the Flat; Kate Heisler, Intermediate on the Flat; Amanda Brehm, on the Flat; Alison Knarr, Beginner; and Sam Dever, Beginner. The next competition for the hunt team is April 4 at Northern Illinois University for the regional competition. The stock team has not had their first competition of the spring



semester. They travel to Kansas State University March 1.



NEMO Ag Show

The annual Northeast Missouri Agriculture Show was hosted on February 1st at the NEMO Fairgrounds in Kirksville. The all-day event featured many booths and exhibits by local vendors, including Jim Roberts, Fastenal, Sydenstricker, and Weiler Dairy. The Truman State Agriculture Department had a booth that promoted both the department in general and the Practicum class.

National Ag Week

Truman Agriculture students will celebrate National Agriculture Week, March 17-21, and bring increased awareness of food and agriculture issues to campus with the following activities:

Monday: Petting Zoo

Tuesday: Farm Challenge Relays

Wednesday: Ag in the Classroom at Kirksville Elementary School, Farm Tours

Thursday: Farm Bureau Forum

Friday: Farm Trivia

Update on the Practicum Class Projects

The three projects currently ongoing in the senior agricultural practicum class are beginning to take shape. We would like to use this opportunity to update the ag community about the progress that has been made by the three groups: Strips-n-Sticks Beef Jerky Company, Bulldog Biodiesel, and TSUDs, the soap making company.

Strips-n-Sticks has made big strides since the beginning of the semester. The beef jerky group took one steer to Special D Meats in Macon, MO to be slaughtered and quartered on Tuesday, February 5th. The group brought the carcass back to the University Meats Lab to continue chilling prior to cutting it up. The nine-member team worked together on Thursday, February 14th to cut up the first steer and begin the drying process. The total weight of the meat, including ground, whole muscle and steaks, was roughly 350 pounds, with 171 pounds in ground and 125 pounds in whole muscle.

Bulldog Biodiesel has also made big strides towards their goal of producing biodiesel. The BioPro

190 biodiesel processor was delivered to the University Farm on Friday, February 1st from Lincoln, Nebraska. The group began its first batch of biodiesel that morning with waste vegetable oil collected from The Dukum. The first batch didn't turn out like expected, although once the problem was identified it was easily fixable. Bulldog Biodiesel is in the process of running their second batch which is looking much more promising.



TSUDs soap making company has continued soap production with more success than last semester. The group purchased melt and pour glycerin to make their soap, which has worked much better than the goats milk they were using. The products being sold by TSUDs in-

clude the essential oil scents of lavender, spearmint, peppermint and lemon, and they have produced six different colors of soap. Also, since Bulldog Biodiesel has began producing the by-product glycerin, the group has started experimented with making biodiesel soap which is also working better than making goats milk soap. In total, TSUDs estimates they have successfully made 75 soap bars.

Student Profile: Bryce Harken

Bryce came to Truman in 2004 as a transfer student from Mizzou in Columbia. He is from Liberty, Missouri, and his major is Agricultural Science with an Animal Ag emphasis. Bryce will graduate this May and his future plans are to apply to vet school or get his masters in animal reproduction. The activities he's been involved in while at Truman include Varsity Swimming, Delta Tau Alpha and Bulldog Biodiesel.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing and sports. The things Bryce likes about Truman are the small school atmosphere, getting to know professors well, and the contact between professors and students. His favorite experience at Truman has been taking Equine Reproduction where he got to assist in breeding mares and assisting with the birth of a foal.



Fire in the Farm House

On January 10th at 3:30 a.m. farm resident Carl Duncan was awakened by smoke, as the farm duplex caught on fire from a faulty refrigerator cord in the north apartment. Kendra Nilson was living in the north apartment, although she was not home that morning, but Duncan was sleeping in the south side.

Although the fire was contained to the



north side, smoke and water damages totaled \$141,000. Currently the University is waiting for a response from the insurance company as to what they will cover for damages.

Farm manager Bill Kuntz stated that preliminary plans are to demolish the old duplex and replace it with a new modular-style duplex. The new duplex will have two bedrooms per apartment, but it is uncertain whether the new structure will have a full basement. If not a full basement, a smaller basement will be mandatory for emergency shelter for farm residents and workers. A final decision will be made in the future for the most cost-effective and beneficial option for the agricultural program.