We are proud to announce a new addition to our staff, Mr. Bob Britton.

He comes to us from the College of the Sequoias in California. He is the Director of the Research/Extension Centers on campus.

For more information: www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc/directory/staff/Britton/

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Bratcher awarded $4.8 million to research local, regional food production

From Auburn University Food Systems Initiative

A $4.8 million grant from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture will help a multidisciplinary team of researchers from Auburn and Tuskegee universities identify these gaps and design training to address them. Dr. Christy Bratcher, an Auburn University assistant professor of animal sciences, heads the team.

“With the culmination of our efforts, we can assist local and regional food producers increase food safety while maintaining an acceptable profit margin,” Bratcher said. “The goal is to contribute to maintaining a more secure food supply.”

The focus will be on small farmers, processors and vendors of red meat and small ruminant products in the Southeast, where the numbers of small-farm direct-food-sales vendors and processors, farmers markets and niche markets are growing. The team will survey current practices in local and regional food production and do environmental bacterial sampling on small farms. They will then compile data to create “best practices” and create training modules for producers, following up with re-evaluation of changes in producer behavior with surveys and more environmental sampling.

To read more information regarding Dr. Bratcher’s award, please click the link below:
http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc/BratcherawardedUSDAgrant.php
**Outstanding Student Achievements**

**Leanne Dillard,** Doctoral Candidate for the Department of Animal Sciences under professors Russ Muntifering and Frank Owsley, was awarded the 2012 Novus International Research Award. For more information, click link below: https://sites.auburn.edu/academic/ag/adm/comm/blog/Lists/Posts/

**Congratulations** to the following students who have recently completed their graduate programs:

- **David Daniel** (M.Ag., under Dr. Kriese-Anderson)
- **Teresa Fenn** (M.S., under Dr. Cynthia McCall)

**Presentations**

The following papers were presented by Leanne Dillard and Brandon Smith at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science, July 15-19, 2012 in Phoenix, AZ:


The following papers were presented by Leanne Dillard at the annual joint meetings of the American Society of Agronomy/Crop Science Society of America/Soil Science Society of America, October 21-24, 2012 in Cincinnati, OH:


**Staci DeGeer,** Doctoral Candidate for the Department of Animal Sciences under professor Christy Bratcher, was elected to a one-year term on the American Meat Science Association Student Board of Directors during the Reciprocal Meat Conference held at North Dakota State University in June. In her board position, she will serve as a liaison between the student membership and the AMSA Board of Directors and encourage and facilitate long-term membership and involvement in the organization. Auburn will host the 2013 Reciprocal Meat Conference in June 2013.

**Staci** was also recently chosen to be one of the 12 representatives from the United States in the International Livestock Congress.
I am a meat scientist who joined the Department of Animal Sciences faculty in March 2008. My duties in the department have changed tremendously over the last 4 ½ years. Originally, I began teaching the Meat Processing course every fall. Since then, I have the added responsibility of teaching Sensory Evaluation and Muscle Foods each spring and teaching Advanced Muscle Foods on an as needed basis. My research is currently fairly widespread; however, all of my focus is on investigating practices to reduce the incidence of food-borne illnesses associated with red meat and to discover the attributes of beef that make it taste so great!

I would like to just give you a sample of the current research underway. We have completed a shelf-life and sensory analysis of ground beef from different sources of grind (grass-fed, prime, all natural, chuck, round, etc). Currently, we are analyzing compounds identified through mass spectrometry as they correlated with positive and negative sensory panel eating experiences to try to determine what compounds create the “best” tasting ground beef. We have another project where we are investigating the efficacy of a few different compounds that could potentially be used as a surface application for eliminating surface bacteria on carcass subprimals. While I believe that the meat supply from the United States is the safest and most wholesome food supply available, we are constantly learning more about bacteria that can cause illness; therefore, we are working to create a fail-proof food safety system. In the coming weeks, myself and 9 other researchers from Auburn University and Tuskegee University will begin a project funded by USDA/AFRI in the amount of $4.8 million over 5 years. The title of the proposal is “Identifying gaps between knowledge and practice in production and distribution of local and regional foods for a more secure food supply chain”. Having such a large grant is very exciting for me at this stage in my career!

One of the most exciting parts of my job is working with the talented students in our department and with those that take courses in our department, even if they are not official Department of Animal Sciences students. I have the same philosophy as Dr. Greene when it comes to students, “when they step in the doors of Upchurch Hall, they are Animal Science students regardless of what their official degree says.” As most of my colleagues will attest to, we have the best students. This year, we are in our 2nd year of having a Collegiate Cattlemen and Cattlewomen club, and attendance has increased from 25 members to 37 members this year! Those students are just amazing and we have been doing some very exciting things with our catering business, holiday sausage box sales and meetings! Please check out our webpage for more info: www.auburn.edu/cattlemen.

I just returned from a week-long trip with another group of talented students. My Meat Processing class, consisting of Muscle Foods, Equine Sciences and Food Sciences majors, went from Auburn to Sioux City, NE (about 2700 miles in 6 days) and toured 12 different facilities. Facilities ranged from harvest, to sausage and hotdog processing, to ingredients, and we even visited University of Missouri (my alma mater for my Ph.D) along the way. I think this was the best way to teach students all of the concepts that we have been talking about in class and also to introduce them to potential career opportunities. I was amazed at the quality of questions that the students asked at each stop and at the quality and depth of the information that we ended up discussing in the vans and at lunch and dinners following each tour. There are now some students considering graduate school, others that want to do internships, and others that completely changed their mind on what they “thought” they wanted to do for a career before we went on the trip. I am truly blessed to have such a great group of inquisitive minds to make my job less of a job and more of a hobby!
Tailgating done right!
Who better to prepare the meat for the Animal Science tailgate than our very own meat scientists! Pictured from left to right is Dr. Bratcher, Brian Anderson and Staci DeGeer. Dr. Bratcher, professor of Meat Science, is slicing the cooked hog that was raised by Brian Anderson, manager of the Swine Unit. Staci DeGeer is a meat science and food safety grad student under Dr. Bratcher.

A scholar among us!

College of Agriculture senior Ashton Richardson Selected as a Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

Ashton Richardson a senior Honors College student majoring in Animal Sciences (pre-veterinary medicine) has been named a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Ashton is the fifth Rhodes Scholarship finalist representing Auburn University in the past three years joining the ranks of prior scholar athletes Jordan Anderson, Erica Meissner, Krissy Voss and Dan Mazzaferro who represented Auburn at the Rhodes competition.

On top of Ashton’s stellar classroom performance as measured by an overall 3.94 GPA, he is writing his Honors thesis tentatively titled “Comparison of Articular Cartilage Thickness in Cadaveric Equine Limbs” under the direction of Reid Hanson, Professor of Equine Surgery in the College of Veterinary Medicine; every week for the past four years he has served as a volunteer mentor at the Lee County Youth Development Center; and he is a linebacker on the Auburn University Football team. Ashton will interview in Rhodes District VII (Birmingham) on Friday and Saturday, November 16-17.

A special note of thanks to his eight letter writers: Dale Coleman (Animal Sciences), Steve Schmidt (Animal Sciences), Russ Muntifering (Animal Sciences), Reid Hanson (Veterinary Medicine), Stew Armstrong (Auburn United Methodist Church), Carol McLeod (Equine Surgeon, Auburn University BS ’72, DVM ’76, MS ’82), Jay Jacobs (Athletic Director), and Gene Chizik (Head Football Coach)
PERRY MOBLEY
1999 Graduate
B.S., Animal Science: Meat Production

I have been the Vice President of the Montgomery Stockyards since 2009 along with operating a cow/calf stocker farm in Henry and Barbour County.

My experience gained at Auburn has had a tremendous impact on my current daily activities. I learned how to manage cattle and people through my participation in the Block and Bridle club. It gave me the opportunity to meet experts in the industry from across the U.S. I also give credit to my years on the Meat Judging team. It provided such a crucial experience that I needed for the beef industry. I also give credit to the judges that helped make it possible, Dr. Bill Jones and Dr. Benjy Mikel. I would like to thank members of the Department of Animal Sciences, whom I consider friends and mentors: Dr. Frank Owsley, Dr. Lisa Kriese-Anderson, Dr. Greene, Dr. Rankins and Dr. Coleman.

STEVEN
1987 AU Grad
B.S., Animal Science
1989 UGA Grad
M.S., Nutrition

We own and operate a commercial feed mill in Cullman, AL named J & R Feed. We also jointly operate a cow/calf operation in Cullman as well as a farrowing/weaning operation in Calhoun County. Tim also manages the North Alabama Bull Test Station.

Growing up on a farm as children taught us to love the outdoors, animals and agriculture in general. We knew that our future would be in agriculture because we wanted to do our part to help the world by raising food and fiber. Although we are first generation farmers, the tradition has continued and the love for agriculture transferred to our children. Both of our daughters are currently enrolled in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University. Tim’s daughter is an Ag Communications major, and my daughter is in the Animal Science/Pre-professional option. She initially enrolled at AU within another department; however, after visiting with Dr. Dale Coleman she discovered everything the Department of Animal Sciences had to offer. Now, she considers Upchurch Hall her home.
During business meetings, CCM/CCW invites speakers to address its members about a variety of topics in order to give them a better understanding of career opportunities in the industry and how the industry operates. On September 10, Erin Beasley from the Alabama Cattleman’s Association spoke about what the ACA does, why obtaining a Masters of Beef Advocacy education is important, and how the national and state check-offs are constantly working to aid farmers and producers. Other soon to be scheduled speakers include an industry expert on quality assurance and an animal pharmaceutical representative.

CCM/CCW are actively involved in fundraising by selling t-shirts, “Eat AU Beef” car tags, holiday sausage boxes in the fall, and by operating a catering business. The sausage boxes include three types of summer sausage, all of which are processed and packaged by Auburn’s very own Lambert-Powell Meats Laboratory, and hoop cheese. The catering business offers a variety of menu options to groups ranging in size from 10 to 750 people. Money raised through these events allows the organization to send its members on farm and industry tours. CCM/CCW will be sending members to the NCBA convention and trade show in February, the ACA convention in March and RMC in June. These conventions are cornerstone opportunities for collegiates to learn about issues in the industry, what these organizations are doing to aid farmers and producers, to network with future employers, and to prove the kinds of students that represent Auburn University.

For more info:
Meetings every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in Upchurch Hall 203

We have been very busy this year volunteering at the following events around campus:
- Ag Olympics
- “Farm Day” with Beauregard Elementary at the Beef Unit
- Ag Discovery Day in Shorter, AL
- AL National Fair Dairy Show

We have also been fortunate to work the following events that allowed us to raise money for our club:
- Uniontown Cattle Sale raised $500
- Summerford Cattle Sale raised $500
Meetings every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in Upchurch Hall room 203

Schedule:
- November 4th: Shade Tree Riding Stables Trail Ride
- November 13th: Meeting at 6:30 at Upchurch with Audra Cook speaker
- November 27th: Last meeting of the year, bonfire at Emily Faust’s house

Following our benefit trail ride on October 14th, we were able to raise over $125 for Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital. T-shirts are still available at $15 each. Contact Dr. Betsy Wagner for more information at elw0001@auburn.edu.
Meetings every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in Comer Hall 207

Schedule:

- **November 1st Speakers**
  - Dr. Stacie Greby, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention office, will discuss public health and how it relates to veterinary medicine
  - Alltech Ambassador presentation

- **November 15th Speaker**
  - Dr. Kottowitz will be discussing his experience as zoo veterinarian

**Outreach Opportunities**

- We are participating in Relay for Life this year and anyone is welcome to join our team! All you have to do is:
  - Go to Relay website: [http://relayforlife.org/](http://relayforlife.org/)
  - Search for team: Brittany Mack
  - Click Join the Team
  - Our Goal is $1000!
The Auburn equestrian team is off to a great start for the 2012-13 season. The Tigers are currently 2-1 (1-1 SEC) after picking up two quality wins over top-five opponents early in the year.

The team has maintained a consistent ranking at No. 3 in the country in the NCEA Coaches Poll through the first month of competition. Auburn defeated No. 5 Oklahoma State, 10-9, to open the season. The Tigers fell to No. 2 South Carolina in a tight matchup on the road, 10-9, but rebounded the following week with an impressive 11-9 victory over No. 4 Texas A&M at home.

The Tigers have also had several riders have success on the national stage in individual competition this fall. Freshmen Elizabeth Benson and Hasbrouck Donovan both competed in the Pessoa/US National Hunter Seat Equitation Medal Final at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 11-14, 2012. Donovan finished fourth and Benson 10th out of a field of 257 competitors.

Several of Auburn's Western riders competed at the 46th annual All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. Indy Roper, Danielle Long, Lucy Igoe, Katsy Leeman, Griffin Knight, Hannah Loseke and Allie Dusha all represented the Tigers well bringing home Championships, Reserve Championships, numerous top-10’s and finalist finishes in a number of classes.

Roper has also been selected to compete at the first Collegiate Horsemanship Challenge, Nov. 14-15, at the American Quarter Horse Association World Show in Oklahoma City, Okla., because of her outstanding performance during the 2011-12 season and her recognition as an honorable mention All-American in horsemanship.

The Tigers will look to pick up their third win in the last meet of the fall portion of the season as they host No. 1 Georgia on Friday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m. CT at the Auburn University Horse Center.
**Selected Publications**


Givens MD, Marley MSD, Jones CA, Ensley D, Galik PK, Zhang Y, Riddell KP, Joiner KS, Brodersen BW, **Rodning SP**. Protective effects against abortion and fetal infection following exposure to bovine viral diarrhea virus and bovine herpesvirus 1 during pregnancy in beef heifers that received two doses of a multivalent modified-live virus vaccine prior to breeding. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2012;241:484-495.

Gard JA, Wilhite DR, Taylor D, **Rodning SP**, Edmondson MS, Sanders K, Denney T. Evaluation of the surface area of P3 in dairy calves following changes in management systems. 45th Annual Conference of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Sept 20-22, 2012.


Upcoming Events Schedule

**November 9, 2012**
Equestrian team meet versus Georgia at Auburn Horse Center at 3:00pm

**Jan. 19 & 20, 2013**
**Alabama Horse Fair** at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. The Alabama Horse Fair features nationally known equine clinicians, Larry Whitesell, K.J. Jones and Dan Mink, as well as Donna Maye West, Jason Wilds, Ron “Slick” Sullivan and Mike Branch. Singer and horsewoman, Templeton Thompson, will perform. Other Saturday activities are Hunter/Jumper and Dressage Exhibitions, Parade of Breeds, Kid’s Activities and clinics for you and your horse from the clinicians. Sunday will feature Cowboy Church, the popular Trail Horse Competition, the Breed Barn and clinics with the professional clinicians. The Fair also hosts the largest equine trade show in the southeast. Gates open at 8:00 a.m. and admission is $10 daily. For more information, go to [www.alabamahorsecouncil.org](http://www.alabamahorsecouncil.org).