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On the web

<http://afs.ca.uky/>



<https://www.facebook.com/UKAnimalandFoodSciences>

Long Time, No See!

We know it's been a while since we've all been together "under the tent," but we hope to see you there on Friday night, **October 1**, at the **2021 Animal and Food Sciences Reunion!** With the Delta variant of COVID-19 still a concern, we'll be doing everything we can to make the reunion safe for all. We'll be social distancing as much as possible, hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the tent, and all our food servers will be wearing masks. If you'll feel more at ease wearing your own mask, we welcome you to do so. We'll even have some extra masks on hand just in case.



Supper will be in the form of "commodity tasting stations," as is the AFS tradition. It will include delicious smoked beef, lamb, and pork prepared by the Block and Bridle Club and served by some of your favorite faculty members. The culinary folks in the UK Meats Lab will also be serving one of their signature gastronomic surprises. In addition to the carnivore cuisine, we'll have mouth-watering dessert crepes served by the always entertaining poultry personnel and old-fashioned fruit cobblers topped with ice cream provided by the Dairy Club. In between eating and socializing, you'll have the opportunity to bid on some great items in the **9th Annual Silent Auction** to benefit the AFS Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

After supper, the Distinguished Alumni of 2020 and 2021 will be recognized and the 2020 and 2021 Animal and Food Sciences Hall of Fame members will be inducted.

So come join us "under the tent" for this year's reunion. We can't wait to see you!

Please RSVP your intention to attend - [details on last page](#).



Dr. James Sullivan

2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient



Dr. Karl Dawson

2019 Hall of Fame member

Department Update

Greetings from the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences. After not being able to host our Animal and Food Sciences Reunion last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to be making plans for this year's Reunion, keeping our fingers crossed that COVID will not necessitate postponing again. We hope you will make plans to join us so we will have the opportunity to share with you many of the past two years' department happenings and we can learn about how the past two years have been for you. The Reunion provides a great venue for you to renew old friendships and start new ones, not to mention that you will get to enjoy a sampling of scrumptious meat products and crepes prepared and served by AFS faculty and staff. You will want to save a bit of room for some cobbler and ice cream.

As I'm sure you can imagine, navigating through the pandemic has been a challenge for the department in several areas. Some issues we were forced to address include:

- In March of 2020 all students were sent home and our faculty and staff instructors had to immediately convert all our courses to online instruction. This required tremendous effort and ingenuity to continue providing a quality educational experience for our students. But true to form, our faculty and staff performed admirably and made the best of a difficult situation.
- Also in March 2020, almost all UK employees (all except those required for essential services such as hospital workers, facility workers, those caring for animals, etc.) were sent home to work remotely. This required everyone getting the IT equipment set up at home to enable remote work and becoming proficient at using Zoom and other remote work technologies. One positive to most everyone at UK working remotely was that parking and traffic issues around campus were nonexistence! All our Animal Unit employees perform essential services because, as you know, animals must be fed and cared for daily, so they continued working on-site throughout the pandemic. Additionally, research trials were in place that had to continue. We are extremely fortunate to have dedicated folks working at our Animal Units and they kept things going at the farms throughout the pandemic.
- The pandemic created a huge financial issue for the entire university. Significant revenue has been lost and significant additional expenses have been incurred, ultimately resulting in the college and department taking an almost 10% cut to our budget.

Despite these challenges, we were able to continue our important missions of teaching, research, and outreach. Our instructors continued to teach our students, but in new and innovative ways. Our Extension personnel figured out ways to use remote technology and continue

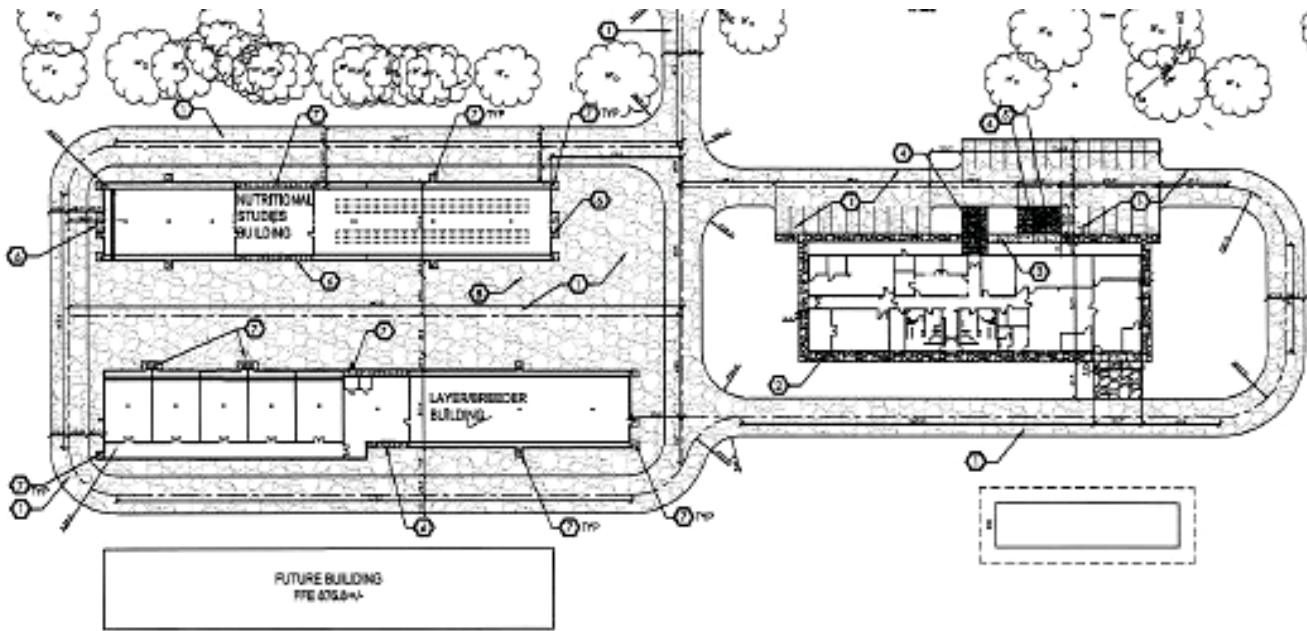
servicing our clientele and meeting their diverse needs. And our research faculty and staff found ways to safely continue our important research efforts and pursuit of new discoveries to improve animal and food production. It was truly amazing to have a ringside seat and be able to watch the department's faculty and staff find ways to continue serving all our diverse constituency groups. The excellence of this wonderful group of people led to several receiving university, state, regional, and national awards and recognitions over the past two years. A listing of these can be viewed in this newsletter.

We have had a few personnel changes in the department over the past couple of years. A few of these position changes that might be of interest to you include:

- Sheila Hollin, Business Officer for the department, retired in March 2019, after spending almost 41 years in service to the department.
- Christine Tarne joined the department in March 2019 as the department's Business Officer.
- Dr. George Heersche, Jr. retired June 30, 2020 after serving 45 years as an Extension Dairy Specialist.
- Steve Austin, Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs, left the department in January 2020 to return home to Illinois. He is presently teaching Vo-Ag there.
- Zach Bartenslager was hired in January 2020 as Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs. Zach was previously the Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach at the University of Tennessee.
- Amy Lawyer, Extension Associate for Youth Equine Programs, resigned her position in January 2021. Amy had recently completed a Ph.D. degree, enabling her to take a faculty position at the University of Louisville College of Business.
- Mary Jane Little was hired in April 2021 as Extension Associate for Youth Equine Programs. Mary Jane was previously the 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent in Mason County.
- Endre Fink, Sheep Unit Manager, retired June 2021, after working at the Sheep Unit for 31 years.
- Matthew Hamilton was hired June 2021 as the Sheep Unit Manager. Matthew had been working as the Assistant Manager of the Sheep Unit.

We have broken ground for the new Poultry Unit that is being relocated to the C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles. This new facility will expand our ability to conduct cutting-edge research that benefits Kentucky's poultry industry. Plans are currently underway to relocate some of our dairy research capabilities (dairy calf nutrition and heifer development) to the C. Oran Little Research Center. We are also continuing in negotiations with Eastern Kentucky University to

Around the Farms



New Poultry Unit

The department's Poultry Unit will be relocating from Coldstream to the C. Oran Little Research Center (LRC) in Versailles. It will be a complex of three buildings designed to enhance poultry research, teaching and outreach efforts. The three buildings include an office/laboratory, a nutrition research building and a layer/breeder building. Eighty floor pens in the nutrition research building will mimic a commercial poultry house. The nutrition building will also have a battery area to be used for intensive nutrition research. The layer/breeder building is designed to provide 24 floor pens that will be used for broiler breeder research and also house the

heritage breed flock. The layer/breeder house will have 5 environmentally-controlled rooms to be used for studying interaction of environment and nutrition on laying hens and broiler breeder performance. The office/laboratory building will include an office area, support laboratories including a hatchery area, wet and dry laboratories, a USDA inspected poultry processing facility and a shell egg processing area. Relocation of the Poultry Unit to the LRC will allow us to continue the high-quality research currently being conducted and provide enhancements to our research, teaching and outreach capabilities.

Department Update

potentially partner with them on a milking dairy herd at their Meadowbrook Farm in Richmond and exploring to utilize their herd as a teaching tool for our undergraduate dairy students. Many of you will also know that our college currently houses the USDA ARS Forage Animal Production Unit in Ag North, and that several of our faculty are involved in research collaborations with this unit. Funds have been secured and plans are being developed for a new \$66 million facility that will house current USDA ARS personnel, as well as some faculty and staff from other departments (including ours) that collaborate with them. The new facility will also contain new, modern laboratories for use by scientists.

Let me close by stating that the department truly values the relationships we have with each of you, our alumni.

Continued from previous page

Your support and thoughtful insights are essential as we strive to remain the place where your young people want to come for their educational pursuits and the place that you look to for technologies and practices that keep you profitable and sustainable. I hope to see you at the Animal and Food Sciences Reunion on October 1st "under the tent", and at other events across the state throughout the remainder of the year. Please reach out to me if I can ever be of service to you, and anytime you are in Lexington, please stop by and say "Hi".

Richard Coffey

Department Chair

Undergraduate Programs

UK Hosts National American Society of Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon

The 2021 National American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Academic Quadrathlon (AQ) was hosted by the University of Kentucky, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, July 17-18. Three, four member teams competed in the event, including Iowa State University from the Midwest Section, Penn State University from the Northeast Section, and Texas A&M University from the Southern Section of ASAS. The Western Section was unable to send a team.

The AQ started early on Saturday morning, July 17, at the C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles where UK faculty, staff and students had prepared stops for testing the hands-on knowledge of the teams on nutrition, feeds, reproduction, beef cattle, poultry, sheep and swine. Teams then traveled to campus and completed stops for breed identification, horses, and meats. Before taking a written exam to test their knowledge across all disciplines of the animal sciences, teams were treated to a lunch, featuring unique Kentucky products, by the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.

On Saturday evening, teams attended a catered BBQ dinner and tested their 'AXE' throwing skills at Battle

Axes in downtown Lexington. Team members had a great time competing against each other and fellowshiping with students from across the United States. UK faculty, staff and students joined in the evening's festivities.



The AQ concluded on Sunday morning on the UK campus with the oral presentations and quiz bowl. The quiz bowl ended in a nail biter, with the final question determining the winning team of the entire competition.

After a lunch provided by the Department of

Animal and Food Sciences, the awards ceremony was conducted and final placings were presented. Texas A&M won the overall AQ with Penn State and Iowa State University taking second and third place, respectively.

The ASAS Board of Directors extended a special "Thank you, Cats!" to the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences for organizing and conducting a challenging and fun Academic Quadrathlon.

Animal and Food Sciences Alumni Scholarship

Funds raised through the Animal and Food Sciences Reunion Silent Auction support the Animal and Food Sciences Alumni Scholarship. This year that scholarship was awarded to Sierra Tichnell, a senior majoring in Animal Sciences. Sierra's enthusiasm for animal agriculture started at young age as she was a member of the Maple Mountain 4-H club, showing sheep in her home state of Maryland. Since arriving at the University of Kentucky in 2019 Sierra has been involved in many clubs associated with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. This academic year Sierra is serving as President of Ag Student Council, President of the Pre-Vet Club and Vice President of the Block and Bridle Club. She will graduate from the University of Kentucky in May 2022 and plans on attending veterinary school to pursue a career as a large animal vet.



Sierra Tichnell

2021 Distinguished Alumnus

As president of the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] brand, John Stika leads a team dedicated to earning the trust of consumers around the world by consistently delivering the best beef experience possible. Through a vision focused on connecting people from pasture to plate, John and a passionate team work to grow demand for the branded beef and increase the value of registered Angus cattle, enhancing the lives and businesses of farming and ranching families and all who touch the brand along the way to the consumer.

John's love for Angus cattle, quality beef and the entire community of people involved from gate to plate is rooted in his experiences growing up on his family's small farm in central Kansas. His passion grew as he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science and meat science, respectively, at Kansas State University, and then his doctorate in meat science from the University of Kentucky. Celebrating more than 22 years with Certified Angus Beef, John joined the team as assistant director of feeder-packer relations in 1999, and then director of supply development and packing. Moving on to vice



John Stika

president of business development, he led efforts to collaborate with domestic and international distributors, grocery stores and restaurants to grow their beef sales before becoming president in 2006.

With expertise and experience across the beef community, John has served as a board member of the American Meat Science Association, currently serves as a board member of the North American Meat Institute and actively engages in beef quality initiatives and related committees of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. John received the Outstanding Young Alumnus award in 2010 from the Kansas State University College of Agriculture and the Achievement award from the American Meat Science Association. John credits his success to strong mentors, a deep faith and the opportunity to collaborate with innovative and caring teammates, cattlemen and industry partners throughout his career and life. He and his wife, Deanna, have three adult sons and reside in Creston, Ohio, where they care for a small herd of Angus cattle and enjoy time with friends and family over great steaks.

2021 Hall of Fame Induction

Danny Joe Grigson is a native of Bracken County, Kentucky where he grew up on a dairy, beef and tobacco farm. He and his wife, Linda, have 2 children (David and Jennifer) and 5 grandchildren. Dan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Production Agriculture from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture in December, 1974 and began his career as agriculture agent in Powell County where he also did 4-H work for three years, until he lobbied the fiscal court to provide funds for a 4-H agent. Dan was active in church and community activities there. He was the sign-on early morning country D.J. on WSKU for four years.



Danny Joe Grigson

Dan applied for the Lincoln County job in November, 1980 and the family moved to Lincoln County on Thanksgiving weekend 1980. He took three months sabbatical and completed his Master's degree in Crop Science from UK in 1986 and returned to Lincoln

County to continue as Ag agent. Dan retired after 36 years of service in Lincoln County and 42 years of total service as UK County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources. Over the years he was encouraged to move into administrative positions but he chose to stay where he always said the most satisfaction came – "at the county level helping the people".

Dan and his family are very involved in community activities. He serves as Deacon at Stanford Baptist Church and has served as vice chair of the deacon board, assistant Sunday School teacher, and chair of the ushers committee. Dan's wife, Linda, recently retired as Director of Lincoln County Senior Citizens Center. He has worked part-time as a funeral assistant with Spurlin Funeral Home for over 10 years. Dan is an avid UK sports fan and other hobbies include announcing horse shows, golf and spending time with grandchildren.

2020 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Jerry W. Spears received his B.S. And M.S. degrees in Animal Science from the University of Kentucky, and his Ph.D. degree in Animal Nutrition from the University of Illinois. Dr. Spears was a faculty member in the Department of Animal Science at North Carolina State University for 32 years. He retired from the University in 2012, and is currently Professor Emeritus.



Dr. Jerry Spears

Dr. Spears is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading authority in the area of mineral nutrition of domestic animals. He has given over 150 invited presentations in 27 countries, and has published over 400 publications, including over 180 refereed journal articles and 14 book chapters. He was awarded the Young Animal Scientist Award from the Southern Section ASAS (1989), the Ruminant Nutrition Award (1985) and the Cromwell Award for Mineral Research (2012) from the American Society of Animal Science, and most recently, the FASS/AFIA New Frontiers in Animal Nutrition Award (2019). He was named a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science in 2012. Dr. Spears has served on the National Research Council-Committee on Animal Nutrition as well as the National Research Council-Subcommittees on Beef Cattle Nutrition, and Minerals and Toxic Substances in Diets and Water for Animals.

2020 Hall of Fame Induction

Robert (Bobby) Foree has spent most of his life pursuing a career in agriculture, specifically as it pertains to beef cattle production. With completion of his Animal Science degree, Bobby, representing the 7th generation to do so, returned to the Henry County farm where he grew up. Early on, Bobby grew burley tobacco and alfalfa hay with most of the hay being marketed to horse operations in central Kentucky; the alfalfa operation (75 acres) continues today. Also, Bobby raised purebred Polled Hereford cattle and marketed yearling bulls to commercial cattle producers. As marketing aspects of the beef industry shifted from “red-hided” to “black-hided” cattle, Bobby began acquiring purebred Angus cattle. Today, his overall herd consists of 200 purebred Angus cows and 40 Hereford x Angus crossbred cows with both genetic types managed for spring and fall calving. During his spare time Bobby is also an attorney where he is an asset and advocate to the farming community. Bobby serves on many committees, and has received many awards, at the local, state and national level that are too numerous to list. Bobby is married to Jean Kaye and they have two children, Roby and Ashley.



Robert Foree

Awards & Recognitions

2020

- Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips** – American Dairy Science Association DeLaval Dairy Extension Award
- Dr. Greg Rentfrow** – American Meat Science Association Extension-Industry Award
- Dr. Robert Coleman** – American Society of Animal Science Fellow Award in Teaching and American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award
- Dr. James Matthews** – American Society of Animal Science Gary L. Cromwell Award for Mineral Nutrition
- Drs. Anthony Pescatore and Jacquie Jacob** – Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals (KASEP) Outstanding Project Award for the 4-H Poultry Barbeque Day Camp Project
- Dr. Jackie Wahrmond** – CELT Teaching Innovation Institute Invited Instructor
- Dr. Kristine Urschel** – Invited participant in Women’s Executive Leadership Development (WELD) Program
- Kevin Laurent** – Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals (KASEP) Outstanding Extension Specialist Award
- Kwangwon Son** – College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Outstanding Staff Award in the Technical and Paraprofessional Category
- Morgan Pyles** (graduate student) – 2nd place in American Society of Animal Science Ph. D. Poster Competition
- Clarissa Somers** (undergraduate Food Science student) – National IFT Feeding Tomorrow Undergraduate Scholarship
- Ava Weyrich** (undergraduate Food Science student) – National IFT Feeding Tomorrow Undergraduate Scholarship

2021

- Dr. Youling Xiong** – American Meat Science Association Signal Service Award and College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Prestigious Research Paper Award
- Dr. Dave Harmon** – American Society of Animal Science Animal Industry Service Award
- Dr. Kristine Urschel** – American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award
- Dr. Suman Surendranath** – University of Kentucky University Research Professorship
- Dr. Merlin Lindemann** – Fred Bisplinghoff Fats and Protein Research Foundation Innovation Award
- Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler** – Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals (KASEP) M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension
- Ron Trotta** (graduate student) – Certified Angus Beef Colvin Scholarship (\$7,500)
- Clarissa Somers** (undergraduate Food Science student) – Fulbright Award that she will use to pursue a M.S. in Food Science at University College Cork (Ireland)

Graduate Programs

Megan Woodrum Setser, 2021 Outstanding MS Candidate

Megan has just completed her master's in Animal Sciences focused on the development of a new personality test for use in dairy calves and its relationship with pre-weaning calf growth.

Megan studied under Dr. Joao Costa and continues to work with him as she pursues a PhD. Ultimately, she hopes to have a career in academia.

Megan obtained her Bachelor's in Animal Sciences from the University of Kentucky where she began her research with dairy calves by exploring the utilization of an implantable microchip to monitor body temperature. As a graduate student, Megan has been a teaching assistant for Dairy Cattle Science and Cow Signals, both of which teach undergraduate students about the management and assessment of the dairy production system.

Outside of her graduate work, Megan enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with her pets and husband.

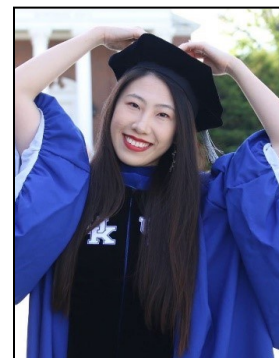


Megan Setser

Anqi Guo, 2021 Outstanding PhD Candidate

Dr. Anqi Guo recently defended her dissertation focused on phenolic compounds application in meat proteins under oxidative stress. She studied the modification of protein functionalities and its implications for muscle food quality, under the supervision of Dr. Youling Xiong.

Anqi obtained her bachelor's degrees in Food Science from both Jiangnan University in China and the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. During her graduate student life at the University of Kentucky, she served as a teaching assistant in Food Chemistry and a research assistant in the food protein lab. She is currently pursuing an academic career as a post-doc researcher in Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Outside of the lab, Anqi enjoys swimming, hiking, traveling, and hanging out with her cat, Simba.



Dr. Anqi Guo

It's been a while, but ...

... we're back under the tent.



Animal and Food Sciences Reunion

October 1, 2021

5:30 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Tasting Begins

7:00 p.m. Awards Program

RSVP by Friday, September 24, 2021 to Robin Notton at (859) 257-7508

or Robin.Notton@uky.edu

Tickets \$10 for adults, free for children under 12.