Happy Flag Day!

GOOD NEWS
Animal Science faculty highlighted

From the MSU Extension Spotlight Blog: Michigan State University Extension specialist Karen Waite received the 2013 Equine Science Society Outstanding Educator Award at the society’s 23rd Symposium awards banquet in Ruidoso, New Mexico, on May 31.

The Equine Science Society presents the Outstanding Educator Award to a society member involved in teaching, extension or industry who has demonstrated excellence in the area of equine education to students or to persons in the industry. The award recognizes the development of programs that are exceptionally effective at disseminating research-based information in a manner that has an effect on the long-term well-being of horses, the horse industry or both.

Karen received two bachelor’s degrees and a master's degree from MSU and is currently working on a doctoral degree researching competitive equestrian activities through the theoretical framework of sports psychology. Karen started her MSU career in 1997 as a research assistant in Brian Nielsen’s lab. Dr. Nielsen is a professor in the Department of Animal Science and president of the Equine Science Society. In 2000, Karen became the equine Extension youth specialist. In 2008, she became the equine Extension specialist, overseeing both adult and youth equine-related programs.

Karen is a leader in integrating technology into educational programs targeted at the horse community. An active member of the eXtension HorseQuest Community of Practice, she lends her expertise as a curriculum writer, developer and expert for “Ask an Expert.” She is also an integral part of the My Horse University faculty, where she regularly presents webinars.

Congratulations, Karen!

Animal Science faculty featured on NPR broadcast

More from the MSU Extension Spotlight Blog: In 2011, Dr. Tom Coon, wrote an article (read it here) on Michigan State University researchers using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to track cattle. Michigan is the only state that requires electronic ear tags on cattle. The original purpose was to track the spread of tuberculosis. However, tracking can also assist the locavore who wants to know where that particular cut of meat comes from.

Listen to this broadcast that aired June 4 on NPR. It features MSU Department of Animal Science associate professor and Extension beef specialist Dan Buskirk. Dr. Buskirk explains the system that transferred the information from cattle ID tags to barcodes pinned to the carcasses. Butchers scanned the barcodes and printed new ones to go with the smaller pieces of meat they cut. The university’s food service used the meat to serve at campus cafeterias and restaurants. In a grocery store setting, shoppers could scan the bar code on a package of meat to find out the origin of the beef they will purchase. This gives producers the opportunity to add value to their product.
EVENTS

All-America Youth Sheep Show/Outreach Opportunity

The All-America Youth Sheep Show will be held at the Pavilion in early July. We need your help scooping ice cream to go with cheery pie in the opening of the show on July 5 at 1:00. It is anticipated that about 400 young people and their parents will be in attendance.

Many of our alumni and their children from all around the country will be there! It is a great time to recruit and sell MSU! Alan Culham, his students and our sheep will be participating and doing their part to show us off!

Please contact Dr. Gretchen Hill (hillgre@msu.edu) to let her know you will support this great activity on July 5 at 1:00!

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of Beef Cattle Production Systems

The Department of Animal Sciences in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University is seeking applications and nominations for the position of Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of Beef Cattle Production Systems. This faculty position will be 12 month, tenure-track, 75% Extension and 25% Research appointment. The expected position start date will be January 1, 2014. Please see attachment for application information.

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

Ducks

Female wood ducks must ingest 75 grams (2.6 ounces) of invertebrates to obtain enough protein and minerals to produce one egg. To acquire these nutrients, the birds must consume more than 300 invertebrates an hour for eight hours.

With a 50 mph tail wind, migrating mallards are capable of traveling 800 miles during an eight-hour flight. Studies of duck energetics have shown that a mallard would have to feed and rest for three to seven days to replenish the energy expended during this eight-hour journey.

Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of Beef Cattle Production Systems  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Auburn University

The Department of Animal Sciences in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University is seeking applications and nominations for the position of Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of Beef Cattle Production Systems. This faculty position will be 12 month, tenure-track, 75% Extension and 25% Research appointment. The expected position start date will be January 1, 2014.

The position will be housed in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Animal Sciences and will work collaboratively with the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES), and perform functions of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the primary Extension organization for the land-grant mission of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, dedicated to delivering research-based educational programs designed to empower individuals to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. This person will serve as the primary resource contact for information on beef cattle production and will be expected to generate extramural funding to establish and maintain their program.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will deliver state-wide Extension programming and conduct mission critical research in beef cattle production management systems with an emphasis on beef cattle production. The program will be delivered based on an integration of beef cattle production research and Extension programming. The candidate will be expected to provide leadership to Regional Extension Agents and Program Planning Team for ACES efforts in beef cattle production systems. The candidate will be expected to obtain extramural funding to support all aspects of the Extension and research program. Interdisciplinary, multi-unit, and multi-institutional collaborations in beef cattle management systems and development of a research program are expected. Communication of research results to the scientific community, other Specialists, and livestock stakeholders in appropriate peer-reviewed scientific and trade publications is an essential requirement of this position. Development of original educational materials for use by regional agents is required. Responsibilities will include interfacing with clientele groups to include Alabama Forage and Grasslands Council, USDA-NRCS, Alabama Feed and Grain Association, Alabama Cattlemen’s Association and Alabama Farmers’ Federation Beef and Hay Committees. The employee will be expected to develop innovative ways of utilizing modern delivery platforms to educate stakeholders through partnerships with Regional Extension Agents. They will be expected to incorporate ‘newer technologies’ (blogs, Facebook, twitter, smartphones) into their information delivery platforms. The incumbent in this position will utilize resources of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station to include off-campus research and extension centers to conduct timely research needed in support of the Alabama (and regional) beef cattle industry. In addition, the successful candidate must manage an active graduate student training program.

Qualifications: The minimum qualifications include a PhD in animal sciences or related area with an emphasis on beef cattle production by the expected position start date. Knowledge of cow/calf production systems and stocker/back-grounding systems is required. Documented evidence of individual and/or collaborative research resulting in peer-reviewed publications is also required. Candidates must: 1) Demonstrate evidence of visionary leadership and innovative thinking; 2) formal education and experience in beef cattle production management systems; 3) must be able to demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with colleagues across disciplines; 4) must possess excellent interpersonal skills to effectively interact with diverse audiences and demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English; 5) possess proficiency in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and social media tools; and 6) a proven ability to utilize various forms of outreach for Extension program delivery. A strong knowledge of beef cattle production systems of the southeast is required. The successful candidate must meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the term of employment. Desired qualifications include training in beef cattle nutrition in forage production systems and the ability to be certified as Professional Animal Scientist through the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists.

Application Procedures: Applicants must submit the following: 1) a letter of application; 2) a statement of leadership philosophy emphasizing their vision for 21st century Extension programs in beef cattle production systems; 3) a complete curriculum vita; 4) names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional references, and 5) copy of transcripts showing degree(s) conferred. The search will continue until the position is filled, but to ensure consideration for the position, applicants are encouraged to apply by August 14, 2013.

Only complete application materials will be considered. All application materials must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file via email to the Search Committee Chair listed below. Additionally, nominations may be sent to:

Dr. Wayne Greene, Department Head  
Department of Animal Sciences  
210 Upchurch Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849  
Telephone: 334.844.1521  
cpv0002@auburn.edu

Auburn University is one of the nation’s premier land, sea and space grant institutions with an enrollment of more than 25,400 graduate and undergraduate students. The University is located in the city of Auburn in east-central Alabama approximately 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, GA and southeast of Birmingham, AL and is about 60 miles from the state capitol (Montgomery). Visit www.auburn.edu for more information.

Minorities and women are encouraged to apply  
ACES and Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer