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Photo of Dr. Jim Collins from September 2019. Read a full article on Dr. Collins and his impact on the MSU Livestock Judging Program on pages 13-16.

Submitted by Mr. Brett Crow.



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DR. STONE INTERVIEWED BY FORBES MAGAZINE

Dr. Amanda Stone is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science and works as the Extension Dairy Specialist. Recently, Dr. Stone was interviewed for an article in Forbes Magazine where she was asked about the impact of Coronavirus on dairy producers.

The title of the article was “Farmers Face Their Worst-Case Scenario: ‘Depopulating’ Chickens, Euthanizing Pigs And Dumping Milk.” The article was

written by Jenny Splitter, Senior Contributor. For full access to the interview, go to <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jennysplitter/2020/04/28/farmers-face-their-worst-case-scenarios-depopulating-chickens-euthanizing-pigs-and-dumping-milk/#15a91cc33003>.

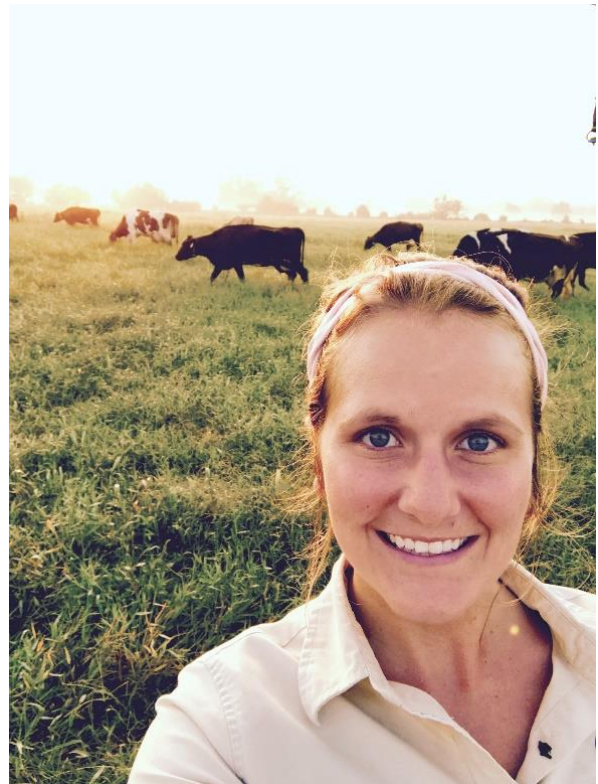


CARLY BECKER ACCEPTS DAIRY EXTENSION EDUCATOR POSITION AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to Carly Becker for accepting a position as a Dairy Extension Educator with Penn State University. Carly has been working towards a Master of Science degree with Dr. Amanda Stone since 2018 and is scheduled to defend on May 28.

After graduation, Carly will be moving to Lancaster, PA, to help dairy producers by providing research-based information to make sustainable and profitable

decisions for their farms, hosting educational workshops, and providing producers with online resources.



Contributed by Dr. Amanda Stone.



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTION FROM SAMMY BLOSSOM



Sammy Blossom is an alumnus of ADS and captured many photos during his 16-year career with the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association. Enjoy the photo.

Photo courtesy of Sammy Blossom Photography: <https://www.sammyblossomphotography.com/>.

EQUINE GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNIZED IN MISSISSIPPI LANDMARKS

Mrs. Katie Cagle-Holtcamp and her research in equine assisted psychotherapy and learning (EAPL) were spotlighted in the recent March 2020 issue of the *Mississippi Landmarks* (Volume 16, Number 1) published by the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. Mrs. Cagle-Holtcamp is completing her last year as a Ph.D. student in Animal Physiology working with Dr. Molly Nicodemus, her research chair, to study the impact of EAPL on individuals battling substance abuse.

During her time as a Ph.D. student, Mrs. Cagle-Holtcamp has offered undergraduate students with an interest in EAPL the opportunity to assist with her research activities through internships and experiential

learning opportunities. Two of these undergraduate students, Avery Walters and Samantha Lee, from the Department of Animal & Dairy Science, recently had their abstracts covering the research they did with Mrs. Cagle-Holtcamp and Dr. Nicodemus accepted for presentation at the 2020 American Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting.

Additional internship opportunities for undergraduates interested in EAPL will be offered by Mrs. Cagle-Holtcamp and Dr. Nicodemus this summer and fall. For more information about the EAPL research that Mrs. Katie Cagle-Holtcamp and Dr. Nicodemus are conducting, contact Dr. Nicodemus at mcn16@msstate.edu.

Submitted by Dr. Molly Nicodemus.

Mrs. Katie Cagle-Holtcamp conducting her research in equine assisted psychotherapy and learning.



EQUINE LABORATORY GETS A “FACELIFT”

ADS 3221 Practices in Horse Care & Management is a hands-on laboratory course offered in the fall and spring semesters through the Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences for students interested in developing their skills in handling and caring of horses. Recently, the course was modified to become a split-level course that is now available for graduate students to learn these same skills with the first offering of ADS 4231/6231 Practices in Horse Care & Management this fall semester.

In addition, the instructor of the course, Dr. Molly Nicodemus, was accepted into the Community Engagement Learning Fellows Program this May, and as a part of the participation in this program, Dr. Nicodemus will be converting ADS 4231/6231 into a CEL designated course. As a CEL course, ADS 4231/6531 students will be working with the following community

partners as a part of their community engagement activities while enrolled in the course: Mississippi Quarter Horse Association, Heart of Dixie Palomino Exhibitors Association, and the Mississippi Pinto Horse Association.

Students will be working with professionals from these associations at various shows to support the horse industry as well as learn about management of the performance horse and the people that make up this industry. A part of the Fellows Program includes a grant to assist with course activities, which will provide technology needed while students are on the road at these various equine events. For individuals interested in learning more about the course and associated community engagement activities, contact the course instructor at mcn16@msstate.edu.

Submitted by Dr. Molly Nicodemus.



ADS 3221 students learning about the importance of proper hoof handling and care from Dr. Ben Nabors.

ADS 4511/6511 STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM A SCHILLIG SPECIAL TEACHING PROJECT GRANT

ADS 4511/6511 Companion Animal Laboratory is a newly modified course in the Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences that will be taught by Dr. Molly Nicodemus this summer. A focus of the companion animal courses in the ADS department has been on how animals help humans through service activities, emotional support, and animal-assisted therapies. Recently, the ADS 4511/6511 course was awarded funds through the Otilie Schillig Special Teaching Projects Grant Program to develop this aspect of the course.

Prior to the course modification and grant, students worked with the MSU Extension Therapeutic Riding Activity Center (TRAC) in West Point. Through the new grant funds, students will now have the opportunity to develop their understanding of animal assisted psychotherapy and learning (AAPL)

by working with a local therapy center. For the laboratory activities focused on AAPL, students will be working alongside Mrs. Katie Cagle-Holtcamp, who is a Ph.D. student in Animal Physiology working with Dr. Nicodemus on research in equine assisted therapy and substance abuse.

Along with a master's degree in Human Sciences, Mrs. Cagle-Holtcamp has four equine-based instructor certifications, both adult and youth trauma certifications, and an alcohol and drug counselor credential. Her background, along with others within MSU, will be utilized as ADS 4511/6511 students explore the benefits of AAPL. For more information about ADS 4511/6511 Companion Animal Laboratory, individuals can contact Dr. Nicodemus at mcn16@msstate.edu.

Submitted by Dr. Molly Nicodemus.



Mrs. Lori Irvin from the MSU Extension TRAC Program educating Companion Animal Laboratory students on equine assisted therapy.

DNJR MARKET GOAT SHOW

The 2020 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Market Goat Show included 125 market goats shown by 96 4-H and FFA youth.



Grand Champion Market Goat; Champion Mediumweight Market Goat – Exhibited by Layla & Jillian Bramlitt, Calhoun 4-H. Buyers: Stribling Equipment; Empire Truck Sales; Southern States Utility Trailer Sales; H&P Leasing; KLLM Transport Services; Regions Bank.

Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat; Champion Light Heavyweight Market Goat – Exhibited by Taylor & Ann Fleming Leflore, Lafayette 4-H. Buyers: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MS; Haley & Marsha Barbour; Ergon.



DNJR COMMERCIAL MEAT GOAT DOE SHOW

The 2020 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Commercial Meat Goat Doe Show included 156 does shown by 110 4-H and FFA youth.



Grand Champion Commercial Meat Goat Doe: Exhibited by Ann Fleming/Taylor Leflore, Lafayette 4-H. Ann and Taylor received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Sale of Junior Champions.

Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Doe: Exhibited by Layla & Jillian Bramlitt, Calhoun 4-H.



DNJR MARKET LAMB SHOW

The 2020 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Market Lamb Show included 98 market lambs shown by 69 4-H and FFA youth.

**Grand Champion Lamb;
Champion Division 4 Lamb –**
Exhibited by Elizabeth Nichols,
Pontotoc 4-H. Buyers: Sen. Cindy
Hyde-Smith; Treasurer David
McRae; Ag Commissioner Andy
Gipson; Insurance Commissioner
Mike Chaney; Lt. Gov. Delbert
Hosemann; Attorney General
Lynn Fitch; Sec. Michael Watson;
Auditor Shad White; Rep. Michael
Guest; Judge Kenny Griffis; Havard
Pest Control.



**Reserve Grand Champion Lamb;
Champion Division 3 Lamb; MS
Bred Grand Champion Lamb; MS
Bred Champion Division 3 Lamb –**
Exhibited by Dane & Vivien
Stevens, Rankin 4-H. Buyers: Noel
Daniels Motor Co.; Franks
Chevrolet Buick GMC; Brandon
Discount Drugs; KCI; Priority One
Bank; Community Bank; Rankin
First Economic Development;
Petroleum Equipment Co.

DNJR WETHER DAM SHOW

The 2020 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Wether Dam Show included 43 wether dams shown by 45 4-H and FFA youth.

Grand Champion Wether Dam –
Exhibited by Mary Claire/John
Henry Allman, Montgomery 4-H.



**Reserve Grand Champion Wether
Dam –** Exhibited by Hagen. Katy
and Hannah Ware, Montgomery
4-H

DNJR DAIRY GOAT SHOW

The 2020 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Dairy Goat Show included 90 dairy goats shown by 42 4-H and FFA youth. Here is a breakdown of dairy goats exhibited by breed: 30 Alpine; 9 Nigerian Dwarf; 34 All Other Purebred; and 17 Grade/Recorded Grade.



Best in Show Senior Doe:
Exhibited by Maggie Boswell,
Rankin 4-H. Maggie received a
\$1,500 scholarship from the Sale
of Junior Champions.



Best in Show Junior Doe:
Exhibited by Maggie and Brinkley
Boswell, Rankin 4-H.

ARTICLE ON DR. JAMES “JIM” C. COLLINS

I recently had a chance to sit down with a member of Mississippi State University’s National Champion 1951 Livestock Judging Team, Dr. James “Jim” C. Collins, who credits being a member of the livestock judging team as his most valuable college experience in preparation for future career success. I also interviewed several of his former coworkers and the faculty that he led during his tenure as Department Head who all remember him for his servant leadership. Enjoy the life-story of this quick-witted, highly accomplished alumnus!

Collins grew up in Laurel, Mississippi, with hogs and dairy cattle but took an interest in showing a steer through 4-H, and when his family allowed him to do so, that was his first real experience with beef cattle. Additionally, he was a member of a state champion 4-H livestock judging team, and that sparked an interest that led him to enroll in the Animal Husbandry Department at Mississippi State College (later known as Mississippi State University) and to try out for the livestock judging team.

He has fond memories of what might sound today like a pretty hard life for a student at MSU. He recalls his campus job where he shoveled silage to cattle and sheep on the H. H. Leveck Animal Research Center, commonly referred to as “South Farm”, as early as 4:30 a.m. for just 32 cents per hour. That was more than

enough to buy a hardy breakfast in the cafeteria on his way off to an 8:00 a.m. class. By his senior year he was a part of the 1951 traveling livestock judging team, and there was not much time for anything other than work, class and judging team practice.



Photo of Dr. Collins from September 2019.

Collins would join four other young men and their coach each Saturday at 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. to meet for practices, some of which were held on campus and others off campus at farms throughout the state. He recommends that students considering being a member of today’s team have a strong interest in livestock judging and be willing to work at it as he recalls many Saturdays practicing in the arena at the Animal Husbandry Service Building near Ballew Hall with the football team playing in the nearby stadium as if to remind him and his team members of how their peers were spending their Saturdays. The Animal Husbandry Department also had livestock on its South Farm that afforded

the team good practice opportunities. Steers were bought for the team to judge and then later harvested through the meat lab. "It's amazing how many classes of four head you can make from ten steers over the course of the weekend", Collins said with a chuckle.

As for some of their off-campus training, he remembers productive practices in Senatobia at the Circle M Ranch as well as Winona where George Harris of Circle H Ranch often treated them to quality Hereford cattle classes to judge. "That's what it takes to be competitive," said Collins, "That way you might walk into a contest and say, I saw a class just like this two months ago at George Harris's."

Dr. Collins was a part of a team consisting of five young men, one of whom a military veteran. They were coached by George Reid, a Colorado State University graduate who had previously spent a brief time coaching at the University of Tennessee before joining the staff at Mississippi State.

The team traveled the country in a car and treasure the memories of practical jokes and time spent with each other along the way. Collins recalls his 1951 team competing at several contests that year including the Southeastern contest, which was hosted in Atlanta, that April. They traveled to other contests throughout the year competing in Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Austin, Minn., Memphis and Kansas City, with the skills they had worked all year to hone being put to the ultimate test at the International Contest which was the

final event, a national championship, then hosted in Chicago that fall.

Collins says his favorite memories are the stops at farms all over the country to practice. He recounts a trip to the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minn. that began in mid-August and kept them on the road for over two weeks judging nothing but hogs in route to the contest. The whole team stayed in one hotel room and worked their way through the Midwest from one hog farm to the next. A fourth-place finish would await the Mississippi State team in Austin.

The team's trip to their national contest in Chicago, IL was much the same and entailed practices at various places such as Purdue University and a farm in Illinois where 10-15 other universities converged to judge Shropshire sheep and draft horses (which were a part of the National Contest in those days). Dr. Collins still remembers the bitter cold day which ended with cookies and hot chocolate provided by the farmer's wife. That trip would change Mississippi State's standing in history as its 1951 team would be the school's first to take home the coveted bronze bull trophy after being named the National Champion Team at the Chicago International, a record that still serves as the benchmark of success for which modern day MSU teams strive to repeat.

Collins says sheep and cattle were easier for him to evaluate and still vividly describes a market hog in great detail that he judged that day, now almost 70 years

ago, at the 1951 International Contest. When probed for further detail, he lamented the number of points he lost on that class and humbly failed to mention that he went on to lead his team to the big win and was second high individual overall in the contest. He went on to credit another team member for their victory that day and spoke of yet another as “probably the best judge on the team” with no mention of his own contribution.

“My memory tells me we probably finished fourth everywhere we went,” said Collins, “But we expected to win the International...it was almost like it wasn’t a big surprise,” he recalls. Collins went on to graduate with his B.S. degree in the Spring of 1952 and immediately began working toward a master’s degree doing primarily nutrition research. Late that Summer, judging coach George Reid left to pursue other opportunities leaving a void that Collins was asked to fill while continuing his education. He coached the team in the Fall of ’52 and most of the following Spring semester where he was joined by the newly hired, Gene Egli, who began coaching alongside Collins late that semester.

Late in the Fall of 1953, Collins had to leave his master’s program prematurely after being drafted into the U.S. Army where he would spend two years. He fondly recalls the trepidation that he had walking into a personal interview that would determine where he would be ordered to serve his time in the military only to find that the 2nd Lieutenant in command who was

conducting the interview was a former judging team rival from Oklahoma State University with whom Collins had become friends during their year of competition. Two days later, Collins had orders to report to Chicago to serve his time in the Vet Corp as a meat inspector, which was his requested assignment.



Photo of 1951 National Champion Livestock Judging Team.

After two years, he came home to a tough job market flooded with troops returning home from the Korean War, so he accepted a job as a hog buyer for Wilson Packing Company in Illinois for a period of eight months before landing an assistantship to return to Mississippi State where he resumed his master’s program and graduated in 1957.

His career began as an assistant county extension agent for 18 months and then as Director of Livestock Research on the Delta Branch Experiment Station for the next five or six years. Collins was then recruited to Auburn University to coach the livestock judging team and was

allowed to begin working toward a PhD in Quantitative Genetics/Animal Breeding. At Auburn, he coached, taught courses and managed the swine testing station. Collins jokingly stated, “They worked the stew out of us young folks” but added “We learned a lot.”

Auburn involved him in research that was perhaps the first of its kind linking both pre-harvest animal handling techniques and Angus breed influence to subsequent meat tenderness. Before Collins had even finished the final stages of his PhD work at Auburn, Dr. Wise at Mississippi State University had already begun recruiting him for a vacant position as head of the Extension Animal Science Department, a position he later accepted. Later that department merged with the Animal Husbandry Department and eventually with the Dairy Science Department to become what is now known as the Animal and Dairy Sciences Department.

Dr. Collins has judged livestock shows throughout the Southeast and once served on a three-person panel who judged the National Hampshire Sheep Show sorting 600-800 head over the course of three days. When asked about the role of livestock judging in his life, he was quick to address the program’s unique development of a young person’s ability to make quick, independent decisions and defend them in a fast-paced environment. He emphasized the self-confidence it instills. He stated, “A lot of people in academics sell it short,” he added, “It had more influence on my life than any other class or any other thing at the university.”

Dr. Collins still resides in Starkville, Mississippi. There is a wealth of information in his life-story, and he can unpack it in a way that takes the listener back to each moment as if it were a shared experience. I hope you enjoyed learning about some of those moments as much as I did!

Submitted by Mr. Brett Crow.



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2020 REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Becker, C.A., R.J. Collier, and **A.E. Stone**. 2020. Invited review: Physiological and behavioral effects of heat stress in dairy cows. *Journal of Dairy Science*. 103(8). <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2019-17929>.
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- Özbek, M., M. Hitit, E. Ergün, L. Ergün, F. Beyaz, F. Erhan, N. Yildirim, B. Kandil, O. Özgenç, and **E. Memili**. 2020. Expression profile of Toll-like receptor 4 in rat testis and epididymis throughout postnatal development. *First International Journal of Andrologia*. 00:e13518. <https://doi.org/10.1111/and.13518>.
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- Hasan, M.S., **M.A. Crenshaw**, and **S.F. Liao**. 2020. Dietary lysine affects amino acid metabolism and growth performance, which may not involve the GH/IGF- axis, in young growing pigs. *Journal of Animal Science*. 98(1): 1-7. <https://academic.oup.com/jas/article/98/1/skaa004/5700336>.

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