

Animal and Dairy Sciences

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IN THIS ISSUE

- Barn Art Invitational Livestock Judging Contest
- Keystone International Livestock Exposition
- Breakfast On The Farm 2019
- MANNRRS: Organization Teaches Valuable Skills in AG
- Equine Clubs Tour "Redbud Farm"
- Congratulations, Dr. Amanda Stone
- Congratulations, Drs. Jamie Larson and Derris Burnett and Mrs. Jessica Graves

BARN ART INVITATIONAL LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST



We were named the Reserve Champion Team Overall with team member Kirsta Murphree being the contest high individual!

Team:

- 2nd in Cattle
- 2nd in Swine
- 2nd in Sheep/Goats

Reserve Champion
Overall Team

Individual:

- Julia Tate-9th High Individual Overall, 9th-cattle,
- 4th-Sheep/Goats
- Logan Whipple-4th-Cattle, 8th-Swine
- Cassidy Catrett-10th-Swine

Kirsta Murphree

High Individual
Overall:

- 6th-cattle
- 6th-swine
- 3rd-sheep/goats
- 8th-oral reasons



KEYSTONE

INTERNATIONAL

LIVESTOCK

EXPOSITION



The MSU Livestock Judging Team enjoyed a great trip to the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg, PA where the team ranked 3rd overall!

The team had its best performance in the Swine Division, finishing as the reserve champion team.

Individual Results:

Logan Whipple-3rd High Individual Overall, 5th in Sheep, 6th Angus Division, 7th in Hogs, tied for 10th in Oral Reasons

Cassidy Catrett-8th in Cattle

Kirsta Murphree-9th in Angus Division, 10th in Sheep

Madalyn Jennings-3rd in Angus Division

Julia Tate-11th in Sheep

BREAKFAST ON THE FARM 2019

Breakfast on the Farm was held on October 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2019. Drs. Cavinder, Dinh, Larson, Lemley, and Rude participated alongside our farm staff (Kenneth Graves, Carly Becker, and Colby Hardin). Student volunteers included ADS graduate students, Dr. Stephanie Lemley's Elementary Education Senior Seminar students, student athletes, and members of the Dairy Science Club and Block and Bridle.

The Bearden Dairy Research Center hosted about 1,000 visitors during this event and were able to educate them on the value of agriculture, where their food comes from, how dairy cows live, how we care for calves and horses, how to make liquid nitrogen ice cream, what a fetus looks like on an ultrasound, and what the inside of a cow's stomach feels like.

An astounding amount of time and effort goes into this event each year, and the entire department chips in as needed and without question or complaint. Every year it reminds me of how collaborative and supportive our department is and we are very lucky to have this type of work community.

I'd like to give a big "thank you" to all of the helpers during those four days (and before with preparations), Dr. Burnett and Tim Armstrong for preparing sausage biscuits, our sponsors (The Dairy Alliance, Prairie Farms, and Vowell's Marketplace), and MSU Extension Service and MAFES administrators and Dr. Blanton for letting us put this event on each year.



Comments on the Event:

"I enjoyed ALL of the information about the cows and their lactation process. My family and I have come to this event for the past 3 years, and I learn something new every time."

"It was very kid friendly and all of your staff were engaging and helpful."

"I loved the organization of the event, the hands on and informative activities, and that it was in groups and not crowded. My son thoroughly enjoyed every minute, as did I."

"MSU students very friendly with my 1st graders. My kids loved the hands-on with the animals!"

"I hope there will be another!"



The Mississippi State University MANRRS chapter went to the 34th Annual MANRRS Career and Training Fair in Kansas City, Kans., earlier this year. From left are: Trevon Strange, Caleb Jenkins, Garry Tines, Antonette DeSilva, Mikayla Brister, Dianna Wilson, Dr. Scott Willard, and Dr. Derris Devost-Burnett. The ladies seated are: Taylor Ladner, Shandrea Stallworth, and Ashley Mikle.

MANRRS: Organization teaches valuable skills in ag

A national organization is impacting students and the industry of agriculture.

Alaina Dismukes | Sep 25, 2019

MANRRS, which stands for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences, prepares a diverse pool of students to become leaders in agriculture-related fields.

The mission of the national organization, founded in 1984 on the campus of Michigan State University, is to promote academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. A few of the opportunities the organization offers are networking, learning leadership skills, and providing a community of like-minded people.

Related: Farm Progress America, September 9, 2019

Mississippi State University is home to one of many MANRRS chapters across the nation and has two doctoral candidates in leadership positions nationally and regionally. Christien Russell, an MSU doctoral candidate, is the Region III Graduate Student vice president. Shandrea Stallworth, also an MSU doctoral candidate, serves as the National Graduate Student president for the organization.

Russell, who is a part of the Agriculture and Extension Education doctoral program at MSU, became involved in MANRRS during her senior year at the University of Kentucky under the leadership of Dr. Quentin Tyler of Michigan State University, who currently serves as the advisory board chair for the national MANRRS organization.

A place in agriculture

“At the time, I was in the College of Agriculture, but didn't really know much about agriculture. I grew up in inner city Louisville, Ky., and didn't have a background in the field. MANRRS connected me with my degree in agriculture, and it gave me a better understanding of agriculture, why there's a need for it, and why we should pay attention to it,” she said.

Stallworth, a five-year MANRRS member and fourth-year doctoral candidate in Weed Physiology and Plant Genetics, has also served as a regional graduate student vice president for the organization and shares Russell's passion for MANRRS.

“I feel like MANRRS helped me find where I belonged in the world of agriculture,” she said. “If I hadn't been exposed to the individuals I met throughout the last five

years, I feel like I would be lost. I wouldn't have been exposed to different people in the industry or to the multiple intersections of agriculture.

"The organization has also helped me develop many essential skills such as getting over my fear of public speaking and the importance of a strong mentoring team."

Dr. Derris Devost-Burnett, a meat scientist and muscle biologist in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at MSU, has been involved with MANRRS since he was an undergraduate and credits his involvement with MANRRS as his means to professional development.

"I started here at MSU as an assistant professor in 2015," he said. "I originally got my bachelor's and master's degrees at Tuskegee University. Then I got my Ph.D. at Auburn University, and then I received a postdoctoral fellowship at Kansas State University. MANRRS has been a part of that journey the whole way."

When Burnett was an undergraduate student at Tuskegee University, he was active in the MANRRS chapter. However, when he went to Auburn University to continue his education, there wasn't a chapter at Auburn.

"I, Dr. Brenda Allen, and Michelle Coal basically restarted the Auburn University chapter because it had gone dormant at that point. Because MANRRS was a vital part of my journey, it was important to me to restart the chapter," he said. "We had our ebbs and flows in terms of success as a chapter there, but we left it in good hands where they were able to continue to thrive as a chapter."

After attending Auburn, Burnett went to Kansas State where he was a co-advisor of the MANRRS chapter, and he got his postdoctoral fellowship through MANRRS. Also, while he was pursuing his Ph.D. program, he served as a national MANRRS Graduate Student vice president.

"I always credit MANRRS as a big part of my professional development and helping me secure various positions post-graduation," he said.

Impacting students at MSU

Since he started working at Mississippi State University, Burnett serves as a co-advisor for MSU's MANRRS chapter while also serving as the chair of the national MANRRS Alumni Committee.

"I try to encourage students to participate in the organization, so that they can experience similar successes and have similar networking experiences like I was able to have by being a part of MANRRS," he said. "I participated as a student, as a national officer, and as a co-advisor as well as a chapter president at Auburn. Because of all the different perspectives I've experienced in the organization, I know the responsibilities involved, but I also know the benefits."

"We're probably one of the largest minority groups in agriculture, and we produce a couple hundred graduates a year who are going on to do great things in government, industry, and academia," he said.

MANRRS benefits

Burnett says that a few of the skills the organization teaches include professional development, networking tools, and leadership.

"The biggest thing that the organization means to me personally is being able to network with other like-minded people who are interested in and passionate about agriculture," he said. "MANRRS also allows you to step outside your comfort zone and build on your weaknesses, so that you can be a more complete candidate for whatever career aspirations you might have."

At the time that Burnett started working at MSU, the chapter had dwindled, but between him, Dr. Scott Willard, Dr. Kevin Hunt, and the recruitment of graduate students like Stallworth and Russell, they reinvigorated and reestablished the chapter.

“Despite it still being a relatively small chapter, we are very impactful on a national level,” Burnett said. “In the last couple of years, we’ve had several students win awards at the national conference — out of 50 universities — in terms of research competitions, public speaking competitions, and the contest which decides the theme for the organization for the entire year of service. We take pride in the fact that we’re small but mighty.”

Besides competitions, the national conference allows members exposure to relevant industries sponsoring the conference such as Land O’Lakes, which has recruited a few MSU students for internships.

“MANRRS is about professional development and career-ready preparation by giving 21st Century skill development, so that our students are able to hit the ground running after graduation,” Burnett said. “I think the biggest thing this organization offers, though, is comradery.”

While Burnett, Russell, and Stallworth all had different experiences with the organization, all had stories about how MANRRS was a means to improving themselves, their career, and overall, the industry of agriculture.

Source URL: <https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-life/manrrs-organization-teaches-valuable-skills-ag>

EQUINE CLUBS TOUR REDBUD FARM



Access to the industry and making connections with those actively participating in the industry is one of the goals for the ADS equine clubs.

Redbud Farm, a local eventing stable, assisted with meeting this goal last month.

The stables allowed two of the department's clubs, the MSU Eventing Team and Horseman's Association, behind the scenes access as the stable was actively preparing to travel to Florida for the Winter Circuit. Club members got to meet with Betsy Ball and Jessica Shull, trainers and owners of Redbud Farm, and during the tour, club members learned about the daily activities of the stable and what goes into training for eventing competitions.

Club members learned about competing in the Winter Circuit and what it is like managing horses in Florida compared to Mississippi.

Redbud Farm invited club members to travel to Florida, with their trainers, and watch their competitions.

Club members are currently fundraising by selling club shirts in the hopes of making that trip to Florida.

For individuals interested in the clubs or in purchasing t-shirts to help support the clubs' activities, contact the clubs' advisor, Dr. Molly Nicodemus at

mnicodemus@ads.msstate.edu.

DR. AMANDA STONE, CO-PI

ON PROJECT

GRANT AWARD



Dr. Amanda Stone is a co-Principal Investigator on the USDA NIFA Southern Region Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network grant. They were recently awarded \$480,000.

Partners include Agrisafe (a non-profit national membership organization representing health professionals and educators who strive to reduce health disparities found among the agricultural community), Florida Agricultural Mediation staff, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute, the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education, the University of Arkansas Research and Extension, the University of Alabama, the Virginia Department of Agricultural Consumer Services, and Dr. David Buys from MSU Extension.

Farming places many stressors on mental health and the majority of rural areas lack access to mental health services.

The goals of this project are to:

- 1) establish a diverse, regionally-representative network of member organizations;
- 2) develop a clearinghouse of farmer assistance programs in the region; and
- 3) educate individuals and teams in the southern region about how they can access and use existing resources and programs in their work with the agricultural community or other rural communities under stress.

The expected three to four year impact of this project is to increase farmer ability to cope with stress by 15%, increase the utilization of services among farmers by 30%, reduce deaths by suicide among farmers by 15%, and reduce negative feelings of stigma by 10%.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
DRS. JAMIE LARSON AND
DERRIS BURNETT AND MRS.
JESSICA GRAVES ON
NIFA GRANT FUNDING**

Drs. Jamie Larson, Associate Professor in Cattle Reproductive Physiology, and Derris Burnett, Assistant Professor in Muscle Biology and Meat Science, and Mrs. Jessica Graves, Instructor and Undergraduate Coordinator, received \$375,000 in funding for a 5-year project that will support two cohorts of students that participate in leadership training and international experience.



Dr. Jamie Larson
Associate Professor

Funding of this
type supports
our mission of
developing
future leaders in
animal
agriculture.



Dr. Derris Burnett
Assistant Professor



Mrs. Jessica Graves
**Instructor/Undergraduate
Coordinator**

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