Introducing the Department of Animal Sciences Stewards!

by Morgan Offutt

The Stewards have an exciting announcement! At the beginning of this semester, the Equine Science Stewards and the Stewards of Animal Science merged into one Stewards group. Both groups had worked together on various projects in the past, but the merger allows for more collaboration between students in the department. Many students and faculty feel like there has always been a divide between equine and animal science students, due to the location of the Equine Center off-campus and Animal Science building on campus, and a lack of collaboration between the two groups. Now as the Department of Animal Sciences Stewards, we have the goal of unifying all students and faculty in the department by collaborating on more events together.

Earlier this semester, the Stewards organized a series of Q&A sessions with the new department leadership team: Dr. Belk, Dr. Engle, and Dr. Roman-Muniz. These sessions were the first event we hosted as a merged group, and they allowed students to ask about changes coming in the department and how they plan on bridging the divide between the animal and equine science programs. Our next event is the College of Ag Winter Extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 13 from 6-9 pm. The party is held in the Adams-Atkinson arena at the Equine Center, and there will be free food catered by Meats Lab (continued on next page)
and an ugly sweater contest with really awesome prizes donated by various sponsors. This party is a time for everyone in the college to come together and be united as one family.

The Stewards are excited about the merger and the new opportunities and events to come in the future! Stay tuned for changes in the newsletter, our social media pages, and our collaborations at department events.

Traveling Stewards

FORT WORTH TEXAS: SNAFFLE BIT FUTURITY

by Bracy Groshko

This semester 3 other stewards and I had the opportunity to travel to the annual NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity during the month of October. We traveled to Fort Worth, TX to see the best three-year-olds compete on the biggest reined cow horse stage in the country and to promote and spread awareness of the CSU Legends of Ranching Program. At this event, our Stewards were able to mingle with individuals around the event and see some very cool aspects of the equine industry.

Not only was the three-year-old futurity taking place but there were multiple other cow horse classes, a rope horse futurity, and the Western Bloodstock Sale taking place on the grounds. These were some very interesting events and horses for our group to see to gain knowledge on different aspects of the industry. Not to mention during the main event, the reining and fence work finals of the futurity, our members were able to meet with and speak to the owner of the reining horse stallion Lil Joe Cash. We had the chance to chat with her about her successful career as a breeder and the reining industry. We watched some truly incredible fence work runs and had a phenomenal experience interacting with the community at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. Until next time Cowtown!

Photo Courtesy of Lil Joe Cash’s Owner
BILLINGS MONTANA: NORTHERN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

by Lillian Esterl-Byrne

This semester several of our steward members had the opportunity to travel to Billings, MT to attend the Northern International Livestock Exposition. While at the NILE, our members were able to attend several exciting such included an AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge competition, AQHA Versatility Ranch Competition, and the Gold Buckle Horse Futurity. These events showcased several incredible horses which our members had the wonderful opportunity to watch compete.

When not enjoying the day’s events our members manned a booth that provided information to the event attendees about some of the great opportunities that the CSU Equine Science program offers. The equine industry is a very small world and while at the event our members were able to engage with current LOR consignors and past LOR Sale buyers as well as notable professionals within the equine industry. One highlight for myself was getting the chance to see the buyer who purchased the colt I was assigned to last year in the Legends of Ranching Program. It was incredible to hear about the progress that this young gelding was making and to see how his buyers were enjoying him.

One notable connection that our stewards made was with two wonderful women that are involved with the Art of the Cowgirl event in Phoenix, AZ. Through this connection, our members have been given the opportunity to come and volunteer at the event this February. The Art of the Cowgirl is an event that showcases the skills and talents of women competitors, artists, and many other disciplines from the equine industry. Our members feel very fortunate to have been awarded this chance to be apart of such an incredible event. Stay tuned for more details about our adventures at the Art of the Cowgirl!
New Club On Campus!
by Allie Arnold

The CSU Equine Sciences Department has welcomed a new club this year, aiming to improve the lives of American mustangs and educate the public on the issues they face. With the increasing need for education regarding mustang overpopulations, welfare, and adoption, the CSU Mustang Advocacy Club hopes to teach Equine Science students, as well as Fort Collins residents, about American mustangs and their needs. The club works to spread awareness through volunteering and fundraising, as well as meeting once a week for mustang advocates to connect.

The club is currently planning to host an Extreme Mustang Makeover event at the CSU Equine Center next September. The club is collaborating on this event with Wild Rose Mustang Advocacy, which is a local advocacy group in Fort Collins founded by mustang trainer and Equine Sciences alumna, Cayla Stone. The Extreme Mustang Makeover is a competition hosted by the Mustang Heritage Foundation. During the competition, trainers have 100 days to start an untouched mustang and then compete in ground work and riding challenges. Stay tuned to hear more about this exciting event coming up at the Equine Center!

The CSU Mustang Advocacy Club meets every Tuesday evening at 5:30 pm at the CSU Equine Center. To learn more about the CSU Mustang Advocacy Club, contact their advisor Sarah Matlock, attend one of their meetings, or visit their Facebook page!
Meat Judging: From Class to a Team
by Libby Sharpe

The Department of Animal Sciences offers an Introduction into Meat Evaluation course which is a preliminary course for the Colorado State University Meat Judging Team. While you are enrolled in the meat evaluation course you learn many different aspects of what all comprises meat judging such as yield and quality grading of beef carcasses, evaluations of beef, pork, and lamb carcasses as well as cut classes, and specifications of cuts of beef, pork, and lamb. Students who have taken the Introduction into Meat Evaluation are then to determine if they want to continue on in Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team (continued...)

where you would travel in a van with team mates that become family to contests across the United States.

I gained friendships that will last a life time whether they were other members on my team or from other teams across the nation. Also established connections throughout the agriculture industry and specifically throughout the meat science industry. Each of the contests have corporate sponsors, like Tyson and Cargill, which allows us to talk with leaders within the industry about job opportunities and other ways to stay active in the meat industry.

The most common question I think my team mates and I have encountered from someone who has no clue what meat judging is would be “So you get to taste all sorts of delicious food samples all day?”. My reply to that is always along the lines of “Do you have about 20 minutes to talk?” then laugh a little and give them a brief explanation of what meat judging actually is. In addition, meat judging has taught me many valuable life lessons like adaptability, confidence, critical decision making, patience, and teamwork. It has taught me how to make quick, rational decisions and how to defend them via written reasons. Judging has strengthened my skills of critical and logical thinking, writing and standing my ground, building my confidence, enhancing my problem solving and decision making, and broadening my horizon for my future.
Opinion: Illegal Drug Use in Racing
by Allen Olmedo Soto

*Editor’s Note: All opinion articles reflect the views of the individual author only and does not represent a stance taken by the CSU Equine Sciences program or Department of Animal Sciences.

As racetracks expand, races rise in rigor, and more newcomers enter, the compensation available for winners increases as well. But does this have a two-sided effect on the industry? Since there is more at stake, the races have become increasingly competitive which raises implications for those that compete. Horses continue to be bred for a strong ancestry to produce progeny that are both genetically and physically apt for competitive racing. With rising pressure, competitors start taking risks to improve their horse’s capacity to perform. This presents the issue concerning illegal performance-enhancing drugs and the injuries resulting from this. Not only is illegal drug use placing the horse’s life at risk, they place that of the jockey at risk too. Jockeys are faced with the intense difficulty of guiding a horse running at their max speed while the horses may be under the influence of pain killers or other drugs. The growing issue is met with hostility from animal rights activists calling for strict bans and the expulsion of the entire sport, while there are others fighting simply to change and allow the sport to keep its integrity.

All of these issues have been culminating in an ongoing struggle for the reformation of the sport. Yet like most things, change takes time and requires compromise and an understanding of what needs to be done. Whether that is implementing more inclusive drug testing methods or a stricter policy regarding the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Yet the common goal is to decrease the number of injuries and deaths for equine and jockeys alike. Should this continue or will the numbers rise leading to more pushback and reprimand from the general public?
Class Spotlights

ANEQ 102 TEACHING ASSISTANT
by Maggie Carter

As a teaching assistant for ANEQ 102, I get to work with the students who are new to the program and help them to become more knowledgeable in the area of Equine Sciences and help to prepare them for the rest of their time in the Equine Sciences program. These students come into the course with various different backgrounds, some may be world champions and others have never even touched a horse. And of course, all of the in-between. The students learn many of the basics in this course such as basic anatomy, haltering, basic health and first aid, common tack and equipment, basic physiology, and many other important facts and skills that may be important in the equine industry. It has been a great semester with all of these students, and it amazes me to see how much these students learn in such a short period of time and it makes me proud to see them blossom.

ANEQ 351: TECHNIQUES IN THERAPEUTIC RIDING
by Rozie Nobe

Here at CSU, addressing the ever-growing Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) world is a large focus. One way this is done is through a series of courses that focus on EAA. Those interested in EAA begin with an introductory class that educates on therapeutic riding, vaulting, driving, hippotherapy, and equine-assisted psychotherapy. Along with the lecture, there is a great lab experience where students are taught how the different mounts for disabled riders, roles of side walkers and horse leaders, and safety protocol for therapeutic riding. These students work with a rider on a weekly basis in a therapeutic riding session. These lessons are run by students pursuing their certification as a therapeutic riding instructor. Coming out of ANEQ 351 there are tons of opportunities to continue into a group study riding the therapeutic horses, ANEQ 365 (Principles in Teaching therapeutic riding), and ANEQ 486 (Therapeutic Riding Instructor Practicum) which prepares the student for the PATH International Instructor certification exam.
**Holiday Baking Recipes**

**Horse Cookies**

Provided by Shawna White at thehorse.com

**No-Bake Peppermint Thumbprint Cookies**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ¼ cup of water
- 1 to 2 tbsp. molasses or honey
- 5 peppermints

**Directions:**
1. Mix oats and water until oats are damp
2. Add molasses or honey by the tablespoon until the mixture becomes sticky
3. Roll into balls and press the peppermint in the middle of each cookie
4. Refrigerate until cookies harden
Human Cookies

Provided by Ghirardelli at allrecipes.com

Ghirardelli’s Hot Chocolate and Toasted Marshmallow Cookies

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp Ghirardelli Unsweetened Cocoa Powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- 6 tbsp butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 ¼ cups Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Chips
- 30 large marshmallows

Directions:

1. Melt ¾ cup chocolate chips gently in the microwave or over a pot of simmering water. Set aside to cool.
2. Sift flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt together in a bowl, and stir together.
3. Beat the butter and sugar together until thick and creamy. Beat in eggs one by one. Add cooled melted chocolate and vanilla extract. Continue beating until ingredients are well mixed. (continued on next page)
4. Fold dry ingredients and 2 1/4 cups chocolate chips into the mix and stir until combined.

5. Scoop cookie with a 1 tablespoon scoop (if the mix is soft you can pop it in the fridge to stiffen up and this will make it easier to scoop).

6. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8 to 9 minutes. Take care not to over-bake as these cookies should be almost brownie-like.

7. Once baked, pop a marshmallow on top and put it back in the oven on broil for 1-2 minutes for a lovely toasted effect.

Recipes provided by Cassi Nichols

Congrats Graduating Stewards!

Thank you to our amazing Stewards who are graduating this December for your hard work and dedication to the program throughout the years. We are so grateful for your time, leadership, and passion for the program. You will all be missed!

CHLOÉ CARLSON
Animal Science Major, Certificate in Meat Science
Served as Stewards Co-President
Thank you for your involvement in Stewards, Meat Judging Team, and undergraduate research!

HANNAH DAVIS
Equine Science Major, Business Administration Minor
Served as Stewards Fundraising Chair
Thank you for your involvement in Stewards, Ranch Horse Versatility Team, Legends of Ranching program (horse training class), and the Right Horse program (teaching assistant)!
CASSI NICHOLS
Equine Science Major, Business Administration Minor
Served as Stewards Secretary/Administrator
Thank you for your involvement in Stewards, Mountain Riders Club, Legends of Ranching program (sales management class), CSU summer horse camp, and Equine Center office administration!

LUCIA RUPERT
Equine Science and Natural Resource Tourism Majors, Business Administration Minor
Served as Stewards Communications/Social Media Chair
Thank you for your involvement in Stewards, Legends of Ranching program (sales management class and teaching assistant), and CSU Admissions Ambassadors!

TRAVIS WALSH
Animal Science Major, Pre-Vet track
Thank you for your involvement in Stewards and Farm House Fraternity!

Congratulations!!!
Acknowledgements

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