

HIGHLIGHTS

A PUBLICATION FOR OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Summer 1998

Message from the Outgoing Chair



After 5 ½ years of service to the Department as Chair, I am returning full time to my duties as a teacher/researcher. Serving as chair has been a challenging and rewarding experience. I found myself doing things I never dreamed of doing and aiding the Department in totally unexpected ways. Sharing in the many successes of the faculty and staff during this period was very rewarding but I particularly enjoyed my

unique opportunity to have a special role in the personal development and university experience of so many Animal Science students.

Needless to say, the Animal Science program at UCD is a team effort. We have the very best faculty, Extension specialists and staff to carry out our teaching, research and outreach programs. Our students, alumni and friends are also part of that team. Graduate students assist faculty in undergraduate instruction and their research projects complement the work of their faculty mentors. Our undergraduate livestock show teams meet the public at county and State fairs, thus providing visibility to the department and an important tool for student recruitment. Our alumni and friends help us achieve our goals by their generous gifts of time and money, by service on our Development Board, and through letters in support of department initiatives. Out in the state, livestock and dairy farm advisors help us transmit new information to the animal industries and public. They also collaborate with faculty and specialists in applied research. Although we can accomplish a great deal as individuals, the ultimate success of our teaching, research and outreach programs lies in that team effort. Keep up the good work, everyone, and thank you!

Ed Price

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Professor Gary Anderson Appointed As New Department Chair



There is a new face in the Chair's Office of the Department of Animal Science.

Chancellor Vanderhoef recently appointed Professor Gary B. Anderson to succeed former chair Ed Price when his 5 ½ year term expired on August 15, 1998.

Professor Anderson joined the department in 1973 shortly after receiving his doctorate in reproductive physiology from Cornell University. He is internationally known for his research in embryo

physiology, including studies on the biological barrier that prevents successful cross-species pregnancies; improving milk composition through gene transfer; isolating embryonic stem cells from embryos of domestic livestock; and examining the reproductive processes in various animal species.

A highly successful teacher, Professor Anderson has received the “Magnar Ronning Award for Excellence in Teaching”, an award given by students; the “Teaching Award of Merit” from the National Association of College Teachers in Agriculture; the UC Davis “Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award” and in 1995 he was presented with an “Award of Excellence in Teaching” by the National Association of State University and Land Grant Colleges. In 1997, Professor Anderson was awarded the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement, the campus' most prestigious award.

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Animal Science Instructors Receive Teaching Awards



Professor Edward J. DePeters listens to undergraduate student Luciana Contreras.

Professor Edward DePeters. On June 4, 1998 the Department hosted a reception honoring Animal Science Professor Edward DePeters, recipient of a 1998 UC Davis “Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award”. Three such awards were given by the campus in 1998 to recognize faculty with outstanding teaching skills.

Nominations are made by fellow faculty members and students.

Professor DePeters joined the Department in 1979 and is an authority on dairy cattle nutrition. His courses include Domestic Animal Production, Animal Feeds and Nutrition, and Dairy Cattle Production. He is well known for delivering clear lectures, welcoming questions from students and administering fair tests. Students consistently remark about his caring attitude.

Professor DePeters extends his involvement in student activities beyond the classroom, serving as advisor for the undergraduate student Block & Bridle Club and participating in annual campus events including Picnic Day, Dairy Cattle Day, and Ag Science Field Day. One colleague remarked that “his sphere of influence over students surpasses academics. It expands into areas of integrity, responsibility and good leadership”.



Lecturer Alida Morzenti. Also honored at the June 4th reception was Animal Science Lecturer Alida Morzenti who was awarded the 1998 UC Davis “Academic Federation for Excellence in



Lecturer Alida Morzenti chats with Lecturer Tom Adamson during the June 4th reception in her honor. Professor Juan Medrano and James Millam are in background (left and right, respectively).

Teaching Award”. This is the highest teaching award given at UC Davis for Academic Federation employees and Alida was one of two recipients this year.

Morzenti began teaching at UC Davis as an undergraduate teaching assistant in several lower-division courses in the Department of Avian Sciences. Avian Sciences then hired her as a part-time lecturer in 1986 and full time in 1990. She teaches an introductory course on Birds, Humans and the Environment, and courses on the Management of Captive Birds, Raptor Biology and Raptor Management. Morzenti emphasizes that she wants her students to learn more than what is presented in textbooks and the classroom. She encourages them to seek out peer-reviewed scientific information and to think critically and creatively. One nominator commented on Alida's desire to improve her students' writing skills and use of logic. “Alida loves to teach and her commitment to her students and the discipline is apparent in the huge amount of time she spends on her courses and students”. Another nominator wrote: “Her focus is squarely on student learning. She struggles to find ways to keep her students engaged in learning and her courses are carefully structured to enhance this very process.”



Peter Hodum. Avian Sciences graduate student, Peter Hodum, was honored with a 1998

Graduate student Peter Hodum is congratulated by Dean of Graduate Studies, Christina Gonzales for being a 1998 recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award.

“Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award” at a reception and awards ceremony at the University Club on June 2, 1998. Peter was one of 10 graduate students from the campus receiving this award.

Alida Morzenti, an awards committee member, introduced Peter at the ceremony. Dean of Graduate Studies, Christina Gonzalez, made the presentation. Animal Science faculty member, Wes Weathers, serves as Mr. Hodum's major professor.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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Introducing Doug Gisi



Doug is the new Herd Manager for the UC Davis Dairy Teaching and Research Facility. Doug started work this past February. Doug received his B.S. in Animal Science from UC Davis in 1981. After earning his undergraduate degree, Doug worked as a herd manager for a dairy in Oregon before returning to UC Davis to begin his M.S. graduate program in Animal Science. Doug's thesis project for his M.S. graduate program evaluated the benefits of milking cows three-times daily. Upon completion of his graduate program, Doug accepted a position as the

Dairy & Forage Farm Advisor in Merced County. As a UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Doug developed educational programs to extend current information about dairy management and forage crop production to producers. He was involved in research trials evaluating forage crop variety and hybrid selection and agronomic practices on forage quality at harvest.

In 1988, Doug left cooperative extension to become the Dairy & Farm Manager for Areias Dairy Farms where he managed 1900 milking and dry cows plus replacements at two dairy facilities. In 1994 Doug established his own Management & Nutrition Consulting business in which he served as a nutritional professional and he managed a large dairy in the San Joaquin Valley. Prior to accepting the UC Davis Herd Manager position, Doug worked for LaFollette Enterprises, Inc., in Turlock. At UC Davis, Doug will be involved in the general management of the Dairy Facility. In addition, he will contribute to the teaching, research, and outreach missions of the Department, College, and University. Doug will have teaching responsibility for our ANS 49 course, Animal Management Practices, which is taught every quarter. He will supervise the Dairy related internships and provide support to the animal science classes using the dairy animals and facilities. He will also support teaching activities from other departments and colleges on Campus. Doug will be a resource support person for research activities and provide assistance when needed. Doug's outreach activities will include participating in the UC Davis Dairy

Cattle Day program and attending industry meetings and functions. Doug's position is challenging because of the many facets involved in managing and operating a dairy facility associated with a college campus.

Doug comes to UC Davis with a great wealth of knowledge related to dairy cattle and experiences working with the dairy industry. The Department of Animal Science is pleased to welcome Doug Gisi to UC Davis.

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Department Development Board Hosts Vice-president Gomes

The Department of Animal Science Development Board hosted UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources Vice-President Reg Gomes at its annual spring meeting on May 13, 1998. Vice-President Gomes spoke to the group about strategies to obtain support for upgrading our campus field facilities for large domestic animals. After visiting our dairy and feedlot facilities earlier in the day, he confirmed the inadequacy of these older units.

Rotating off the Board on August 31, 1998 are: Robert Bray (Chairman for 1997-98), Ken Beer, Max Herzog, Tim Indart, David Knudsen and Tom Sawyer. The Department would like to thank these individuals for their many contributions over the last three years.

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A.L. Gilbert, Co. Establishes Graduate Fellowship In Memory of Richard (Doc) Johnson

The A.L. Gilbert Company based in Oakdale, CA has established an endowment fund at UC Davis, the earnings of which will be used to fund graduate fellowships in memory of Richard (Doc) Johnson, a long-time Gilbert employee and dairy nutritionist. The funds will be specifically used to support graduate students in the Department of Animal Science pursuing interests in dairy nutrition or agricultural by-product feeding. If you are interested in contributing to this endowment, please use the insert in this issue of Highlights. Mark the box for "Graduate Student Fellowships/Scholarships" and note that your contribution is to be applied to the Richard Johnson Fellowship.

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Heifers Donated to Animal Science Dairy Program

Six heifers (4 Jerseys, 1 Guernsey and 1 Holstein) were recently donated to the Department of Animal Science Dairy Teaching and Research Program. The Department would like to thank the following producers for their generosity and interest in our dairy programs:

- **Phil Fanelli**, *Phil's Jerseys*, Hilmar.
 - **Richard Clauss** and **C.A. Russell**, *Yosemite Jersey Dairy*, Hilmar.
 - **Charles Ahlem**, *Charles Ahlem Ranch*, Turlock.
 - **Vern Wickstrom**, *Vern and Mary Wickstrom Dairy*, Hilmar.
 - **Walt and Arnold Kessler**, *Bay Meadows Farms*, Galt.
 - **John Kidd**, *Kidd Farms Registered Holsteins*, Modesto.
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“Dolly's” Dad Visits The Department



Graduate student Stefanie Oppenheim listens to Dr. Wilmut discussing his research while visiting the department's Dairy Goat Teaching, Research & Extension Center.

To scientists in reproduction, he's Ian Wilmut. To the rest of the world, he's “Dolly's dad.” For a few days in May he was a guest in the Animal Science Department. Each year a world-class scientist is invited to campus to present Storer Lectures to the campus community and the general public. This spring's Storer Lecturer was Dr. Wilmut who accepted the invitation in 1997, a few months after the announcement from his laboratory in Scotland of the successful cloning of an adult sheep. The Department of Animal Science co-sponsored Dr. Wilmut's visit with the Division of Biological Sciences.

In addition to presenting two public lectures, which broke previous attendance records for Storer Lectures, Dr. Wilmut met with faculty, graduate students and undergraduates in the Department of Animal Science. The accompanying photograph caught Dr. Wilmut as he met with students at the Animal Science Dairy Goat Facility.

Dr. Wilmut's public lectures addressed the biological limits of cloning in mammals and the uses of cloning procedures in biology, medicine and agriculture. He also gave us some inside information on his laboratory's most recent results, including definitive proof from DNA evidence that Dolly is a clone produced from an adult mammary gland cell, observations that show Dolly to be by all measures a normal ewe, and the announcement that Dolly has given birth to a daughter named Bonnie.

Dr. Wilmut's focus on animal agriculture made his visit of special interest to Animal Science students, staff and faculty. His enthusiasm for discussing his research with students reinforced our own value we

place on teaching in conjunction with research and public service.

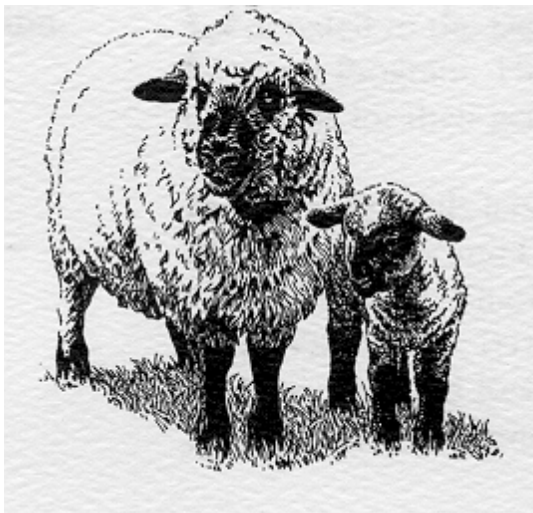
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Barbara Reed Receives First Reuben Albaugh Scholarship

Barbara Reed, UC Dairy Farm Advisor for Glenn, Butte and Colusa Counties, is the recipient of the first Reuben Albaugh Extension Scholarship for Farm Advisors and Specialists. Ms. Reed will relocate to Davis from September ('98) to June ('99) to explore market and consumer issues related to food production. The \$3,500 award will be used to support her coursework in food science and nutrition while at UC Davis. A portion of Reed's extension program and collaborative research is in food safety and milk quality and she routinely is asked to answer clientele and consumer questions on these issues as they relate to meat and dairy products. She is especially interested in cultural, ethnic and political determinants that drive food choices and how they shape food production and marketing. While at Davis, Ms. Reed will communicate her progress to dairy production faculty through regular, informal meetings.



The Albaugh Extension Scholarship was established in 1995 to finance the continuing education of farm advisors and specialists and to encourage communication between extension personnel and UCD faculty. Scholarship recipients must be housed in the Department of Animal Science while on professional leave for at least one academic

quarter. Priority is given to off-campus Livestock and Dairy Farm Advisors but off-campus specialists or graduate students with extension goals are also eligible for the award. Contributions to the Albaugh Extension Scholarship endowment can be made by using the insert in this issue of Highlights and checking the box for "Extension Scholarship Fund".

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Emeritus Professor Pran Vohra Honored

Emeritus Professor Pran Vohra was honored on August 27, 1998 when the former Avian Sciences Conference Room in Meyer Hall was dedicated as the "Pran Vohra Room". Professor Vohra joined the Avian Sciences faculty in 1962 as an Associate Professor. During his 27 year career with UC Davis, he published numerous articles, book chapters and books on the subject of avian nutrition. He was especially interested in the nutritional requirements of chickens, turkeys, ducks, game birds and squabs, the alleviation of naturally occurring toxic components in feeds, the effect of the genetic manipulation of cereals and legumes on their nutritional value to poultry and improving the nutrition of disadvantaged people in developing nations. Former students remember him for his courses in "Comparative Nutrition of Avian Species", "Applied Avian Biology" and "Poultry Production in Developing Countries".

Professor Vohra has had numerous assignments abroad (India, China, Malaysia, Australia, England) and has served as a consultant for the U.S. Feed Grains Council on many occasions. He continues to be active in department activities since his retirement in 1989.

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Thanks, Pete!

Former Department Development Board member, Albert “Pete” Boyce has donated more than \$40,000 as “seed money” to encourage donations for replacement of the department feed mill. Conceptual planning has begun on a new feed mill which will serve as an “anchor” for the upgrading and relocation of field facilities supporting the department's teaching and research programs with large domestic animals. The current feed mill was built with funds from the cattle industry in the 1950s.

Pete is owner and president of Boyce Resource Development Co., an enterprise that manages the family's oil, agricultural and other interests. He is a resident of Manteca, California.

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Undergraduates Receive Awards

There were lots of happy faces at the Department's Annual Spring Awards Barbecue held on June 5, 1998 at Putah Creek Lodge on Campus. One-hundred thirteen scholarships, awards and certificates were distributed to our undergraduate students. Two very representative scenes from the barbecue are shown below.



Professor Emeritus, Robert Laben and his wife, Dorothy, present Diane Dereszynski with the Robert and Dorothy Laben Scholarship for 1998-99. Looking on is Professor Anita Oberbauer, Chair of the Undergraduate Scholarship Committee.



The UC BAR Award is given to graduating seniors in recognition of their service to the Department and involvement in various departmental and student activities. Recipients receive a certificate

and a leather piece branded with the UC brand. Standing, left to right are: Izaskun Zallo, Jaime Kwok, Stacy Pettigrew, Luciana Contreras, Rebecca Brandi, (Professor Anita Oberbauer, Chair of the Undergraduate Scholarship Committee in the background), and Christine Aguiar. Sitting, left to right are: Cassandra Tucker, Jeffri Mallett and Kimberly Pincus.

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Are We Happy Yet?

Graduation, 1998. On June 21, 1998, the Department hosted a reception for graduating seniors and their families and friends in the breezeway of Meyer Hall. Graduates included 49 students in the Animal Science major, 14 students in the Animal Science & Management major and 6 students majoring in Avian Sciences. The happy faces in the photo are (left to right) Professors Jim Fadel, Douglas Conklin and Ian Garnett with students Luciana Contreras, Lorrell Kenney and Dara Carlson.



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Transgenic Mice Subject of Undergraduate Honors Thesis



Nicole Collette's senior year at UC Davis will be remembered for her year-long probe into the molecular genetics of mammalian development. Ms. Collette's accomplishment is special since she is the first student to complete an Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Animal Science. Under the direction of Professor Jim Murray, Collette learned how to produce transgenic mice. More specifically she worked on transferring a milk protein gene from cattle into mice. Her research was part of a larger project designed to genetically

manipulate the protein composition of cow's milk to provide greater flexibility in food processing applications. Ms. Collette highly recommends the honors thesis "for students who want greater responsibility and independence in a research program". She will begin a graduate program in genetics this fall.

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First Annual Animal Science Career Symposium

February 21, 1998, marked the exciting beginning of what will be an annual event--the Department of Animal Science Alumni/Faculty Breakfast and Alumni/Student Career Symposium. This half-day, dual-event function brought together students, alumni, faculty, and staff to renew or create mutually beneficial ties between graduates and the department.



Alumna Maran Clark talks to undergraduate Dara Carlson during lunch at the Animal Science Alumni/Student Career Symposium.

Seventeen UCD alumni, including Kim Adams, Mary Biesiadecki, DVM, Paul Bos, DVM, Laurie Calvin-Campoy, Marlies Harris, Berta Lim, Jean (Head) Kennedy, Debbie King Maus, Roy Sharp, and Hilary Ward, joined 12 current and emeriti faculty and three department staff

for a “get reacquainted” breakfast at the Silo. Later the group traveled to the Rec Pool Lodge where panelists Maran Clark (‘87), Eric Erba (‘88, ‘90), John Maus (‘87), Denise (Chabot) Mullinax (‘93, ‘96), Rod Shippey (‘51), and Laura (LaSalle) Tewnion (‘91) joined approximately 40 undergraduate students and offered their best advice on courses, extracurricular activities and experiences that have helped them find satisfying careers. The panelists represented various agricultural careers that benefited from study in the animal sciences and/or participation in animal science programs (e.g., Livestock Judging Team, Little I). Ria de Grassi (‘83, ‘87) moderated the panel and helped organize the event. Panelists exposed undergraduates to broad career options, gave practical career development tips, and granted students “access” to them as successful professionals for advice, internships, and job leads. One student remarked that the event completely changed the way she was thinking about her career

development. Another gleaned information useful to her vet school interview a few days later and yet another became interested in ag policy. Debbie Maus recruited three interns from the event while Berta Lim enthused, "I would be interested in assisting with any ANS alumni project that is planned...I enjoyed being present...and would love to do it again next year! I can also help with other projects. It was a wonderful idea to incorporate the students with the alumni and I think we have valuable insight to the working world that they haven't been exposed to. Count me in!"

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 20, 1999, at the UCD Alumni Center if you are interested in participating in the second event. Contact Advising Associate Carrie Devine at (530) 752-6118 (cldevine@ucdavis.edu) or Ria de Grassi at (916) 561-5610 (rdegrassi@cfbf.com) for more information.

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Ag Science Field Day



More than 50 Animal Science undergraduates, faculty and staff hosted/coordinated five competitive judging events (livestock, dairy, poultry, horses, meats) at the Annual Ag Science Field Day on Campus. A total of 665 Future Farmers of America and 64 4-H persons participated in the fun on March 7th. The photo shows some FFA students taking notes on a group of pigs at the Cole Facility.

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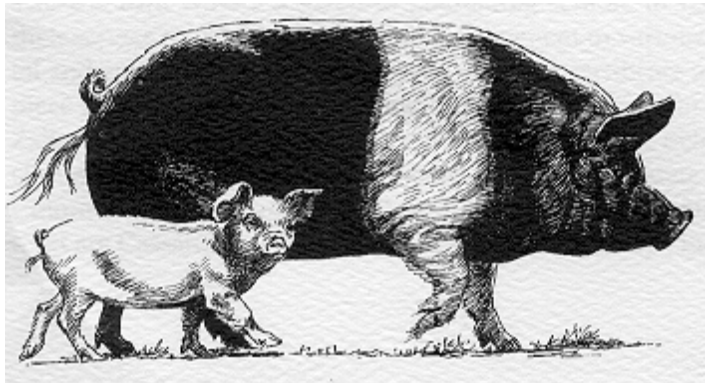
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Did You Know?

Of the 22 departments in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at UC Davis in 1997-98, the Department of Animal Science ranked #1 in total full-time equivalents (FTE) for faculty plus Extension specialist positions (42.64), #1 in total number of undergraduate students in our majors (629) and #3 in annual student credit hours (13,257).



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Notable Notes



Gary Moberg

Associate Dean and Professor of Animal Science **Gary Moberg** has been named chair of the board of directors for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Regional Aquaculture Center. The Center is one of five in the United States designated by the USDA to provide federal leadership in aquaculture. It supports projects that impact the commercial development of aquaculture by focusing on programs that foster cooperation between researchers, extension specialists, government and industry.



Francine Bradley

Animal Science Extension specialist **Francine Bradley** was named the first recipient of the Helene B. Cecil Leadership Award by the Poultry Science Association (PSA). The award, presented at the association's fifth annual meeting held at Penn State University, is named for the late Dr. Cecil who was a poultry scientist at USDA and the first woman president of the PSA. Dr. Bradley was recognized for her significant leadership in the promotion and development of opportunities for women in the area of poultry science and for her many scientific contributions to the field of poultry

science.

Tracy Grissom has recently joined the Animal Science Advising Center Staff as an administrative assistant for our advising programs. She brings a wealth of organizational and administrative experience to the Advising Center having been previously employed as a Project Manager for KPMG Peat Marwick LLP of San Francisco. She and her



Tracy Grissom

husband, Mark, reside in Davis.

Donna Bradshaw is the newest member of the main office. She transferred to Animal Science from Agronomy & Range Science where she was an administrative assistant. Donna and her husband, Jeff, enjoy traveling, snowboarding and being outdoors. Welcome to the department, Donna!

The following staff in the Department of Animal Science received service awards since January 1: **Carl Adam** (15 yrs), **Abbas Ahmadi** (15 yrs), Wayne

Gould (15 yrs), **John Henderson** (15 yrs), Mary Horton (35 yrs), **Walter Paroczai** (20 yrs), **Ben Reynaga** (20 yrs) and **Victor Vieu** (25 yrs). Congratulations and thank you.

Animal Science undergraduate **Rebecca Brandi** was awarded a plaque by Cooperative Resources International in recognition of her participation in the National Dairy Shrine Student Recognition contest.

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Environmental Short-course Is Offered to California Dairymen And Allied Industries

Over 850 dairymen and allied industry persons have attended an Environmental Short Course offered by the Department and UC Cooperative Extension. **Deanne Meyer**, Livestock Waste Management Specialist in the Department, worked closely with UC Dairy Advisors and allied industry groups to deliver the Short Course 18 times. The Short Course consists of three 2-hr classes and addresses 19 critical issues associated with manure collection, storage and management. In addition, the course covers the regulatory responsibilities of producers. Three-hundred producers attended all three sessions.

Graduates of the Short Course understand their liability associated with production and their obligations as a business to comply with environmental regulations. Producers who have completed the Short Course and have subsequently been inspected have reported that the information gained from the Short Course was invaluable in improving manure management on their facility and provided confidence when meeting with inspectors. Additional offerings of the Short Course will be made in the year ahead.

Department staff assembled course materials and many UC Dairy Advisors participated in classroom teaching. The Milk Producers Council and Western United Dairymen assisted with mailings and meeting arrangements. Each of these groups received funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help offset the cost of travel and class materials.

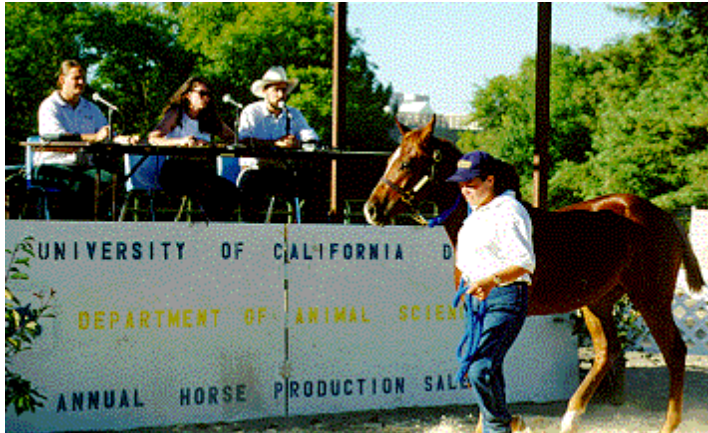
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Do I Hear \$500?



Animal Science alumnus and free-time auctioneer, Dan Macon (top right on platform), looks for the next bid as Animal Science undergraduate, Elena Gutierrez leads a well-groomed filly around the show ring at the Department's Annual Foal Auction on June 27th. Dan is assisted by Sami Macon (center) and undergraduate, Lisa Goodrich (left). Ten foals and yearlings were sold at the event.



Animal Science undergraduate, Esteban Escobedo, entertains the crowd at the Foal Auction with his trick roping.
