2023 Recap
NEW FACULTY

DAVID ROSERO  
Assistant Professor

With his extensive background in the swine industry, David comes to the department ready to make valuable contributions for students and stakeholders. Rosero’s research will focus on swine nutrition and smart farming, with special emphasis on developing technologies to improve sow survivability and longevity. He will also be teaching ANS 425: Swine Systems Management.

RANDIE CULBERTSON  
Assistant Professor

Randie Culbertson, the new extension beef cow-calf specialist, is looking forward to getting to know the state’s producers and learning how to best address issues facing them. Culbertson came to Iowa State from Bozeman, Montana, where she worked for the American Simmental Association as the lead geneticist for International Genetic Solutions. Randie is focusing on developing a grassroots program that’s built around the concerns of Iowa producers.

DANIEL UNRUH  
Assistant Professor

Unruh will focus on the reduction and elimination of pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms in fresh meat products, including investigations into factors that influence microbial attachment, resistance, and survival. He will also look at the control of pathogenic microorganisms in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat products, including the evaluation of emerging antimicrobial solutions as well as USDA-prescribed cooking and cooling methods. Unruh will also dive into policy and scientific analysis of domestic and international regulations pertaining to food safety and its ramifications for public health and trade.

WILL TAYLOR  
Assistant Professor

The department has welcomed Taylor as an Assistant Teaching Professor and Judging Team Coach. With his extensive background in livestock judging and the industry, Taylor will make valuable contributions to the students and the department. Taylor was previously a Teaching Assistant in the department and served as the interim Livestock Judging Team Coach the last two seasons. Last year’s team was the most competitive team in 20 years, achieving Top 5 finishes at Cattlemen’s Congress, National Western Stock Show, American Royal, and North American International Livestock Exhibition.
The 2023 Iowa State University Meat Judging Team began the fall judging season in early September at the Hormel National Barrow Show Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest held at the Hormel Research and Development Facility in Austin, Minnesota. The team finished third in the field of four teams. Division results for ISU included: Fresh – 2nd; Processed – 2nd; Questions – 2nd; Defects – 3rd; and Placings – 4th. Individual results included: Overall Contest – Jolly (8th), Anderson (9th); Fresh – Zimmerly (4th), Smith (10th); Processed – Anderson (3rd), Nafziger (9th), Smith (10th); Questions – Anderson (4th), Smith (5th), Zimmerly (6th); Defects – Jolly (7th), Clark (10th); Placings – Jolly (5th).

In mid-October, Nebraska Beef, Omaha, Nebraska, hosted the American Royal Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest. In the field of 13 teams ISU finished in 8th place, and division results included: Beef Judging – 6th; Overall Beef – 7th; Beef Grading, Placings, and Specifications – 8th; Reasons – 9th; and Pork Judging – 10th.

The final contest for the team was The International (the national championship) held at Tyson Fresh Meats, Dakota City, Nebraska in mid-November. The team finished ninth out of 14 teams and division results included: Lamb Judging – 3rd; Pork Judging and Reasons – 7th; Beef Grading, Beef Judging, Overall Beef, and Specifications – 9th; Placings – 10th. Individual honors included Kailey Clark, Grand Mound – 9th in Lamb Judging and Jillian Anderson, Montgomery, IL – tied for 10th in Pork Judging. Jillian Anderson was voted by her fellow team members as the recipient of the Rachel Hamilton Memorial “Spirit” Award. This award was established to recognize a team member from each team (selected by his/her peers), based upon passion for meat judging, competitiveness, and the person that everyone would want on their team.

The team was led by Dr. Terry Houser, Professor and Meat Extension Specialist; Jacob Manternach, Industry Extension Specialist and 2018 team member; Kayle Eivins, Meat Science Graduate Student and 2021 team member; Christina Speicher, 2022 team member; and program coordinator Dr. Sherry Olsen. Our program is very proud of each of these students who successfully represented our department, college, and university as they travelled across the country competing, sharpening their evaluation skills, and networking with industry professionals and personnel at other colleges and universities. We wish each of them good luck as they continue their studies and prepare for outstanding careers in the livestock and meat industries.
The ISU Dairy Judging Team had an impressive fall season, with notable performances at multiple contests. The team was comprised of Torri Burch, Frewsburg, NY; Delana Erbsen, Lanark, IL; Madalyn Palmer, Waukon, IA; and Colton Silveira, Hilmar, CA. The team was coached by both Mary (Scott) Fliehler, who works for Select Sires MidAmerica as a Marketing and Communications Specialist, and Ms. Christen Burgett, Associate Teaching Professor.

The first contest of the year was the 29th Annual Vernon County Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Viroqua, WI. The team placed 4th overall in Ayrshires with Colton in 10th place, and the team finished 1st in Holsteins with Colton and Delana securing 1st and 2nd place honors, respectively. Additionally, Madi was 4th in Jerseys, and in Milking Shorthorns, Delana was 3rd, and Colton was 7th, propelling the team to a 1st place finish. In reasons, the team finished 3rd, and the team rounded out the contest in 4th place overall.

Next, the team traveled to Madison, WI, for World Dairy Expo to compete on the coveted colored shavings. The Cyclones had a great day in the Coliseum, and team highlights include placing 3rd in Ayrshires, 7th in Holsteins, and 6th in Red and Whites. In the Holstein breed, Colton was 5th, and in Jerseys, Colton was High Individual, and his teammate Madi was 5th. These scores thrust the team to a 1st place finish in Jerseys. Delana was 2nd in Milking Shorthorns, while her teammate Colton was 4th and the team finished 7th. Delana was 3rd and Colton was 9th in Red and Whites. In the placings division, Delana was 5th, and Colton worked his way to the top as High Individual Overall. The team finished 6th overall in reasons, and ISU had two team members in the top 10, thus being named All-Americans. The two individuals going 5th and 6th overall were: Colton Silveira and Delana Erbsen. As a team, Iowa State placed 4th overall out of 19 teams.

To round out the fall judging season, the dairy judging team competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. In the Ayrshire Division, Iowa State was 2nd with Colton placing 6th and Delana won the breed. The team placed 6th in Brown Swiss, 5th in Guernseys, 9th in Holsteins, and 8th in Jerseys. Also, the team was 5th overall in reasons with Delana placing 9th and rounding out the contest, the team placed 5th overall, and Delana was the 5th High Individual Overall.

We are extremely proud of the ISU Dairy Judging Team’s accomplishments throughout the judging season! Additionally, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the farms who welcomed us with open arms and put together numerous high-quality dairy cattle classes for practices throughout the year. Your warm hospitality and support of ISU dairy judging are greatly appreciated!
Livestock Judging

The Iowa State University Livestock Judging Team experienced its most successful season in recent years. The team’s success was highlighted by being in the Top Four at all major livestock judging contests, being named the High Team at the World Beef Expo, winning the Sheep and Goat Division at NAILE, winning the Cattle Division at American Royal, and garnering numerous individual accolades. The spring competition began with a trip to Griswold Cattle Classic where the team was named 3rd High Team Overall. We then embarked on a two-contest swing where we competed at Cattlemen’s Congress (2nd High Team) and National Western Stock Show (3rd High Team – Hill Contest, 5th High Team – Carload Contest). Both finishes were anchored by Dillon Sheiss (Animal Science – Senior) who was the 3rd and 5th High Individual at CC and NWSS. In addition, Robby Burchett (Animal Science – Senior) was named the 9th High Individual at NWSS, Makenzie Hereth (Ag Communications – Senior) was named the 5th High Individual Carload, and Lane Slaton (Ag Studies – Senior) was named the 9th High Individual Carload. The team was then 6th High Team at the Sioux Empire Livestock Show and Makenzie Hereth was the 9th High Individual Overall. After competition in South Dakota, the team regained their footing at the Iowa Beef Expo where we were named the 2nd High Team Overall and were again anchored by strong performances from Dillon Sheiss and Robby Burchett (3rd High Individual and 10th High Individual, respectively).

The team then begin a swing to Texas where we were named the 4th High Team at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and the 3rd High Team at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. At HLSR, Dillon Sheiss was named the 8th High Individual Overall, Emma Freebairn (Ag Communications – Senior) the 9th High Individual Overall, and Lane Slaton the 4th High Individual Alternate Division. Iowa State resumed fall competition with a successful finish at the National Barrow Show, where Dillon Sheiss was named the High Individual Overall and the team was the Reserve High Team. A true highlight of the judging season came next where the team was named the High Team in Reasons and High Team Overall at the World Beef Expo. Dillon Sheiss received his second High Individual honor of the year and Robby Burchett and Dawson Firlus (Animal Science – Senior) anchored the team with Top Ten finishes also. We had one final trip prior to the fall majors where the team was 6th at Tulsa State Fair and 3rd at State Fair of Texas. Dillon Sheiss was 9th High Individual at TSF and 10th High Individual at SFT. Lane Slaton and Robby Burchett also had strong finishes at State Fair of Texas. Next, the team travelled to Kansas City for competition at American Royal. We experienced arguably our best day of the Fall, winning the Cattle Division and being named 3rd High Team Overall. Dillon Sheiss garnered his 3rd High Individual honor of the season winning the contest by 8 points. Robby Burchett was also named the 3rd High Individual Overall.

The team concluded competition at the North American International Livestock Exhibition where the team was honored as the High Team in Sheep and Goat Evaluation and the 4th High Team Overall. Dillon Sheiss concluded an outstanding judging career by representing Iowa State University with a 9th High Individual Overall finish. The 9-member team was coached by Will Taylor, Graduate Teaching Assistant and Interim Livestock Judging Coach. Taylor said this team truly laid the foundation for teams to come and will be remembered as an integral part of elevating this storied program to previous heights.
AMES, Iowa – In a recent class session devoted to reviewing the components of a monogastric digestive system, Alexandra Else-Keller reminded an animal science student how to position her fingers as they examined how the colon, stomach and gallbladder nestle together.

“One finger rotates it. Two fingers moves it,” she said, describing how to manipulate a 3D digital rendering of a bowel system to see it from an angle with a better view of the gallbladder.

A virtual dissection table is a relatively common teaching tool in medical and nursing schools, but it’s a rare opportunity for animal science students. The 180 students per semester who take Domestic Animal Physiology, the foundational anatomy lab in Iowa State University’s animal science department, use the technology to supplement their hands-on learning via more traditional methods such as examining fresh tissues, preserved specimens and plastic models.

“It’s been super helpful. You can say to students, ‘OK, show me where this is,’” said Else-Keller, a doctoral student who is one of the course’s head teaching assistants. “You want to give students with different learning styles multiple ways to learn because not everyone learns the same way.”

Including an interactive digital component in the anatomy lab curriculum is a point of pride for the department, said Karl Kerns, an assistant professor of animal science who oversees the course.

“We’re the first and only animal science department and pre-veterinary program in the nation, to our knowledge, using a virtual anatomy table for classroom instruction,” Kerns said.

Virtual dissection has been used in the course for two years, accessed either through a large main central touchscreen or by tablets that connect to monitors throughout the Kildee Hall classroom lab. It doesn’t replace other methods of studying animal physiology, Kerns said. The benefit is getting a fuller perspective on where organs are in a body and how they work.

“You can literally see how the blood flows through the heart, with the valves opening and closing. You can see an ECG chart and side-by-side which compartment of the heart is beating in real time to create the electrogram. You can interact with it,” he said.

Sydney Plumb, a sophomore in animal science taking the anatomy lab this semester, said virtual dissection helps reinforce what she learns in class and better understand the positioning of internal body systems.

“A picture can only tell you so much,” she said.

There are some animal models loaded into the system and more may be added in the future, but for now, students mostly study a fully annotated human body. That’s just as useful earlier in the semester, when students learn anatomy basics such as the cardiovascular system and central nervous system before moving on to animal-specific lessons later in the semester, Kerns said.

“A heart is a heart, whether it’s a pig or a cow or a human,” he said.
This past year, a new social media series was started for the animal science department. Playing off the popular ‘73 Question Interview’ created for celebrities, the department cut the questions down and tailored it towards getting to know our faculty.

A mix of questions like, “What did you have for breakfast this morning?” and “What is your favorite thing about animal science?” make these videos entertaining for viewers, as they learned a little bit more about the professors in the department.

Click on the pictures below to watch some of our 23 Question interviews!
New CVM Program Aims to Recruit Production Animal Medicine Veterinarians

A joint program between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Animal Science in Iowa State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been established with the goal of educating more veterinarians who wish to practice production animal medicine.

The program, Production Animal – Veterinary Early Acceptance Program (PA-VEAP), will recruit and retain future veterinarians to practice production animal medicine, primarily in underserved areas in Iowa and throughout the United States.

“There is currently a nationwide shortage of veterinarians in all sectors of the profession,” said Dr. Dan Grooms, the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “With the PA-VEAP program, we are helping to address the critical need for veterinarians to support Iowa’s $32 billion animal agriculture industry.”

A recent American Veterinary Medical Association study found less than four percent of veterinarians nationwide predominantly practice production animal medicine.

“The declining number of veterinarians supporting the production animal industry poses a significant food security threat,” said Dr. Justin Brown, assistant teaching professor of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine and the director of the program. “This shortage also presents an opportunity for students interested in production animal medicine to become a resource for underserved areas.”

PA-VEAP is an undergraduate program for students majoring in animal science or dairy science at Iowa State. Students must also be pursuing completion of an undergraduate certificate in beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry or swine production management.

Students can apply to the program during their second semester of their first year at Iowa State after completing or being enrolled in a Biology I or II and Chemistry I with the appropriate labs.

To remain in the program, students must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.4 while completing all prerequisite courses for admission into the College of Veterinary Medicine. Students must also complete a minimum of 300 hours of approved food animal experiences.

“This program will allow students to have a clear path forward to veterinary school, allowing them to build community amongst their peers and with faculty members, while helping prepare them for a career in veterinary medicine,” Brown said.

Initially, PA-VEAP will enroll 10 students a year. Once enrolled in the program, students will be assigned a program advisor from both the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“I believe by getting students engaged early in their academic careers, we will be able to mentor them and grow their interest in practicing in rural communities and working with production animals,” Brown said. “We will also be able to assist them in their undergraduate and professional programs while setting them up for success to practice in rural communities.”
One of the unique experiences that is offered at Iowa State is being able to study abroad. Students in the animal science department have the opportunity to learn about a different place and culture through the lens of agriculture, more specially, livestock.

This past year, the department offered two trips: UK Heritage Livestock as well as Animal and Dairy Science in the Netherlands. Both groups met once a week during the spring semester and traveled from the middle to end of May.

Led by professor Jodi Sterle and meat lab program specialist Matt Wegner, the UK Heritage Livestock group spent their time learning about production agriculture in the countryside of England, Wales, and Scotland. Some notable stops included one of the largest rare breed centers, Wimpole Estates, the Hafod y Llan Farm in Snowdonia National Park, the Drymen Agricultural Show, and Ballindalloch Castle and Estate which is home to the oldest surviving bloodlines of Aberdeen Angus in the world. The group also experienced some culture with stops in Cambridge, London, Edinburgh, and Loch Ness.

Leah Greiner, a senior in animal science, enjoyed visiting Seatoller Farm in Scotland. “Studying abroad in the UK by far exceeded my expectations. My favorite stop was when we visited the Herdwick sheep farm in Scotland. We were able to try their specialty homemade pizzas, which they serve to their bed and breakfast customers. It was cool to see how they, and other farmers we visited, diversified their businesses.”

The Netherlands group experienced a variety of stops on their trip, including a floating dairy farm, a camel dairy, dairy cattle, goat, catfish, and mealworm farms, and the Lely Holding robotic milking factory. They also were able to visit the Friesland Dairy Campus, Wageningen University, the CRV Dairy Breeding Center, and the Denkavit Innovation Center. Some of the cultural stops consisted of the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam, the Gouda cheese market, and a former WWII concentration camp. The group was led by professor Jack Dekkers and graduate student Leonora James.

Dekkers was glad to be able to show students around where he is from. “The best part about leading this study abroad trip is opening the student’s eyes to my home country, which, although small (one-third the size of Iowa), is the second largest exporter of agricultural products in the world, after the US.”

“I really enjoyed being able to talk to Dutch farmers,” said Amber Engelken, senior in dairy science. “It was neat to understand their different philosophies and regulations towards dairy farming compared to the United States.”

Other trips offered by the animal science department that did not travel in 2023 include Study of the Pork Industry in Japan and Thailand, German Equestrian Program, Agriculture and History of the Mississippi Delta (Study USA), Agriculture Systems of New Zealand, and Pork, Port, and Cork: The Land and Livestock of Portugal.
With a 100% placement rate, it is no surprise that the vast amount of industry connections, support, and involvement are one of the first things our students point out when talking about their experience in the department.

Our staff and faculty prioritize bringing in industry speakers to help students grow the connections it takes to build a career within such a tight knit but vast industry. With internship experiences being encouraged from the start of their freshman year, Mike Gaul, our CALS Career Services Advisor states, “To say our students are held in high regard by employers is truly an understatement. This is evident in the large number of organizations that attended our fall 2023 CALS Career Day, 293 to be exact.....our largest event ever!”

With the development of technology and innovation within our industry it comes as no surprise that career opportunities are changing rapidly, “The animal science industry is growing faster than ever,” said Dr. Jodi Sterle, associate chair of teaching.”

“There are companies and careers that don’t even exist yet that will be vital to animal industries in the future. Many of our students come into the animal science thinking that they will go down a specific career path but come out of their four years going into a totally different area of animal science than they originally had in mind,” Sterle said. “The possibilities are endless!”

Our department prides itself on helping each student find their passion in the industry through extensive career exploration allowing each student to build the career of their dreams.

Gaul summarized his thoughts on our student’s outlook, explaining “Throw in the diverse array of career opportunities for Animal Science and Dairy Science students (along with impressive starting salaries), it truly is an amazing time to be a student in this great industry.”
Student Features

RAPHAEL DOHMAN

ADDISON RANDALL

CAMRYN SCHULTZ

KINSEY CHRISTIANSON

IAN JOHNSON

JORDAN MARKS
# ANIMAL SCIENCE

## Scholarship Recipients

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<td>Maynard and Anne Hogberg Saddle and Sirloin Recruiting Scholarship</td>
<td>Hailey Beatty</td>
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<td>Parrott Family Animal Science Scholarship</td>
<td>Madison Stief, Anne Simpson, Amanda Ritland</td>
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ANIMAL SCIENCE
Scholarship Recipients

R.W. 'Dick' Witt Scholarship
Hailey Kube
Jenna Shahan

Richard and Nancy Degner Scholarship
Caelor Yoder
Madeleine Klippel
Kiersten Gibbs
Payton Hennings

Robert E. Walton Scholarship Fund
Hannah Peters
Riley Thill

Solon A. and Dorothy F. Ewing Animal Science Scholarship
Ryli Abildtrup
Gabriela Guetzko
Jessica Dembski
Faith McNaney
Carissa Gerwig

Thomas and Esther Ringkob Scholarship in Animal Science
McKenzie McAninch

Tom and Cindy Baas Swine Industry Scholarship
Ben Hollis

Tom and Corrine Lonergan Scholarship
Ellie Neil
Rachel Krapfl

Tom and Janie Wickersham Scholarship
Olivia Stodghill
Emma Mostek
Graci Bedwell

Mark Friedow Memorian Scholarship in Animal Science
Calvin Moiiffer
Boston Gilpin

Al Christian Fellowship Scholarships
Camryn Schultz
Jackson Sterle
DAIRY SCIENCE
Scholarship Recipients

Spirit of the Industry Award FY'22
Amber Engelken

Allyn Hagen Dairy Science Scholarship
Torri Burch

Arthur Gerlach Scholarship in Dairy Science
Louis Hamlett

Arthur R. Porter Scholarship
Torri Burch
Louis Hamlett
Elizabeth Plunkett

C. F. Foreman Scholarship in Dairy Science
Torri Burch
Olivia Doughtery
Elana Erbsen
Samantha Fredin
Nicole Gudenkauf
Louis Hamlett
Kenna Meisgeier
Olivia Ruffner

Erik M. Krekel Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Frisch

Erpelding ISU Dairy Science Inspiration Award
Amber Engelken

John & Roberta Rodecap Scholarship
Amber Engelken

Jack I. & Lois J. Ohms Scholarship in Dairy Science
Irene Nielsen
Elizabeth Plunkett

Kermit & Janis Coggshall Scholarship in Dairy Science
Courtney Wuebker

Lyle E. McBride III Memorial Scholarship
Alexander Hime-Smull
Leah Huebner

Mary B. & William H. Gilbert Brown Swiss Memorial Scholarship
Naomi Scott

Monica G. & William H. Welter Scholarship in Dairy Science
Delana Erbsen

Naylor Educational Aid Scholarship in Dairy Science
Samantha Fredin
Elizabeth Plunkett

Ralph Baker Scholarship
Lauren Frisch

RBG Dairy Science Club Scholarship - Sophomore
Louis Hamlett

RBG Dairy Science Club Scholarship - Junior
Naomi Scott

RBG Dairy Science Club Scholarship - Senior
Olivia Ruffner

RBG Dairy Science Club Scholarship - President (Past)
Tehya Demmer

Russell Bentley Dairy Science Award
Delana Erbsen
Elizabeth Plunkett

Spangler Dairy Science Club Leadership Award
Tehya Demmer

Thorvald J. Andersen Scholarship
Torri Burch
Emily Church
Olivia Dougherty
Amber Engelken
Samantha Fredin
Boston Gilpin
Allison Kubiak
Irene Nielsen
Naomi Scott
Alexandria Washington

Thomas John “TJ” Houdek Character Award
Chaiden Duitscher