



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

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We're hiring!

Assistant Professor of Practice/Program Veterinarian, Veterinary Technology Program: <https://ndsu.ag/vetechnology>

Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Assistant Professor <https://ndsu.ag/extbeefcattle>

Assistant Professor/Livestock Judging Coach <https://ndsu.ag/judgingcoach>

Our new venture begins



It's my pleasure to welcome you to our newly renovated Department of Animal Sciences Newsletter. Looking at the database that we have available, there are a few names that I recognize but certainly most of them I do not, so I would like to introduce

myself first. My name is Guillermo Scaglia, and I am the Department Head of Animal Sciences since April 2022. My wife, Adriana, and I moved to Fargo from Louisiana. We both worked at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (Adriana was a 4-H Agent in St. Mary Parish for 14 years). We have a daughter, Florencia, who is now doing her residency (MD) at The Ohio State University. We were all born in Uruguay, South America. I used to work in research and extension on beef cattle and sheep extensive and intensive production systems at the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Uruguay until we moved to the United States in 1999. After completing my PhD degree at Texas A&M University (I am a ruminant nutritionist by training), I worked at Virginia Tech, and then moved to the LSU AgCenter. My research program included the evaluation of year-round forage systems for cow-calf and finishing steers, supplementation strategies with industry by-products, use of legumes in grazing conditions to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer, impact of weaning strategies on reproductive performance of the dam and behavior, intake, and immune response on calves. The holistic approach to grass-fed beef production provided enormous opportunities for federal and state funding support for the program.

In my role at NDSU, I am proud to say that we have a great Department of Animal Sciences, with excellent curriculum for three majors that prepare our graduates for different careers in livestock in-

dustries. Most importantly, the Department is full of dedicated faculty and staff that are conscious of their role, which is to help and guide our students throughout their college life. Yes, college life, because we are here not just to tell them which classes they need to take but to help them navigate the opportunities offered by the university. We want them to feel comfortable and have a sense of belonging in our bison community. Faculty and staff are also responsible for several co-curricular activities and clubs such as livestock and meat judging teams, rodeo and equestrian teams, academic quad-rathlon, and national and international tours. These experiences allow our students not only to practice skills, but also to learn how to work as a team, respect peers, respect adults, and a more universal understanding of what it means and what is needed to live in our society.

Our newsletter will have three issues every year. The idea with it, is to keep you informed of what is going on in the Department and as you will see within these pages and in future issues, our faculty, staff, and students will tell you about their work, successes, dreams, and activities. Our Department is a hub of innovation, collaboration, and learning. We want to share with all of you our work and in a way, keep you close to the Department and NDSU.

We strive, with a perseverant spirit, to help stakeholders improve their livelihoods. The department has a tremendous legacy and reputation that we are determined to build on. Being connected with our producers, alumni, and friends is an important piece of our program.

We will certainly have the chance to visit in the future somewhere in North Dakota, but also accept the invitation to visit our department during our events or just stop by when you come through Fargo.

Best regards,
Guillermo

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Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NdsuAnimalSciences

Extension lambing workshop teaches birthing techniques

by **Travis Hoffman, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor &
Extension Sheep Specialist

Our NDSU Animal Sciences Department has a longstanding tradition of sheep-focused Extension, research and teaching. Skip Anderson, NDSU shepherd, heads the primary teaching focus at our NDSU campus Sheep Unit. Dr. Chris Schauer and Dave Pearson lead our sheep mission at the Hettinger Research Extension Center.



I would like to highlight an NDSU Extension Lambing Workshop hosted in Carrington on Jan. 20. A total of 49 sheep enthusiasts listened attentively to presentation topics: ewe nutrition; parasite management; disease, vaccine and antibiotics; predator control; and lambing difficulties.

Monica Fitterer, Kidder County ANR agent, created a Lambing

Simulator Box to mimic lambing/kidding birthing experiences, and to provide tutoring for malpresentations for our inexperienced learners. The audience visualized how to identify front legs, got tips for backwards or breech lambs, and was thankful to practice their skills. Additionally, our lamb lovers savored NDSU lamb brats for lunch and ventured to a local sheep producer tour to learn first-hand from another's operation.

Attendees stated that they 61% (extremely likely) and 33% (somewhat likely) learned something they can incorporate into their operation.

Furthermore, 68% of our participants reaffirmed they would change production practices based on information they learned.

Follow our NDSU Sheep Extension & NDSU Extension Livestock Facebook pages for updates and events. Contact me at 701-231-BAAA(2222) or Travis.W.



Monica Fitterer, Kidder County ANR agent, pulls a "lamb" out of the Lambing Simulator Box during a demonstration Jan. 20 at the NDSU Extension Lambing Workshop in Carrington. About four dozen people attended the event.

Hoffman@ndsu.edu.

We are proud of our North Dakota sheep producers and strive to make happy, healthy

lambs and help our new, beginning and veteran sheep farmers/ranchers reach future success. Eat Lamb, Wear Wool!

Graduate students in ASGSO volunteer time, make connections



The Animal Science Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO) is for graduate students in the Department of Animal Sciences at NDSU. Currently, 15-20 graduate students are involved in monthly meetings, committees, volunteering, social activities and professional development events. Over the past year, we have volunteered at the Bethany Retirement Living Center, Great Plains Food Bank, Sandbag Cass, and Feed my Starving Children. Multiple social activities have allowed us to engage with each other outside of school. ASGSO has met with numerous people this year to prepare students for their graduate school careers and professionally through participating in workshops and question-and-answer sessions. Members have also been involved in multiple local, regional, national and international conferences to expand their network, attend seminars and present research completed at NDSU.



— Grady Gullickson, ASGSO president



The Shepperd Arena was full of action Feb. 10 during the 98th Little International. Some of the events that took place during the night show included the swine showmanship finals (left), the commercial ewe showmanship finals (middle), and the Holstein showmanship finals (right).

98th Little 'I' transforms Shepperd Arena

This year marked the 98th Little International, which took place Feb. 10 in Shepperd Arena. The theme for the 98th Little "I" was "Against All Odds," and the colors were maroon, white and silver. We had roughly 200 students showing, curing a ham or participating as committee members and chair.

This year's Agriculturist of the Year was Larry Schnell. Congratulations Larry! Larry was the owner and operator of Stockmen's Livestock Market in Dickinson, N.D., for 45 years. Larry was honored at the Agriculturist of the Year banquet at the Avalon Event Cen-

ter on Feb. 9.

This year for a second time we had a goat show as an addition to the Little "I" Livestock show. Thanks to Levos Farms for allowing us to use their goats. Shepperd Arena looked excellent again this year, and the committee and club members worked countless hours to make sure the show went off without a hitch.

The Little "I" management team was manager Kell Helmuth of Watford City, N.D., and assistant manager Kiley Kvamme of Kindred, N.D.. The Little "I" royalty

were princess Madalyn Gieseke of Golden Valley, Minn., princess Lilly Bina of Lankin, N.D., and queen Kasi Holm of Ashley, N.D.

The 98th Little International overall showman was Morgan Friede of Chinook, Mont., and the reserve overall showman was Jadah Poepping of Barnesville, Minn. The champion ham was cured by Kristin Schaaf of Glen Ullin, N.D. The winner of the public speaking contest was Rose Wendel of Lamoure, N.D. Congratulations to all who were involved in a great show!

— Kell Helmuth

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Shania Wilson

What was your field of study at NDSU?

- Veterinary technology

When did you attend/graduate?

- January 2015 through December 2017

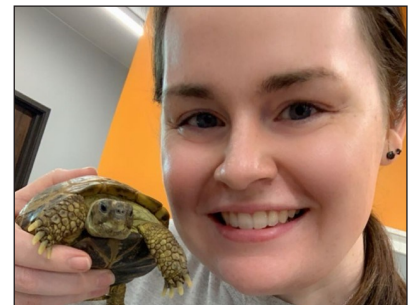
What are you doing nowadays?

• Working full time at Lewis & Clark Animal Hospital in Bismarck using my degree in veterinary technology. In my free time I enjoy playing on a volleyball team, reading, collecting house plants, spending time with family, and hanging out with my husband and two dogs.



What is one of your favorite classroom/campus memories?

• I thoroughly enjoyed all of the hands-on experience my vet tech and animal sciences classes gave me throughout my time at NDSU. That is my preferred way to learn new things, so I loved getting to work with large and small animals during my time in college.



What did you learn at NDSU that has helped you the most in your career/life?

• The professors I met at NDSU helped me turn my passion into a career. My veterinary technology program professors stressed the importance of always being a voice for every patient in my care, and I continue to practice this every day. I truly love what I do.

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming Alumni Spotlight or know someone you'd like to nominate, please contact Darla White at 701-231-7401 or darla.white@ndsu.edu with the information.

Dairy Barn more than just milking

There's no 'skimming' on experiences when students come to unit

by **Darla White**
Administrative Secretary

Before the sun rises over NDSU each day, one part of campus is abuzz starting at 4 a.m. It's the Dairy Barn, also known as the Dairy Teaching and Research Unit. And 4 a.m. is when the first milking of the day begins for the cows -- and the workers who assist them. Approximately 100 Holstein heifers will be milked early in the morning and again in the afternoon. With each cow producing an average of 8 to 9 gallons per day, that adds up to a lot of milk going out the door to local creamery Cass-Clay.

But the Dairy Barn is producing much more than milk. It's producing knowledgeable and confident students who get to learn from the animals and the dairy operation itself. Numerous Animal Sciences classes meet at the barn to get hands-on experience, including Introduction to Animal Sciences, Live-stock Production, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, and Competitive Dairy Cattle Evaluation. Vet Tech students have also been getting in on



Megan Zins, a vet tech major, works in the Dairy Barn. She is one of about 10 students who have worked there part-time during the school year.

the action and practicing techniques with the dairy cattle.

In fact, class involvement at the Dairy Barn is one of the biggest changes Todd Molden has seen in the 16 years since he started managing the unit.

"We teach way more classes here than we used to. Back then, Vet Tech rarely used the dairy barn, but now that's not the case," he says. Some of the skills the Vet Tech students practice there are giving oral and parenteral medications, restraining the cows (halter/lead/chute), and collecting samples.

"I believe the jugular venipuncture blood collection is one of our students' favorite activities as they each perform their very first blood collection of their careers on a cow at the NDSU Dairy Barn," says Stacey Ostby, co-director of the Vet Tech program. She says teaching at the site works well because of the cows' gentle nature and the fantastic barn staff.

Students are not the only ones learning at the Dairy Barn. A research project conducted by Dr. Kendall Swanson is taking place at the barn (see inset). And Todd also devotes time to the dairy judging teams. This year the junior team did well at competitions in Louisville, Ky., and Fort Worth, Texas, so expectations are high for next year and the World Dairy Expo. The Bison Dairy Club is also extremely active and had

Research project focuses on leucine

Sarjana Safain (doctoral student), Pauliane Pucetti (post-doctoral researcher), and Julia Travassos da Silva (visiting researcher), supervised by Dr. Kendall Swanson, are undertaking a project at the Dairy Barn. The project focuses on the impact of leucine, an essential amino acid, on muscle development and overall health of neonatal heifer calves fed with milk replacers. As part of this research, the team is collecting blood and tissue samples to analyze the influence of leucine supplementation on protein metabolism during crucial developmental stages. This work has the potential to pave the way for advanced nutritional strategies, aiming to boost milk production and improve the welfare of dairy cattle. This research offers the agricultural sector insights into raising stronger, more efficient dairy cattle. Stay tuned for updates on their findings and its implications for dairy farming!

— Sarjana Safain



Todd Molden has been managing the Dairy Barn at NDSU for the past 16 years and has seen many changes — not to mention cows — during that time.

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Community school groups are big fans of Dairy Barn

Continued from Page 4

large participation this year.

One of the benefits of the Dairy Barn and all the farm units in the Animal Sciences Department is their close proximity to campus. A trip to the site takes a matter of minutes, not hours. This allows NDSU students easy access to turn their textbook learning into action. It's also beneficial for students who want to get hands-on experience with animals and get paid at the same time. The Dairy Barn has about 10 student workers this year, and Todd says he and Bob Brown, the assistant herdsman, are happy to teach them what they have an interest in.

"If they want to learn it, we want to be able to teach it to them, whether that's driving a tractor, driving a skid steer, or working with the vet." In years past, many of the students came to campus with dairy experience, but that is not the case anymore. Todd says that's not necessarily a bad thing, as he sees "a lot of very eager students" at the Dairy Barn who want to learn.

College students are not the only learners you'll find among the dairy cows. About 100 tour groups – many from preschools and elementary schools – visit the Dairy Barn each year, and the staff try to make it an enjoyable and educational experience each time. They don't even mind answering the oft-asked question: "Where does chocolate milk come from?" If the kids don't believe the answer, they can always stop by the next 4 a.m. milking and check it out for themselves!



Students in the Veterinary Technology Program come to the Dairy Barn to perform many hands-on skills with cattle. The gentle nature of the cows makes them perfect as test subjects.

Students represent at ASAS



From left, Christy Finck, Samantha Ellison, Kamilla Knipping and Julia Marthaler show their certificates.

The Academic Quadrathlon team competed at the Midwest American Society of Animal Science in Wisconsin from March 10-11. The team consisted of Christy Finck, Samantha Ellison, Kamilla Knipping and Julia Marthaler. They competed against teams from 10 other midwestern universities in doing a written test, an oral presentation, a laboratory practical and a quiz bowl. Congrats to the NDSU team, which finished second in sheep and poultry and fourth in quiz bowl. Dr. Marc Bauer was the team's sponsor at the Midwest competition.

Graduate students participate

Numerous graduate students attended the Midwest ASAS and gave poster presentations or oral presentations that showcased their research projects. Those who gave oral presentations included Natalie Acosta, Maddy Nichols and Grady Gullickson. Kathryn Slavick was in the MS oral presentation competition, while Muhammad Anas was in the Ph.D. oral presentation competition. Participants in the poster presentations were German Zamudio, Garrett Havelka and Ellem Matos. Dr. Kendall Swanson was a session chair at the conference.



From left, Natalie Acosta, German Zamudio, Maddy Nichols, Kathryn Slavick, Garrett Havelka, Jaime Chambers, Dr. Kendall Swanson, Matheus Carlis, Grady Gullickson, Ellem Matos and Muhammad Anas made the trip to the Midwest ASAS in March.

Spring 2024 graduates

Graduate students:

Layla King, Ph.D.
 Muhammad Anas, M.S.
 Steven "Skip" Anderson, M.S.
 Grady Gullickson, M.S.
 Mary Lisa Kasakamu, M.S.
 Madeliene Nichols, M.S.
 Kathryn Slavick, M.S.

Undergraduate students:

Animal Science:

Brenna Anderson
 ShiAnne Boehm
 Hunter Brozio
 Cecelia Carnivale
 Christy Finck
 Abigail Haynes
 Jaylynn Hicks
 Greta Huber
 Laura Johnson
 Isabella Jurgens
 McCartney Knutson
 Josie Kvanbek
 Alannah Larsen
 Jacob Masseth
 Joelle Moorhouse
 Jessica Paklonsky
 Bailey Potter
 Ciara Richter
 Bailey Rogers
 Lauryn Smidt
 Ashley Treiber
 Natalya Vanaken
 Alexis Vandeberghe
 Reese Wetzstein
 Mckenzie Whaley

Equine:

Brenna Anderson (2nd major)
 Karie Bauer
 Jaylynn Hicks (2nd major)
 Isabella Jurgens (2nd major)
 McCartney Knutson (2nd major)
 Madeline Ryan
 Bailey Potter (2nd major)
 Faye Stanton
 Natalya Vanaken (2nd major)

Vet Tech:

Angela Abrahamson
 Megan Duzan
 Maria Jenkins
 Madison Johnke
 Laura Johnson (2nd major)
 Megan McMillen
 Madeline Steele

Riders show off their skills

The NDSU Equestrian Team competes as a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The IHSA is represented by approximately 400 member colleges with over 10,000 riders competing in both western and hunter seat disciplines.

The NDSU team has 40 members representing 11 states and 14 majors. Tara Swanson coaches the western team, while Mattia Gunkelman coaches the hunt seat team.

Western Team Yearly Update

The western team competed in eight regular-season shows hosted throughout North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The team had a successful year qualifying 11 riders in 12 classes for the regional competition hosted at NDSU on Feb. 25. From regionals, five riders placed in the top two in their respective classes, advancing them to semi-finals competition hosted by Middle Tennessee State University from March 23-24. Those riders included seniors Kooper Shagena (reining) and Hanna Myrin (rookie horsemanship; finished 6th); juniors Haley Maro (level II horsemanship; finished 7th) and Kaylee Barrieau (rookie horsemanship; finished 8th); and sophomore Dakota Tierney (ranch riding). At semi-finals all riders made the finals and placed in the top eight competitors. Shagena received reserve champion in the reining, and Tierney received third place in the



ranch riding, qualifying each of them for nationals. The IHSA National Horse Show will be held at Tryon International in Mill Spring, N.C. from May 3-5.

Hunt Seat Team Yearly Update

The hunt seat team competed in seven regular-season shows hosted throughout North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The team had a successful year, finishing as the overall regional reserve champion team and qualifying eight individual riders for the regional competition hosted at the University of Minnesota – Crookston on March 10. At regionals, two of the riders placed in the top two which advanced them to the zone competition hosted by Ledges Sporting Horses on March 30. Those riders included senior Brenna Anderson (limit equitation over fences and intermediate equitation on the flat) and junior Isabella Thompson (novice equitation on the flat). Both riders had spectacular rides, earning honorable



placings. Anderson placed 8th in the limit over fences class and 3rd in the intermediate flat class, and Thompson placed 5th in the novice flat class.



Far left, Isabella Thompson and Brenna Anderson advanced to the zone competition.

At left are Hanna Myrin, Haley Maro, Kooper Shagena, Kaylee Barrieau, Dakota Tierney and their coach Tara Swanson.



Clockwise from top left, vet tech students Vania Hinton, Rachel Bosserman, Emma Gilles, Schuyler Utecht, Kari Fuhrman, Gabby Paulson and Katlynn Bennett help with this year's lambing season at the Sheep Unit.

‘How can we help EWE?’

Vet tech students gain neonate experience while assisting with lamb husbandry and care at the NDSU Sheep Unit

by **Stacey Ostby, MEd, LVT**

Every spring, the NDSU Sheep Unit welcomes new members to the flock as the ewes produce the carefully planned offspring carrying on our herd's dynamic genetics. During this busy time, January through April, the flock's shepherd, Steven “Skip” Anderson, and his team remain constantly vigilant, providing care and husbandry for the new moms and their offspring. Through collaborative efforts with the Veterinary Nursing II course within the Professional Veterinary Technology Program, this spring's lambing care efforts have been supplemented with Vet Tech students learning alongside Anderson and his team.



Each student spent a few hours caring for the lambs and assessing their health and needs. Some of the many skills the students practiced were:

- Collecting vital signs (temperature, pulse, respiration)
- Restraint for medical treatment
- Parenteral medication and vaccination administration
- Ear tag application
- Applying permanent identification (tattoo)
- Tail band application

- Feeding
- Husbandry and environmental disinfection

The Veterinary Technology Program at NDSU holds a continued Full Accreditation Status with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – Committee for Veterinary Education and Activities (CVTEA). The skills afforded to the students through this collaboration assist in completion of some of the many veterinary skills required of them as they work to complete their education and eventually sit for the Veterinary Technician National Licensing Exam.

One student reported, “This was a really fun and educational thing to do, thank you for taking the time to coordinate this,” - Cami S.

By simply asking, “How can we help EWE?” — one area of the Animal Sciences Department to another — a collaboration was created to help ease the workload of our animal unit care team and provide an excellent hands-on learning experience for our students. We look forward to continuing this collaboration for the fall lambing season as well as exploring options within other departmental animal units.

Special thank you to Steven “Skip” Anderson for sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with the students and his dedication to the sheep industry in North Dakota and beyond.

Briefs

Assistant Professor **Erin Beyer** and the Meat Judging Team she leads were spotlighted in Ag Week's Farmers' Forum in March. The two-page article, titled “NDSU Meat Judging Team offers insight to labeling confusion,” discussed the puzzlement that consumers can feel about food labels and how to prevent it. The article then went on to explain what the Meat Judging Team does and mentioned its success at the National Western contest in January. Students Windy Jacobson and Amy Volk were quoted and photographed alongside their coach, and all of them offered great insights into meat labeling and meat judging.



Gerald Stokka spoke at the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association meeting in Casper, Wyo., on Dec. 8. He gave presentations on cattle systems evaluations, vaccinology/immunology, case reports and stewardship. Not only did he impart his wisdom, but he enjoyed spending time with his veterinary colleagues.



Lecturer **Blaine Novak** has received the 2024 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit. The award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching.



Jennifer Hurlbert, a Ph.D. student studying with Dr. Carl Dahlen, was recently selected as the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources recipient of the Graduate School Research Award. Her research topic is “Maternal Nutrition During Gestation in Beef Cattle and Offspring Developmental Programming Outcomes.”



Department Comings and Goings since July 2023

Warm welcome to...

Kathlyn Hauxwell – research specialist
Stephanie Sculthorp-Skrei – administrative assistant
Darla White – administrative secretary
Rebecca Swanson – post doc
Matheus Carlis – visiting scientist
Ellem Matos – visiting scientist
German Zamudio – visiting scientist
April Helgaas – grant coordinator
Laura Mahrer – business coordinator
Ashley Treiber – animal caretaker
Pauliane Pucetti – post doc
Eric Hirschert – born July 14 to research specialist Mara Hirschert
Eleanore Mikkelsen – born Dec. 8 to research specialist Kathlyn Hauxwell
Wyatt Skrei – born Feb. 19 to administrative assistant Stephanie Sculthorp-Skrei

Fond farewell to...

Trent Gilbery – farm manager
Terry Skunberg – manager of ANPC
Zac Carlson – beef cattle Extension
Jessica Rose – office manager
Jim Kirsch – animal care and use coordinator who will still help out part-time

Here's looking at you



A sheep at Kiddie Days gives a young visitor the once-over at the annual April event run by the Saddle and Sirloin Club.



From left, Carrie Hammer (adviser), Tara Swanson (adviser), Kevonna Isakson, Haley Maro, Brenna Anderson and Maggie Waslaski meet the horse and jockey mascot of Murray State.

Students attend national meeting

3 Horsemen's Association officers elected to board

Four members of the NDSU Horsemen's Association traveled to Murray State University in Murray, Ky., April 10-14 to participate in the American Collegiate Horsemen's Association National Convention. At this convention students had an opportunity to learn about career opportunities, tour multiple equine facilities, network with industry professionals, and share ideas with students from other chapters throughout the U.S. In addition, students spent one day participating in a preparedness exercise that helped the group understand ways to deal with horse emergencies. Students learned different techniques for using ropes during horse extractions. They also worked together to rescue a horse model from an over-

turned horse trailer. The day concluded with evaluations of trailer safety and facility fire prevention.

Of the four NDSU club members who traveled to the convention, two were serving as national officers for the 2023-2024 year. Those members were Haley Maro as national secretary and Kevonna Isakson as director of communications. Maggie Waslaski and Brenna Anderson represented the NDSU chapter as delegates for this year's business meetings.

In elections for the 2024-2025 executive board, NDSU had three officers elected to the national board: Haley Maro as national president, Maggie Waslaski as national secretary, and Kevonna Isakson for another term as director of communications. NDSU adviser Tara Swanson will also begin a two-year term as national adviser for the organization.

— Tara Swanson

10 in department nominated for award

Ten people in the Animal Sciences Department have been nominated this year for the Gunkelman Award, which recognizes the person who has made the most significant contribution to creating a happy environment for the enjoyment of the students on campus during the past academic year.

The nominees from the department are students Chutikun "Chuti" Kanjanaruch, Breanna Metzenhuber and Maddison Stamper; staff Jim Kirsch; and faculty Erika Berg, Lisa Christenson, Maggie Kvaale, Blaine Novak, Stacey Ostby and Jordan Schrupp.

Additionally, two students (Connor Dilse and Alex Huber) who are not in the department but are actively involved in the Saddle and Sirloin Club were nominated. Both Connor and Breanna were nominated for the third year in a row as students. This is Jim and Blaine's third time being nominated and Erika's second.