On Thursday of last week, bids for the new Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory were reviewed by IHL. In order for us to proceed with construction, the total cost of construction needed to be below $7,000,000 including add alternatives like chairs and equipment for the classroom and lab benches.

Dr. Blanton is pleased to report that we received 7 bids and the lowest bid was $6,348,000 and included all add alternates. It will take 4-6 weeks for all the necessary contracts to move through IHL, but we anticipate a ground breaking of late April or early May and a 15 month construction time.
Dr. Erdogan Memili has received a conference travel fellowship from the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) to present his invited talk "Sperm Macromolecules Associated with Bull Fertility" at the biannual conference of Association for Applied Animal Andrology (AAAA) to be held in Tours, France, June 2016. Dr. Memili's trip will be funded by the SSR and AAAA.

Dr. Erdogan Memili organized and chaired a symposium titled “From bench to barn: Effects of bull fertility or sperm factors on embryo development and cattle agriculture” at the annual conference of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) in Louisville, KY on January 25, 2016. He also gave a presentation "Systems biology of sperm and bull fertility" in the same symposium.
Conducting Beef 101 will be:

- Tim Armstrong
- John Blanton
- Derris Burnett
- James Cannon
- Thu Dinh
- Brandi Karisch
- Cobie Rutherford
- Graduate Students
UPCOMING EVENTS

4-H Events:

- February 29, 2016—FARMTASTIC, Jackson County
- For more events, go to Mississippi 4-H Calendar of Events or contact Dean Jousan dj230@msstate.edu

Beef Extension Events:

- March 2, 2016 - BCIA Annual Meeting and Supper, Hinds Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS

For more events go to Beef Cattle Calendar of Events or contact Brandi Karisch brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or Cobie Rutherford cobie.rutherford@msstate.edu

Riding Clinics:

- Horse Management 101 Clinic in Winona, MS - This 8-wk course starts March 22 and runs from 6-9 PM each Tuesday night through May 10, 2016.
- April 2, 2016 - Ranch Riding Clinic in Richton, MS.
- July 2016 - Basic Horsemanship Clinics at the county/district level. Agents have been asked to organize riding clinics in their areas to address topics such as making a more enjoyable horse, leads and lead departures, side passing and two tracking, speed control, bridling up, stopping, and much more! Clinicians from MSU will teach these clinics. Please contact your county agent to organize one of these clinics if you are interested.

The Mane Event:

The MSU Extension Service is proud to introduce a new informational video series! The Mane Event is a monthly "how-to" video series concerning horse management, nutrition concerns, and training tips. These short informative videos provide a source of information to all who are interested in horse care, use, and riding.

- Neck Reining - February (newest video)
- Link to Video web page: The Mane Event

For more info, go to Horse Production in Mississippi or contact Clay Cavinder clay.cavinder@msstate.edu
On Saturday, February 20, 2016, several faculty, staff and students spent their morning assisting with the 2016 Academic Insight event where just over 40 students attended the breakout session for Animal and Dairy Sciences. The Departmental breakout session is designed to give prospective undergraduate students the opportunity to visit each of the farm units and get hands-on experience in an effort to excite them about becoming an Animal Scientist.

This year, students got to test out their skills in collecting rumen contents, evaluating equine conformation as it relates to function, milking a dairy cow and bottle feeding calves. In addition to activities at each of the farm units, the students also had the chance “glove up” for a gross anatomy lab at the Wise Center. The breakout session was concluded by a pulled pork lunch, provided and served by the Meat Chemistry & Cuisine group.

The importance of this event and the opportunity it provides for students to gain additional “insight” about the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences is immeasurable as it not only excites the prospective student, but it is also educational for the parents and guest of the attending students. Many thanks to those who selflessly gave up their day “off” to help with this event. Your work does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!
Many thanks to Karen Brasher for a job well done. Our department won the Award of Excellence for our ADS website. Thanks to all the faculty and staff that contributed to the web site content. Again, thanks Karen for making us look so good!
Mississippi State Horse Judging Team and Advisor, Clay Cavinder, are featured on the cover of *INFLUENCE*, the CALS Alumni Newsletter.
Also recognized in the same issue of *INFLUENCE*, is our department’s annual Beefing up the Bulldogs.

**Beefing up the Bulldogs**

**MISSISSIPPI STATE’S HEAD FOOTBALL COACH DAN MULLEN** along with his daughter Breclyn, gave a calf a bottle; freshman Alec Murphy and other members of the Mississippi State University football team play with a goat during the fifth annual Beefing Up the Bulldogs event at MSU on Aug. 16, 2015. Event sponsors included the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, the Mississippi Beef Council, First South Farm Credit and the MSU Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.
**Departmental Activities**

*IINFLUENCE*, the CALS Alumni Newsletter, published articles on two more ADS faculty.

Dr. Jane Parish is the new Executive Director of the Beef Improvement Federation.

Dr. Peter Ryan received the Dean of Students Award of Excellence.
2016 Refereed Publications: