OUR MISSION:

Our faculty are committed to serving the citizens of this state through teaching, research and extension programs. Research and extension centers are located strategically throughout the state.

Animal research facilities at Leveck Animal Research Center, Bearden Dairy Cattle Research Center, Prairie Research Unit, Brown Loam Research Station, and the White Sands Unit give faculty opportunities to investigate the challenges facing the livestock industry.

Our Mission is to provide science-based solutions for animal agriculture through innovative and effective education, research and extension programming. Our Vision is Building the Future of Agriculture.

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Winner of Agri-King Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Dr. Brittni Littlejohn was presented with the Agri-King Outstanding Graduate Student Award by Dr. David Jones at the 2019 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting.

Along with the award, Dr. Littlejohn gave an invited presentation in the Physiology Session on her graduate research, titled "Prenatal transportation stress alters physiology of suckling Brahman calves as mediated by changes in DNA methylation."
Equine Program Represented at the MAS 3rd Annual Summer Student Science Symposium

Mississippi State University graduate students this summer had the opportunity to showcase their research on the benefits of student-horse interactions. Holly Evans, an ADS MS student and MAFES Horse Unit Assistant Manager with Katie Cagle-Holtcamp, an Animal Physiology PhD student and 2019 Gamma Sigma Delta International Graduate Scholarship recipient, presented posters this month on their research on equine assisted activities and therapy at the Mississippi Academy of Sciences 3rd Annual Summer Student Science Symposium held at the Bost Conference Center at Mississippi State University.

Ms. Evans also presented a collaborative study focused on equine coursework at MSU with ADS MS student Alicia Gilmore. All three students had recently returned from presenting their research at the 2019 Equine Science Society Symposium in North Carolina and are currently working on publications concerning these studies.

Individuals interested in learning more about these projects can contact ADS faculty member Dr. Molly Nicodemus at mnicodemus@ads.msstate.edu.
Graduate Student Research Award

Courtney Heaton, Ph.D. candidate, attended the 2019 American Society of Animal Science meeting in Austin, TX.

She received the award of the 2019 Dr. Josie Coverdale Graduate Student Research Award.

She is pictured here with Mark Coverdale.
Sarah Montgomery is a native to Northeast Ohio, raised on small farm in Petersburg. Sarah has had an interest in agriculture at a young age and grew up being heavily involved in 4-H taking on market livestock projects, showing horses, and also being a part of several rodeo associations. Sarah had an interest in continuing to learn more about agriculture outside of her own state so she decided to move south to Northwest, Tennessee. This is where she attended and completed her undergrad at The University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in Agriculture Science Production and took on an interest in learning more about cattle and forage production. She was also a member the women’s rodeo team at UTM where she competed in breakaway, goat tying and team roping.

After undergrad, Sarah was interested in continuing on her education and came to Mississippi State University to learn more about utilization of forages in cattle production. She went on to complete her master’s in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences under Dr. Jesse Morrison and Dr. Brian Baldwin. Her master’s thesis work evaluated the effects of annual ryegrass cytotype on herbage mass, nutritive value and cattle performance. While finishing up her master's, she worked as a research technician at the MAFES Prairie Research Unit where she helped with managing forages and cattle on the 2500 acre experiment station. She is now currently pursuing her doctorate in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences under Dr. Brandi Karisch as well as being the assistant herdsman on South farm.
Ugur Serves for and Communicates Science at International Conferences


In addition, Muhammet worked as a discussion leader at the Gordon Research Seminar on Fertilization and Activation of Development with a focus on “Gametes, Fertilization and the Tissues in Which They Develop in Humans, Animals and Plants” in Holderness, NH on July 27 and 28, 2019 (https://www.grc.org/fertilization-and-activation-of-development-grs-conference/2019/).

Finally, Muhammet communicated his research “Sperm functional genome and epigenome regulating bull fertility and sperm freezability” through a poster presentation at the Gordon Research Conference on Fertilization and Activation of Development with a focus on “Gametes, Fertilization and the Tissues in which they Develop in Humans, Animals and Plants” in Holderness, NH between July 28 and August 2, 2019 (https://www.grc.org/fertilization-and-activation-of-development-conference/2019/).
Upcoming Extension Events

Dr. Brandi Karisch, Extension Beef Specialist
Oct. 24-26 - Mississippi State University Artificial Insemination School, Animal and Dairy Sciences Department, Mississippi State, MS

Dr. Amanda Stone, Extension Dairy Specialist
Oct. 17-19 - Breakfast on the Farm, Bearden Dairy, Starkville

Dr. Dean Jousan, Extension 4-H Livestock Specialist
Aug. 9-10 - 4-H/FFA Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest, Hinds Community College, Raymond
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 - National 4-H Dairy Conference, Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Clay Cavinder, Extension Equine Specialist
clay.cavinder@msstate.edu
(662) 325-7466
2019 Refereed Publications


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