

Dairy Heifers Grazing on Horsebarn Hill Summer 2017

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2017 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to fall semester 2017! Once again, we are preparing for an exciting and busy year in the Department of Animal Science, starting with our annual ice cream social to welcome new students. It will be held on Tuesday, September 5th beginning at 2:30 pm (it is in between lab sections of ANSC 1001, so students in the Intro class won't miss lab!) in front of the George White building. All students, new and continuing, are invited to visit with faculty and staff as well as members of Animal Science clubs and teams.

The summer began with the College graduation ceremonies led by our Drill Team. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their families, and thanks to the Drill Team! We hope that you all stay in contact with the Department through email, Facebook, or a return visit to your alma mater. Just send your updated email address to AnimalScience@UConn.edu to stay on the mailing list.

In addition to the undergraduates, several graduate students also completed their degrees: Meera Nair (Venkitanarayanan), Amanda Jones (Reed) and Genevieve Flock (Venkitanarayanan) completed their PhD programs, and Kaleigh Flock (Tian), Chi-Hung Chen (Venkitanarayanan), Rebecca Lang (Venkitanarayanan), Yuqing He (Nadeau), Elza Mathew (Amalaradjou), and Yanyan Liu (Venkitanarayanan) completed their MS programs. Congratulations to all.



Graduation was quickly followed by summer orientation for our new freshmen and transfer students. All new students should have been assigned an academic advisor. If you are unsure of who your advisor is, it should be listed on your student admin page. If no advisor is listed, please contact the main office (860-486-1009) and we will assign you an advisor.

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

There are a few changes in the Department this fall. Dr. Hoagland has retired and Kacey Reinholtz, one of our alums, will be teaching Livestock in the fall. In addition, Kim Syme is the new assistant manager at the Horse Unit. Please welcome our new additions to the Department. You should also notice construction activity at the KDC. On September 1, an addition will be added to the KDC to make room for our new robotic milking system. The system should be up and running in March 2018. For the Equestrians, you should notice some nice upgrades to the offices, locker room, tack room and rest rooms in the Horse Unit, and come wintertime, some heat over the stands in the arena.

Check your emails! The call for applications for the Tony Yurgaitis and George Malkemus, Arethusa Farm scholarships was recently sent to all Animal Science students. Three \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time, animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing, or dairy production. The applications are due in the Animal Science main office (George White 107) by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

See you for ice cream on September 5th!



Dr. Steven Zinn
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science

UConn ANSC Goes to Ireland

The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR) will coordinate a trip to Ireland with UConn Education Abroad for a course entitled “UConn Global One Health: Irish and US Perspective” in the summer of 2018. The trip will be led by Dr. Sheila Andrew of the ANSC department and Dr. Sandra Buschmich, Associate Dean of Academic Programs in CAHNR. It will begin with a week in New England meeting with leading experts in local food systems.

In preparation for the course, Dr. Andrew and Dr. Bushmich traveled to Ireland for a site visit where they toured fisheries and dairy farms. Read more in an article on Naturally@UConn [here](#) and visit the Education Abroad page for the trip [here](#).

For more information on this trip, please contact Sheila.Andrew@UConn.edu.



Dr. Buschmich and Dr. Andrew in Ireland

STUDENT DEADLINES AND EVENTS



Add or Drop Classes

The last day to add or drop a class without additional signatures is Monday, September 11th.

Horse Practicum Meeting

The mandatory meeting for all students interested in signing up for riding lessons through the horse practicum is **Thursday, August 31st at 7 PM** in the W.B. Young Building room 100. See the fall 2017 lesson schedule [here](#). For more information, contact Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu.



Come to ANSC Student Welcome!

All ANSC students are invited to the annual **Animal Science Student Welcome & Ice Cream Social** on **Tuesday, September 5th from 2:30 to 4:00 PM** on the front lawn in front of the George White Building. The event features information on clubs and teams as well as **FREE** ice cream from our creamery! Come have some fun and meet the newest students in the department! Rain location is the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena.

LINKS TO FORMS

For the Independent Study Syllabus Form click [here](#).

For the Advisor Change Form click [here](#).

UConn Cheese Awards

Dr. Dennis D'Amico had a busy summer entering some of the cheeses made here in the [UConn Creamery](#) in both local and national judging competitions.

Cheese from the UConn Department of Animal Science Creamery was recognized for excellence in the [American Cheese Society Judging & Competition](#) for the fourth year in a row! Both the Green Chile Queso Blanco and plain Queso Blanco took second in their respective categories. This year's competition broke previous records with 2,024 products from 281 entering companies.

We also entered cheese in the Big E Cheese Competition in August where our Green Chile Queso Blanco was awarded the bronze medal.



Dr. D'Amico Develops Food Safety Course

Dr. Dennis D'Amico, in conjunction with North Carolina State University, has developed and launched a new online course: "Food Safety for Artisan Cheesemakers." The course is being offered free until the end of the year.

"The course was designed to assist Artisan and Farmstead Cheesemakers to develop/refine their food safety programs to protect consumers and comply with food safety regulations. It is intended to equip cheesemakers with knowledge of basic food safety concepts and introduce a number of best practices/preventive controls. The class was developed at North Carolina State University in a collaborative effort of food safety and cheese experts from the University of Connecticut, the Center for Dairy Research, Cornell University, and the Innovation Center for US Dairy, and includes extensive input from Artisan Cheesemakers. The course begins with a welcome letter and orientation to online learning and then has five interactive learning modules with professional voiceover, video, and an accompanying quiz."

UConn Dairy Program Highlights

The Department of Animal Science is excited to announce that our Kellogg Dairy Center will be installing a robotic milking system this fall! The project, which should be completed by March of next year, will add up to an additional 3,000 square feet to the existing KDC building. The system will have two machines that will operate around the clock. Cows will be able to choose to be milked when their udder is full. The system will allow the current employees to spend more time focusing on each cow's nutrition, health and happiness and will provide important data on the production for each individual cow. We are excited to be adding this cutting-edge technology to our program for both teaching, research and outreach. Read an article about the new system in the Willimantic Chronicle [here](#).

Fox 61 Daytrippers visited the Department of Animal Science in June to experience the production of our ice cream from start to finish. They published an article and video on the experience. See it [here](#).

News Channel 8 also came to visit us this summer for CT Ice Cream Week! See the video and article [here](#).

Several graduate and undergraduate students participated in [Fresh Check Day Fresh](#) check day in April where they brought several heifers up to the center of campus. See a video from this event [here](#).



Arethusa Farm Manolo Blahnik Shoe Sale & Scholarship

The Arethusa Farm Manolo Blahnik Sample Shoe Sale was held on Saturday, August 19th in Bantam, CT. This popular sale features Manolo Blahnik shoes at discount prices. Proceeds from this sale benefit scholarships for dairy students in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Read more about the sale [here](#).

The Arethusa Farm Scholarship is open to all Animal Science students who have a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing, or dairy production. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12th, 2017. ANSC students can check their email for more information.



Photo by Blaise
Pope/Arethusa Farm

UConn Morgan Shines at Summer Shows

UConn Horse Barn Manager John Bennett had a busy and successful summer showing UC Romeo, a UConn Morgan gelding born in 2012, at both the New England Morgan Regional Show in Northampton, MA and the Massachusetts Morgan Show at the Eastern States Expo Fairgrounds in West Holyoke, MA.

UC Romeo placed well in his classes at New England Morgan including a second place in the Carriage Pleasure Driving Working Limit Division out of ten entries and first place in their Driven Dressage test class out of twelve entries!

The classes at Massachusetts Morgan Horse Show were also a great success for the pair. UC Romeo placed first in his timed obstacle driving class as well as second in Fault and Out and Pick Your Own Route driving class and fourth in his Dressage driving class.

*John Bennett with UC Romeo
at New England Morgan
Regional Horse Show*



New Face at the UConn Horse Barn

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to Kim Syme who is the new ‘assistant horse barn manager.’ She began working in this position in May. Kim is assisting Horse Unit Manager John Bennett with the day-to-day equine operations on campus.

Mrs. Syme is an alumna of the Animal Science program and comes to us with years of experience working for the US Polo Association. She also owns and runs her family farm in South Windsor, CT.

We are looking forward to having Kim’s expertise to contribute to our equine program!



Kim Syme

ASAS Undergraduate Awards

The 2017 American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholar Recognition Awards Ceremony was held in May. ANSC sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the top 10% of their class are eligible for this award. Twenty-eight students received the award this year. Congratulations and great job to our students all of their hard work!

Learn more about this ASAS undergraduate award [here](#).



*2017 ANSC Undergrads
with their ASAS Awards*

Undergrad Wins IDEA Research Grant and Attends Fellowship at San Diego Zoo

ANSC undergrad **Maya Schlesinger** had a busy summer with a fellowship at the San Diego Zoo and is looking forward to her fall lab research made possible through a [UConn IDEA Grant](#). Here's what Maya has to say about the fellowship and her plans for the research grant below:

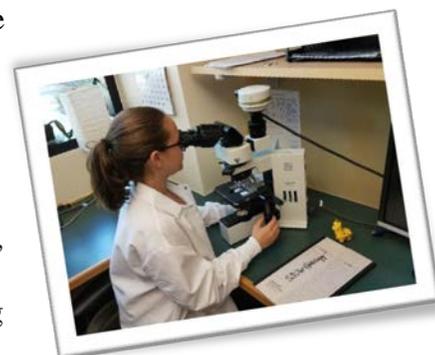
“This summer I had the opportunity to hold a fellowship position at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research in their Disease Investigations lab. This was an amazing opportunity to engage in both research and pathology, with the goal of species conservation. My role was to carry out a project investigating a newly discovered parvovirus affecting red pandas by developing assays to screen for the viral particles in tissues, and look for signs of viral lesions on histology.

The fellowship was 12 weeks and had a stipend. I found out about the program through looking for zoo-related opportunities online and then coincidentally found out my histology professor at the time, Dr. Burns, had previously worked at the San Diego Zoo and she offered a lot of insight about the type of work I could do there. I applied in January 2017 and heard back by February.

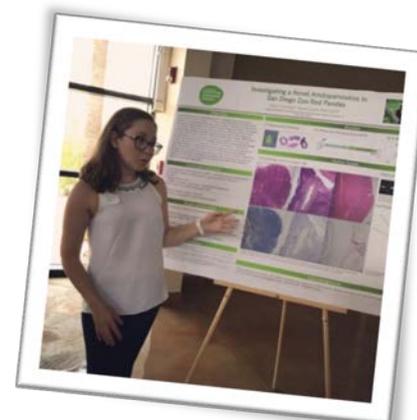
As an ANSC major I really love to engage in the research opportunities we have on campus as well. This fall I will be engaging in research for my Honors Thesis, for which I was awarded an IDEA Grant. My project is in Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou's lab, where I will be utilizing immunofluorescent staining to visualize muscle fibers in chicken embryo tissue and evaluate if probiotic administration has an effect on muscle growth in broiler chickens.

I am currently applying to vet school, where I hope to continue doing research and eventually have a focus in zoo and wildlife medicine.

If anyone has questions about the fellowship at the San Diego Zoo or the IDEA Grant program, contact me at maya.schlesinger@uconn.edu.”



*Maya Schlesinger
in the lab*



*Maya presenting
her San Diego
Zoo Research*

ANSC Undergrad Studies Abroad in Thailand

ANSC undergraduate student **Mackenzie Woods** spent her spring semester on a study abroad trip through Loop Abroad. During her trip, Mackenzie was able to work with a wide variety of animal species including elephants, sea turtles and dogs. She hopes to use the experience to help her apply to veterinary school. Read more about her trip in an interview [here](#). Read an article by Loop Abroad about the experience [here](#).



Mackenzie with an elephant in Thailand



Mackenzie with dogs at the spay/neuter clinic

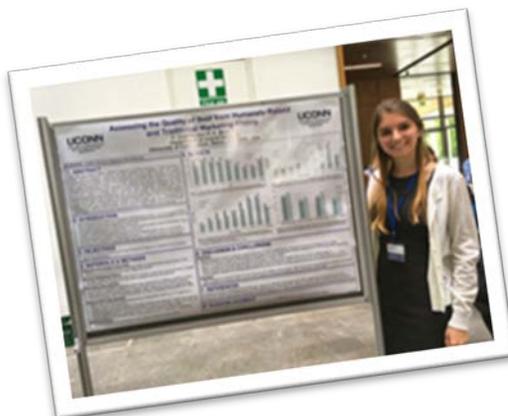
ANSC Undergrad Attends Conference

ANSC undergraduate student **Catherine Cabano** was selected to attend a conference in Scotland this summer to present her research. Catherine shared more about her experience below:

“I have had the pleasure to represent the University of Connecticut at the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland this summer. The theme of this year’s conference was “Future Societies: Global Citizens,” where we discussed global issues, specifically in regards to development, health, justice and the environment. Students and professors from 26 global universities attended.

I presented my undergraduate honors thesis research titled “Assessing the Quality of Beef from Humanely-Raised and Traditional Marketing Claims.” Other students presented on a wide range of topics related to the conference themes, such as the effects of the refugee crisis, the dangers of being a woman in South Africa, using hydrogen as a fuel source and how we can prevent antibiotic resistance. Aside from the presentations, I had the opportunity to explore the city, hike Arthur's Seat, tour the underground volts and museums, visit the Scottish Parliament, try the local cuisine and attend workshops focused on making universities more sustainable. Being a part of the U21 Undergraduate Research Conference in Edinburgh was an amazing experience and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity.”

Read more about the conference [here](#).



Catherine Cabano presenting her research in Scotland

Spotlight on Summer Internships

Several ANSC undergraduate students participated in a variety of internships over the summer.

Kaitlyn Sidman interned at West Place Animal Sanctuary in Tiverton, Rhode Island over the summer. She was able to participate in their wildlife rehab program and cared for a variety of domestic livestock animals. Read more about her internship [here](#).

Alyssa Condon interned in the office of Joe Courtney, Connecticut U.S. Representative, in Washington D.C. over the summer. The internship was made possible by the American Society of Animal Science. Alyssa was able to experience first-hand the legislative process on agricultural policy bills. Read an interview with Alyssa [here](#) and learn more about her experience [here](#).

If you had a summer internship this year and would like to share information about your experience, please email Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu.



*Kaitlyn Sidman
Summer 2017*



*Alyssa Condon with
Congressman Joe Courtney*

ASAS Graduate Competition Winners

Several graduate and undergraduate students along with their advisors traveled to Baltimore, MD for the ASAS/CSAS Annual Meeting and Trade Show in July. Students presented their current research and did well in the graduate competitions!

Amanda Jones (Ph.D., Dr. Reed) placed third overall in the graduate poster competition. Amanda also placed first in the graduate student video abstract competition. **Dominique Martin** (M.S., Dr. Reed) placed first in the M.S. poster competition. **Mary Wynn** (M.S., Dr. Govoni) placed second in the graduate student video abstract competition.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!



*Dominique Martin, Dr. Sarah Reed,
Amanda Jones and Helen Rose Iannitti*

Graduate Students Win Scholarships and Awards

ANSC graduate students **Stephanie Brown** (Ph.D., Dr. D'Amico) and **Shafeekh Muyyarikkandy** (Ph.D., Dr. Amalaradjou) were awarded Institute of Food Technologist (IFT) scholarships at the annual Nutmeg Institute of Food Technologist Student Night of Academic Excellence in May. Learn more about IFT [here](#).

Jingyue (Ellie) Duan (Ph.D., Dr. Tian) was awarded a registration and travel scholarship that allowed her to attend the 22nd Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA in July. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Amanda Jones (Ph.D., Dr. Reed) was selected to receive the 2017 Jerry Yang Graduate Research Excellence Award.

Stephanie Brown (Ph.D., Dr. D'Amico) was chosen for the 2017 CT Trustee of the Eastern States Exposition Graduate Scholarship. She will be honored at a reception later this fall.

Congrats to all on your hard work!



Stephanie Brown, Dr. D'Amico, Dr. Amalaradjou and Shafeekh Muyyarikkandy



Jingyue Duan



Stephanie Brown



Amanda Jones

Grad Student Featured on CAHNR Blog

ANSC graduate student **Arielle Halpern** (M.S., Dr. Govoni) was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in July. Arielle received undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland and is now studying the effect of maternal nutrition on offspring productivity in Dr. Govoni's lab. She plans to be an extension agent when she graduates next year. Read more about Arielle on the blog [here](#).



Arielle Halpern



Amanda Liefeld



Brandon Smith



Lang Sun



Catherine Gensler



Elizabeth Johnson



Lindsay Bavone

Welcome New Grads!

The Department of Animal Science would like to extend a warm welcome to the six new graduate students joining us this fall semester!

- Catherine Gensler (M.S., Dr. D'Amico)
- Lang Sun (M.S., Dr. D'Amico)
- Brandon Smith (Ph.D., Dr. Govoni)
- Amanda Liefeld (M.S., Dr. Reed)
- Elizabeth Johnson (M.S., Dr. Tian)
- Lindsay Bavone (M.S., Dr. Tian)

We wish you be best of success in your studies and research!

Where Are They Now?

Several of our graduate students defended their research and completed their degrees this summer! Here is what some of our former graduate students are doing now:

- **Meera Nair** (Ph.D., Venkitanarayanan)
 - Post Doc at the University of Minnesota
- **Amanda Jones** (Ph.D., Dr. Reed)
 - Post Doc at the Department of Pediatrics, Neonatology at Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO
- **Genevieve Flock** (Ph.D., Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
 - Research Microbiologist at the US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center
- **Kaleigh Flock** (M.S., Dr. Tian)
 - University of Illinois Veterinary School
- **Chi-Hung Chen** (M.S., Dr. Venkitanarayanan)
 - 3D Bioprinting Technician in the Complex Fluid Laboratory at the UConn Department of Chemical Engineering
- **Elza Mathew** (M.S., Dr. Amalaradjou)
 - Pursuing Ph.D. at Kansas State University
- **Zongliang Jiang** (Post Doc., Dr. Tian)
 - Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Faculty News

Dr. Steven Zinn has officially begun his duties as President of the American Society of Animal Science. The presidential gavel was passed to Dr. Zinn at the annual meeting in July. He will spend his year as president traveling to various animal science meetings across the globe and working to further animal science research efforts. Dr. Zinn is looking forward to a great year of leadership in ASAS. Learn more about the ASAS history and mission [here](#).

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan is the new Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Dr. Venkitanarayanan has goals for both the research faculty and their continued funding as well as the graduate student recruitment and retention. He will continue to advise graduate students in the Department of Animal Science. Read an article on his new position in the Naturally@UConn blog [here](#).

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau gave an invited presentation entitled “Effect of Season on Travel Patterns, Hoof Growth, Fat Deposition, and Muscle Growth of Domestic Young Horses” at the Equine Science Society S in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June. Learn more about this meeting [here](#).



*Dr. Zinn accepting the gavel
from prior president
Dr. Debora Hamernik*



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan



*Ames Percherons at the Equine Industry
Tour at the Equine Science Society Meeting*

Alumni News



Corey Thomas

ANSC alumnus **Corey Thomas** (BS '15) continued his education in UConn's Teaching Certification Program for College graduates after spending some time working for The Farm Institute and writing for UConn extension. He recently accepted the Education Director position at Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, CT. Read more about Corey [here](#). Congratulations, Corey!

Three former undergraduates who finished veterinary school this year received a number of prestigious awards this spring.



Ashleigh Cournoyer

Ashleigh Cournoyer (Purdue '17) received the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Award, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Award, the Veterinary Cancer Society Award, and the Central Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (CIVMA) Award.

Lisa Dauten (Purdue '17) received the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Foundation Award, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Amstutz Award, the Student Recognition Award, and the Excellence in Bovine Veterinary Medicine Award from the Indiana Veterinary Medicine Association.

Elizabeth Forbes (Oklahoma State '17) received the Dean Clarence H. McElroy Award, the Butch and Luella Ruth Curtis Educational Fund Award, and a Dr. C. Kip Doran Memorial Scholarship.

ANSC alumna **Tierney Lawlor** was featured in an article in *UConn Magazine* entitled "The Next Generation of Farming." Read the article [here](#).



Elizabeth Forbes



Lisa Dauten



Tierney Lawlor at the KDC

Alumni News Continued

UConn alumni **Drs. Scott** (B.S. '06) and **Heidi Morey** (B.S. '05) were featured in *UConn Today* magazine in an article entitled "Two Alums Take a Bow (Wow) as Mascot's New Vets." Scott and Heidi met as undergrads at UConn and then attended veterinary school together at Kansas State University. They opened their practice, Fenton River Veterinary Hospital, in Tolland, CT in 2015.

Read more in the article [here](#).



*Drs. Scott and Heidi Morey with
Jonathan the XIII and XIV*

Compliance Corner

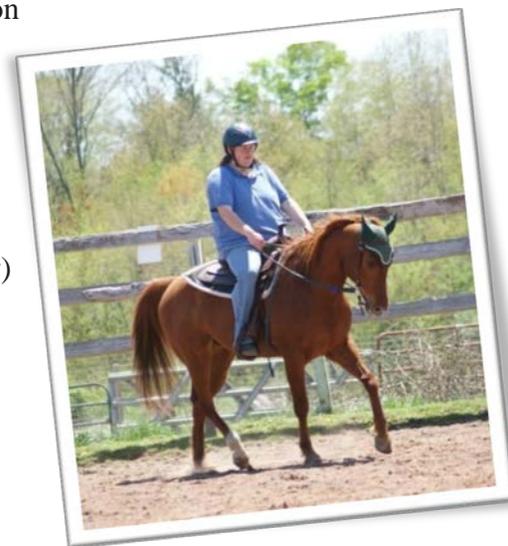
Attention: All Potential Student Employees of ANSC Barn Units!

As part of the pre-employment process, all barn student employees must complete IACUC training and the EHS Training Module. More information can be found at:

<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/compliance/compliancecorner.php>

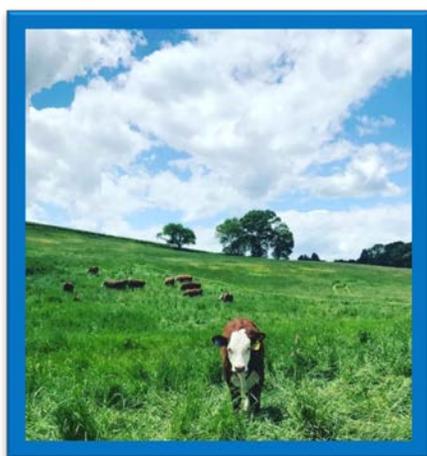
Required training specific to ANSC student barn employees

- Meet with Barn Manager for approval
- Must attend annual IACUC training (Initial training is in person only)
- Complete all four EHS training modules on line (Husky CT)
 - Hazard Communication
 - Voluntary Use of Respirator
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research & Production
- Complete Animal Handler Forms
- Meet with the Compliance Coordinator
 - Employee Safety Orientation
 - Workplace Hazard Assessment
- Make an appointment with Jen Szela (for horse unit) or Tina Burnham (for livestock/dairy units) to process payroll paperwork



*Compliance Coordinator Sharon
Aborn with her horse Trav*

UConn Department of Animal Science August 2017 Student Newsletter



*Beef Calf on Horsebarn Hill
Summer 2017 (Michelle Lewis)*

Give a Gift...

ANSC Students and Faculty Welcome Your Support!

Many donors choose to honor a loved one or friend with a gift to support UConn in their name. Perhaps the gift is in memory of someone who loved UConn's animals, from an alumnus who attended the Department of Animal Science, or in honor of an inspirational professor.

If you would like to donate to the Department of Animal Science, you can do so one of three ways:

1. Donate online by clicking [here](#) and click the black "Donate" button on the right. Under "Additional Instructions About My Donation," indicate desired fund from list below.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list below.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

Please be sure to indicate which fund you would like to donate to:

- **Animal Science Department Fund**
- **UConn Morgan Horse Breeding Program Fund**
- **Randy Knight Memorial Fund**

For more information, contact Jennifer Simoniello by email at Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu, via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, Attn: Jennifer Simoniello, 3636 Horsebarn Hill Road Ext. Unit 4040, Storrs, CT 06269-4040.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation dedicated to UConn. Donors to the Foundation have the right to request in writing that their identity be anonymous.



Spring 2017 Lambs (Sarah Reed)