



*UConn mares and foals enjoying pasture summer 2020*

# UConn Department of Animal Science Fall 2020 Student Newsletter

## A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to fall semester 2020! We welcome our entering freshman and welcome back our returning students to the Department of Animal Science. Unlike other fall semesters, we are unsure what we are preparing for. Due to COVID-19, some of you have returned to campus while others are staying home and doing the entire semester online. Many classes will be online, and some will be a hybrid model of some distance learning and some in-person (check Student Admin if you are unsure of where or how your classes will be delivered). Similarly, Animal Science faculty have made similar decisions, some will be staying home and doing all of their teaching and advising online, while others will be here several days each week and working remotely on other days. In fact, offices across campus are making these same choices.

Most will have their availability and the modality of contact posted. I suggest that you check ahead of time if a person or office is online or in their office, it will save some running around.

Regardless of COVID-19, we are busy preparing for our fall classes, getting horses back in shape for practicum, conducting research at all of the barns, and we continue to learn best practices in online teaching, especially in those mixed classes where some will be in-person and some will be online. There is lots of great technology and UConn is doing their best to make it available and providing training so we can use the technology effectively. As faculty understand your situation this fall, please bear with us as we learn to use the technology.

*(More on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Changes for Fall
- Summer Research
- Equine Unit Updates
- Cameron Faustman Scholarship
- In Memoriam
- Scholarship Deadline
- Undergraduate Student News
- Graduate Student News
- Faculty/Staff News
- Animal Science in the News
- Alumni News
- Compliance Corner
- Give to UConn ANSC



## Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their families. The virtual commencement was a little different than we might be used to, but it was a very positive send-off for our graduates. 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 <mailto:AnimalScience@UConn.edu> to stay on the mailing list for news and job opportunities.

Like graduation, orientation was all virtual and unlike our traditional orientation. 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 ([animalscience@uconn.edu](mailto:animalscience@uconn.edu)) and we will assign you an advisor.

We have a new faculty member and a retiree. Dr. Joe Emenheiser joins us from Vermont to teach Livestock Management in the fall and Livestock and Carcass Evaluation in the spring. He will also have extension responsibilities in diversified livestock in eastern Connecticut. In addition, after 30 years of service to UConn as a faculty member and Department Head of Animal Science, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Associate Dean of Research and Interim Dean of the College, Dr. Cameron Faustman formally retired in June. Dr. Faustman will be missed and we wish him well in retirement.

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. Four to five \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time, animal science students with a demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing and/or dairy production. The applications should be sent to me ([steven.zinn@uconn.edu](mailto:steven.zinn@uconn.edu)) electronically by Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

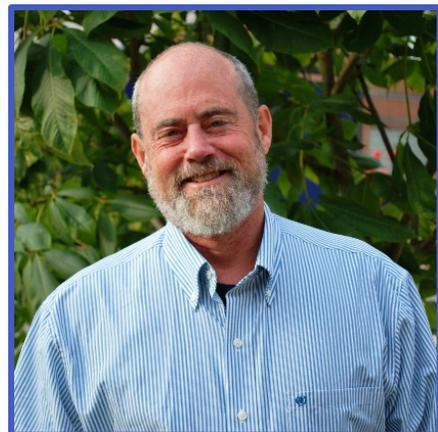
We look forward to a great fall semester, even if it is strangest fall semester that we have ever faced. We urge you to follow the UConn Promise!

Stay safe.



Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



## Keep UConn Healthy!

This semester will be unlike any other in our history. Together, we can keep each other safe and healthy! See the guidelines below for critical safety measures.

Please keep an eye on your emails for additional information and don't hesitate to reach out for guidance on procedures.



### WHAT YOU CAN DO Prevention is Critical



Stay at least 6 feet  
(about 2 arms' length)  
from other people.



Cover your cough or  
sneeze with a tissue,  
then throw the tissue  
in the trash and wash  
your hands.



Wear a cloth face  
covering over your  
nose and mouth.



Do not touch your  
eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect  
frequently touched  
objects and surfaces.



Wash your hands often  
with soap and water for  
at least 20 seconds.



Stay home when you  
are sick, except to get  
medical care.

## Changes to Little "I"

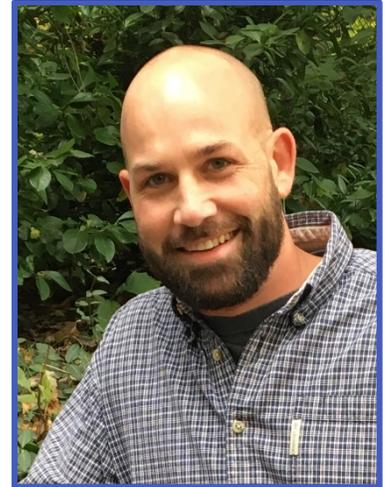
This fall, our annual Little International Livestock showmanship competition on campus will be modified to meet current COVID-19 recommendations. Introduction to Animal Science students who will be on campus and wish to participate will enroll in a separate one credit independent study, where they will train a livestock animal of their choice for about 7 weeks with the help of more experienced students. Students will demonstrate their animal handling skills in a small group during our class discussion periods. No spectators will be allowed; however, we hope to record these events for families and friends to enjoy. For students who do not return to campus this fall but are interested in participating in Little I, an optional one credit independent study will be offered in Fall 2021, 2022 and 2023.

[{Click here for important fall 2020 dates and deadlines}](#)

## New Face in Animal Science

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Joe Emenheiser! He will join us this fall as new Extension Specialist/ Instructor in a joint position between Animal Science and Extension. He will be teaching Livestock Management starting this fall, and Livestock and Carcass Evaluation in the spring. Dr. Emenheiser's research interests focus on livestock industry development and meat quality improvement. He previously served as the State Extension Livestock Specialist in Vermont, and he most recently taught at the University of Vermont and the Vermont Technical College.

Welcome, Dr. Emenheiser!



*Dr. Joe Emenheiser*

## Summer Research

The project must go on! Despite COVID-19, the Fetal Programming Research Group has been hard at work all summer. The summer started with the end of our lambing season and the group has continued caring for over 80 animals on a daily basis all summer, in addition to collecting samples and data on a weekly basis. The arrival of our SuperSmart Feeders was exciting, and we are currently using the feeders to collect feed intake information on the oldest animals. The group, led by Dr. Sarah Reed, Dr. Kristen Govoni, and Dr. Steve Zinn, includes graduate students Amanda Reiter, Nicole Tillquist, Mia Kawaida, and Brandon Smith. Sharon Aborn, the department's compliance coordinator, and Mary Margaret Cole have also been essential to the project's progress. Katelyn Fegan also recently joined the team, working around her shifts at the KDC. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the students, staff, and faculty on our team!



*Graduate student Nicole Tillquist labels sample tubes*



*The summer research team*



*Dr. Sarah Reed with the new feeders*

## Animal Facility Upgrades



*Two of the new feeding units at Livestock Unit 1 (above and below)*



Using a grant from USDA (PI: Reed, Co-PI: Govoni, Fragomeni, Zinn) and funding from the OVP's office, Provost's office, CAHNR Dean's office, and Foundation, we were able to purchase three SuperSmart Feeders from C-Lock, Inc. These feeders use RFID tags to identify animals and can feed different diets, different amounts of diets, or ad lib, depending on how the feeders are programmed. The USDA grant was focused on using them for the fetal programming research, but they can also be used for cattle and horses. They will revolutionize the way we do sheep research, as they allow animals to be group housed but still individually fed (e.g., no more individual pens!). This is better for animal welfare, better replicates under normal production settings, and reduces labor for our projects. They arrived earlier this summer. Our sheep are currently "training" on them with a feed intake trial that should be starting in August and running through the fall.

We are replacing all of the wooden board and no climb fence at Horse Unit 2 and the fencing at Valentine Meadow with RAMM fencing. This provides a much-needed update to our facilities that will be easier to maintain and is safer for our horses. The project started in mid-July and should be finished by the time the semester starts!



*New fencing at Horse Unit 2 (left and right)*

## New Scholarship

The Department of Animal Science is pleased to announce a new scholarship that was created this summer!

The [Cameron and Carol Faustman Food Science Scholarship](#) will support students with interests in food science. Dr. Faustman and his wife Carol have committed to match all donations, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000 to this annual scholarship.

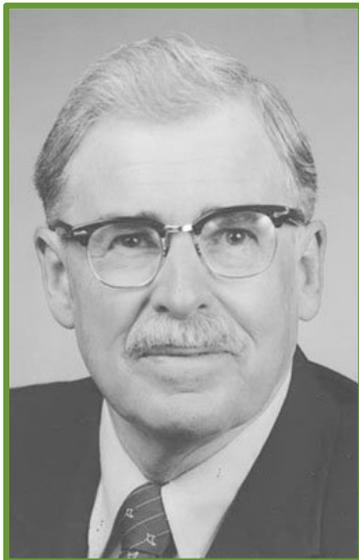
We hope that you will consider giving to this scholarship!



*Dr. Cameron Faustman (r) and his wife Carol (l)*



*Dan Avery*



*Dr. Nate Hale*

## In Memoriam

The Department of Animal Science is saddened to share about the passing of two members of our retired faculty and staff.

Daniel Avery passed away on July 15, 2020. Dan was the Beef Herdsman in the livestock unit at UConn for over 30 years. Dan was also heavily involved with local 4-H and the Big E for many years. Read more in [Dan's obituary](#).

Dr. Nate Hale passed away on June 11, 2020, at his home in Lakeland, Florida. Dr. Hale was a professor of animal science from 1954 to 1985. During that time, he touched the lives of many students and livestock producers in New England and beyond. Until his death, he continued to support higher education in animal science from his home in Florida and made a yearly trip to visit UConn.

Memorial gifts may be made to [The Nathan Hale Award](#). This fund was created by Dr. Nathan Hale to support students enrolled as Animal Science majors in the University's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and/or Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

You can read more about Dr. Hale in [his obituary](#).

## Important Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for the [Arethusa Farm](#) dairy scholarship is Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>!

Up to 5 \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time animal science students with demonstrated interest in dairy science, dairy foods processing, or dairy production. Email your completed applications (check your email!) to [Dr. Steven Zinn](#).



# Undergraduate Student News

Our undergraduates have been making headlines all summer long!

Recently graduated student **Lauren Soranno** ('20) placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the undergraduate poster competition at the 2020 National [American Society of Animal Science](#) annual meeting! Learn more about all of the [winning presentations from the meeting](#). Congratulations Lauren!



*Lauren Soranno*

Several students were featured on Facebook for their UConn Extension summer internships including two Animal Science undergraduates [Kristen Krause](#) and [Megan Davenport](#). Both students are involved with a variety of activities on campus including Dairy Club, Little "I" and research activities.



*Kristen Krause*

Undergraduate graduate **Caitlyn Splaine** ('20) was featured on the Naturally@UConn blog in July. Caitlyn participated in research projects while at UConn and is headed to veterinary school at Tufts this fall. Read about [Caitlyn's UConn experience](#).

Animal science undergrad **Marie Frese** was selected for the [Alpha Lambda Delta Jo Anne J. Trow Scholarship](#). Congratulations Marie!

Ratcliffe Hicks graduate **Skylar Hoffman** ('20) was selected as the 2020 Ratcliffe Hicks recipient of the UConn Women's Center Outstanding Senior Woman Academic Achievement Award. Learn more about [this year's awards](#).



*Megan Davenport*



*Sisters Kristen (L) and Caitlyn (R) Splaine*



*Skylar Hoffman*



*Marie Frese*

## Graduate Student News



*Brandon Smith*

Several graduate students were featured on the Naturally@UConn blog this summer. **Brandon Smith** (Ph.D., Dr. Govoni) studies animal growth and physiology. Read more about Brandon in [his feature](#). **Mia Kawaida** (Ph.D., Dr. Reed) was also featured in June. Read more about [Mia's academic journey](#). **Amanda Reiter** (Ph.D., Dr. Reed) was featured on the blog in July. Amanda is a first-generation college student who wants to work in equine and livestock nutrition. Read more in [her article](#). All three students have been heavily involved in summer research projects and are integral members of our graduate program!



*Amanda Reiter*

**Alexis Trench** (M.S., Dr. Govoni) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the graduate poster competition at the 2020 [National American Society of Animal Science – ASAS](#) annual meeting! Learn more about all of the [winning presentations from the meeting](#). Congratulations Alexis!



*Alexis Trench*



*Mia Kawaida*

## Welcome New Graduate Students!

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



*Kim Rankin*  
(M.S., Dr. Upadhyay)

Not Pictured:  
Jiaxi Liu (M.S., Dr. Tian)  
Yufei Wang (M.S., Dr. Tian)



*Jackie Johnson*  
(M.S., Dr. Nadeau)



*Molly Riser*  
(M.S., Dr. Fragomeni)



*Ella Dodd*  
(M.S., Dr. Fragomeni)



*Nicole Tillquist*  
(Ph.D., Dr. Govoni)

## Faculty News

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan will lead a multi-disciplinary team including researchers from several other institutions to conduct a project on sustainable poultry production thanks to a 10-million-dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the largest grant that CAHNR has ever received. Other team members from Animal Science include Dr. Abhi Upadhyay, Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou and Dr. Indu Upadhyaya. The UConn research team was joined by President Tom Katsouleas and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont for a press conference to celebrate the achievement. Read the [article in UConn Today](#).

Dr. Kristen Govoni was selected as a 2020 UConn Presidential M1 Mentorship Awardee. [Learn more about this award](#). Congratulations Dr. Govoni!

Congratulations to Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay who was selected as the recipient of the 2020 [Poultry Science Association](#) Early Achievement Award for Research!

Dr. Young Tang was featured in an article on UConn Today entitled "[UConn Researchers Identify Compound Successful in Blocking Virus Devastating Global Pig Populations](#)" which discussed his collaborative work with Dr. Antonio Garmendia to identify effective compounds to stop Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus.

The Journal of Animal Science published an interpretive summary regarding considerations and implications of the use of cell-based meat. One of the original articles referenced by the summary was authored by Dr. Cameron Faustman and Dr. Steven Zinn. [Read the summary here](#).



*Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan presenting at the grant press conference in August*



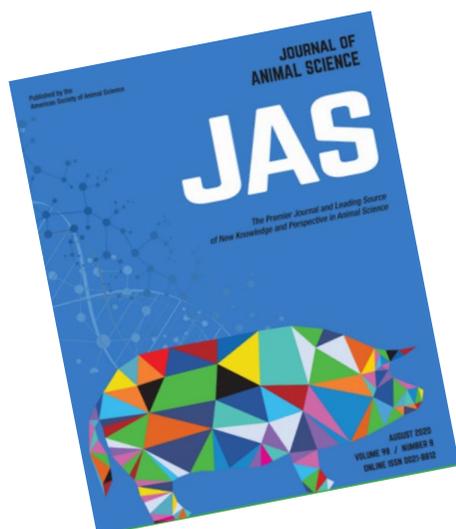
*Members of the grant team and CAHNR administration from L-R Dr. Upadhyaya, Dr. Venkitanarayanan, Dean Chaubey, Dr. Upadhyay, and Dr. Amalaradjou*



*Dr. Kristen Govoni*



*Dr. Abhi Upadhyay*



*Dr. Young Tang*

## ANSC News and Announcements



- \* UConn was listed on [vettechcolleges.com](http://vettechcolleges.com) as one of the top 10 pre-veterinary colleges! [See the complete list here.](#)
- \* A friendly reminder that the UConn Animal Barns are still closed to the public. Students with appropriate training are allowed in the barns for riding lessons and class.
- \* The UConn Dairy Bar is offering online ordering! Please visit <https://dining.uconn.edu/uconn-dairy-bar/> for information on how to order online ahead of time!

## Alumni Updates

ANSC alumna Jaime L. Smith was named the Bureau Director of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

See the [formal announcement here.](#)

Congratulations Jaime!



*Jaime L. Smith*

## Calling All Alumni!

Are you an Animal Science alumnus? We would like to hear from you! Please send your news to [Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu). We would love to feature you in the next edition of the newsletter!

# Compliance Corner

## REMINDER:

Faculty, Staff, Graduate and Undergraduate Students:

If you will be working with animals this semester it is more than likely that you will require IACUC training or re-training. It is required for personnel listed on protocols, independent study students, riding teams, and student barn employees.

**Initial IACUC training** (#1 below) If you have never received IACUC you must complete the "Working with IACUC" module online through the CITI program. Please follow this link: <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>

**Retraining** is required annually for most and every 3 years for PI's. There are three options for renewals.

1. Complete a course through the CITI program <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/rics/animal/iacuc/iacuc-training/>
2. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations: Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky SMS available through the link below: <https://uconn.bioraft.com/> click on training and course directory to find the specific course
3. Attend ANSC seminar on September 4th via Webex (12:20-1:10pm) Email [Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu](mailto:Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu) for more information.

If you are interested in working at the barn units or in an Animal Science lab, be sure to check out the [Compliance Corner](#) page.



Still scratching your head?

Contact Sharon!  
[Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu](mailto:Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu)

# UConn Department of Animal Science Fall 2020 Student Newsletter

## 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 choose "College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources" under Choose Category, "Animal Science Department" under Choose Subcategory. Then select your desired funder under the Choose Fund dropdown and click the yellow Add Gift +. Then click "Next Step" on the right hand side.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list of funds found online by following step 1.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

For more information, contact Jennifer Simoniello by email at [Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu), via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, Attn: Jennifer Simoniello, 17 Manter Road, 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.



*Dairy Cows with Robotic Feeder at the Kellogg Dairy Center*



*2020 UConn Morgan foal*