



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/8 TSU Alumni Reception at FWSSR
- 2/19 Sheep & Goat Management Project—Sampling
- 2/25 COAES Networking event
- 2/28 Presidential Inauguration
- 2/29 Farm to Form Run
- 3/12-13 Spring Break, University Offices Closed
- 3/21 Texan Tour
- 3/25 Dairy Club Clinic & Contest
- 3/26 FFA Invitational CDE
- 3/26 Service Day
- 3/28 Tarleton Round Up
- 4/4 COAES Recognition Event
- 4/10 Good Friday
- 4/14 Giving Day
- 4/15 FFA Area CDE
- 4/18 Pursuit of Purple Steer Show
- 4/18 Wild Game Dinner
- 4/30 FFA State CDE
- 5/1-6 Finals
- 5/8-9 Spring Commencement Ceremonies
- 5/7 FFA National CDE
- 5/25 Memorial Day, University Offices Closed
- 8/7-8 Summer Commencement Ceremonies

**Please send newsletter submissions to [COAES@tarleton.edu](mailto:COAES@tarleton.edu)**

One of the most gratifying parts of my job is knowing that I lead a diverse college that is dedicated to hands-on learning. This edition offers many examples of the ways our students and faculty live that philosophy. Whether it be studying exotic wildlife in far off places, learning floral design, helping with contests, participating on a team, or traveling North Texas to learn about agribusiness opportunities, learning by doing is the core of what we do. This edition is especially rich in events, milestones, and accomplishments that illustrate how our teachers make that happen.

Look for details of a new event (p.2). We are hosting our first annual Networking Event where students and faculty can meet and learn from each other. Our students can visit with potential employers to develop networking skills, receive feedback on what employers look for on a resume, and more. We really appreciate that we have such strong employer and alumni support to make this happen. Another new event you can read about in this edition is our first ever COAES Preview Day (p.11). We are inviting potential students to campus for lunch and information. We are offering Agriculture Center tours so we can show off our incredible facilities. If you have a potential student you would like to bring or send, RSVP to [damerau@tarleton.edu](mailto:damerau@tarleton.edu). Thank you to Ms. Michelle Damerau who is the driving force behind both of these events. Michelle, we appreciate all you do for our students!

In this edition, we introduce our new Agriculture Center Mr. Zhan Aljoe. He is doing a great job and we are quite happy that he has joined us. We also introduce our new meat scientist, Dr. Drew Cassens. Drew will be coaching our meats judging team. We are very excited that he has joined the faculty. Please read about them, and if you see them, please give them a warm Tarleton welcome.

Our life here revolves around the rhythm of the school year. So, I hope your new semester and New Year are started well. Hold on to your hats! The best is yet to come!

WSD



DEAN'S CORNER

## Attention students!

Mark your calendars for February 25th from 5 to 7 PM. The College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences is hosting our first annual Networking Event. This is a great opportunity for you to visit with potential employers, develop networking skills, receive feedback on what employers look for on a resume, and more.

Whether you're in your first semester or planning to graduate soon, be sure to join us at the Ag Mechanics Building on the 25th!

**Are you an employer** interested in attending?

Contact Michelle at [Damerau@tarleton.edu](mailto:Damerau@tarleton.edu) or [submit your business information here](#).



# COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES NETWORKING EVENT

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020 | 5:00pm-7:00pm**

**TARLETON AGRICULTURE CENTER 1322 CR 518 Stephenville, Texas 76401**

**Come mingle with COAES students at Tarleton  
about internships or career opportunities your company has to offer.**

*To reserve your table* [damerau@tarleton.edu](mailto:damerau@tarleton.edu)



**TARLETON  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Member of The Texas A&M University System

# At the Agriculture Center



TREAT is ready for an exciting Spring semester. If you would like to volunteer or are looking for a place to participate in therapeutic riding, reach out to us at [treat@tarleton.edu](mailto:treat@tarleton.edu).



**TREAT RIDING**  
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY



On January 10th, the Tarleton Equine Center hosted The Texas American Farriers Association Certification & Pre-Certification Clinic.



## FFA Contest

Tarleton had the privilege of hosting the Area IV Tractor Tech Contest on January 24th! FFA students from Area IV worked hard during this CDE contest. Thank you to Bramlett Implement, Inc. for providing the tractors and to the Spring 2020 Ag Education block for helping.



# Study Tours

## Texas Agribusiness Study Tours Approaching 25 Years ...

By Dr. Ashley Lovell

In June 1994, six students and Dr. Lovell departed on the Study Abroad “Texas-Mexico Agribusiness Study Tour” to Monterrey, Mexico. The tour was encouraged by Provost Bob Fain and included the participation of Dean Jesse Tackett. Tony Hinojosa, AgriLife Extension Agent in Bexar County served as Dr. Lovell’s co-leader. NAFTA became effective in 1994 and continued through the next 25 years. Due to security issues in Mexico, in 1999 the above tour became a Study Away “Texas Agribusiness Study Tour.”



President Lyndon B Johnson's Plane, LBJ National Park



Since 1999, the tour has included the triangle area from Fort Worth -Dallas to San Antonio to Fredericksburg to Erath and adjacent counties. This year, we are on the road to Fredericksburg, Fort Worth and points along the way...again, May 11-15, 2020

The Agribusiness Study Tour is an excellent chance for students to see the vast opportunities that agribusiness has to offer. During the tour, students will identify and understand the practices and strategies of agribusiness firms that appear uniquely positioned to prosper in the 21st century.

From meeting with major dairy company owners, pecan producers, entrepreneurs, AgTexas, food retailers, to Ben E. Keith as well as local chamber of commerce representatives and niche businesses, there are many chances to create valuable contacts for the future.

Throughout the tour experience, there is one common denominator, a deep passion for agriculture. The week-long opportunities to meet with so many men and women that play pivotal roles in Texas agriculture reminds students of the reason that they have fallen in love with the industry in the first place. Tarleton students, no matter their major, should take advantage of this opportunity so that they too can feel the impact of the experience.



Purina Mills

Selected comments from the students’ Tour evaluations from previous tours, include:

- *This tour was a very educational experience for me. I have learned a lot of different business skills along the way, and some to-do’s and some not to-do’s. This will help better my future business.*
- *It will forever remind me of the headache and hassle of corporate business*
- *I made a lot of contacts, and I have already spoke to a few of them after the trip was over. I believe it was a very interesting tour.*
- *The experience gave me some insight into some different types of agricultural businesses that I would not have thought about looking at for a future career. It defiantly gave me some ideas for my future.*
- *I finally had a face to face experience in the ag industry and this has given me the right motivation to my right vocation*
- *I really enjoyed the dairy tour, it was very motivational. I would also say that was the most informative tour we made. Plus the milk was amazing.*
- *Being able to see how many different jobs and get to hear from the people was beneficial, especially at the capital. The people were very encouraging to find something that I am passionate and I will take their advice with me in the work force.*
- *The tour further helped me with what I actually want to do in the future.*
- *I thought each stop held its own purpose and was pleased with all of them.*

Juniors, seniors, and graduate students are encouraged to participate. It is a May mini-session class offered as a summer class. Undergrads receive 3 hours of credit through AGEC 4086 and graduate students receive 3 hours in AGEC 5333. Contact Dr. Ashley Lovell for additional information at [lovell@tarleton.edu](mailto:lovell@tarleton.edu) or 254-968-1984.



Lastovica Angus Farm owned by Dr. Lastovica, DVM

Central Market  
H·E·B



## Learning by Doing

A new addition to the agricultural education student teaching block this semester has been a one day floral design workshop with Texas Master Gardener, Mr. Jack Winterrowd. As of 2019, Floral Design has become the most popular course for secondary agricultural education students in the state of Texas so this training was invaluable to these student teachers. Throughout the day, the student teachers learned to process flowers, make multiple arrangements and were given invaluable information regarding floral design instruction. Students make six different arrangements throughout the day. According to many of the students this workshop gave them the confidence needed to actually teach this floral design. Mr. Jack (as Mr. Winterrowd is known, is a retired agricultural science teacher from Cedar Park Texas) is an adjunct instructor at Tarleton helping supervise agricultural education student teachers.



The Southwest Regional Dairy Center had twenty-two people on hand for a social and educational tour on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Eli Caldera, from Select Sires, was on hand to provide information about the Young Dairy Leaders Institute <http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/YDLI/ydli.html> Everyone had a great time learning about the dairy industry and opportunities for young professionals within the dairy community.



## Tarleton Student Teachers Complete Hunter Safety Instructor Course

Tarleton's spring 2020 student teaching block completed their Hunter Safety Instructor course this past week. Thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, these 29 student teachers are now certified to teach the Hunter Safety Course. A special thanks to Mr. Calvin Hutson for hosting the group at Box H Gamebird for the training. According to Dr. Frazier, "This is the 16<sup>th</sup> group of student teachers that Calvin and Box H has hosted over the past eight years and we are incredibly thankful to have such supportive alumni. The facility is perfect for this type of training." Students spent all day completing the course and then interview with game wardens who certified them as instructors.



## Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship announces 2020 winners

Four college seniors majoring in agricultural education received the 2020 Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Spring Student Teaching Award scholarship.

Tarleton State University is proud to have two students among the four scholarships recipients for the spring 2020 semester. Ashley Howard from Corsicana and Tyler Sebek from Temple will be completing their student teaching over the spring semester. Howard will be student teaching at White House High School and Sebek will be at Schulenburg High School. One student from Texas A&M and one from West Texas A&M University round out the four recipients.



"These four students caught our eye as exemplary representatives of upcoming agricultural educators," Mia Balko, TFB director of Youth Outreach, said. "They're the next generation to teach our kids about the importance of agriculture, and we have all the confidence they'll do an excellent job."

College students from TFB member-families who are pursuing a degree in agricultural education applied for the \$2,500 scholarship last fall. The funds will be used during the spring semester for off-campus student teaching.

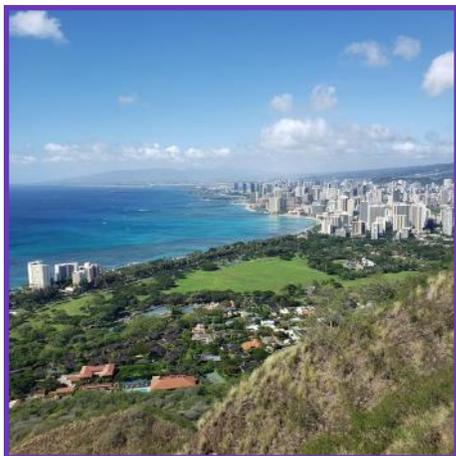


"As a student teacher, there's not typically time to have another job, because they are in the classroom all day. Many of these student teachers also have to travel long distances," Balko said. "This scholarship aims to alleviate some of the financial burden for these students who are preparing for careers in agricultural education."

Student teaching is an invaluable part of the learning experience for future agricultural science teachers. Working side-by-side with an experienced teacher is one of the best ways to prepare for a career in the classroom, according to Balko, who spent more than 15 years teaching agricultural science.

"Agricultural science teachers aren't just in small towns anymore," Balko said. "Urban school districts are increasingly growing their FFA chapters and connecting more students with agriculture. Texas Farm Bureau wants to help new graduates from agricultural education programs prepare for those roles, wherever they land," Balko said.

## Hawaii International Conference on Education



Dr. Jacob Manlove, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural & Consumer Sciences represented Tarleton State University at the annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, presenting *Does Media Type Matter for Delivery of Supplemental Materials in the Blended Agricultural Economics Classroom Environment?* The use of both the blended classroom environment and supplemental materials have been shown in prior research to positively impact student learning outcomes. This paper sets out to determine if the media type used for the supplemental material has an impact on learning. The differences in outcomes of pre and post-tests of students being assigned text based supplemental material versus other types of media will be



compared using difference-in-differences techniques.

The purpose of this event is to provide those with cross-disciplinary interests related to education to meet and interact with others inside and outside their own discipline. The international aspect of the conference brings a truly diverse variety of viewpoints shaped by different cultures, languages, geography and politics. This diversity is also captured in the Hawaii International Conference's unique cross-disciplinary approach. The resulting interaction energizes research as well as vocation.



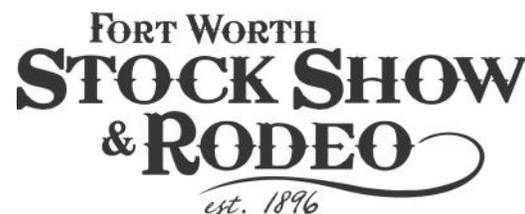
## Horses and CBD (Cannabidiol)

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about CBD and horses. Drs. Kimberly Guay and Trinette Jones, Associate Professors in the Department of Animal Science and Veterinary Technology have started the New Year looking into measuring the physiological and behavioral effects utilizing CBD in horses. Some of their studies will address inflammation, stress, and stereotypic behaviors. If you have a horse that cribs, has difficulty trailering, or is overexcited when stalled and are interested in participating in our study, please email Dr. Guay at [guay@tarleton.edu](mailto:guay@tarleton.edu) for an application.



## FWSSR Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest

Dr. Barbara Jones, Assistant Professor in the Animal Science & Veterinary Technology Department, was a collegiate superintendent for the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Dairy Judging contest, held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. "I competed as a collegiate contestant in various judging contests, so it was really neat to come full circle. I never understood how many people it took to put on a smoothly run contest. I enjoyed seeing the other side of a judging contest." said Dr. Jones.





## In my own words

### Understanding Leopard and Mesocarnivore Populations in Fragmented Game Reserves of Southern Africa and Related Effects of Re-introducing Wild Lions

By Ian Mack

My name is Ian Mack and I am a graduate student working with leopard and mesocarnivores in Southern Africa. I arrived in South Africa December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and returned to DFW January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Most of my time was spent on two neighboring properties on the Greater Balepye Nature Reserve, Vygeboom and Han Merensky. We deployed 55 game cameras on Vygeboom and 33 on Hans Merensky with the goal of capturing leopard and mesocarnivore activity. From our camera trap data, we will provide local-scale leopard abundance estimates as well as habitat selection and space use prior to lion reintroduction. Every week we returned to our cameras to check battery levels and exchange SD cards so we could download the images to a portable hard drive. I then scrolled through every picture identifying what species were in the frame. To date, we have 5 leopard pictures, as well as a suite of mesocarnivores including common genet, caracal, black footed cat, brown hyena, spotted hyena, side-striped jackal and black-backed jackal. During my 6 weeks in the African bush, I learned so much about Africa and its wildlife. Dr. Breeden, Dr. Kafley, Dr. Mathewson, and Dr. Schwertner, faculty members in the Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystem Sciences Department, are on the committee for this project and we will be working with Mr. Louis Ebersöhn of African Wildlife Services. We are thankful for the support of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences for helping make this project possible.



## Bird City Texas

On January 8-9, Drs. Mathewson and Mitchell served on the review panel for Bird City Texas, a certification program sponsored by Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Bird City Texas helps communities promote environmental stewardship through the development and protection of bird-friendly space in municipal landscapes. Activities include enhancement of existing habitat for birds, reduction of artificial light pollution at night, and increasing coverage of native plants in urban areas. Drs. Mathewson and Mitchell assessed applications based on community-centered and scientifically-sound merit to determine which communities met the criteria to warrant certification.

Pictured: The Bird City Texas 2020 Certification Review Panel, including Drs. Mathewson and Mitchell.



# Student Organizations

## Plant ID Team

On November 15th, Molly Koeck and Elizabeth Brogan, Plant ID team captains, hosted a Plant Walk on a local private property. The 8-person team increased their knowledge on how to identify native grass, forb, legume, and woody species. The team was practicing for the upcoming state competition in February, at the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX.

The Plant ID competition requires students to identify plants down to the scientific names, as well as understand plant morphology and ecology. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in plants and learn more about our local ecosystem. Additional Plant Walks are planned for the spring semester. If you are interested in participating, contact the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Image left: WSES students learning about local plants.

From left to right: Josef Leachman, Emelie Roussel, Brandon Consalus, Catherine Edwards, Jamileth Gonzales, Caitlin Elliott, Molly Koeck



## Sheep & Goat Management

On February 19th on the 1st floor of Joe Autry, from 3 to 5 PM, the Sheep & Goat Management class will be presenting samplings. Groups are tasked with preparing traditional dishes using lamb or goat meat as well as marketing their products to guests.



## SAVE *the* DATE

Tarleton Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

*first annual*

## WILD GAME DINNER

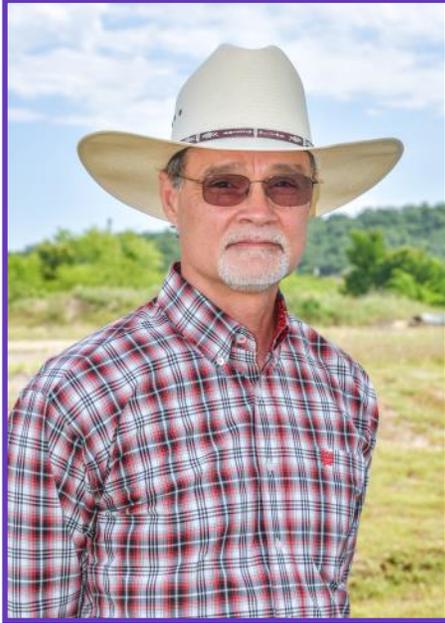
City Hall at City Limits • Stephenville, Texas

4 • 18 • 20

## Wild Game Dinner

Save the Date! The Tarleton Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is planning their first annual wild game dinner for the evening of **Saturday, April 18, 2020**. This will be the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, so please spread the word and join us! A majority of the money raised at this event will be used to send society members to professional conferences on both the state and national level.

More specific information regarding this event will be provided in the coming months, but please keep this date in mind! We are currently soliciting donations of wild game, door prizes, or raffle items. This dinner will be vegetarian friendly as well. If you would like to donate, please contact Elizabeth Brogan via email ([elizabeth.brogan@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:elizabeth.brogan@go.tarleton.edu)).



## Mr. Zhan Aljoe

Mr. Zhan Aljoe is the new Tarleton Agriculture Center Manager. He previously resided in the Temple area since 1997. The past two years he worked as a Product Management Specialist with Datamars, Inc., a global livestock identification and farm & livestock resource management company, based in Lamone, Switzerland. Prior to Datamars, Mr. Aljoe spent 20 years as the Agriculture Department Coordinator and instructor at Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas, where he taught a multitude of courses in addition to managing their Livestock Center.

Mr. Aljoe attended Texas A&M University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics (1986) and Master of Science Degree in Range Science (1990). Zhan has 30+ years' experience working in the Agriculture and Livestock fields. After college, he managed a large commercial beef cattle operation in East Texas for four years. He has two children, Rhyann Aljoe and Ashlyn Aljoe. He also, maintains his own beef cattle herd and is an avid enthusiast of the livestock and wildlife enterprises. Welcome Zhan!!

## Dr. Drew Cassens

Dr. Drew Cassens, originally from Bursleson, Texas, attended Texas A&M and received his BS in Animal Science in 2015. During his time as an undergrad, he was on the 2013 Meat Judging Team, which sparked his passion for meat science. He stayed at Texas A&M for his Master's degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in Meat Science under the direction of Dr. Jeff Savell. While obtaining his Masters, he coached 2 successful meat judging teams in 2015 & 2016. He also assisted with judging contests and extension activities. He attended Oklahoma State University to earn his Ph.D. in Animal Science with an emphasis in Meat Science under the direction of Dr. Gretchen Mafi. While at OSU, he helped coach an extremely successful judging team in 2019. Dr. Cassens was hired in January of 2020 as an Assistant Professor and Meat Judging Coordinator in the Animal Science & Veterinary Technology Department.

This semester he will be teaching:

ANSC 4312: Meat Processing & Merchandising

ANSC 4314: Food Quality Assurance

ANSC 3307: Livestock & Meat Evaluation

ANSC 4185: Senior Seminar

His research interests focus on beef quality and retail display, discovering opportunities to increase shelf-life of beef products while understanding consumer's perceptions and practical industry application. Dr. Cassens is extremely excited and eager to begin his time at Tarleton State University. He plans to help develop and grow the meat judging program to be extremely successful!



