



### SAVE THE DATE

- 11/6 Fall Preview Day
- 11/7 Fall Preview Day
- 11/12 Fall Virtual Job Fair #2
- 11/13 Fall Preview Day
- 11/25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/1 Last Class Day—Fall 2020 (Finals 12/3-9)
- 12/11 COAES Commencement Ceremony 10 AM
- 1/19 First Day of Spring 2021 Semester

As I did last month, I want to open this letter with assurances that our students, staff, and faculty are meeting the COVID challenge! In a truly remarkable show of determination and hard work everyone is meeting the unprecedented challenge brought on by the pandemic and continue to teach and learn. It has been, and continues to be, an outstanding effort. Tarleton continues to be very transparent about the university’s COVID response. For information on the ongoing effort and the latest information, check out the University’s COVID website <https://www.tarleton.edu/roadmap/>.

This month’s newsletter is filled with exciting student-focused news. I am especially excited about the judging teams, competitive teams, and student organizations. Our student groups are finding ways to stay involved even in the middle of a pandemic. Tarleton Collegiate FFA developed virtual LDEs with some events open to contestants around the nation. The YouTube channel launched by the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is fantastic! Please take a little time to look and see what they have. The Meat’s Team is gearing up for their upcoming season—we are quite excited about that. The Equestrian Team is going full speed ahead. The faculty directed student research being done around the college is impressive and there are some great pictures of our block students and clinical teaching students.

In this edition, new work by Dr. Stuart Weiss and Ms. Crissa Nugen and their Horticulture students at the Ag Center is highlighted. Much thanks to Dr. Weiss for hitting the ground running and helping to propel our Horticulture program to the next level. You can also read about happenings at the Meats Lab. Drs. Kinman and Cassens continue to make unique educational opportunities available for our students.

I had previously reported that the just completed fiscal year saw our COAES faculty submit 51 external funding proposals totaling \$22.3 million. I am happy to report that Dr. Edward Osei, Agribusiness Professor, was recently recognized in the 2019 Community of Scholars Virtual Awards Ceremony as an Outstanding Faculty for his grant writing/research work.

We have some quality horses for sale. Information about them is found in this newsletter. The availability of these quality animals represents only a part of the many changes that our equine faculty have been making at the Equine Center. Thanks to Ms. Bobbie Walton, Ms. Shelby Huxen, Dr. Kim Guay, and Dr. Trinetta Jones for their contributions. The Equine Center, the classes, and the clubs and teams associated with it represent a fantastic opportunity for students to receive a world-class education. The program is growing and with it Tarleton’s reputation as a leader in equine-focused education.

We continue to work on improvement projects at the Agriculture Center. While most of these are much smaller projects than the ones we have finished over the past couple of years, they are never the less important ones. One major project still underway is the reworking of the equine center grounds. We will report on all of these as they start/finish.

Don’t forget that The Purple Tractor is open for business. It is run by students and sells products from the Ag Center or made in a lab as part of a class. We are very excited at the opportunities all this brings to our teaching. And, last, please take time to peruse our Alumni Spotlight section. Our alumni make us very proud!

We in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences wish you health and prosperity. Stay safe! The best is yet to come.

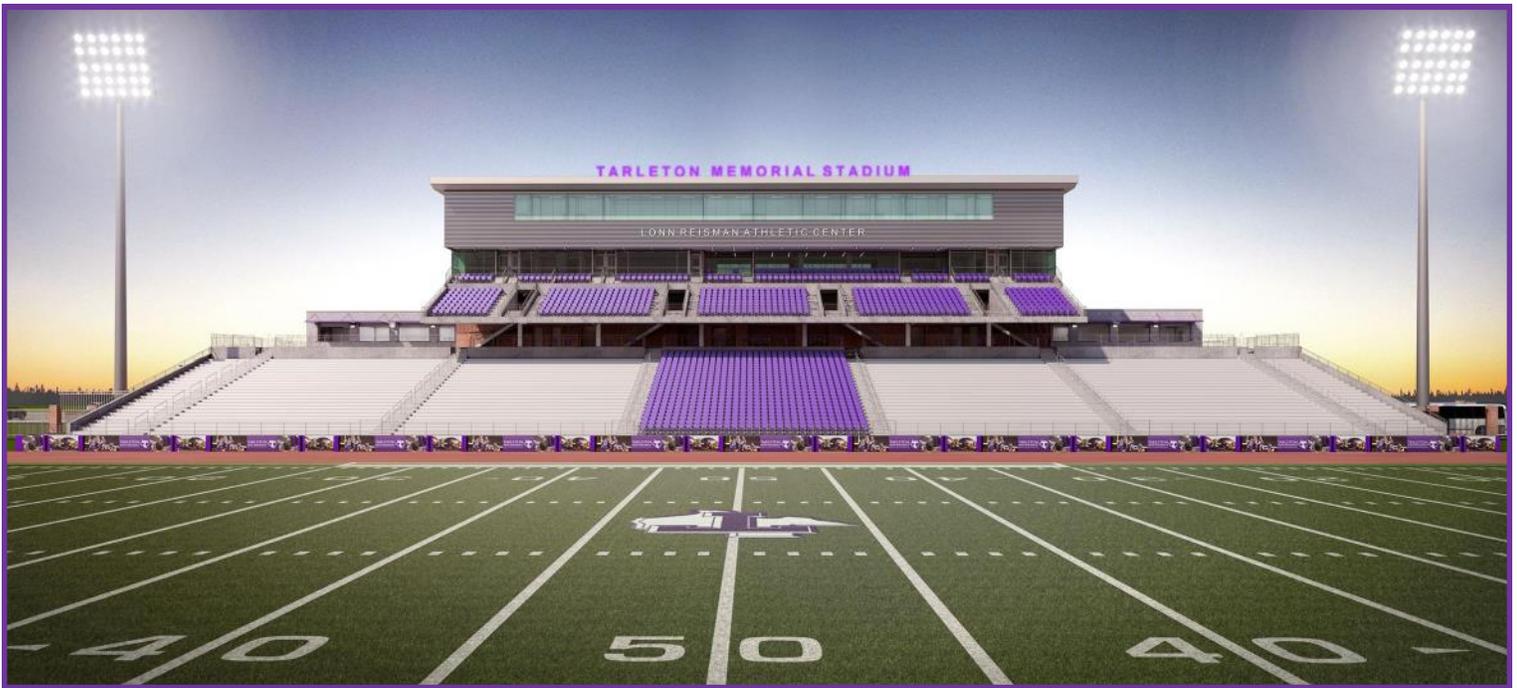
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For the most up to date information from Tarleton State University and the Texas A&M University System about COVID-19, visit the University's [COVID-19 Information Page](#).



## Fall 2020 Commencement Schedule

Friday, December 11 at 10:00 AM  
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
College of Business  
College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Friday, December 11 at 3:00 PM  
College of Graduate Studies

Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 AM  
College of Education  
College of Liberal and Fine Arts  
College of Science and Technology

Are you graduating? [Commencement Day Information](#) (Arrival, Parking, Attire, etc.)

Learn more about [Tarleton Graduation Traditions](#)



## Tarleton Equestrian Team

The Tarleton Equestrian Team is having a great start to the 2020-2021 school year! This semester we have full teams on both Western and English, and we are very excited to show during the spring semester! On October 10th, 2020 we had a scrimmage at the Tarleton Equestrian Center and it was a huge success! We would like to invite you to follow our Facebook page to watch our team throughout the year!

@TarletonEquestrianTeam



## The Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society: Meetings, Committees, Competitive Teams, and Working Groups

By: SaraBeth Boggan, President

Get involved with the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society! We are a diverse group with different areas of interest, all with the common goal of conserving the wild things and wild places we are so passionate about. We would love to help you identify your passion for wildlife, to get involved feel free to drop by one of our meetings, committees, or working groups. For more information, contact SaraBeth Boggan, President ([sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu)) or Dr. Heather Mathewson, Advisor ([mathewson@tarleton.edu](mailto:mathewson@tarleton.edu)). Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) by searching our society name.

**Next meeting:** November 10th at 6:00 pm via Zoom or in Ag 113, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center will be our guests!

### Every other week (starting November 2):

Tarleton Outdoors (community event in the spring): Mondays 2:00 pm

Fundraising Committee: Mondays 6:00 pm

Pre-vet and Zoological Working Group: Tuesdays 6:00 pm

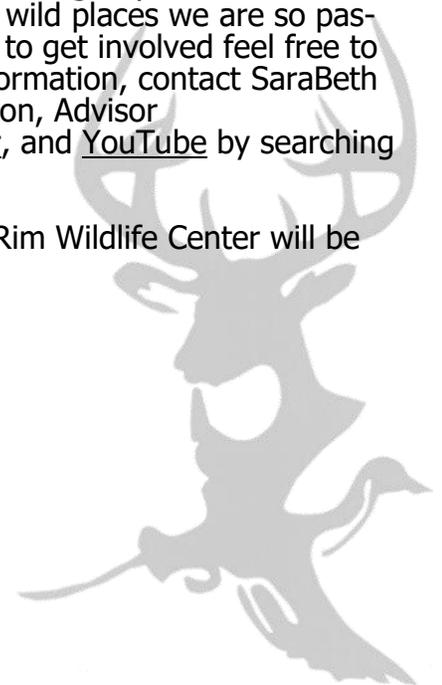
Education and Outreach: Thursdays 6:00 pm

### Every Week, Competitive Teams:

Quiz Bowl: Wednesdays 6:00 pm

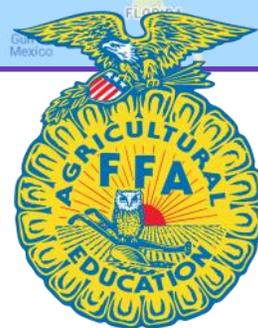
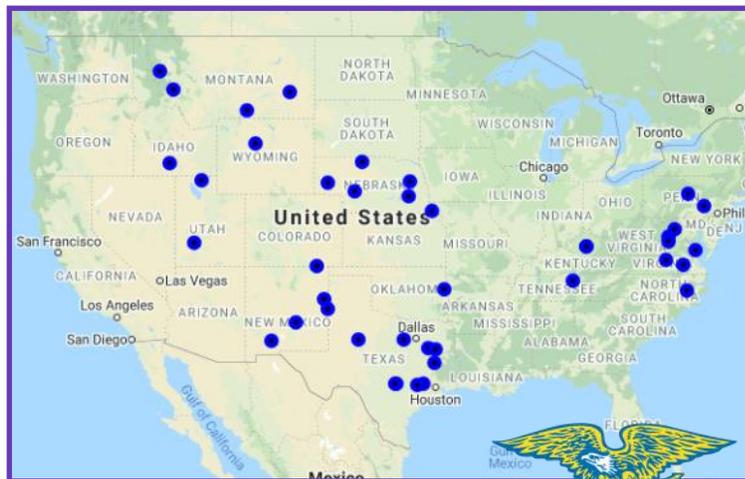
Plant ID: Thursdays 7:00 pm

All meetings are held in various classrooms in the Ag building.



## Tarleton Collegiate FFA Virtual LDE

The show goes on! Due to COVID-19, Tarleton Collegiate FFA has had to adapt and re-imagine their annual Leadership Development Event (LDE) contest, that brings over 2,000 FFA members annually onto campus for the competition. Adapting to COVID-19 restrictions, the group decided to conduct the event virtually and added a National Invitational Creed event that is open to students in the entire country. As of today, students from 23 states have entered the National Creed Invitational. The event is scheduled for the first week of November and Tarleton Collegiate FFA members will be spending a lot of time on Zoom evaluating teams and providing feedback that will eventually help these teams, as they prepare for their District, Area, and State LDE events. According to Dr. David Frazier, Advisor of the Collegiate FFA, "We wanted to expose as many students as possible to Tarleton State University, and hosting this event will allow us to do just that. The National Invitational Creed has put our University on a national platform as I have had many teachers ask questions about Tarleton."



## Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society Launches YouTube Channel

By: Allie Cooper, Web Manager

The Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is excited to announce the launch of their YouTube channel! This channel can be found by searching "[Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#)" on YouTube. Through this channel, we will post videos directed towards anyone working towards a career in wildlife ecology or natural resources. We will cover topics such as "how-to's" for fieldwork techniques, plant identification, camping, and basic skills necessary for wildlife-related work, as well as questions from students and answered by professors. Be sure to check out this new addition to the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society!



*Molly Koeck, an undergraduate in WSES, teaches about woody species identification in a recent YouTube video.*

If you have questions or would like to become involved, please contact President SaraBeth Boggan ([sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu)) or Advisor Heather Mathewson ([mathewson@tarleton.edu](mailto:mathewson@tarleton.edu)), and attend our next meeting on November 10th, at 6:00 pm in Ag 113, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center will be our guests!



## An Assessment of Telemetry Attachment Methods for Northern Bobwhite

By Elizabeth Brogan, an undergraduate research scholar, Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences

One aspect of my undergraduate research was to evaluate the tradeoffs of survival and cost associated with telemetry attachment methods. Very high frequency (VHF) transmitters have conventionally been used to gather survival and location data, but the advancement of GPS technology has facilitated the collection of more precise, accurate data. A necklace-style attachment method is most commonly used for VHF transmitters, while a backpack-style attachment method is often used for GPS transmitters. When using the backpack-style attachment, the transmitter is secured around the wings to sit dorsally on the individual to comfortably accommodate the additional antenna present on GPS transmitters.

Although not generally well understood, backpack-style GPS transmitters could potentially inhibit survival. Depending on attachment materials used, backpack-style GPS transmitters can cause abrasion around the wings which could lead to decreases in survival and deviation from normal behavior. Additionally, the financial costs associated with both VHF and GPS transmitters vary considerably and extend beyond the cost of the units themselves. Trained personnel are needed to manually obtain locations and determine the status of individuals that are fitted with VHF transmitters. Though GPS transmitters have various data retrieval options and personnel are not needed to manually obtain locations from GPS transmitters, it is still necessary to determine the status and general location of GPS-tagged individuals.

In March 2017, we fitted 12 ( $n = 6$  male,  $n = 6$  female) bobwhite with backpack-style GPS transmitters and 68 ( $n = 28$  male,  $n = 40$  female) bobwhite with necklace-style VHF transmitters. We found that individuals fitted with a GPS backpack-style transmitter were over 4 times more likely to die on a given day than individuals fitted with the traditional necklace-style VHF transmitter.

My involvement with undergraduate research has provided me the unique opportunity to present my findings at various state and national conferences. I have recently submitted this research to a peer-reviewed journal, which allowed me to gain incredible experience with scientific writing and the publishing process as a whole. We thank T. Chun, S. Henderson, T. McNutt, and C. Palmer for fieldwork and data collection. Funding for this research was provided by the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation and Park Cities Quail Coalition. Support for myself was provided by a Tarleton Faculty-Student Research and Creative Activity Internal Grant and Tarleton Student Travel Grants. Co-Authors on this project are Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES, John Palariski, MS graduate student in WSES, Brad Kubecka, Becky Ruuzicka, and Dr. Dale Rollins, from the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.



*Elizabeth Brogan, an undergraduate research scholar, holding a female Northern Bobwhite.*



## Tarleton recognizes Community of Scholars

Dr. Edward Osei, Agribusiness Professor, was recently recognized as an outstanding faculty in the 2019 fiscal year who helped to propel the Tarleton research profile forward. It was given at the FY 2019 Community of Scholars Virtual Awards Ceremony: [bit.ly/COS-Awards-2019](https://bit.ly/COS-Awards-2019). Dr. Osei is the PI on **Ecological Review: Brief Analysis of Energy Production on Permanent University Land**. An estimation of current and potential contribution of renewable energy installations on Permanent University Fund (PUF) lands to contribute electric supply and offset carbon emissions.



## Teaching in a COVID-19 world

COVID-19 has had a major impact on education at all levels; however, teachers are the best at adapting and overcoming to do their job. Eight agricultural education students are actually completing clinical teaching this semester at schools throughout Texas. Although the conditions are not perfect, these students are "making it work". Tarleton State University Agricultural Education students are currently at Whitehouse, Howe, Stephenville, Weatherford, Granbury, Decatur, James Madison (San Antonio), and Goldthwaite High Schools. All the schools except one have been face-to-face for the most part. The one exception is James Madison High School who has been virtual until this past week when they began allowing twenty students in their classes. Clinical teachers have learned to maintain safety by wearing masks and requiring students to wear masks, cleaning tables and supplies between every class, and social distancing; however, for the most part, they are business as usual with few interruptions. Based on the fact that one of these student teachers has set a new record by working over 100 hours in one week with teaching, supervising show projects, and training various FFA teams, it is obvious that schools are taking their jobs seriously and safely.



## Agricultural Mechanics

In preparation for the fall semester, the Agriculture Mechanics program received the latest robotic technology from Lego Robotics, to build, program, and troubleshoot real-life machinery equipment.



### AGSD Students wrap up their block semester

Seniors graduating in December with their Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Services and Development (AGSD) (including Agricultural Communications, Agri-Industries and Agencies, and Interdisciplinary Agriculture concentrations) are finishing up their capstone internships across Texas. The block semester provides a high-impact learning experience in a supervised, professional business environment during which students expand upon their knowledge gained at Tarleton State University. This semester's 25 interns are gaining valuable hands-on experiences in daily operations, productions, or management roles within the fields of their choice.



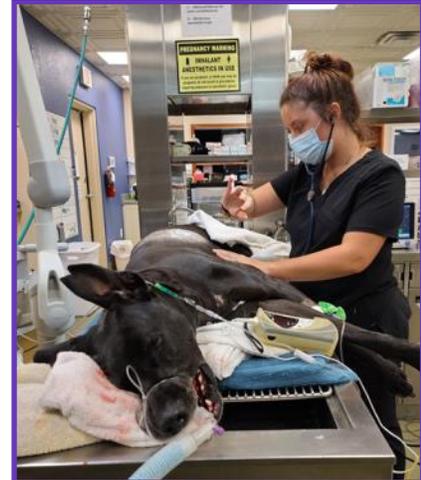
Zachary Vandervort  
Legends Ag



Brianna Tucker  
Volleman's Dairy



Kyle Pickard  
Tarleton SSC



Katelyn Green  
Boat Club Road Animal Hospital



Michelle Cooper  
Green Fox Marketing



Luke Fritts  
Gorman Milling



Katelyn Gensley  
Green Fox Marketing



Grace Goode  
Central Texas Farm Credit

### Tarleton Tweaks Calendar for Spring 2021 Semester

The spring semester will start Tuesday, Jan. 19, following Martin Luther King Jr. Day, giving students two full weeks to quarantine after holiday activities. Spring break — March 8-12 — moves from five days to three (Wednesday through Friday) plus the weekend, and classes are dismissed for a four-day break, April 2-5.

[Press Release](#)



## Tarleton Meat Judging Team prepares for judging season

The 2021 [Tarleton State University Meat Judging Team](#) is optimistic of the spring semester and has started training and preparing for the judging season. Students enrolled in ANSC 2308 (Meat and Carcass Evaluation) have started to learn and develop their evaluation and grading skills of beef, pork and lamb carcasses and cuts. This course is taught by Assistant Professor, Dr. Drew Cassens serving as the meat judging coordinator and graduate student and judging coach Amber Wright.



**MEAT JUDGING TEAM**

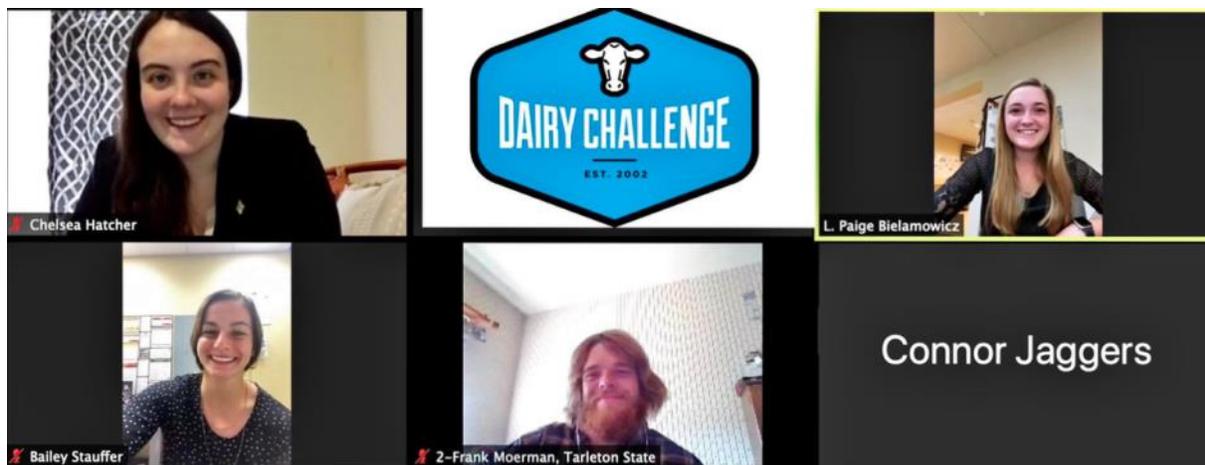
The pandemic, as with many things, has changed the way judging contests and practices are held. Thankfully, the American Meat Science Association is continuing to host three contests this fall and are looking forward to teams competing in the spring. Currently, many major beef packing plants around the country have closed their doors for universities to practice to help decrease the potential spread of COVID-19. However, that has not stopped the TSU Meat Judging Team from practicing on the product harvested at the [Tarleton Meat Lab](#) in preparation for the 2021 season. The judging team is extremely grateful for the support of the meat lab and the Agriculture Center for providing product to practice with and sharpen their skills. We are continuing to follow university guidelines, requiring the use of masks and maintaining social distance in the cooler while evaluating.

Working with other universities, we are developing a strategic plan to ensure the safety of students while traveling next spring for all judging teams. Meat judging is crucial to student development and success in all aspects of their lives and future careers. We are dedicated to ensuring every step is taken to guarantee the safety of the students while being a competitive and highly recognized judging program. We are looking forward to showcasing our success this next year and are grateful for the support of all of the faculty and staff.



## Southern Dairy Challenge comes to a close

The southern Dairy Challenge wrapped up on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tarleton State University team members, Paige Bielamowicz and Frank Moerman teamed with Western Kentucky University to form an aggregate team. The southern Dairy Challenge was held virtually this year and over the past month, the team sorted through farm records and made recommendations to a panel of judges on how the farm could make improvements. This was the first time the southern Dairy Challenge was held virtually and the team did an outstanding job representing Tarleton!



## Horticulture Happenings

Assistant Professor, Dr. Stuart Weiss and Instructor, Ms. Crissa Nugen of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences have been working diligently this semester. Dr. Weiss' Vegetable Production, pictured left, in front of the newly developed garden plots at The Agriculture Center. Dr. Weiss' Plant Propagation class is practicing grafting methods in the greenhouses. Ms. Nugen's Landscaping Practices course prepares for landscaping renovations at the Ag Center Manager's house, clearing out old landscaping. The Horticulture program also has its first crop growing in the greenhouses to sell at [The Purple Tractor](#).



## Meat Science and Barbecue Science

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, students are still receiving hands-on opportunities in courses. Through creative ideas, Drs. Kinman and Cassens along with their graduate students have been able to see that students in Meat Science and Barbecue Science do not miss out on those occasions. Students in Meat Science are still able to participate in carcass fabrication, students in Barbecue Science have been busy learning how to smoke and cook briskets and pork ribs, and students in Value-added Processed Meats made summer sausage and snack stick formulations.





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



## Tarleton State University Equine Prospect Production and Marketing Program Horses for Sale

Tarleton State University Animal Science Program supports teaching, research, and outreach. The Equine Program has developed a Prospect Production and Marketing Program, which is a student-focused, experiential-based learning opportunity. This program provides students with the opportunity to develop real-world, hands-on experience in equine production and enterprise management. As part of the program's curriculum, students can hone knowledge and skills in equine production from conception to the sale ring. The program is designed to market the horses at a high-quality horse sale. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students and horses have not been able to attend the sale. Therefore the horses, 5 started 2 year- olds, are now being offered for sale directly from the program. In addition to the 2 year-olds, a few aged horses may be available as well.

### 2020 Horse Sale Information

All horses will be through private treaty. The horses will be available for purchase on November 23, 2020. If there is more than one interested buyer for a single horse by 5 pm on Sunday, November 22, then the horse will be sold in a sealed bid process between those two interested buyers with the minimum bid being the asking price. After November 23, horses will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

#### TSU DUALIN LIL REX



#### TSU DUALIN DUN IT



3 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



4 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



#### TSU STYLE N PROFILE



#### TSU MANIAC WIZ GUNS



7 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



6 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



Click to enlarge

Videos and updates will be available on the [Tarleton State University Equine Program/Center Facebook page](#).

**Inquires, please contact:**

Bobbie Walton  
Instructor/Equine Center Director  
254-968-9679  
[rwalton@tarleton.edu](mailto:rwalton@tarleton.edu)

#### TSU CHEROKEE MAIDEN



5 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



## Tarleton Equine Center

Improvements have continued at The Agriculture Center, including The Equine Center. Flooring updates to the lab area as well as the wash racks have improved footing for both humans and horses. Before the installation of the Polyplast flooring, the concrete would become slippery with any moisture. The new flooring is cushioned, slip-resistant, and anti-bacterial.



## Have you heard of The Purple Tractor?

The Purple Tractor is a merchandising teaching laboratory at Tarleton State University. It was created for students within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to learn how to make and market agricultural products including fresh and frozen meats, vegetables, and nursery plants. All products are produced by Tarleton students in Tarleton classrooms, barns, and fields. Proceeds from sales at The Purple Tractor help recoup the teaching expenses at our Agricultural Center, so that it all goes back to enhance the student experience. The Purple Tractor is located inside the Animal and Plant Sciences Center at the university Agriculture Center. Be sure to follow [The Purple Tractor](#) on Facebook for weekly featured products.



OUR FARM, YOUR TABLE



THE  
PURPLE TRACTOR

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

# WE ARE OPEN

Monday - Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
(254) 968-1973

# OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

Follow along as the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences recognizes members of our alumni community on [social media](#). To nominate an COAES Alumnus, complete [The Alumni Spotlight Series](#) form.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Q&A

### Q: What is your current job?

A: USDA APHIS PPO-TX Field Operations Outreach Coordinator



ALLISON OLOFSON

### Q: If you could give any advice to current college students, what would it be?

A: Research and learn everything about a position or agency that interests you. Take classes that will help you with your degree but also that will help you with your career choice. Don't give up on your dream job. It may take you some time to get it but don't ever give up on it.

### Q: How have your experiences at Tarleton Influenced you today?

A: Without my time at Tarleton and the degrees I earned, I would never be able to have my dream job that I have now. Having professors who cared about your success is such a huge part of the COAES and allowed me to continue my education as well as helped increase my lifelong passion of Agriculture.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Q&A

### Q: What is your current job?

A: High School Agriculture Teacher & FFA Advisor.



LANE SAMPLES

### Q: If you could give any advice to current college students, what would it be?

A: Keep an open mind to career opportunities, you never know what may come available and lead you down an awesome path in life. After graduation I never thought I would become a teacher, but the offer came out of nowhere and has been a major blessing.

### Q: How have your experiences at Tarleton Influenced you today?

A: COAES helped me network with many people and companies, which has led to me connecting my graduating seniors with colleges and internship opportunities. Also, with the guidance of Dr. Lovell, Dr. Yu, and Dr. Osei, I have been able to utilize many lessons they taught me to help my students along.



## Fall 2020 Outstanding Students

Congratulations!



**Cameron Price**  
M.S. Agricultural and Consumer Sciences with Teaching Certificate



**Cheyenne Holt**  
M.S. Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences



**Maggie Joyner**  
B.S. Animal Science



**Grace Goode**  
B.S. Agricultural Services and Development, AGIA



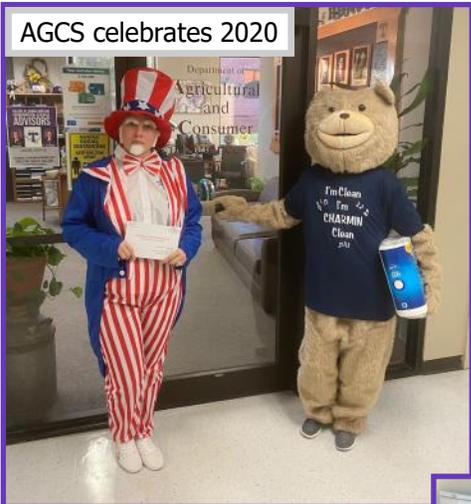
**Josef Leachman**  
B.S. Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences



# COAES Celebrates HALLOWEEN

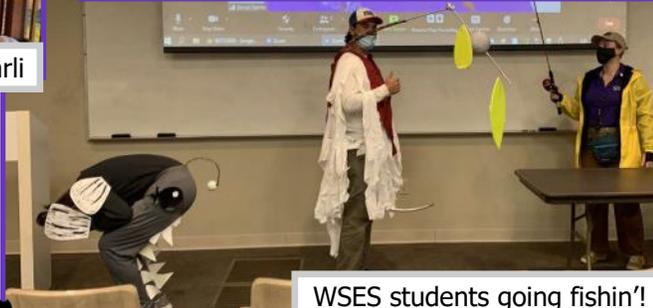


AGCS celebrates 2020



Dr. Poe, Lauren, Addison, & Charli

TWS hosts annual costume contest



WSES students going fishin'!



Aubry, Cooper, Cam Peterson



Braylee and Brody Damerou

# Happy Halloween



The Waddell Family



Aubrie & Haegan Escalante



Ryndon and Hudson Andrew



Trevor Waddell

