



## SAVE THE DATE

- 10/10 [Fall Preview Day](#)
- 10/24 [Tarleton Family Nights](#)
- 11/6 [Fall Preview Day](#)
- 11/7 [Fall Preview Day](#)
- 11/13 [Fall Preview Day](#)
- 11/25-27 [Thanksgiving Holiday](#)
- 12/1 [Final Class Day—Fall 2020 \(Finals 12/3-9\)](#)
- 12/11 [COAES Commencement Ceremony 10 AM](#)

First, let me assure you that our students, staff, and faculty are meeting the COVID challenge! Our teachers and students responded to this unprecedented challenge by demonstrating the grit and work ethic needed to continue teaching and learning. The entire administrative team is extremely proud of everyone. Tarleton has been very transparent about the university's COVID response. Check out the University's COVID website <https://www.tarleton.edu/roadmap/>.

In a trend we began seeing in summer semester, enrollment is up. There is a total university enrollment of 14,025, which is 6.25% growth from last year. The college enrollment is 2,275, a 11.57% growth. Those are phenomenal growth numbers! For our part, our new M.S. in Animal Science has attracted so many students that we have a waiting list. The new B.S. in Agricultural Communication has also proven a popular one. Perhaps a testament to "build it and they will come?" All of our other programs have student increases as well.

Our prosperity is showing in other ways as well. The just completed fiscal year saw our COAES faculty submit 51 external funding proposals totaling \$22.3 million. In addition, Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences was named Tarleton's Research Champion for being the department that received the most grant dollars.

We welcome three new members to the COAES family (p 13). Dr. Stuart Weiss joined us as a Horticulture faculty member. He is already working hard to develop our horticulture degree program and additional horticulture infrastructure at the Ag Center. Mr. Matthew Escalante has joined us as Budget and Records Specialist for the college and Mr. Scott Miller is our new Farm Foreman at the Ag Center. They all bring tremendous new energy to an already busy and productive place. We have also just initiated the search for a new Ag Business faculty and a new Animal Scientist.

We continue to work on improvement projects at the Agriculture Center. Major work has finished at the Southwest Regional Dairy Center to the waste management system (pictures on p 10). We are roughly half way through building 7.5 miles of new fencing and completing a total reworking of the equine center grounds. The new gates to the Center have been completed and the stone and rail fencing along Farm Road is well on its way to being completed. Renovations are underway at the Swine Center. The new greenhouses have plants in them, the Meats Lab is open and producing product for The Purple Tractor, which is now open for business. Much of the merchandize available in The Purple Tractor is produced at the Ag Center or in a lab as part of a class. We are very excited at the opportunities all this brings to our teaching, research, and outreach at the Center.

The horse program has 5 outstanding started 2-year olds for sale. Be sure to check them out on page 9. Our clubs and organizations are humming right along. Our alumni continue to make us proud. We feel that we are suffering from an embarrassment of riches. And, it is a good feeling. Hope you enjoy reading all about it in this newsletter.

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

WSD



DEAN'S CORNER

## Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Named Tarleton Research Champion

By: T. Wayne Schwertner

Those in the know have long suspected that the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is a research powerhouse at Tarleton. But now we have proof. The Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences (WSES) recently was named the University's inaugural "External Funding Champion." This prestigious award is given to the academic department with the most external research grant funding per tenure-track faculty member for the previous year. To earn the award, the Department acquired research grants from several sources totaling \$421,064.00. The award includes a traveling trophy and we think it's a pretty good bet that the trophy will stay in the Autry Building when next year's award is announced. The question is, which department?



## MS Graduate Student, John Palarski, awarded Scholarship from the Houston Safari Club Foundation

By: John Palarski

In August 2020, the Tarleton State University Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences graduate student John Palarski received a Dan L. Duncan Scholarship from the Houston Safari Club Foundation (HSCF). HSCF awards this scholarship to students involved in the study of Wildlife Management or Range Management. Through this scholarship, HSCF recognizes and encourages students who have exhibited academic excellence and exemplary character while further promoting Texas' hunting heritage. Since the Dan L. Duncan Scholarship Programs' inception in 1999, 600 scholarships have been awarded, totaling \$2.7 million dollars.

## Tarleton Receives Funding for Songbird Research

By: Kathryn Burton

Tarleton State University is now collaborating with the Texas Army National Guard on songbird research projects. The Texas Army National Guard awarded funds to Dr. Heather Mathewson and her graduate students, John Palarski and Kathryn Burton, in the Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences. The graduate students, with the help of undergraduate researchers and technicians, will conduct surveys to determine occupancy and habitat characteristics of songbird species across 2 properties in Texas.



*Adult Henslow's sparrow.  
Photo credit to Adam Brandemihl on  
allaboutbirds.org.*

Tarleton will survey one site, located in Mineral Wells, Texas, in the spring for golden-cheeked warblers. This species of bird nests exclusively in central Texas and they are known for making use of juniper and oak tree species for nesting purposes. Surveys at the second site, located near Paris, Texas, will be conducted for Henslow's sparrows during the upcoming winter season. This grassland songbird species is a secretive bird that is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Texas. Henslow's sparrows and golden-cheeked warblers have experienced declines in their populations, so we are contributing to valuable research that will help future management actions improve conditions for these birds. Surveys will also consist of vegetation sampling and analysis to better understand their habitat requirements.

Palarski and Burton continue training to prepare for these surveys as it is imperative to have the ability to identify the songs and calls of these particular birds. Undergraduates will have the opportunity to train and apply for volunteer, paid, and research positions.

For questions about this research, please contact Dr. Mathewson ([mathewson@tarleton.edu](mailto:mathewson@tarleton.edu)) or graduate students, John Palarski at [john.palarski@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:john.palarski@go.tarleton.edu) and Kathryn Burton at [kathryn.burton@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:kathryn.burton@go.tarleton.edu).



*Adult male golden-cheeked warbler.  
Photo credit to Randy Pinkston on  
allaboutbirds.org.*

## Northern Bobwhite Translocation Research: Year 2

By John Palarski

During the first week of March 2020, John Palarski, MS graduate student in Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department, and student volunteers kicked off year 2 of the Erath County translocation project. Over the course of that week, we trapped and translocated 236 bobwhites ( $n = 190$  south Texas,  $n = 46$  west Texas) to a release site in Erath County. Of these individuals, 110 ( $n = 76$  female,  $n = 34$  male) were radio marked. Over the course of the past 2 years, we have translocated 403 total individuals to Erath County, making this the largest ongoing bobwhite translocation effort in Texas. One of our primary objectives is to compare differences in survival and reproductive success between two subspecies originating from northwest Texas and south Texas. Erath County vegetation and climate is more similar to that experienced by the subspecies from northwest Texas.

Breeding season survival was improved from 2019 with cumulative survival estimates for individuals released in 2020 approximately 18%. Spring whistle counts in May 2020 showed a large increase from previous year's counts, which was likely due to the increase in survival. Nest initiation rates for both west Texas and south Texas birds were high in 2020. In total, we located 51 nests. For both 2019 and 2020, individuals from northwest Texas have produced 48% more nests than south Texas. This difference is stark, but it does not mean that south Texas birds have been unproductive. South Texas hens had a high nest initiation rate (0.71 nests per hen) in 2020.

We thank Bass Pro Shops, Park Cities and Cross Timbers Chapters of Quail Coalition, Steve and Joan Smith, Jim and Barbara Salter, East Foundation, the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, and Tarleton State Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department for facilitating this project. We also thank John McLaughlin (TPWD), Becky Ruzicka (RPQRR), and Daniel King (RPQRR) for their advice and insight. Technicians Kelli Bashaw, Elizabeth Brogan, Molly Koeck, Cody Carter, and Brandon Consalus provided skilled support during trapping and surveillance tasks. Lastly, we thank all our "Quail Donors" for allowing us to trap on their property to gather birds for this effort. PIs for this project are Dr. Heather Mathewson, Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences, and Dr. Dale Rollins from Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.



*John Palarski holding a radio marked male Northern Bobwhite.*

## Mesopredator Detections Associated with Northern Bobwhite Nest Sites and Mortality Locations

By Brandon Consalus

I am conducting my undergraduate research over mesopredator (medium to large mammals) detections associated with Northern bobwhite quail nest sites and adult mortality locations. Throughout 2019 and 2020, approximately 200 Northern bobwhites were released to our study site to examine the effectiveness of translocation in an area where quail had been previously extirpated. We hypothesized that we would see an increased number of detections of mammalian predators in areas with high quail mortality density and nest sites.

Through John Palarski's graduate research, GPS locations of radio-collared birds and nest sites were recorded. Thirty 30 game cameras were placed evenly across the 1,011 acre study site and camera trapping sessions preceded periodically throughout the 2019 and 2020 breeding seasons. During these camera trapping sessions we identified the nine-banded armadillo, striped skunk, Virginia opossum, raccoon, coyote, bobcat, and gray fox as possible predators.

Contrary to our hypothesis, we observed a decrease in predator detections in areas of higher mortality and nest sites. We suggest that the decrease in predator detections might be a result of an increase in human movement in the area with high quail density because of tracking efforts on quail via telemetry.

I have had the unique opportunity to present my research as a poster presentation at multiple conferences on both a state and national level. At the end of September, I presented an oral presentation on my research at the annual The Wildlife Society virtual conference. This research has allowed me to grow my abilities as a public speaker and scientific writer. The knowledge and connections I have gained through this research over the past two years will stay with me for the rest of my life.



*Brandon Consalus, undergraduate researcher, holding a female Northern bobwhite.*



*Detection of a coyote from a game camera.*

## Student Academic Mentors Program

By Taylor Breeden

The Student Academic Mentors (or SAMs) is a group of sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences, who volunteer their time to engage with the upcoming first-year class in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science and help them succeed with the first semester of their college career. We sit in their First Year Seminar Class, take notes and exemplify what a good student is and what to expect in the next four years. We help them find academic resources on campus and share our secrets to success. We are dedicated to improving the retention rate of the first-year class. We are committed to helping them succeed and gain all the tools necessary through not only their first-year but their entire college career. We also participate in workshops and trainings to improve our leadership skills.



The 2020 SAMs consist of: Senior SAM Taylor Breeden (2021), SaraBeth Boggan (2021), Molly Koeck (2021), Rebekah Halepaska (2021), Josef Leachman (2021), Jamileth Gonzales (2021), Sarah Wilson (2021), Casianna Little (2022), Jenna Townsend (2022), Natasha Hardy (2023). This program is advised by Dr. Heather Mathewson and Dr. Dominic Dottavio.

2020 Student Academic Mentors: (from top left to right) SaraBeth Boggan, Taylor Breeden (Senior SAM), Jamileth Gonzalez, Natasha Hardy, Rebekah Halepaska, (from bottom left to right) Jenna Townsend, Sarah Wilson, Molly Koeck, Casianna Little, and Josef Leachman.

## Block & Bridle demonstrates Tarleton Core Values

Hurricane Laura wreaked havoc in communities located in southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas. The members of Tarleton State University Block and Bridle club lent a helping hand by hosting a donation drive to relieve those struggling in agricultural communities in that region. We are partnering with a Louisiana native and Texas restaurant owner located in Needville, Texas, Joel Barrios, to transport all donated goods within and across state-lines to victims of the hurricane. All donations were delivered to Needville on September 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society Begins a New Year

The Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is proud to announce the elections of our new officer team. President, SaraBeth Boggan; Vice President, Elizabeth Brogan; Secretary, Katie Edwards; Treasure, Molly Koeck; Historian, Caitlin Elliott; Student Liaison, Taylor Breeden; Risk Management, Avery Smith; and Web Manager, Allie Cooper.



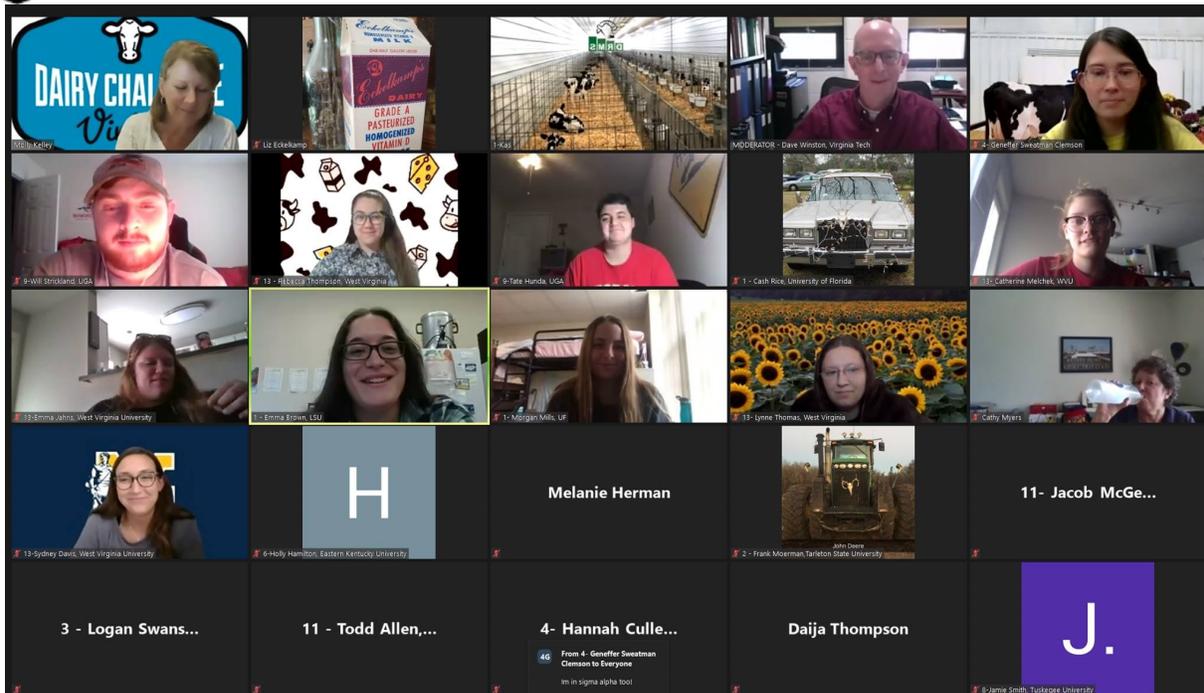
We are looking forward to an exciting, successful, and safe year! Check out our [social media](#) to stay updated on events and announcements. You can also contact President SaraBeth Boggan ([sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu)) or Advisor Dr. Heather Mathewson ([mathewson@tarleton.edu](mailto:mathewson@tarleton.edu)) for more information.

*Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2020-2021 Officers: (top left to bottom right) Taylor Breeden, Elizabeth Brogan, Katie Edwards, SaraBeth Boggan, Avery Smith (with service dog, Bruce), Allie Cooper, and Molly Koeck. Not picture, Caitlin Elliott.*



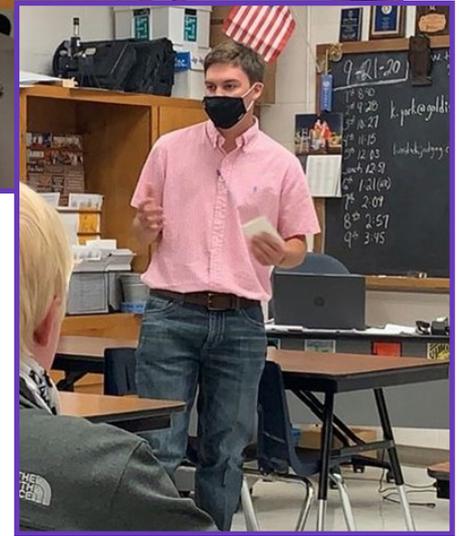
## Dairy Challenge

Dairy Challenge started mid-September and things look a little different this year. Instead of an in-person three day competition, the Southern Region Dairy Challenge is being held virtually this year. Tarleton State University students, Paige Bielamowicz and Frank Moerman, have formed an aggregate team with Western Kentucky University. Dairy Challenge is a competition where theory meets real world. The team, coached by Assistant Professor and Director of the Southwest Regional Dairy Center Director Dr. Barbara Jones, is looking forward to a great virtual experience with the competition culminating in a month with presentations to a judging panel.



## AGSD students take on the industry

The Agricultural and Consumer Sciences department conducted their final rounds of pre-internship block meetings with Agri-Industries and Ag Communications students via zoom and Clinical Teachers began work in classrooms across the state!



## Applying Course Material beyond an Exam – Assisted Breeding Technologies (ANSC 5306)

Assistant Professors in Animal Science and Veterinary Technology, Dr. David Roper and Dr. Cheyenne Runyan are co-teaching the Assisted Breeding Technologies course this semester. Both graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in this course are applying the material from their Physiology of Reproductive course into practice by learning assisted breeding technologies used in modern breeding programs.





## ANSC 4390 Wool Judging

By: Bailey Hooten

A new special topics class is taking exciting turns in proceeding to handle and learn how to wool judge. This class allows students to gain insight into the wool industry by teaching the skills used by wool graders all over the world. Students are learning what is desirable within a wool fleece, how the differing types of wool are used, and most importantly how wool is marketed worldwide. This class will provide all students the ability to judge on the new upcoming intercollegiate wool judging team in the spring of 2021. The intercollegiate wool team is a place for students who have completed the course to exhibit their skills and compete with other colleges across the nation. Assistant Professor Dr. David Roper and graduate student Bailey Hooten are leading the class in preparation to build a team and compete in the upcoming spring semester.



The Southwest Regional Dairy Center was recently featured on an episode of Texas Agriculture Matters on RFDTV. [Watch episode](#)

## ALUMNI



**AGRICULTURE  
TEACHERS**  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

### AGCS Alumni named finalists for the Agricultural Teachers Association of Texas (ATAT) Outstanding Young Agricultural Teacher of the Year.

Dugan Burgess graduated from Tarleton State University in 2014 with a Master's degree in Agriculture and Consumer Resources prior to taking a job at Sanderson Farm where he managed 82 broiler houses. In 2015, he took his first job as agricultural education teacher at Graham High School. In 2017, he moved to Caddo Mills High School and taught there one year prior to moving to Maypearl High School in the fall of 2019. Currently, Dugan teaches Ag Mechanics and works with animal projects, LDE teams and CDE Teams.

Leigh McSwain graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural and Consumer Sciences (WSTC) in May 2016. She took a job at Troup High School after graduation and taught there one year before moving to White Oak High School. She has taught classes from Principles of AFNR to Horticulture and Floral Design. This fall she will focus on teaching Agricultural Mechanics. She also works with students in all phases of FFA activities.

## Engineering News-Record Texas & Louisiana Announces 2020 Best Projects Winners

### BEST PROJECT: Tarleton State Farm Repair and Modernization Project

**Owner:** Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System

**Lead Design Firm:** Stantec

**General Contractor:** Linbeck Group LLC

**Civil Engineer:** Pacheco Koch

**Structural Engineer:** JQ Engineering

**MEP Engineer:** Shah Smith & Associates Inc.

After a tornado devastated Tarleton State University in 2016, the school faced a dilemma when it came time to rebuild: how to spend every penny of the legislatively appropriated funds so as to not risk losing leftover funds, but, at the same time, not go over budget.

The university's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences set out to complete a \$9.1-million, 70,000-sq-ft complex to provide a centralized educational facility, a covered working area for livestock and a horticulture center.

The main building consists of six state-of-the-art labs for animal and plant science research along with two laboratory preparation spaces and a retail store. The complex also includes a 42,000-sq-ft covered, open-air livestock area for animals as part of an active learning environment. And to replace the building decimated by the tornado, Linbeck constructed an 8,000-sq-ft building for the Horticultural and Plant Sciences program.

Because the university's wish list exceeded the budget, Linbeck held meetings to find ways to trim the list and acted as a mediator between the owner and designers to manage costs while maintaining expectations. The project stayed under budget with some additional funds that paid for items outside the scope of the contract.

Unusually rainy weather delayed the overall schedule. With the university 75 miles from a major city, Linbeck had to help local contractors fill manpower gaps so the project could keep pace. Linbeck was able to recover a significant amount of time—the equivalent of squeezing 60 weeks of work into a 45-week period—and completed the project in time for the first day of classes.

[ENR Announcement](#)  
[Tarleton Press Release](#)



Photos: Tarleton State University Marketing and Communications



**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 5pm 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



7 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.



#### TSU MANIAC WIZ GUNS



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 about horse for Sale, please contact:**

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

#### TSU CHEROKEE MAIDEN



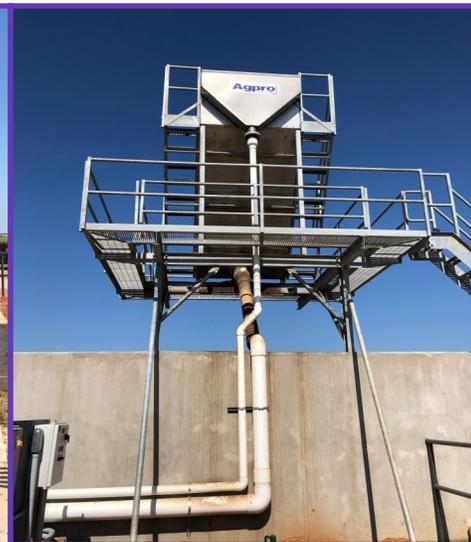
5 TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY | TEXANS KNOW HOW.





## Improvements to the Manure Management System at the Dairy

The Southwest Regional Dairy Center looks a little different as the manure management system received a face lift. The sand settling lanes were extended, now even more sand can be settled from the manure and recycled for bedding, and a new manure separator was installed. This static screen separator is designed to remove manure solids from the effluent and allow for only liquid effluent to enter the lagoon.



## Tarleton Meat's Lab

Students in the meat lab have been busy preparing various products ready for reopening of [The Purple Tractor](#). We have been working on various bacon flavors. Come try a few and let us know what you think. Meat's Lab products are available for purchase at The Purple Tractor, located in the Animal and Plant Sciences Center at the Tarleton Agriculture Center. Like [The Purple Tractor](#) on Facebook for featured products and new items.

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



*Students! Do you need to meet with an academic advisor? Ms. Taylor Nichols and Mrs. Katie Smith have relocated to the COAES Advising Hub located in*



**HAVE ADVISING  
QUESTIONS?  
NEED LAST MINUTE  
HELP?**

**SPRING 2021  
REGISTRATION DATES**

BASED ON DEGREEWORKS  
CLASSIFICATION

**PRIORITY REGISTRATION**

**OCT. 26**

**SENIOR STUDENTS**

**OCT. 28**

**JUNIOR STUDENTS**

**OCT. 30**

**SOPHOMORE STUDENTS**

**NOV. 2**

**FRESHMAN STUDENTS**

**NOV. 4**

**Organizers: COAES/COST Advisors**

**When: October 13**

**Where: Library Training Center**

**When: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



**No appointment necessary.**

## Aquaponics system installed at Big O's Deli

By: Hennen Cummings

Dr. Hennen Cummings, Professor in Wildlife, Sustainability and Ecosystem Sciences, recently installed an aquaponics system at Big O's Simply Deli in Stephenville.

### *What are the benefits of a aquaponics/hydroponics system?*

Sustainability. Fish fertilize the plants and the plants filter the fish water in a recirculating loop. Hydroponics also promotes growth of plants in a soilless system; it uses synthetic fertilizers to optimize the nutrient ratios for specific crops. Both of these systems use water very efficiently compared to soil. These systems allow vegetables to be grown locally, so they can be harvested more fresh, so there is less spoilage. Growing locally means the produce did not travel far, which lowers the carbon footprint. One of the main characteristics of having an indoor aquaponics system is that it is climate controlled, the user can control the ambient temperature to maintain the growth rate of the produce and fish tank to reduce spoilage and loss of aquatic life. Pests can be excluded in indoor agriculture (less pesticides).

### *How does a system like this benefit restaurants?*

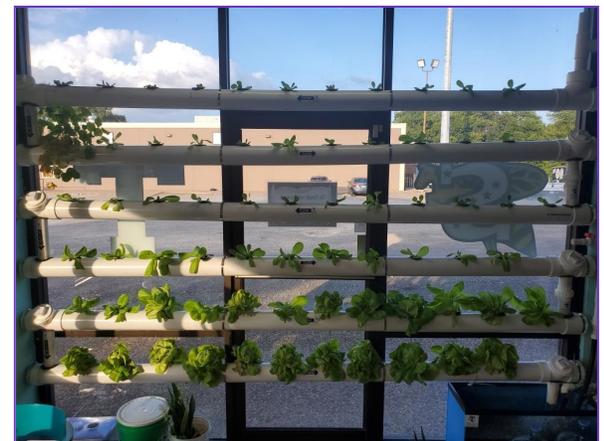
This system helps add to the new Big O's atmosphere. This system lets the patrons know how much Oliver and Sherry appreciate fresh ingredients. It also makes a wonderful sound of falling water. Big O's is buying locally, literally in Stephenville's back yard! And even though their purveyor tries to bring in local produce, they also source from other states and countries when the local supply runs out, making the carbon footprint quite large for one of their salads. By having the aquaponics system in the restaurant, not only are they creating a relaxing and fruitful atmosphere mentally and physically, but they are also minimizing the ever growing carbon footprint within the restaurant industry.

### *Will this system be able to grow other produce or only lettuce?*

This system will primarily grow lettuce. It will also grow nasturtium, which has an edible orange flower. This flower has a mint taste with a pepper finish, it is also a way to add color and flavor to a salad. Even though they are starting out with just these two items, they will be trying other items that they use on a daily basis. They have to master these two before they bring in other produce items. Wouldn't it be great if they had all of their fresh ingredients growing on their aquaponic wall.

Truly the use of this system is about minimizing Big O's carbon footprint in a sustainable way, and benefiting it's patrons with a soothing atmosphere and the freshest produce grown right in front of them!

Items from Tarleton's own aquaponics system can be purchased at The Purple Tractor which is located in the Animal and Plant Science Center at the Tarleton Agriculture Center.



**SIMPLY  
BIG O'S  
DELICIOUS**

## WELCOME TO TARLETON!

**Dr. Stuart Weiss**

Dr. Weiss originally hails from Austin. He received his BS in Animal Science in 1997 from Texas A&M University where he took a special interest in small ruminant production systems and sustainable agriculture. After working in the Texas livestock industry for several years and serving as a youth wilderness guide, Weiss began a M.S. program in Agronomy at Tarleton State University, which he completed in 2001. Weiss conducted his M.S. research in meat goat finishing systems at the Tarleton Agriculture Center and at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (now the Texas A&M AgriLife Center) in Stephenville, Texas. In 2002, Weiss accepted a position with the University of the Virgin Islands, Agricultural Experiment Station as a Research Specialist in the Agronomy Research Program and relocated to St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands. He was promoted to Acting Agronomy Program Leader in 2003 and in 2015 to Assistant Research Professor upon the completion of his Doctorate. Weiss obtained his Ph.D. from the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida with a transdisciplinary curricula in agroecology and research into integrated tropical cropping systems.



Weiss has been awarded numerous grants during his professional career and his research interests span diverse yet interconnected disciplines that include vegetable production systems, mixed crop/livestock systems, sustainable soil health, cover crop technologies, conservation agriculture, organic crop production, sustainable landscape design, small ruminant production, pasture finishing systems for livestock, forage production, biofuel feedstock production, and other disciplines related to agroecology. Dr. Weiss intends to develop and integrate the new TSU horticultural greenhouses, student gardens, and horticultural lands into a fully integrated experiential learning and research program to meet the needs of students, stakeholders, and the overall capacity of the Tarleton State University and the college. This semester Dr. Weiss is teaching: HORT 2320: Sustainable Gardening Practices, HORT 3300: Plant Propagation, and HORT 4323: Vegetable Production.

**Mr. Matthew Escalante**

Mr. Escalante is the new Budget and Records Specialist of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Prior to joining the college, he was a General Accountant at TechnipFMC for nearly two years, and was also an Academic Advisor for the Departments of Engineering and Engineering Technology at Tarleton for one year.

Matthew is originally from the Central Valley of California, where he attended college at California State University, Long Beach. After college, he joined the Air Force and served on active duty for eight years. He has a wife, Brie, and two children, Haegan and Aubrie.

**Mr. Scott Miller**

Mr. Scott Miller is returning to Tarleton State, after graduating in 2018, as an Agriculture Center Farm Forman II. While attending Tarleton, he received his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Services and Development. After graduating he worked for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association assisting with their Environmental Services Program, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program, and Employee Safety Services Programs. After leaving TCFA, he returned home to Dripping Springs Texas where he worked as a cabinet maker at Miller and Bangs Custom Designs prior to relocating to Stephenville.

Scott raised goat, sheep, and swine projects in addition to the furniture he built for Ag mechanic projects during his involvement in 4H and FFA. He has always had a passion for the outdoors and the agricultural communities and continues to pursue his love for animals and livestock by managing his own beef cattle herd and riding his horse Lady. Mr. Miller is engaged to Ms. Maddie Chapman, with plans to marry in November. In addition to raising cattle, Scott also enjoys auctioneering livestock sales and auctioneers several benefit auctions.





The Damerau Family, growing so quick and enjoying the last bit of sweet summer time!



Tarleton Agriculture Center Administrative Assistant Kim Hart & her husband Johnny zip lining across The Royal Gorge!



Dr. & Mrs. Bowtie, are participating in the 2020 Dancing for the Stars Erath Co. event on November 19th. This is an annual event supporting the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erath County. Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to support this amazing organization for this event, which culminates with a dancing competition in November. This year's theme is "Love Boat". [Learn more](#)

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