



# AG SCIENCES 2008

A Monthly Newsletter for the College of Agricultural Sciences

May 2008

## News in Brief

### College Gets Johne's Grant

The college recently was awarded a four-year, \$4.8 million USDA grant to support a major international effort aimed at promoting animal biosecurity and mitigating losses from Johne's disease in livestock. The Johne's Disease Integrated Program—a consortium of 170 scientists from around the world—is led by Vivek Kapur, head of the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

### Saacke Blunk Named Director

Kristen Saacke Blunk was appointed director of the college's new Agriculture and Environment Science and Policy Center. The center will help decision makers in state and local government, trade associations, the private sector and citizens' groups throughout Pennsylvania and the Middle Atlantic region address environmental issues as they affect and are affected by agriculture.

### Election News Taps College

CN8, the Comcast television network, on April 18 broadcast live during its morning shows from the Berkey Creamery, where students were interviewed on the topic of the Youth Vote in the days leading up to the state's primary election.

Also, during its tour of the state leading up to the primary, C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" on April 18 hosted Constance Flanagan, professor of youth civic development, to discuss how the presidential candidates have been reaching out to students.

## Sen. Casey Discusses Farm Bill with Students

The Farm Bill has much to offer Pennsylvania agriculture, but much more needs to be done in the future, Bob Casey told students during a recent visit to the University Park campus.

The U.S. senator spoke to an auditorium full of students during a session of AgriBusiness Management 101. He noted that the Farm Bill then under negotiation has several provisions that are key for Pennsylvania, including a specialty crops subtitle, changes to crop-insurance programs that will benefit the state's producers, and a fruit and vegetable snack program for school children that will enhance nutrition while benefiting growers.

Addressing a question about ethanol subsidies in the Farm Bill, Casey said that biofuels, particularly ethanol derived from corn, could have unknown



▲ Senator Casey

costs and unintended environmental consequences. "But that doesn't mean we should abandon the effort," he said. "Research is the answer to overcoming these obstacles and keeping us moving toward energy independence."

Casey said with feed, fertilizer and fuel costs rising for dairy producers, he was disappointed that the Farm Bill will not incorporate the cost of production into the formulas for setting milk prices, a provision he fought for. "But there will be mandatory public daily price reporting, so that dairy farmers will have more of the current information they need to make sound business decisions," he said.

Earlier in the day, Casey visited Penn State's apiary, where researchers in the college are studying Colony Collapse Disorder, an affliction that has wiped out up to a third of the nation's commercial honey bee colonies.

Casey noted that more federal funding is needed for honey bee research. "The expertise here at Penn State will be critical in solving the problem," he said. ■

### ▼ Presidential Campaign Comes to

**College:** Before addressing a big crowd on the Old Main lawn on March 30, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama visited the college's dairy complex. There, he learned about dairy nutrition, milk safety and the importance of agricultural research.



## Familiar Faces

**QUESTION:** Gasoline topped \$4 a gallon at some Chicago stations recently, and analysts predict prices will go even higher this summer. What adjustments will you make to deal with increased fuel costs this summer?



**Bonnie McDonald, facilities services and safety coordinator in horticulture**

"We usually go on mini vacations in addition to a large one, so we will probably cut out the small vacations and just travel to Jamaica by plane in August."



**Elsa Sanchez, assistant professor of horticultural systems management**

"My husband and I carpool every day, even though he has to be here at 7 a.m. and I don't have to be in until later. We

will probably continue with this, and I will work from home during the summer if my schedule allows."



**Bob Lumley-Sapanski, facilities services and safety coordinator in food science**

"I will probably ride my bike more often to work, even though it's 10 miles from campus. My family also owns a Swift, which

gets 50 miles to the gallon. This country needs more economical vehicles to battle the costs."



**David Geiser, associate professor of plant pathology**

"I'm not doing anything. My family has only one car and we walk to work every day because we live close, so I am already taking action."



**Cathie Graham, staff assistant in agricultural and extension education**

"We need to band together to not buy the gas if it gets that high. I already carpool with three other women, because it's 62 miles from

where I live to Penn State. I also told my daughter, who lives in New Jersey, I won't be visiting her as much this summer because of gas prices."



**Luke LaBorde, assistant professor of food science**

"I will drive less and combine trips. It only costs me a dollar a day to drive to work because I live a few miles away, about 12 cents a mile. But my wife said I

should ride a bike ... I told her, 'you can pull me on a bike with the car.'"

## Students Celebrate Meat Consumption

Visitors to Penn State's University Park campus recently were greeted by a gigantic cheeseburger giving away free samples of cheese and beef jerky as several university organizations banded together to remind students of the benefits of including meat in their diets.

Amy Shollenberger, a junior from Harleysville, Pa., majoring in Animal Sciences, dressed as Patty, the patty melt hamburger, for Penn State's second annual "Meat-In Day." Hosted by the Dairy Science Club, Block and Bridle Club and other animal science groups in the college, the event was a response to the National Meat Out Day. Shollenberger says the meatless day doesn't tell the whole story.

"A meat and dairy diet provides vitamins and minerals that you won't get from a vegetarian diet," says Chris

Molinaro, a junior majoring in Animal Sciences from McClure, Pa. "Vitamin B-12, for instance, is found only in animal products, and beef is a powerhouse of vitamins."

Molinaro says the Meat-In Day was designed to show people across campus that there are many students who are passionate about promoting animal agriculture.

"We all believe in what we do and are not going to sit back and watch campaigns like Meat-Out Day take place that are potentially devastating to animal agriculture," she says. "I was really encouraged by the students who did come out to help with Meat-In Day. Many of them really took it upon themselves to learn more about the health benefits of meat and dairy products." ■



▲ Junior Amy Shollenberger dressed as Patty, the patty melt hamburger, for the second Meat-In Day on March 19. The day, hosted by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences animal sciences clubs, is a response to the National Meat-Out Day, held every year on the first day of spring.

## Heinemann Receives Academic Advising Award

Paul Heinemann, professor of agricultural and biological engineering,



has been named the recipient of the college's 2008 Excellence in Academic Advising Award.

Sponsored by the College of Agri-

cultural Sciences Alumni Society, the award recognizes faculty members for overall effectiveness in student advising, individual student goal-setting and career planning, and personal counseling. Candidates are recommended by faculty, students, administrators and alumni.

Heinemann is program coordinator for the Biological Engineering and the Agricultural Systems Management

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## From Dean Steele

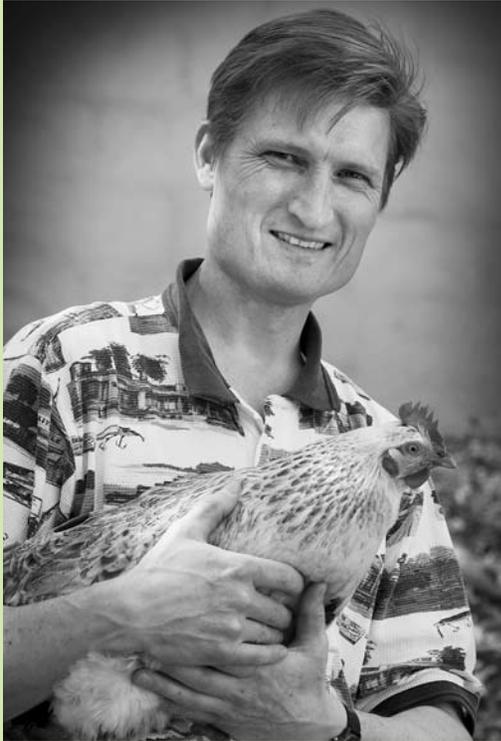
With the arrival of May, our students are hard at work preparing for finals, and faculty and staff are striving to bring the semester to an orderly close. Anxieties and tensions can run high this time of year, especially for our students. Offer them help and encouragement when you can.

As we wrap up this academic year, scores of our faculty, staff and stakeholders continue to define our college strategic plan for the next five years. In April, we held a leadership retreat with more than 50 faculty and staff, aided by an external professional facilitator. External stakeholder engagement continues to be a hallmark of our planning approach. For example, the 100-member Penn State Ag Council is one organization that gives us important perspective and input from our external stakeholders.

Our planning efforts are part of a university-wide process that helps us evaluate current efforts and, most importantly, develop a collective vision and strategy for the years ahead. Our strategic plan provides the framework from which we'll commit our resources toward improving our academic, research and extension programs, while adapting our organizational and management structures to ensure effective and efficient operation of our college.

We remain on course to meet the July 1 deadline for submitting our strategic plan to the president and provost. Over the next two months, you will see elements of our plan take shape in which we articulate our priorities, our approach to meeting these priorities and measures of accountability to ensure success in meeting them. You can monitor our progress and give your own important input and feedback by visiting the strategic planning page on our college Web site, found at <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/StrategicPlanning>.

Of course, an important component to realizing our priorities is finding the financial resources to implement our plans. We are hard at work in Harrisburg and Washington to find state and federal funds to support our programs, and we continue to ramp up our very successful fund-raising activities to solidify our funding base. We will keep you apprised of our progress. ■



▲ When he's not studying ways to improve soil quality, you might find Sjoerd Duiker caring for his pet chicken.

**Name:** Sjoerd Willem Duiker.

**Hometown:** State College? "I was born in the Netherlands and grew up there. I came to the United States in 1996."

**Education:** Studied tropical crop science at Wageningen Agricultural University (Netherlands) and soil science at Ohio State University.

**Job title:** Associate professor of soil management. "I am an extension specialist and work on methods to improve soil quality."

## Heinemann

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academic majors. He also helps guide curriculum revisions and accreditation processes for the Biological Engineering program, in addition to organizing the Freshman Testing, Counseling and Advising Program each summer. A member of the Penn State faculty since 1988, he teaches several courses each year and has won numerous teaching awards.

"Dr. Heinemann's unique expertise with curriculum in the department has made him personally responsible for much of the more than 100 percent growth in student enrollment we have

**Office:** 408 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building.

**Working at Penn State:** Since 2000. "I started as assistant professor and got tenure last year."

**Spouse:** Mary.

**Children:** Suzanna Esther, 12; Ruth, 10; Maria Rebecca, 7; Willem Antonio, 6; and Anna Raquel, 4.

**Pets:** One chicken. "As we learned, you can have one chicken but not two in the borough!"

**Last book read:** "Biography of George Washington Carver."

**Favorite musician:** Newsboys.

**All-time favorite movie:** The Hiding Place.

**Favorite food:** Mediterranean.

**Favorite restaurant or hang-out:** "Our Friday evening Spanish small group."

**Hobbies:** "Reading, my job."

**Things you are proudest of:** "It's not so much pride, but more gratefulness, if you know what I mean. I am particularly thankful for knowing Jesus as my savior and lord. Without him life would be miserable. Then I am very grateful for my wife and children. I am also very grateful for my friends and colleagues."

**How you relax:** "Being at home, cutting wood with my friend or running in the woods."

**Favorite part of job:** "Working outside with our farmers."

experienced since 2002," says Roy Young, head of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. "He is sought out by students for his insights and counsel, likely more than any other faculty member."

Duane Moore, a senior in the agricultural and biological engineering program, says Heinemann's calm influence and listening ability have helped to solve many problems. "His eagerness to help keeps me coming to him for advice," Moore says. "Dr. Heinemann has been a great resource to me in my academic career at Penn State." ■

Up and Coming...

**May 3-4.** Central Pennsylvania Orchid Show, Ag Arena, UP. Saturday, 1-7 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Jay Holcomb, (814) 863-2258.

**May 10-13.** AAUW Book Sale, Ag Arena, UP. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily. Contact Suzanne Kerlin, (814) 237-5271.

**June 1.** 4-H Double Rabbit Show, Ag Arena, UP. 8 a.m. doors open. Contact Jan Aurant, (814) 643-6944.

**June 6-7.** Special Olympics-Equestrian, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Judy Karakawa, (814) 237-3741.

FACULTY/STAFF ALERTS

Outreach Professional Development Learning Lunch

Outreach Professional Development presents its May 2008 Learning Lunch, titled "Exercise Your Ethics," on May 14, from noon until 1:30 p.m. at 119 Outreach Building in Innovation Park on the University Park campus.

Dee Frisque, an affiliate instructor with Penn State's Human Resource Development Center, will offer a mini-boot camp to energize and strengthen participants' ethical "muscles." She'll take a look at employee recommendations, surveys and current trends that you can apply to exercise ethics in your work environment. You won't get sweaty during boot camp, but you will gain skills for developing a healthy routine for exercising ethics on the job.

Video teleconference participation is available at many locations outside of the University Park campus for this event. Anyone interested in participating from a remote location should contact Outreach Professional Development at opdevents@outreach.psu.edu, or call Amy Gregor at (814) 863-4966. For a complete listing of Penn State VTC locations, visit <http://tns.its.psu.edu/Services/vidconf/videodb.asp>. If you have questions, please contact opdevents@outreach.psu.edu or call (814) 863-9846.

Collegewide Staff Meeting

The Staff Advisory Committee to the Dean invites you to attend the Spring Collegewide Staff Meeting with Dean Steele on May 14, in 101 ASI Building. Refreshments will be served at 8:30 a.m. in the building lobby, and the meeting will begin promptly at 9 a.m. The agenda will include presentation of the college's Staff Laureate Awards; "College Research Highlights" by Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education Bruce McPheron; "Overview of the New Highmark Health Benefits" by Jill Musser, human resources specialist with University Human Relations; Dean Steele's update on the college; a question-and-answer period with the dean; and door prizes. There also will be time for questions during the presentations.

Statewide Training Opportunities from CAS Information Technologies

Information Technologies conducts in-services and other training opportunities for all personnel in the College of Agricultural Sciences. For the complete list of topics and dates along with descriptions of the trainings, please visit <http://it.cas.psu.edu/TechTraining.htm>. Most sessions will be delivered online via Adobe Connect so no travel is required, but some sessions will be offered face-to-face.

The following classes are being offered:

"Excel 07 Basics" is a hands-on introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007. You will enter data and learn to make changes as you gain an understanding of features of the program that will assist you in creating great-looking spreadsheets and charts. (Two-session course)

"Outlook 07 Information Management" will show you some tips and techniques to deal with the wealth of information that can be entered. You can learn to create rules to filter e-mails, use the instant-search feature, understand flags and reminders, use Penn State Directory Services and the global address list and drag e-mails to your calendar and tasks.

"PowerPoint 07 Basics" provides hands-on training to teach users to create more professional presentations with PowerPoint. From an on-screen slide show with such special effects as animated bullet

points to speaker's notes and audience handouts, your presentation will come alive. Find new ways to create a great presentation using slides or direct displays of your important data and pictures. Explore creative new methods of making your words come alive with SmartArt, new shape styles, transitions and animations. (Two-session course)

"Online Survey Tools" will offer hands-on exercises to help you practice what you learn during class. We will use SurveyMonkey to collect your information and Excel to show your results. (Two-session course)

NEW FACES

**James Breining**, research support assistant in crop and soil sciences

**Margaret Fogarty-Harnish**, extension educator in Lancaster County

**Edward Johnstonbaugh**, assistant extension educator in Westmoreland County

**Eric Mailloux**, systems administrator in information technologies

**Timothy Simkins**, programmer analyst in communications and marketing

PARTINGS

**Edwin Bierbower**, assistant extension educator in McKean County

**Douglas Key**, senior research associate in veterinary and biomedical sciences

**Rhoda Knight**, nutrition education advisor in Westmoreland County

**Leslie Meeks**, nutrition education advisor in Philadelphia County

RETIREMENTS

**Sandra Gunsallus**, staff assistant IV in dairy and animal science

**Wayne Haas**, research support assistant in crop and soil sciences

**Annette Kratzer**, senior extension educator in Union County

**Carole Toubakar**, extension educator in Butler County

PROMOTIONS

**Susan Berzonsky**, staff assistant VIII in the Office of the Dean

**Barbara Catherman**, staff assistant VIII in the Office of the Dean

MORE ABOUT US

Deaths

**Frank M. Goode**, professor emeritus of agricultural economics from 1971 until his retirement in 2001, died March 17 at the age of 67.

**Anthony Dobrosky**, extension agent in York County from 1958 until his retirement in 1991, died April 15 at the age of 78.

NOTEWORTHY

**Danny Kline**, project data specialist in entomology, received an undergraduate certificate in Information Sciences and Technology from Penn State's World Campus.

**Tom Murphy**, extension educator in Lycoming County, appeared on the CBS Evening News on April 20 as part of a story on the boom in natural-gas leasing and exploration in Pennsylvania. Murphy is among a group of educators who have been conducting gas-leasing workshops around the state.

COMMENTS...

If you have comments about this issue of *Ag Sciences 2008* or suggestions for future issues, please call Jeff Mulhollem at (814) 863-2719 or send e-mail to [jjm29@psu.edu](mailto:jjm29@psu.edu). Send Back Page items to Gary Abdullah at [gxa2@psu.edu](mailto:gxa2@psu.edu).

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