Cal Poly moves to cleaner pasture environment

By Marytina Marshall-
Graduate Student

The Animal Science Department is working towards a new goal in terms of the management of the environment on the Cal Poly campus.

With the continuing changes in public attitudes toward agriculture and its relation to the environment, Cal Poly is working at dealing directly with the challenges that have been put forth. "The biggest challenge is to be active in management in terms of all meat and dairy animals as well as horses," said Phil Doub, Animal Science Department Head. "We want to be pro-environment. The key is how the animals fit into that."

Faculty in Animal Science work with public agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County and faculty members in the Soil Science Department to create and maintain a holistic environment on the pasture lands of Cal Poly.

Dr. Brent Hallock, faculty member of the Soil Science Department said, "My goal would be to take a more holistic approach toward management of our watersheds."

The 3,000 contiguous acres to the campus, are the location of the highest concentration of animals. "By working on improving the watersheds we then improve wildlife diversity, vegetation diversity, stocking rates, water quality and stream habitat," said Hallock. "Therefore, we are embracing the principles of integrated resource management."

Cal Poly is responsible for the head water of both Stenner Creek and Brizzioli Creek. "We are working closely with various agencies: Department of Fish and Game, the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air and Clean Water to alleviate complications that might arise," Doub said.

"This project will define the department for the next decade," said Doub. "We plan to develop an attitude and expertise resulting in a national reputation."
Students search for a career in the classroom

By Lisa Vargas-Agribusiness

Senior Seminar in the Animal Science Department turned 180 degree, giving it a fresh new look.

The course is now being taught by Phil Daub, Animal Science Department Head, and Dr. Bill Plummer, an Animal Science faculty member. The main objective of the course is for students to experience the feeling of searching for a “career” job.

“This course forces students to get their feet wet,” said Daub. Assignments required by students include: draft letters to target prospects, follow up letters for targeting companies, group reports, resumes and cover letters. Daub said, “This is a bridge to get students to experience getting a job.”

There is some doubt in the students’ minds about job placement. However, Daub wants to reinforce the fact that careers are out there for graduating seniors. “All we need to do is get organized and prove it to students,” said Daub.

“The class structure is absolutely necessary and needed the change,” said Suzanne Davis, an Animal Science senior enrolled in the Senior Seminar. “If this is a class that is going to help us in marketing our skills, it is very necessary,” Davis added.

Going into this class, some students are still deciding on concentrations or career interests. “I have no clue what I want to do,” said Davis. “I didn’t want to take the class in the old format.”

“We’re just trying to get going,” said Davis. “It is very overwhelming.”

Animal Science receives help from industry

By Celeste Jones-Animal Science

Five years ago the Animal Science Department began working closely with a group of individuals who play vital roles within the livestock industry.

This committee has been named the Long Range Planning and Development Council. It consists of 17 members who meet once or twice a year with the faculty to discuss issues that are important to the growth and productivity of the department.

“The purpose of the committee is to have an interested sounding board of industry members to develop strategic plans and discuss policy,” said Phil Daub, Animal Science Department Head. “It also serves as an independent point of view that can be presented to the dean of the College of Agriculture and the president of the university.”

Chairperson of the advisory council is Dr. Bonnie Markoff, a veterinarian in San Luis Obispo. “The committee provides an advising body that is available to the faculty and department head for support on issues in the Animal Science Department and industry,” said Markoff. “It is important to assist the department in developing its program in order to help them produce graduates who will be functional out in the industry.”

The advisory committee already decided to: support a quarterly Animal Science newsletter, advise faculty during curriculum modifications and express opinions about management techniques of animal units.-P
Animal Science creates innovative program

By Marytina Marshall-Graduate Student

The Animal Science department nipped and tucked to create a program with innovative flexibility. During the past year and a half the faculty and staff of the department have been hard at work. Dr. Cliff Stokes, an Animal Science faculty member said, "We worked several days over the summer break on our time off and then refined it over the next several months."

"There is room for us in the areas of politics, law, communication and business." -Jenny Sablan Animal Science

As agriculture moves into the next century, the Animal Science students and faculty plan to move right along with it. "The new curriculum gives us a whole lot more flexibility than the other because it proves to students that there are more opportunities for an Animal Science major than just livestock production and veterinary medicine," said Jenny Sablan, an Animal Science student. "There is room for us in the areas of politics, law, communication and business."

In recent years, the direction of technology in agriculture changed. The industry continues to expand becoming more diverse every day.

With this in mind, the faculty at Cal Poly has successfully redesigned its curriculum to face the challenges of agriculture in the future. "The curriculum is set up to meet the diverse needs of the students in the next century," said Stokes.

In making these revisions, a few core qualities of the old curriculum remain. Major core courses in all five species - beef, sheep, swine, poultry, and horses - are still available.

"We need to prepare our students for careers instead of just jobs," said Rob Rutherford, an Animal Science faculty member. Furthermore, enterprise projects and internships are available in abundance and still highly recommended to create a well rounded graduate. What has been added compliments the classic strengths of the department, said Rutherford.

Students majoring in Animal Science, will continue to take a core of science and production classes but can select a "Career Elective Area" (CEA) to compliment their major interests.

CEA's are designed with the student in mind and focus on a concentration in a specific area of interest. "The difference with this curriculum is that we concentrated on what the students need," said Rutherford.

In choosing a CEA the student elects 13 units of course work toward a specialized area. The CEA offers maximum flexibility for the student to build his/her own career objective. Also, it aids in closer articulation with community colleges and a reduced number of units are required to graduate.

CEA's will become an active part of the department's curriculum beginning Fall quarter, 1994. Career Elective Areas will include: Agribusiness, Livestock Production, Meat/Muscle Science, Teaching Agriculture, Pre-vet/Graduate School, Communication, Resource Management and Poultry Management.

Rutherford.

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