



Animal Science undergraduate student Katelyn Fegan with a calf at the KDC

UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2021 Student Newsletter

A Message from the Department Head

Greetings.

Please join me in congratulating our graduating students in the 2-year and 4-year programs as well as those completing their M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. In addition, congratulations to the Animal Science students named as New England (3.7 GPA for all of 2020) and Homer Babbidge (4.0 GPA for all of 2020) Scholars, and to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors that were named as American Society of Animal Science Scholars (top 10% of each class). Congratulations as well to Dr. Govoni for being awarded the 2020-2021 Northeast ASAS/ADSA Service Award, to Dr. Upadhyay for being named the 2020 Early Achievement award for Research from the Poultry Science Association, and to Dr. Venkitanarayanan for being

named a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT).

However, what makes this write-up different than the others is this will be my last one as Department Head of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Connecticut. After 10 years, I am leaving my administrative duties and returning to the faculty on a full-time basis. I will continue to teach the Animal Science FYE and Endocrinology, and I will maintain my advising duties. I will continue to collaborate with Drs. Reed and Govoni on our maternal nutritional and fetal programming project, as well as begin working on a new project that focuses on raising beef & dairy cross-bred calves.

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Message from the Department Head *(continued)*

I have had the good fortune to work with an excellent and dedicated faculty and staff in Animal Science, as well as College and University administrations committed to maintaining one of the top Animal Science programs in the northeast. Perhaps my greatest reward as Department Head is having the opportunity to mentor, teach and advise, the excellent undergraduate and graduate students in Animal Science. My deepest thanks to all.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Department Head these past 10 years, and I look forward to my new (old?) role as a faculty member in the Department.

Good luck to all!



Dr. Steven Zinn

Professor and Head

Department of Animal Science



2021 Vet & Graduate School Admits

Congratulations to our seniors who have been accepted to the following veterinary or graduate schools for fall 2021:

- Auburn University
- Cornell University
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana State University
- Michigan State
- Midwestern University
- Mississippi State University
- Royal Veterinary College
- St. George's University
- Tufts University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Georgia
- University of Glasgow
- University of Pennsylvania



'16 ANSC alumna Tierra Price

In addition, many of our students are off to do great things in a variety of professional positions! We are proud of your hard work and success!

Attention Animal Science Seniors:

We Want to Hear From You!

Where are you headed to next? Dream job? Grad school? Still figuring it all out?

Please email [Michelle](#) with your news!

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!



*Horsebarn Hill 2021- Photo Courtesy of
Milton Levin*

The UConn Department of Animal Science would like to congratulate all of our 2021 graduates! You have accomplished so many impressive things during your time here at UConn. You leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Huskies and should be proud of everything you've done. Your resilience during this difficult time is inspiring to us all! Hats off to the class of 2021!

The faculty and staff of the Department of Animal Science would like to congratulate you on your graduation! We are happy you have the opportunity for an in-person graduation ceremony this year.

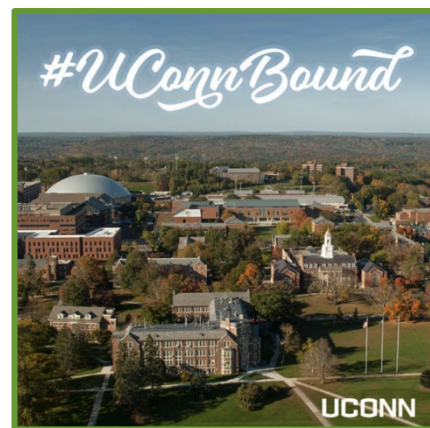
We encourage our graduates to keep in touch. Please check your email for a senior survey! Please join our [alumni Facebook page](#), let us know what you are up to and stop by when you are in town!

Congratulations and best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

Welcome Class of 2025!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the incoming class of 2025! This admitted class is a talented group of students from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. We know that the college decision making process was slightly more stressful and complicated this year, but we're delighted that you've chosen to attend UConn. We are excited to meet you all in the fall!

Go Huskies!



Thank You Animal Science Staff and Students!



Despite many uncertainties and changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Animal Science staff and students have been working tirelessly to ensure the highest quality of care for all of the animals on Horsebarn Hill. Spring is very busy with lambing, foaling and calving season in full swing! They continue to keep barn operations running smoothly every day as well as support critical research.

(Please note: All animal units are currently closed to the public to keep our staff and students safe. Please visit our [animal barn website page](#) for up to date information regarding reopening.)

Welcome Spring Foals

A sure sign of spring is the pitter patter of little hooves on Horsebarn Hill! Please join us in welcoming the new members of the UConn equine family!

- ❖ A filly nicknamed “Beezie” by UC Domination (Morgan) out of Friend Charity Rose (Morgan) – [See a video here](#).
- ❖ A filly by Canon (Morgan) out of SMP Main Topic (Morgan)
- ❖ A colt by Fiesta Fudge (QH) out of Devine Nostril (Thoroughbred)
- ❖ A colt nicknamed “Bo” by Gallant Reflection (Zweibrucker) out of Angelina (KWPN/Dutch Harness Horse)
- ❖ A filly nicknamed “Bailey” by UC Domination (Morgan) out of UC Serenity (Morgan)

The foals will be officially named and registered in early fall. Barns are currently closed to the public.

Want to see more of the UConn horses? Follow “UConn Equine” on Facebook and Instagram!



SMP Main Topic and her filly



Devine Nostril's colt



Charity and “Beezie”

Summer Horseback Riding is BACK!



Western rider on UConn horse

We're excited to announce that our summer riding program is back for 2021! Come ride with us this summer in your favorite discipline at all levels from beginner through advanced. Riders can choose from hunt seat, western, dressage, trail and polo. Lessons are open to the public!

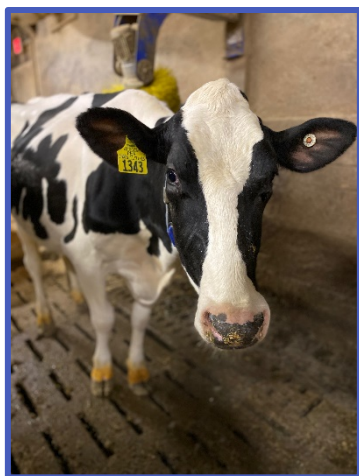
Visit our [summer riding website](#) for more information and to register today.

In addition, we are offering a virtual Riding Camp Instructor's Horsemanship Safety Clinic. [Register and take the class anytime here.](#)

UConn Dairy Fights Climate Change

The UConn Department of Animal Science was featured on NBC Connecticut LIVE in April. The segment featured how we're working to do our part in combating climate change through specific strategies in our dairy operation.

[See the video here!](#)



UConn Holstein dairy cow

UConn Dairy Herd Ranking

Our dairy program was ranked #5 in the country for Breed Age Average (BAA) in the colleges and universities category for the Holstein Association USA!

This ranking is based on BAA [Breed Age Average % provides a way to compare the score of an animal (and herd average) to the average of the breed, taking into account the age of the animal and their stage of lactation].

[See the 2020 lists here.](#)

Ice Cream and Cheese Updates

Dr. Dennis D'Amico and our UConn Creamery crew have still been hard at work utilizing our facilities to craft new cheeses! New flavors and varieties include Storrs Original Farmstead Jack cheese and an aged version (1881 Reserve) as well as old favorites like Juustoleipa and queso blanco.

[Read more in an article in UConn Today here](#) and an [article in The Daily Campus here](#).

In other news: the UConn Dairy Bar is OPEN! You can get your UConn ice cream, cheese and egg fix Thursday-Sunday from 11 AM – 7 PM.

[Learn more here.](#)



One of the new cheeses made in our creamery



American Society of Animal
Science logo

Undergraduate and Graduate News

Congratulations to the 34 students who were selected for 2021 American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Awards. [Learn more about the ASAS undergraduate awards here.](#)

ANSC undergraduate student **Caroline Selesky** was featured on UConn Today in February. Caroline is a senior from Alabama who was heavily involved in research while at UConn and plans to attend Auburn University for vet school in the fall. [Read more about Caroline here.](#)



Caroline Selesky

ANSC undergraduate student **LaShawnda Phillips** and Dr. Jenifer Nadeau were featured in UConn Today for their connection to the Ebony Horsewomen program in Hartford! [Read the article here.](#)

ANSC undergraduate student **Morgan Dougherty** was selected to receive a Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) award for summer 2021.

Six students selected for our UConn ANSC Summer Management Trainee Internship. These students will gain experience in the animal units on campus this summer. Congratulations to **Alexis Brown, Lauren Sposito, Ava Reichelm, Madeline Enriquez, Delaney Moll and Sarah Ghonaim!**

Ratcliffe Hicks undergraduate student **Madison Lane** was selected as the 2021 Outstanding Senior Woman in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

ANSC undergraduate student **Chloe Edwards** was featured on UConn Today in January. Chloe is a senior double major in Natural Resources and wants to work in a setting that combines animals and the environment. [Read more about Chloe here.](#)



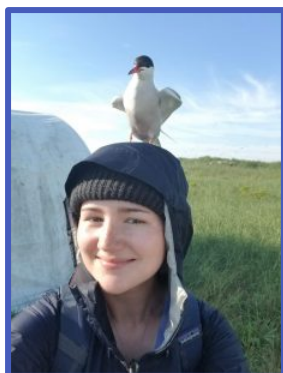
LaShawnda Phillips

Congratulations to ANSC graduate students **Nicole Tillquist** (Ph.D. student with Kristen Govoni) who placed first in the Ph.D. competition and **Ella Dodd** (M.S. student with Breno Fragomeni) who placed second in the M.S. competition at the Northeast American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association meeting!

Check out the [Completely Connecticut Agriculture Documentary](#) created by three CAHNR students!



Madison Lane



Chloe Edwards



Nicole Tillquist



Ella Dodd

Faculty News



Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay

Dr. Abhinav Upadhyay received a \$500,000 grant from USDA-NIFA-AFRI to train small and medium Veteran farmers in safe poultry and fresh produce production. The multi-institutional project will focus on developing ultra-fine bubbles with variety of antimicrobial gases for product decontamination and washing.

Dr. Mary Anne Amalaradjou leads a team that was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the USDA to study egg safety at small and medium farms. [Learn more in an article on Fox 61 here.](#)



Dr. MaryAnne Amalaradjou

Dr. Dennis D'Amico was featured in an article in The Daily Campus about his research. [Read the article here.](#) Additionally, along with his advisees **Lang Sun** and **Kathleen Atkinson**, he had an article selected as an Editor's Choice in the Journal of Dairy Science in April. [Read the article here.](#)



Dr. Dennis D'Amico

Dr. Joe Emenheiser, our new Livestock Extension Educator, visited the Meatworks facility in Westport, MA to shoot an introductory video on beef carcass evaluation. [Check it out here.](#)



Dr. Joe Emenheiser

Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan was named a 2021 Institute of Food Technologists Fellow. This honor recognizes highly respected researchers for extraordinary contributions to science, education, and the future of food technology. [Learn more about IFT Fellows here.](#)



Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan

Dr. Kristen Govoni was selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Northeast Section of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)! Recipients of this award are recognized for outstanding contributions to the field of Animal Science. [Learn more here.](#)



Dr. Kristen Govoni

Alumni News

ANSC alumna **Alexis Trench** was featured in a [post from the UConn Center for Career Development](#) in April.



Alexis Trench ('20)

ANSC alumna **Gabriella Sulpizi** was featured in an [article in UConn Today.](#)



Gabriella Sulpizi ('20)

Calling All Alumni!

Are you a UConn Animal Science alum? We would love to hear from you! Please send your news to [Michelle](#). We would love to feature you in the next edition of the newsletter!

THANK YOU for UConn Gives!

Thanks to your generous support during UConn Gives 2021 on March 23-24, we were able to raise over \$23,000 for the Samantha Calzone Scholarship and over \$3,000 for the Cameron and Carol Faustman Scholarship!! The Samantha Calzone Scholarship came in 3rd among all the Giving Day projects at UConn and won the CAHNR Dean's Dollar Challenge which raised an additional \$2,500 for the fund! Below are some of the reasons our generous donors chose to support these scholarships on Giving Day! ***Why do you give?***

I was very happy to make a donation and did so because Sam was my daughter Martine Maschio's very close friend. Martine and Sam were both Animal Science majors and rode together on the Equestrian team. They hung together as friends and donated their time to school and community events. We are heart broken. Martine is starting Vet school in Glasgow this Fall and I'm sure she'll be speaking with Sam to give her strength to go to a foreign country to continue her education, just like Sam did. We remain close friends with the family. I am a graduate of UConn, 1980, BFA. I have donated to UConn from time-to-time when I have funds available to do so. I have also volunteered at UConn Senior events as an Alumnae and assist them with their networking skills and connections. ~Valerie

Sam worked unbelievably hard to achieve so much in her short life. This scholarship honors not only her love of horses, but also the programs that allowed her to grow as a person and highlights her academic pursuits. She was my best friend, and I am grateful to support her legacy. ~Dillon

Sam served as a leader and mentor in our programs, and this scholarship allows her to continue to give back to her peers; something she valued doing as a student at UConn. ~Melissa

It is with pleasure to donate to the Samantha Calzone Memorial Scholarship Fund. We have been making donations to the scholarship fund in memory of Sam as she was a very close childhood friend of our youngest daughter growing up in Redding, CT. Our oldest daughter also attended UConn. ~Laura & Jim

I have a horse loving daughter near the same age as Sam was and Ruthann's loss was felt very deeply. I had followed Sam's riding and education for years on Facebook through Ruthann's page and was struck by Sam's passion and sunny personality. I hope she lives on through this scholarship. ~Tonya

Sam and her family are a very special part of my extended family. ~Kathy

I returned to UConn in 2007 after my professional career to study animal science because of a life-long passion for animals, especially horses. I want to help others have this same opportunity. ~Susan

Samantha and her sister went to preschool with my oldest daughters - while I watched her grow into an amazing young woman, she's still in my heart as the bubbly, laughing playmate, running and jumping through backyards. She and her family are forever in my heart. ~Michele

It was my pleasure to make this small donation. I have 2 daughters: sophomore and a senior in the agricultural school and one is an animal science major as was Ms. Calzone. ~Stephanie

Samantha Calzone was an incredible person who I had the honor of knowing through riding horses. I've made this donation to her scholarship so that other students with Sam's passion can pursue their dreams. I miss Sam every day and I'm so happy I can contribute to such a meaningful cause - something that would certainly bring a smile to Sam's face. ~Jennifer

Being an alumni and for my daughter Lily Hunter Beatini who passed after acceptance but prior to attending UCONN and for her pursuit of her dream of being a Veterinarian. ~Joe

Made the donation in memory of Sam Calzone - our youngest daughter and Sam were childhood friends. ~Laura



Looking Forward to Fall

Fall 2021 is coming, and with it, hopefully a little more normalcy! *What are you looking forward to?*
Email MLewis@UConn.edu for a chance to be featured on social media this summer!

"I'm looking forward to seeing the barn full of students taking lessons when I have my horse science lab and having students sign up for trail riding and Horse Science and independent studies with me!"



Dr. Jenifer Nadeau



Dr. Sarah Reed

"I never thought I'd say this, but I'm looking forward to hearing the chatter in the hall outside my door between classes! I'm also looking forward to the random drop-in 'Hellos' throughout the day."

"Ever board a plane, just to sit on the tarmac while they found and tightened a bunch of loose bolts? So far, 100% of my UConn career has been under COVID-19 restrictions. Let's get this flight in the air!"



Dr. Joe Emenheiser



Sharon Aborn

"I am so excited to have everyone back in person. The campus has been so quiet. I can't wait to assist with labs again. I will miss how easy it has been to find a parking place though!"

"I'm looking forward to seeing friendly, smiling faces (without masks, at least sometimes?) this fall!"



Dr. Amy Safran

Have a Safe and Fun Summer! 

Compliance Corner

REMINDER:

Faculty, Staff, Graduate and Undergraduate Students:

If you will be working with animals this summer it is more than likely you will require Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) training.

It is required for personnel listed on protocols, Independent Study students, riding teams, and student barn employees.

Initial IACUC training (#1 below) is required to be received in person.

Retraining is required annually for most and every 3 years for PI's.

There are multiple options available for annual retraining:

1. Complete the online IACUC training course on CITI on their website: www.citiprogram.org. Instructions for online CITI training can be found here.
2. Complete the Biological Safety Considerations in Farm Animal Research and Production course on Husky SMS available through the link below:
<https://uconn.bioraft.com/node/1906033>

If you are interested in working at the barn units or in an Animal Science lab, be sure to check out the [Compliance Corner](#) page.



Still scratching your head?

Contact Sharon!

Sharon.Aborn@UConn.edu

UConn Department of Animal Science Spring 2021 Student Newsletter



Students exercising and providing enrichment to dairy calves at the KDC

Give a Gift...

ANSC Students and Faculty Welcome Your Support!

Many donors choose to honor a loved one or friend with a gift to support UConn in their name. Perhaps the gift is in memory of someone who loved UConn's animals, from an alumnus who attended the Department of Animal Science, or in honor of an inspirational professor.

If you would like to donate to the Department of Animal Science, you can do so one of three ways:

1. Donate online by clicking [here](#) and choose "College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources" under Choose Category, "Animal Science Department" under Choose Subcategory. Then select your desired funder under the Choose Fund dropdown and click the yellow Add Gift +. Then click "Next Step" on the right-hand side.
2. Donate by mail using the form [here](#). Under the "Designation of Your Gift" section, indicate desired fund from list of funds found online by following step 1.
3. Donate via phone by calling (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

Please be sure to indicate which fund you would like to donate to:

- **Animal Science Department Fund**
- **UConn Morgan Horse Breeding Program Fund**
- **Randy Knight Memorial Fund**
- **Samantha Calzone Memorial Scholarship**

For more information, contact Jennifer Simoniello by email at Jennifer.Simoniello@UConn.edu, via phone at (860) 486-1088 or by mail: University of Connecticut, Department of Animal Science, Attn: Jennifer Simoniello, 17 Manter Road, Unit 4040, Storrs, CT 06269-4040.



Students in Dr. Safran's nutrition lab body scoring sheep