Mission of the Graduate Studies Program

The mission of the graduate program in the Division of Animal Sciences is to provide an academic environment that results in highly competent professional animal scientists who will become leaders in academia, agribusiness and government.

About Us

The Division of Animal Science offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy, areas of specialization include Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Environmental Physiology, Epigenetics, Genetic Engineering, Genetics, Genomics, Lactation Physiology, Meat Science, Nonruminant Nutrition, Production and Management, Reproductive Physiology, and Ruminant Nutrition. Species studied include: beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, swine, laboratory animals, and captive wild animals. A dual MS-DVM program is available through collaboration with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Our graduate program has been ranked 6th for research productivity and 8th for overall quality of degree, by the National Research Council. The University of Missouri is a member of the Association of American Universities, a prestigious organization of 62 public and private research universities in the United States and Canada.

Fifty percent of our graduates hold positions in industry, 40% in Academia and 10% are furthering their graduate education. Graduate enrollment in Animal Sciences at MU averages 60 full-time students, of which 70% are seeking an M.S. and 30% a Ph.D. More than 90% of students are financially supported.

Research Facilities

The Animal Science Research Center (ASRC) covers nearly 1.4 hectares, and provides the research laboratories, classrooms and offices for the research, extension and teaching faculty of the Animal Sciences Division of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR). The ASRC has facilities for intensive study of livestock and laboratory animals. Abattoir and meat laboratories are located nearby. Four Animal Science farms, encompassing more than 1200 hectares, are located near campus. These farms provide field laboratories for scientific discovery and training undergraduate and graduate students in production agriculture and basic sciences. The Animal Sciences farms support species including beef and dairy cattle, swine, horses, sheep, and poultry.

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Gavin Conant, Associate Professor, Bioinformatics
Jared Decker, Assistant Professor, Extension Beef Cattle Genetics/Computational Genomics
Christine Elsik, Associate Professor, Computational Genomics
Jeffre D. Firman, Professor, Poultry Production and Nutrition
Kevin L. Fritsche, Professor, Impact of dietary fats and medicinal plants on inflammation and infectious disease resistance
Rodney D. Geisert, Professor, Reproductive Physiology-Swine
Jonathan Green, Associate Professor, Reproductive Biology
Darren Hagen, Assistant Research Professor, Computational Biology/Bioinformatics
Duane Keisler, Professor, Endocrinology/Neuroendocrinology
Monty S. Kerley, Professor, Beef Nutrition
William Lamberson, Professor, Animal breeding and Genetics
Carol Lorenzen, Professor, Meat Science
Dennis Lubahn, Adjunct professor, Nutritional and herbal medicine aspects of estrogen and hedgehog signaling in reproduction and cancer
Matthew Lucy, Professor, Reproductive Physiology, Endocrinology and Lactation
Thomas McFadden, Division Director and Professor, Dairy Physiology
Allison Meyer, Assistant Professor, Ruminant Nutrition/Nutritional Physiology
David Patterson, Professor, Extension Beef Cattle Reproduction
Randall Prather, Professor, Reproductive Physiology/Genetic Engineering
Rocio Melissa Rivera, Associate Professor, Developmental Epigenetics
R. Michael Roberts, Professor, Molecular and Cellular Developmental Biology
Tim Safranski, Professor, Extension-Swine Reproductive Management
Robert Schnabel, Associate Research Professor, Genetics
Laura Schulz, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Placental cell biology and the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD), with an emphasis on the role of leptin during pregnancy and its impact on offspring health
Marcia Carlson Shannon, Professor, Extension-Swine Nutrition
Michael F. Smith, Professor, Reproductive Physiology - Beef Cattle
Thomas Spencer, Professor, Reproductive and Development Biology
Peter Sutovsky, Professor, Gamete, fertilization and Embryo Biology
Jeremy Taylor, Professor, Genomics
Kathy Sharpe Timms, Professor, Ovarian function, oocyte quality, embryo development and infertility; endometriosis-associated subfertility
Kevin Wells, Associate Professor, Genetic Engineering
Bryon Wiegand, Professor, Meat Science/Muscle Biology