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# Ready for his close-up

## Dr. Dan Thomson takes 'DocTalk' to cable TV audience



**Dr. Dan Thomson hosts a half-hour program about livestock welfare and management, food supply safety and companion-animal health on the cable network, RFD-TV.**

A Kansas State University veterinarian is taking his expertise to a national television audience as host of his own weekly show.

Dr. Dan Thomson, the Jones professor of production medicine and epidemiology and director of the Beef Cattle Institute in the university's College of Veterinary Medicine, will host "DocTalk with Dr. Dan Thomson" on cable television's RFD-TV which began Monday, April 30. The weekly program airs Mondays at 3:30 p.m., with second airings of the show at 1:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Each week Dr. Thomson and his guests discuss important issues related to livestock welfare and management, including current animal agriculture research, ways to keep the food supply safe and companion animal health issues. Guests will include nationally and internationally known veterinarians

and animal scientists — including Kansas State University faculty members — who conduct clinical research on ways to improve the health and well-being of all kinds of animals.

Topics for "DocTalk" programs include trichomoniasis in cattle, first aid for horses, choosing a companion animal, food safety issues like E. coli in beef cattle, carbon foot-printing misconceptions related to the beef industry, how dairy

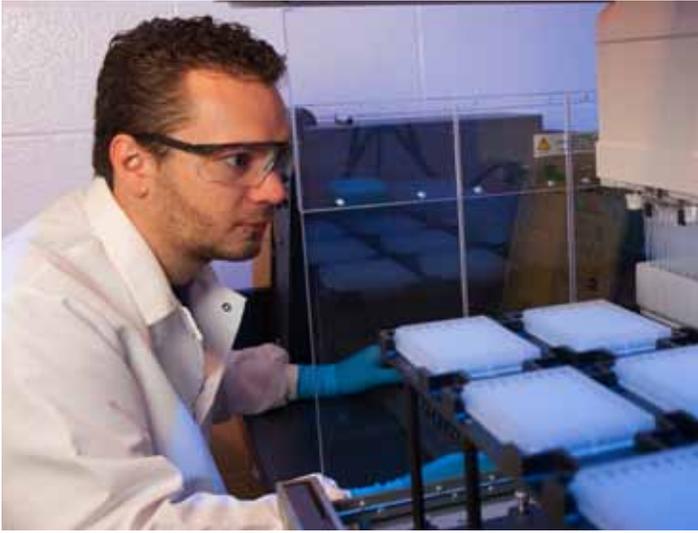
producers keep the nation's milk supply safe, equine dentistry and more.

"DocTalk" is a spinoff from the locally produced ag show, "Ag am in Kansas," which airs across the state. Dr. Thomson started doing the program a few years ago.

"Interest just grew. We first did five-minute segments that soon grew into 30-minute episodes," he said. "Expanding our reach with 'DocTalk' is such an honor. I give 50-60 invited talks a year, so to be able to amplify your message to the 40 million to 60 million homes RFD-TV reaches is a great opportunity.

"Doing this show is a great way to showcase Kansas State University faculty, whether they're from the College of Agriculture or the College of Veterinary Medicine."

## Diagnostic Lab offers new technology for BVDV testing



**The Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory offers new technology for BVDV testing and a wide variety of other diagnostic services for veterinary clients.**

For decades, the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has been the go-to regional source for animal testing and diagnoses, and a national center for rabies serological

testing. With recent developments it's likely to remain so for decades more.

The diagnostic lab, headed by director Dr. Gary Anderson, offers a complete range of diagnostic services for all species but primarily focuses on food-producing animals. The lab is constantly working to develop new and better tests for veterinary clients to identify, treat and prevent illness in animals.

During the last 18 months, huge accomplishments in the understanding and detection of Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus have been made. BVDV is a

common endemic disease of cattle that causes respiratory illness and reduced productivity, as well as abortion in pregnant cattle. If left undiagnosed, it can lead to economic strain due to reduced herd fertility and increased disease rates.

"We have some really groundbreaking information about BVDV that is being reported right now, and it's related to how easy it is to transmit the virus between animals," Dr. Anderson said. "New technology and tests have been plugged into what happens every day out there in the world of cattle production."

The lab's findings have been shared at conferences on both U.S. coasts — in Buffalo, N.Y., and San Diego, Calif., thus solidifying the lab's relevance to the national cattle industry.

The lab is also world-renowned for its rabies serological testing. It handles large volumes of rabies cases — more than 60,000 samples a year from all corners of the earth.

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## Fertis steers visitors toward inside look at the rumen



**Fertis 'stars' as one of the main attractions during the university's annual Open House.**

During the campus wide open house, Fertis, the veterinary college's fistulated steer, starred as the main attraction of the "Roaming in the Rumen" demonstration. The exhibit was presented by the student chapter of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. Fertis features a fistula, or hole, that allows for access to his rumen, or the first digestive chamber of the bovine stomach.

"We allow people to go look inside the rumen to see how the food and nutrients are being digested," said Miles Theurer, Bovine club president. "It also allows people to see how that animal is able to convert all the grass and hay into the high quality product we all consume each and every day."

The fistula allows Fertis to fulfill several important duties for the college. He provides an educational opportunity for veterinary students to learn about the ability of the cattle to digest forages and teach students about digestive health in cattle.

For more in-depth coverage, check out the video report at: [www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1205.htm](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1205.htm).

## AABP student chapter hosts spring seminar

On April 27, the Student Chapter of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (SCAABP) presented the Spring Beef Seminar and Tailgate at the CVM. Practitioners from across Kansas and CVM students interacted with speakers covering a variety of topics including preparations for entering bovine practice, the future role of cow/calf practitioners, Beef Quality Assurance, antibiotic use, calf preconditioning, the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program and the relationship between cattle production, humans, and the environment. Speakers included CVM alumni and faculty as well as Dr. Mark Hilton from Purdue University. The seminar finished with a panel discussion of Kansas practitioners sharing advice for students and their opinions on the future of bovine practice.

“Nobody has a history in beef cattle veterinary medicine like Kansas State University,” said Dr. Dan Thomson, SCAABP Advisor. “The meeting provided a venue for nearly 100 bovine veterinarians, students and faculty



*Dr. Shan Hullman, Dr. Dave Rethorst, Dr. Wade Taylor and Dr. Stan Perry give their insights into bovine practice and advice to students.*

to network and share ideas about the future of our profession. The presentations were outstanding and the students were very engaged.”

## CVM employees receive all-campus awards

Two CVM employees were recently recognized with all-campus awards.

Dr. Mac Hafen received the 2012 President’s Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals.

Dr. Hafen was nominated by Dr. Bonnie Rush. According to her, Hafen has been proactive and creative in his contributions to service, scholarship and teaching for the CVM. His service has improved the lives of the professional students, his communication training program provides a critical function for the college and profession, and his research has raised awareness of the impact of the training program on the students. He consistently exceeds expectations for productivity and his work has resulted in attitudinal and cultural change by faculty, staff and administration.

Paul Wagoner, agricultural technician, was recognized with the 2012 K-State Classified Award of Excellence.

Dr. Roger Fingland, VHC director, said, “Our large animal



*Dr. Mac Hafen*



*Paul Wagoner*

hospital is the envy of veterinary teaching hospital directors across North America and Paul’s leadership, commitment to mission and incredible work ethic are the reason.”

Wagoner makes significant contributions as an employee and supervisor in the large animal section of the hospital. Cheerfulness and thrift are two of his outstanding characteristics and they are very evident every day in the way he carries out the many duties assigned to him.



## Tammy Koopman

Microbiologist III, DM/P



**Hometown:** Paragould, Ark.

**Family Information:** My husband Francis and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary of marriage this May. We have four children: Sean, Madison, Kailey and Ethan. My mom still lives in Arkansas. I have a sister in New York City, a sister in Dallas, a brother in Arkansas and a brother in Austin, Texas.

**Pets:** Our family has two cats.

**How do you stay cool during the warmer weather?** Stay inside with the air conditioner or hang out at the pool.

**Who is the most inspirational person in your life?** I don't think there is only one individual I could name, but several people who inspire me on a daily basis. My mom for always making me see that anything can be accomplished if you try hard enough. My husband for his kindness to complete strangers and the support he shows in all my endeavors. My children for their total love and trust in me. Friends for their understanding and caring. My siblings for their humor and love.

## CVM NEWS TICKER

**Dr. Ronette Gehring**, Clinical Sciences, was named to the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Council of the Convention as an Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) representative.

**Dr. H. Morgan Scott**, DM/P, was selected to be the Key Note speaker at the American Society for Microbiology conference held in Aix-en-Provence, France, June 26-29.

**Pet Tribute** held its annual CVM ice-cream social on April 27.



The CVM held its annual Senior Honors Banquet on April 6. More than 71 awards and scholarships were presented throughout the evening. Above: Max Renaldi, fourth-year student, is presented the Dr. and Mrs. Nelson S. Mayo Exotic Animal Award by Dr. Jim Carpenter. The award is presented to students who demonstrate proficiency in zoo and exotic animal medicine and surgery.

## Meet KSDS puppy Champagne



The CVM welcomes Champagne, the new KSDS puppy-in-training. He was presented to Dr. Patricia Payne on Apr. 27. Champagne has made appearances at the campus open house and Dog N Jog. As Champagne works on his training at the college, remember to ask before petting him.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4-6 - 74th Annual Conference for Veterinarians\*

\*Continuing Education Events, visit:

<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/CE/Conference.htm>

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