



NEWSLETTER

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Award Winning Rick Keever

Rick Keever has been the Plant Manager at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Feed Stores for more than 20 years. Recently, Rick received both the Marcella M. Nance Staff Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award. Each of these prestigious awards is quite an honor. Remarkably, Rick won both awards in the same year, a fact that demonstrates how Rick exceeds expectations in his professionalism. Rick is responsible for supplying food to the beef, dairy, sheep, horse, poultry and swine research and teaching units at UIUC. In addition, he provides the raw ingredients for many specialized diets required for research trials. Research diets require exceptional accuracy, tracking of ingredients, quality control, and consistency. Rick developed a database for ordering, warehousing, tracking and monitoring inventories of ingredients and diets which has greatly improved the efficiency of the Feed Stores operation. Congratulations, Rick, and thank you for a job well done!



New Course Offering – Science of Animal Well Being

The Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program has developed a new course that is targeted toward Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine graduate students who use agricultural animals in their research or provide veterinary care to agricultural animals in their residency programs. This 1-credit course will meet one hour each week during spring and fall semesters and will review scientific literature on the well-being of agricultural animals. Topics will include normal and abnormal behaviors, methods of providing environmental enrichment, detection and control of pain and distress, and impact of housing, management, and veterinary practices on animal well-being. One species (swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, poultry, or sheep) will be examined each semester. Students will critically review the literature, distribute

articles, and lead class discussions. Our first course offering is in spring 2008, and we will study the scientific literature concerning the well-being of poultry. Interested students should register for VCM 510 or ANSC 510. Faculty or staff members interested in participating in the course should contact one of the course coordinators (Dr. Dawn Morin or Dr. Vickie Jarrell).

New Self-Assessment Tool to Assist Investigators

The AACUP has developed a new self-assessment tool to help Principal Investigators ensure compliance with their IACUC protocols and with animal use laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines. The self-assessment tool is in the form of a checklist that can be completed at any time during a research project or instructional course. We encourage all PIs using agricultural animals in research or teaching to take advantage of this tool. The self-assessment checklist, designed to identify potential deficiencies before they become a problem, can help investigators correct weaknesses or prevent issues of non-compliance from occurring. AACUP staff members are happy to assist PIs and their personnel with completing the assessment. Just let us know and we will arrange to meet with you. The tool can be downloaded from the AACUP website (<http://www.aacup.uiuc.edu/forms.html>).

Our Thanks To You

AACUP wishes to thank all faculty and staff members who participated in, or helped to prepare for, the AAALAC, I., site visit that was conducted July 30-Aug 3, 2007. AAALAC, I., the Association of the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International, conducted a very thorough review of our agricultural animal care program. We obtained some excellent feedback and although we will not receive the official report from AAALAC, I. until later this fall, we were proud of the professional presentation of our Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program. The professionals who manage our livestock units and the staff members who care for the agricultural animals at UIUC are among the very best in the world. Your efforts are essential in assuring continued accreditation by this prestigious organization. Thank you.