

Volume 5 | Number 4

June 22, 2020



# BUFF BRIEF

A WEEKLY NEWS & EVENT UPDATE FOR THE PAUL ENGLER COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES

## A MORE MODERN WT

Website Construction Update

- ✓ Launched on May 15, WT has a new, revamped website.
- ✓ Webpages and links may not be current. Faculty and Staff are working hard to get them up-to-date.
- ✓ Please continue to be patient as construction continues and the issues get addressed.



# Fantastic Faculty

Dr. Loni Lucherk partners with iCEV for "How To: Meat Judging" videos.



Dr. Loni Lucherk, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, recently teamed up with CEV Multimedia and colleagues from several universities from across the country to help re-shoot the "How to: Meat Judging" series for iCEV. Dr. Lucherk, who works as a committee member for the series, served as the official on-screen expert for the Lamb Judging and Retail Cut Class Videos. In filming her sections, Dr. Lucherk brought in lamb carcasses and used retail cuts that represent what students might see and evaluate in a judging contest. Dr. Lucherk was also interviewed about meat judging and the meat sciences program at WTAMU. Dr. Lucherk says, "I was excited to work with CEV to help spread knowledge about meat judging and WTAMU to students all over the nation."

# Stellar Students

## INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

### Lucas Castro gains experience with wildlife



**Lucas Castro**, M.S. Biology, discusses his internship experience with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

#### **Where are you completing your internship?**

My internship is with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the Matador Wildlife Management Area, in Paducah, TX.

#### **How did your internship help prepare you for post-graduation?**

This internship will allow me to learn many different wildlife techniques that are used by professional wildlife biologists in my field. There are three main areas that make wildlife students stand out in the job world: GIS (Geographic Information System), plant identification, and statistical methods. I will be using all three of these during my summer position to better prepare me for post-graduation plans. I plan on graduating with my Master's in Biology and work towards getting employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Wildlife Management Area Biologist. By participating in this internship, I am getting my name out there in this agency and will gain valuable experience.

#### **Describe what you are doing during your internship.**

During this internship, I will gain experience with animal trapping, exotic animal control, habitat management, plant identification, and prescribed burning to get my Wildland Firefighting Red Card Certification. My start date was June 1st of this year and already I have trapped and banded songbirds and doves to gather demographic information, conducted a Texas Quail Index survey, and gained valuable hands-on experience with identifying vegetation in this area.

**TEXAS**  
**PARKS &**  
**WILDLIFE**



# *Before & After*

**A look back in time three years ago...**



June 23, 2017  
Photo Courtesy of Dean Hawkins



June 17, 2020  
Photo Courtesy of Ellis Linke

# LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

June 21 - 27, 2020

## Dr. Erik Crosman speaks about lightning awareness

- The safest place to be is inside a building or vehicle. Hence the phrase “when thunder roars, go indoors!” Once indoors, don’t touch corded phones (cell phones are OK), electrical equipment such as computers, and avoid plumbing and washing hands or showering. Stay away from open garages, porches, and exterior metal windows since electrical surges from lightning could still injure you in these areas.
- If you cannot get inside to safety and are forced to remain outside, the following can reduce (but not eliminate) your risk. Note that tents offer zero protection from lightning.
  1. Avoid open fields, isolated trees and tall objects.
  2. If you can verify that the flash flood risk is low, try to stay in lower elevation areas.
  3. Spread out if you are in a group.
  4. Stay away from water, wet items, ropes, and metal objects.


West Texas A&M recently obtained an educational grant for environmental instrumentation that includes a weather station with a lightning detection sensor that records the number and location of lightning strikes within 25 miles from the WTAMU campus. This equipment will provide hands on learning experiences to students in classes in the Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

With frequent thunderstorms and severe weather, Texas has a lot of lightning. In 2019, Texas had more lightning strikes recorded than any other state in the USA – over 47 million!

[More on Lightning Safety](#)

**Career Success Webinar Series**

- ~~What Can Career Services Do For You?~~  
May 5th | 2:00 PM
- ~~Uncover The Hidden Job Market~~  
May 21st | 12:00 PM
- ~~Leveraging LinkedIn~~  
June 2nd | 4:00 PM
- ~~Rev Up Your Resume~~  
June 4th | 12:00 PM
- ~~Interviewing Intel~~  
June 15th | 12:00 PM
- Perfecting Your Cover Letter  
June 24th | 4:00 PM
- Quality Qualifications  
July 2nd | 4:00 PM
- Design Your Life  
July 7th | 12:00 PM

 REGISTER IN HANDSHAKE

# DATES TO REMEMBER



6/22

Summer 1  
Last Day to drop or  
withdraw with an X  
\*Speak with an advisor



6/30

Summer 2  
Full payment due if  
registered before 6/28



7/7

Summer 1  
Finals



7/8

Summer 2  
Classes Begin

For the most up to date information from West Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System about COVID-19, visit the University's [COVID-19 Information Page](#).

# Pond's Ponder

**“Things may come to those who wait,  
but only the things left by those who hustle.”**

**-Unknown**

Follow us for more regular updates on the Paul Engler College of Agriculture & Natural Sciences!  
Go Buffs!

Copyright © \*2019 \*Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, All rights reserved.



Please submit any contributions to the "Buff Brief" to:

[BuffBrief@wtamu.edu](mailto:BuffBrief@wtamu.edu)