After a national search, the college is pleased to welcome Professor Michael Day as the new department head of animal science. He will start in July.

Professor Day has a well-rounded academic background. Day earned his bachelor’s in animal husbandry from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 1980. He subsequently earned his master’s and Ph.D. degrees in reproductive endocrinology in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and joined the faculty at The Ohio State University in the Department of Animal Sciences in 1985.

A cattle reproduction specialist, his expertise has been used on review panels for the USDA and presentations to both national and international cattle industry groups. At OSU, he regularly taught courses in beef cattle production and management, covered introductory animal science courses, the capstone course in animal science, and upper level/graduate student seminars in physiology and reproduction. His teaching skills have been recognized with teaching awards from his college, Gamma Sigma Delta, the national agricultural honorary society, and by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national extension educator’s organization.

Nationally, Professor Day regularly shares his knowledge with industry groups, particularly those involved with animal reproduction. He has also served as a presenter and resource person for cattle reproduction issues both nationally and internationally. I know he is looking forward to working with cattle producers in Wyoming and across the Rocky Mountain West.

Caleb Boardman, our new livestock judging coach, is a familiar face to many Wyoming Stock Growers members. Boardman’s interest in and involvement with livestock judging goes back many years. His father Russ coached the Northwest College team for more than 18 years and shared his enthusiasm with his sons. In a recent interview Caleb shared an anecdote about his youth. “Growing up, our family vacations in summer were going to watch him judge livestock shows throughout the Rocky Mountain region. That’s where I got the passion for livestock judging.”

Caleb recently received his master’s degree in animal science from Texas A&M University and has already started recruiting for this year’s team. He is looking forward to meeting you at events over the summer and revitalizing UW’s judging team program.

Our Department of Veterinary Sciences is the new home for Assistant Professor Juan Munoz-Gutierrez, who began work as one of our veterinary diagnostic pathologist this spring. He recently completed his Ph.D. in infectious diseases at Washington State University and his DVM from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. In addition to his work as a diagnostician and pathologist at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, he will teach undergraduate courses and consult with clinicians and animal owners throughout Wyoming. Munoz-Gutierrez says he is “passionate about client satisfaction” and is looking forward to working with veterinarians and producers in the region.

Our Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station also has a new director. Assistant Professor Brian Mealor, a well-known figure to many rangeland management and noxious plant control groups throughout Wyoming, has been named director of the Sheridan Research and Extension Center. Mealor joined the plant sciences department in 2009. He has been an innovative leader in noxious plant control and has a solid background in outreach and working with stakeholders. His solid scientific background, coupled with his extensive UW Extension background and exceptional communication skills, will help the Sheridan Research and Extension Center meet our goals to work closely with producers on research areas of concern to the industry. Mealor will also maintain his appointment in the Department of Plant Sciences and continue his research work in rangeland management.

Please help the college welcome our new faculty members and directors. Each of these individuals has a key role in the college’s land-grant mission of extending scientifically based information to our constituents.