Consortium for Equine Nutrition and Management to be Based at West Texas A&M University
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Press Release

From Canyon, Texas, the home of West Texas A & M University, comes news of a project that can revolutionize the equine nutrition industry. West Texas A & M University’s Equine Center will soon host the Consortium for Equine Nutrition and Management. But more importantly, it will become the home of the Fancy Model.

The brainchild of Dr. Tom Tylutki, Dr. Don Topliff, and Dr. Randy Robbins, the equine nutrition model will become the go-to resource for equine nutrition research, information and documentation.

Dr. Tylutki presented the initial concept of the Fancy Model to the academic community in early June at this year’s Equine Science Society Meetings held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The model concept was positively received by the academic community as an opportunity to coordinate and focus research efforts to enhance the current knowledge base of equine nutrition & management. For Tylutki, horses may be a new type animal to work with, but with the modeling project, he’s set along a familiar path.

In 2005, Tylutki, formerly with Cornell University, started a business with his partners to commercialize an advanced cattle nutrition model, the company AMTS™ LLC. Together with its partners the company serves more than 2 million cows around the world (USA, SAR, Argentine, Mexico, Great Britain, Turkey, China etc.) Additionally, the company offers nutritional technical support to consultants and feed companies globally.

In the meantime, Topliff and Robbins had been instrumental in funding and were the wheel horses behind publication of the most recent Nutrient Requirements of Horses, published by the National Research Council. “There is a rudimentary model associated with the 2007 publication. We wanted to take this idea further, and make it a dynamic model instead of a static one,” noted Topliff, who serves as the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Engineering at WTAMU.

Topliff has a strong background in academic circles – having served as co-director of the Oklahoma Center for Equine Research, a joint project with the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Engineering. WTAMU currently boasts a nationally known Equine Sciences program with the facilities and personnel resources to coordinate research activities to organize and generate new data to populate the Model.

Robbins and Topliff took their concept to Tylutki. “We knew that between the three of us we could get this much-needed project done,” noted Robbins. Robbins, a nutritionist who has worked for Evergreen Mills, Hi-Pro Feeds, and Trouw Nutrition, is the owner of Animal Nutrition Technologies. An-Tech is a private animal nutrition and consulting company specializing in formulation and product development for commercial and companion animals.

Tylutki noted that some of the research is already underway – even though the fledgling project is only a few months old. “This is the first time that anything like this has been attempted with horses. It’s a great opportunity to coordinate academics and research across the country into one single project to expand our knowledge base on equine nutrition and metabolism. It’s a worthwhile project that will yield worthwhile results,” he said.

The Consortium for Equine Nutrition and Management will be open to subscribers. For more information, contact Don Topliff at dtopliff@wtamu.edu; Tom Tylutki at tom_tylutki@mac.com; and Randy Robbins at randy.robbins@an-tech.co.