

# ASURSA Newsletter

Animal Science Undergraduate Research Student Association Volume 1, Issue 7  
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## Research News

### ASURSA Calf Study Abstract

After birth, dairy farmers often move calves to individual hutches to protect calf health before being transitioned to group housing. While keeping a calf in an individual hutch prevents the spread of bacteria and allows the immune system to develop, this period can be very stressful as cattle are natural herd animals. The objectives of this pilot study were to 1) teach Animal Science Undergraduate Research Student Association members behavioral research methods and help members gain experience with dairy calves; 2) test the hypothesis that the effects of added enrichment to dairy calf hutches lowers stress levels and improves overall health. At the MSU Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center, six heifer calves were randomly assigned to one of two enrichment treatments (given a jolly ball or a brush) or a control group with no added enrichment. The study was conducted from mid-October to mid-November 2018. An initial cortisol sample was taken the evening each calf was placed in the hutches. The calves were observed for a minimum of one hour a day. Behavioral observations were recorded according to a chart of behavioral descriptions from outside the hutches at a distance having zero interaction with the calves. Health scores were taken daily. Calf weights were taken at birth and every week after. A final cortisol sample was taken at the time of dehorning. Results suggest that calves do interact with added enrichments and this interaction decreases calf stress.

## Upcoming Events

- April 5: UURAF
- April 9: E-Board elections for 2019-2020
- April 12: ASURF
- April 13: Small Animal's Day

## RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

### Research Forums

Join us on Friday, April 5 for UURAF and support Brooke and Kaylee as they present our project! They will be in the Union Ballroom from 3-4pm. On Friday, April 12 is ASURF, and Shayla and Renee need your support then, as well! They will present at 11:10am Volunteer to help out at ASURF or just come between classes and see presentations!

## Member Spotlight: Renee Harbowy

This week's ASURSA Member Spotlight is Renee!! She is a freshman from Saint Clair Shores, MI, which is near Detroit. This is her first year in ASURSA and is a very active member. Renee is in Lyman Briggs, majoring in animal science with a concentration in animal biology and pre-veterinary. She currently does not have any animals but loves dogs and horses and has spent most of her life around them! She is very busy in the summer time working at a camp for young girls/women around the ages seven to fifteen, where she teaches them about horsemanship and how to ride. Renee gets to live at the camp where she works and has the opportunity to ride the camp's horses on her free time! Her plans after undergrad are to apply to vet school. She would love to work with wild or exotic animals and get involved in public education about species conservation!



## APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Culver's			UURAF	
7	8	9 General Meeting	10	11	12 ASURF	13 Small Animal's Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 General Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

### What to do for the next meeting?

- Meet in 1240 ANH at 7pm
- Send slides for E-Board elections to dziubamo@msu.edu
- Sign up to help out with ASURF or Small Animal's Day!

*Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00PM in 1240 Anthony Hall ~ see you there!*