Temple Grandin to Give Lecture at USU on Livestock Handling

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Utah State University’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences is hosting a lecture by Temple Grandin on livestock handling, Thursday, March 31, 2016. The lecture will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Taggart Student Center Ballroom.

Temple Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and expert consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. She is also an internationally known spokesperson on autism. Grandin’s form of autism, known as Asperger’s, has allowed her to develop specific skills that have led to her success as an animal scientist, researcher, professor, author and spokeswoman for autism.

She has designed facilities in which half of the cattle in the United States are handled, consulting with firms like Swift, McDonald's and Burger King. Additionally, she has authored over 400 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on animal handling, welfare and facility design.

In addition to the lecture, the CAAS Council will host screening of the Emmy Award-winning movie “Temple Grandin” on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Eccles Science Learning Center room 130. Admission is free, popcorn will be served and the public is invited.

USU animal science professor Lyle McNeal, referred to as Doc by his students, considers Grandin a friend and colleague. McNeal said Grandin’s research in animal behavior and livestock handling has totally revolutionized the livestock industry. He hopes that students as well as other attendees will gain a better understanding of how livestock should be humanely handled.

“One thing we need to understand is how important the relationship is between us and animals,” McNeal said. “Even though we are raising them perhaps for food purposes the lower the stress we impose on these animals the better quality they will be in the end product.”

Grandin’s lecture will focus on animal behavior, design of facilities and ways of implementing handling practices for healthier animals. The lecture is open to students, alumni, and community members interested in learning more about Grandin’s work with livestock handling and animal behavior.

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