



News Release

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Dr. Chris Raines Killed In A Tragic Automobile Accident

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Dr. Chris Raines, 29, an assistant professor of meat science and technology in the Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State University, was killed Sunday night (December 18, 2011) in a one-vehicle accident in Miles Township, part of the State College, PA, metropolitan area.

A native of Ohio, Raines joined the Penn State faculty in 2008 after earning his doctorate in food science from Kansas State University. He received his bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University in 2004 and his master's degree in animal science from Kansas State in 2006.

He built a growing national reputation as an important voice in the agricultural community. Through his Twitter feed (under the handle @ITweetMeat) he had sent more than 15,000 tweets that reached nearly 3,800 followers and countless other readers. He also offered a popular blog, meatblogger.org, where he posted his experiences and thoughts about meat as food -- where it comes from, how it's produced, how people consume it and its health implications.



The university noted his academic interests, which centered in part in meat-color chemistry; meat-product display and packaging systems; consumer demand and trends for red-meat products; and sustainability and meat production.

Police officials reported that Chris was driving a 2000 Toyota 4-Runner westbound along Smullton Road, between Madisonburg, PA and Millheim, PA, when the vehicle went off the road, rolled over & struck several trees. State police and fire crews responded to the crash just after 6:30 pm. Centre County Chief Deputy Coroner Judy Pleskonko was called to the scene. A news release saying an autopsy performed Monday morning showed Raines died of a massive head injury and the manner of death was accidental. No one else was in the vehicle at the time of the crash.

Chris was an avid user of social media for educational and communication purposes within the meat and agriculture industry. He will be greatly missed.

Private family services will be held. Friends may call on the family from 4-8 pm on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at Baird Funeral Home, Troy, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the GL Raines Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o The American Red Poll Association, PO Box 847 Frankton, IN 46044.