

Retirement Announcement

Dr. Rex Powell will retire on January 3, 2005, after 32 years as a Research Geneticist with the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL), ANRI, ARS, USDA. As a youth on the family's centennial farm near Ionia, MI, Rex was active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America. He was a member of the Michigan State University dairy cattle judging team while pursuing a B.S. degree in dairy production. Following 2 years in the Army, he returned to Michigan State for a Master's degree, studying with Dr. Clint Meadows. He then attended Iowa State University, where he received a Ph.D. in animal breeding under the guidance of Dr. Gene Freeman. Rex joined the AIPL staff in 1972.

Rex has made numerous individual and team contributions to the development of genetic evaluations of dairy animals. Those evaluations have been critical to the improvement of dairy populations in the United States and around the world. He has authored 312 publications and was senior author of 193 of those, including 45 of the 69 papers published in the Journal of Dairy Science. As an invited spokesperson for the industry, he has traveled throughout the United States and 26 foreign countries. He has been recognized as the national authority on genetic trends in yield of dairy cattle, cow evaluation, and comparisons of genetic evaluations of dairy bulls across countries. Rex is an international leader in cooperative efforts to coordinate genetic evaluations of dairy cattle and to enhance genetic improvement on a global basis. He has been the U.S. representative to the International Bull Evaluation Service since 1983 and served on its Steering Committee for 18 years.

Rex has been a member of a scientific team that has received numerous awards, including the USDA Distinguished Service Award (1991), Government Executive magazine's Government Technology Leadership Award (1998), National Partnership for Reinventing Government (Vice-Presidential Hammer) Award (2000), and ARS Award for Superior Technology Transfer (2000). As an individual, he received the National Association of Animal Breeders Research Award (1994) and American Dairy Science Association's J. L. Lush Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics (1997), the highest recognitions in his research field.

The AIPL staff wishes Rex the best in his retirement endeavors and asks you to join them at a retirement reception to be held on **Thursday, January 6, 2005**, from **2 to 4 pm** in **Conference Room 021, Bldg. 005, BARC-West**.

A book of letters is being prepared as a memento to be given to Rex at his retirement reception. If you would like to have your letter included, please send it by **Wednesday, December 29, 2004**, to

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