

Janice Wright

1958–2017

With great sadness, the Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory (AGIL) announces the passing of Janice (Jan) R. Wright on Friday evening, March 24, 2017, after a valiant struggle against cancer. A graduate of Walkersville High School and the University of Maryland–College Park, Jan was a dairy/animal scientist for 37 years, beginning with the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (which is now part of AGIL), Agricultural Research Service, USDA.



As a highly skilled support scientist, Jan's research focused on genetic and genomic evaluation of dairy animals. Her major projects were on evaluation of conformation, health, longevity, and fertility traits of dairy cattle, production and conformation traits of dairy goats, and documentation and analysis of data received from Dairy Herd Information programs. Jan's most recent projects were on genetic evaluation of cow livability and gestation length, and feed intake data. She was a coauthor of 42 scientific peer-reviewed publications (1 senior authorship), 20 articles in conference proceedings, 9 technical reports (6 senior authorships), 10 trade publications (1 senior authorship), and 66 abstracts (3 senior authorships), and made 13 scientific presentations at annual meetings of the American Dairy Science Association. She was a coauthor of the *Journal of Dairy Science's* March 2014 featured article in genetics and breeding.

Jan was an esteemed member of the research team that won an Award of Special Appreciation from the National Dairy Herd Information Association (1991), *Government Executive* magazine's Government Technology Leadership Award (1998), the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's Hammer Award (2000), and an Award of Recognition from the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (2015). Her contributions to a more efficient dairy population through improved genetics benefited producers, consumers, and animals worldwide.

A celebration of Jan's life will take place at the Stauffer Funeral Home at 104 East Main St. in Thurmont, MD, on April 1, 2017, at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jan's name to the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. (<http://www.maefonline.com>) or to Hospice of Frederick County (<http://www.hospiceoffrederick.org>). Condolences can be sent to Jan's daughters Kelly and Jaime Wright at 9740 Appolds Rd., Rocky Ridge, MD 21778, or placed online (<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/FrederickNewsPost/janice-wright-condolences/184724318>).