

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. H. Duane Norman is retiring from USDA's Agricultural Research Service after 42 years on December 31, 2011. He has been employed as a Research Geneticist (Animal) at Beltsville, MD, since 1970 and has served as Research Leader of the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL) for nearly 24 years, longer than all 7 of his predecessors since 1908. Under his leadership, AIPL has expanded its role into producing genetic predictions for 28 yield and fitness traits that are integrated directly into industry management programs. The AIPL research program, which is carried out in cooperation with several industry organizations, has helped make the United States the world leader in dairy cattle genetics and has increased the production efficiency of dairy cattle worldwide through sales of semen, embryos, and cattle.

The AIPL research team has been recognized with the ARS Technology Transfer Award and with USDA's Distinguished Service Award. Duane has received personal recognition for his accomplishments by several industry groups and by the Polish Ministry of Agriculture. He also has received 4 awards from the American Dairy Science Association, including its highest research award (Land o' Lakes) and its Distinguished Service Award. In 2007, he was named National Dairy Shrine's Guest of Honor, and this fall he was designated World Dairy Expo's Industry Person of the Year. He has had a productive research career, (co)authoring 500 publications, including 150 peer reviewed manuscripts, and presenting over 300 talks to research and industry audiences.

Duane plans to continue as an AIPL Collaborator. He will continue to investigate a number of project areas in which he has been working. Nevertheless, he also looks forward to having more time for gardening, traveling with Roslyn, and hanging out with relatives, especially their 2 grandsons. AIPL thanks Duane for his years of dedicated leadership and plans to formally honor him at a retirement celebration in March.