

Genetics of Reproduction Symposium/Workshop

Les Anderson, University of Kentucky, was raised on a diversified livestock and crop operation in Monroe City, Missouri. After graduating with a BS in Agriculture from the University of Missouri, Dr. Anderson received his MS in Reproductive Physiology from Iowa State University and his doctorate at Ohio State University. While at Ohio State University, Dr. Anderson was heavily involved in research that focused on estrus synchronization techniques, the understanding of the onset of puberty, and postpartum rebreeding in beef cows. Dr. Anderson is currently an Associate Extension Professor at the University of Kentucky. The major duty of this position includes statewide extension education in beef cattle with an emphasis on reproductive management. Dr. Anderson is also Chair of the Beef IRM Coordinating Committee, which has been awarded over 3 million dollars to develop and conduct applied research in reproductive management and UK flagship extension educational programs like Master Cattleman, Advanced Master Cattleman, and Cow College.

Jenny Bormann, Kansas State University

Darrh Bullock is an Extension Professor in Beef Cattle Genetics at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Bullock has been on faculty at the University of Kentucky since 1992 and was promoted to full professor in 2005. His responsibilities include statewide educational programming in the area of beef cattle breeding and genetics and he was a founding member of the college's Beef Integrated Resource Management coordinating committee. In addition to Dr. Bullock's educational responsibilities he is the Animal and Food Sciences Extension Coordinator and he is the Beef Group Coordinator. Some of Dr. Bullock's out-of-state activities include: past-chair of the American Society of Animal Science Southern Section Extension Committee; current Board of Director of the Beef Improvement Federation; current Board of Director of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium; and current US representative to the International Committee for Animal Recording Beef Working Group. A portion of Dr. Bullock's time is committed to co-coordinating the educational activities of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. This group is providing educational material on a national level that relates to beef cattle genetics. Dr. Bullock was recognized for his activities, by his peers, as the 2003 American Society of Animal Sciences Southern Section Extension Award recipient.

Kristi Cammack is an Assistant Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Cammack has been on faculty at the University of Wyoming since 2006. She completed her M.S. work in quantitative genetics at the University of Nebraska, and her Ph.D. work combining molecular and quantitative genetics at the University of Missouri. Dr. Cammack's research program at the University of Wyoming focuses on regional feed and water toxicity problems, including high-nitrate feedstuffs, aflatoxin-contaminated feedstuffs, and high-sulfate water, and their effects on animal production and reproduction. Her laboratory uses molecular techniques to determine effects of these toxins at the genomic level. Knowledge gained from this research will ultimately be applied to the development of treatment and prevention strategies and the identification of candidate markers to select more tolerant breeding stock. Dr. Cammack is also extensively involved undergraduate and graduate teaching at the

University of Wyoming. She is actively involved in the American Society of Animal Science, and currently serves as a member of Endocrinology Committee and as the Western Section Graduate Student Competition Chair. Dr. Cammack is also a member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and the Western Education-Extension Research Activities for Beef Cattle Breeding Program. She recently published a review paper in the Professional Animal Scientist summarizing heritability estimates of reproduction traits.

Mark Enns grew up working on the family's fourth generation wheat and cattle farm in northwest Oklahoma. He received both his Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Colorado State University after which he worked in New Zealand for a private ranching company for two years. There he designed genetic evaluation systems to improve profitability. He then spent four years at the University of Arizona teaching and doing research on beef cattle genetics. In his current position at Colorado State University, he teaches and does research primarily focusing on methods to genetically evaluate and select animals that fit their production environment both biologically and economically. These efforts include development of new methods for evaluating and improving cow and heifer fertility, cow maintenance requirements, time to finish in the feedlot, and feedlot health. He is also involved in development of methods to better use economic information in selection decisions for increased profitability of beef production.

Dorian Garrick's formal education included a First Class Honours degree in Agricultural Science from Massey University in New Zealand and a PhD from Cornell University in upstate New York. Dorian was appointed to the A.L. Rae Chair in Animal Breeding & Genetics at Massey University in 1994, was a professor at Colorado State University for 5 years from fall 2002 and currently holds the Jay Lush Chair in Animal Breeding & Genetics at Iowa State University. Dorian has been integrally involved in the development and implementation of national animal evaluation programs, performance recording databases and breeding schemes. His current work focuses on using genomic information to predict genetic merit and enhance livestock improvement schemes. Dorian views animal breeding in a systems context, involving the integration of knowledge and understanding of business goals, production systems, processing and marketing, in concert with quantitative and molecular genetics. Dorian works with a variety of genetic improvement programs, including beef cattle, dairy cattle, dual-purpose sheep, fine-wooled sheep, pigs, deer, salmon and tree breeding. Dorian works well with other researchers and equally enjoys working with enthusiastic producer and industry groups that seek to include animal breeding approaches in the attainment of their ranch business goals.

Rachel Hawken, CSIRO Livestock Industries

John Pollak is Professor of Animal Breeding in the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University. His primary research interests are in genetic evaluation methodology and selection strategies as they relate to beef cattle. Dr. Pollak is the Director of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. This consortium consists of universities involved in genetic evaluation research for beef cattle (Cornell University, University of Georgia and Colorado State University) plus affiliate universities (Iowa State University, University of Kentucky, University of Nebraska and University of California, Davis). This consortium is supported by a USDA Special Federal Grant and functions to organize research priorities in beef cattle genetic evaluation and selection and carry out a national education program in those areas. Pollak will be

leaving Cornell University in January, 2010, to become the Director of the US Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska.

Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska

Milt Thomas is Professor of Physiology and Genetics in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Milt joined the NMSU team in 1997 after completing undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral studies at the University of Missouri, Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas Institute of Biotechnology/Center for Molecular Medicine. His current responsibilities consist of research in the area of physiological genetics and teaching, which includes undergraduate courses in animal breeding and beef production and part of a Ph.D. level course in reproductive endocrinology. Milt conducts research using the university's Angus, Brangus, and Brahman seedstock resources. Dr. Thomas has trained 9 M.S. and 4 Ph.D. students and has compiled 265 professional publications, which include abstracts, proceedings papers and cattle grower reports. Forty-five of these publications are in peer-reviewed journals. This publication record was enhanced by accruing over \$1,000,000 in extramural funding. Dr. Thomas was recognized by his College of Agriculture with its' Distinguished Research Award in 2004. Milt also has an active service record as he has served on the editorial board for the Journal of Animal Science as well as the board of directors for the American Society of Animal Science. Milt has worked within the beef industry serving on the Breed Improvement Committee for the International Brangus Breeders Association. In 2004, he was chair of this committee and has since served as chair of an ad-hoc DNA technology committee. He also chaired the steering committee of two of his department's teaching and research centers, Campus Farm and the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center.

Kent Weigel is Professor and Extension Dairy Genetics Specialist at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, USA. He also serves as Genetic Programs Administrator for the National Association of Animal Breeders. His research focuses on genetic improvement of health, fertility, and survival in dairy cattle using tools such as genomic selection, crossbreeding, reproductive technologies, and data from on-farm computer systems. Dr. Weigel is a key resource person for many companies and organizations within the USA, and he has given lectures to academic, industry, and producer audiences in more than twenty-five countries.