

Animal Breeders To Present Awards

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) announces the recipients of the 1993 Distinguished Service, Member Director, Pioneer, and Research awards. These awards will be presented during the 47th NAAB Annual Convention August 11-13 in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Distinguished Service Award

George A. Miller, dairy sire analyst; Select Sires, Plain City, Ohio, is this year's recipient of the NAAB Distinguished Service Award.

Miller has been associated with dairy cattle his entire life. He is a member of the Charles A. Hope Family, of Purcellville, Va., owners of Round Oak Farm. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, receiving his bachelor's in dairy husbandry in 1952. Two years later, he returned to VPI as herdsman and earned a master's in dairy science.

Miller's career in the AI industry began in 1956 with Virginia Artificial Breeders Association, now Virginia/North Carolina/Select Sires. The Virginia organization, as a result of his originality and resourcefulness, was among the first to adopt a direct herd, do-it-yourself breeding program, and young sire proving and sampling program.

The most far-reaching and lasting impact of George Miller's contribution to the AI industry is the direct result of his "roots" at Round Oak Farm. George's experienced eye and expert advice caused a bull calf named "Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation" to be produced, which later found its way to Select Sires.

In 1973, George Miller was promoted to director of marketing and development at Select Sires. Here he continued his successful pattern of recruiting, hiring, and

developing the talents of high caliber people. Under Miller's leadership, the volume of semen marketed by his organization increased threefold. Miller served with distinction for eight years on the NAAB International Marketing Committee. He was instrumental in arranging a distributorship agreement with World-Wide Sires for international marketing, and helped open up the Latin American market.

Although retired as director of marketing and development, Miller continues to serve the industry as Select Sires' dairy sire analyst for Virginia and West Virginia. He also serves as a consultant to enhance the marketing program in Canada.

NAAB Member Director Award

David C. Slusser possesses those special inspirational skills that help build a solid and unified team, and a progressive attitude to accomplish optimum performance.

He attended Penn State University and was graduated in 1965 with a bachelor's in dairy science. While at Penn State he was employed by the Penn State dairy research farm, and was also football manager for the Penn State Nittany Lions.

In 1970, Slusser purchased Orange Bucket Farm, a 270-acre farm in Crawford County with 100 head of registered Holsteins. The rolling herd average is currently about 21,000 pounds of milk. Here he resides with his wife, Kaye, and his two children, Lee and Dana. Dave Slusser is immediate past president of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, a member of the Federated Genetics Council, a former member of the National Council of Dairy Cattle Breeding, and was chairman of the 1983 State Holstein Convention.

Dave has taught computer

seminars for regional farmers, a financial workshop for bankers, and careers in agriculture for high school students. The family hosts foreign exchange students as well as foreign visitors that stay on the farm.

He served Atlantic Breeders Cooperative on their board of directors from 1973 to 1992 and has provided unequalled assistance to both the board and management. Slusser also served on the NAAB board of directors from 1984-1990.

Pioneer Awards

Dr. W.H. "Hank" Dreher was born in Oregon, Wis., on August 25, 1917. He attended Iowa State University, receiving a degree in veterinary medicine in 1940.

After a short return to a veterinary practice in Oregon, he joined Tri-County Breeders at Wittenberg, Wisc. Tri-County later became Badger Breeders, merging with Consolidated Breeders to form Midwest Breeders in 1967. Throughout these transitions, Dreher continued his position as production manager.

Dreher was a pioneer in applying research to the production and distribution of semen. He was instrumental in developing semen collection, extension, and preservation methods to obtain optimum fertility, and also ensure that semen was disease-free. He worked on the early adoption of university research on buffers and extenders and conducted extensive in-house research on semen extenders. Dreher collaborated with Tanabe and Cassida on repeat breeding cows and early embryonic death. He also worked with University of Wisconsin researchers on leukosis transmission in bulls to determine whether

or not the leukosis virus was transmittable through semen.

In addition to the collection and processing of semen, Dreher trained the first non-veterinarian AI technicians. At a later point, he was instrumental in developing a swine AI trial that was able to achieve good litter size and conception rates. In the 1960s, he worked closely with a Mexican firm to advance a semen collection and processing program for them.

When frozen semen became a reality, Dreher looked for and found a more efficient tool than the ampule for inseminating. His method was to freeze extended semen directly in the pipette. Its application was simply to withdraw from the liquid nitrogen, thaw in air, add a pipette extension, and inseminate the cow. Tagged as the "Magic Wand," it was used until the conversion to straws in the 1970s.

Quality control was of paramount importance to Dreher. He worked with other staff members to develop a nonreturn rate reporting system to estimate conception rates. He also supported further research to determine the accuracy of nonreturn rates to actual pregnancies.

As markets for U.S. germ plasma opened throughout the world, Dreher was instrumental in early health testing work in compliance with foreign regulations. He traveled worldwide marketing the concept of health and genetic quality of U.S. semen.

Dreher was among the founders of NAAB technical committees that supported research and shared in the findings. His most prominent activity was as a member of both the NAAB sire health and

research committees. He also maintained advantageous contacts with the veterinary profession through membership in American, Wisconsin, and Northeast Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Associations.

Harry A. Herman was born in North Carolina in 1905, and at the age of five moved with his family to Hannibal, Missouri. He later enrolled at the University of Missouri, where he earned his bachelor's in agriculture, and master's and doctorate degrees, and was elected to Sigma XI. He also did graduate work for a period of time at the University of Wisconsin.

For nearly 25 years he served as a teacher, researcher, and lecturer in dairy cattle breeding, artificial insemination, and herd management.

In July 1953, when the National Association of Animal Breeders was in its infancy, Herman was appointed as the first executive secretary, and the national NAAB office was established in Columbia, Mo. During his tenure, the AI program expanded from 40 to 97 mostly cooperative members with one or more AI organizations in nearly every state. At the same time, many organizations in Canada and other countries became associate members.

As frozen semen, semen marketing, and young sire proving programs came into the picture, the consolidation and mergers of the different organizations began. Herman retired in September, 1972. He had passed the established retirement age by more than two years, and was given the title of NAAB executive secretary emeritus.

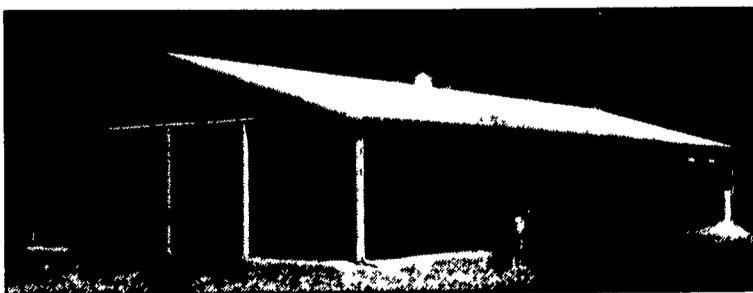
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