

2008 CSAS Award Winners

1. Fellowship Award

This award is given to a member of the Canadian Society of Animal Science in recognition of truly outstanding contributions in any field of Animal Agriculture.

Winner: Dr. James France

Nominator: Dr. Ermias Kebreab



Dr. France is a Canada Research Chair I in Biomathematics in Animal Nutrition and Director of the Centre for Nutrition Modelling, University of Guelph. He has made an outstanding contribution in animal nutrition using his mathematical skills to integrate and describe complex biological systems. Dr. France has been involved in mathematical modeling of animal nutrition for more than 30 years and has worked in research centres and universities mainly in Europe and North America. Due to his extensive contribution in producing highly qualified personnel and outstanding publication record, in 2003 he was head-hunted by the University of Guelph to create and lead a nutrition modeling centre which is the only of its kind not only in Canada but world-wide. His

appointment as Canada Research Chair Tier I is a testament to his life-long contribution and acknowledgment of his status as the leader in his field. The Canada Research Chairs Program stands at the centre of a national strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries for research and development and Tier I positions are given for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields. Dr. France continues to provide leadership in animal agriculture as demonstrated by a huge demand for his book 'Mathematical Models in Agriculture' which was commissioned by CABI to produce a revised 2nd edition. Dr. France has also taken the lead to publish a number of modeling in animal nutrition related papers as a guest editor to Journal of Agricultural Science. His vast network of research from around the world has helped him produce a very outstanding record of publications. He continues to organize and lead an annual meeting of animal nutrition modellers (both young and experienced) from all over the world once a year at a growing conference associated with the Federation of Animal Science Societies. The combination of sound modeling expertise, broad knowledge, impact and prolificacy of his publications, versatility, and personal strengths makes Dr. France a well-deserving recipient of the Canadian Society of Animal Science Fellowship Award.

2. Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Sciences

This award is made to recognize excellence in teaching, research, or technology transfer in the area of animal nutrition or meat science.

Winner: Dr. Timothy McAllister

Nominator: Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein

Dr. McAllister is a Principal Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada based in Lethbridge Alberta. Dr. McAllister and his team have made numerous contributions to the area of beef cattle nutrition. He has provided considerable insight into the impact of condensed tannins on the microbial digestion of carbohydrates and their role in preventing pasture bloat. Dr. McAllister has contributed to the development of feeding management strategies to prevent acidosis and bloat in feedlot cattle and has identified natural plant compounds that may serve as a substitute for subtherapeutic antibiotics in beef cattle diets. Dr. McAllister has authored or co-authored over 220 refereed papers, over 420 conference proceedings and abstracts, 41 review papers, and 14 book chapters. He has contributed to the training of 8 Ph.D., and 7 M.Sc. students and 15 PDFs. Many of the individuals he has trained now hold research positions in either universities or government. He holds adjunct status at the 5 Canadian Universities and one university each in China and Ghana.

3. Award for Technical Innovation in Enhancing Production of Safe and Affordable Food

This award recognizes excellence in technical innovation and teaching with particular emphasis in the fields of biotechnology, genetics, physiology and animal behavior.

Winner: Dr. Candido Pomar

Nominator: Dr. Luigi Faucitano



Dr. Pomar is a Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada based at Lenoxville, Quebec where he heads a research program in swine nutrition, growth modeling and carcass grading. In collaboration with others, Dr. Pomar is engaged in the development of automatic precision feeding systems to optimize swine production systems. This research has led to the development of a new automated and intelligent feeder which integrates the scientific knowledge in feed formulation, nutrient requirements, and prediction of the environmental impact. This intelligent feeding system offers the use of real time feeding and growth data to manage each pig in a group individually relative to its specific daily nutrient requirements and has potential to enhance profitability and competitiveness of the pig industry in Canada. Dr. Pomar has a large net-work of collaboration nationally and internationally and has contributed to training of 20 graduate students. His publication record consists of 62 peer-reviewed articles, 6 book chapter, and 4 patents.

4. Animal Industries Awards for Excellence in Extension and Public Service – Ruminants

This award is given to recognize outstanding service to the Canadian dairy and beef industries in technology transfer, leadership, and education in animal science.

Winner: Dr. John Popp

Nominators: Drs. Shannon Scott & Duane McCartney



Dr. John Popp works with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives as a Livestock Extension Specialist. Dr. Popp holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Saskatchewan and prior to joining MAFRI, he was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge and Kamloops Research Centres and as a Beef Extension Specialist with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He has been instrumental in developing fact sheets and web-based resources for beef producers and MAFRI's Growing Opportunity (GO) Teams. In addition to his work with producers and provincial extension personnel, Dr. Popp is also an integral part of a number of inter-agency committees including the Riding Mountain Eradication Area (RMEA) Tuberculosis Task Force. Not only does Dr. John Popp seek to serve, promote and develop the cattle industry, he is also an active and successful participant in that industry as he and his wife own, manage and operate a 200-head cow/calf operation in Erickson, Manitoba.

5. Pfizer Young Scientist Award

This award recognizes the achievements of new members of the research community who have demonstrated excellence in any area of animal science. Nominees must have obtained their Ph.D. in the last 7 years.

Winner: Dr. Masahito Oba

Nominator: Dr. Erasmus Okine



Dr. Oba joined the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor of Dairy Nutrition in 2004. Dr. Oba received his Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in 2002, and after 2 years of research as a post-doctoral fellow at University of Maryland, he joined Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor of Dairy Nutrition in 2004. Dr. Oba has published 25 refereed articles, 56 abstracts, 2 books, 5 book chapters, 8 conference proceedings, and more than 100 popular press articles. Dr. Oba has already been formally recognized for his research productivity among young scientists with the Richard M. Hoyt Memorial Award by National Milk Producers Federation at the American Dairy Science Association in 2003. Dr. Oba's research program has focused on feed utilization and applied dairy nutrition and on digestive physiology of ruminants. Dr. Oba's research program is well funded having attracted in excess of \$5.8 million research funding as a primary or co-investigator. Dr. Oba is an excellent teacher who has been awarded "Teacher of the Year Award" in three different occasions.