

Award for Technical Innovation in Enhancing Production of Safe Affordable Food

Dr. Harold W. Gonyou



This award is given to a member of the Canadian Society of Animal Science in recognition of excellence in technical innovation and teaching, with particular emphasis in the fields of biotechnology, genetics, physiology and animal behavior. The award requires a demonstration that the recipient had contributed to the production of safe and affordable food. The award is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health.

Dr. Gonyou's interest in the science of animal production began while on the family farm in Ontario, and developed as he earned degrees in Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Guelph, in animal physiology at the University of Alberta and in animal behavior at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Gonyou's nomination is based on his combining strong research, teaching and leadership roles in the field of animal behavior, resulting in a significant impact on the efficient and welfare appropriate production of animals. His list of research publications represents a comprehensive approach to the study of farm animal behavior. During the past 17 years, while at the Prairie Swine Centre, Dr. Gonyou has attempted to anticipate and address, using the study of animal behavior, specific industry issues. These have included the design and management of feeders through the study of feeding and waste-causing behaviors, the development of production trends leading to group housing of gestating sows and large group housing for growing/finishing pigs. He also developed a stressful handling model to assist research programs addressing the incidence of non-ambulatory pigs at market. He currently leads a collaborative project involving five universities and research stations on pig handling and transport. Dr. Gonyou has instructed over 750 students in farm animal behaviour and animal welfare. Seven of his nine Ph.D. graduates currently hold tenure-track or research appointments in four countries. His leadership in the field of farm animal behavior has led to his serving as President of the International Society for Applied Ethology and as Editor of Applied Animal Behavior Science, the leading international journal in the field.

Nominated by Dr. Luigi Faucitano

Pictured above: Randy Bagg (Elanco) and Dr. Harold Gonyou