

Canadian Society of Animal Science Fellowship (Formerly the Award of Merit)

Dr. Steven L. Leeson

This award is given to a member of the Canadian Society of Animal Science for truly outstanding contributions in any field of animal agriculture. The sponsor of this award is Alltech Canada Inc.

Dr. Steven L. Leeson has made outstanding contributions to Animal Science, poultry nutrition and management in particular, over a 27 year span at the University of Guelph. He has authored or co-authored 12 books or chapters in books, 290 articles in refereed journals, 69 articles in trade journals and has made 417 presentations. He has been advisor to 22 graduate students and has played a major role in teaching animal nutrition and animal science courses to undergraduate students. In his research, he has studied nutrition of all kinds of poultry but especially broilers, broiler breeders and cage layer hens. His main areas of research have focussed on energy metabolism of broilers, feeding programs for layers and designer eggs. With broilers and layers, Dr. Leeson has resolved many issues on nutrient requirements, energy density and the relationship of balancing other nutrients in the diet with energy. His work has defined how amino acids can be used in poultry diets to reduce total protein intake and nitrogen excretion. He has shown how the nutrient requirements are affected by environmental conditions, lighting and temperature in particular. He has evaluated the role of many nutrients, especially calcium and vitamin D, in skeletal development. This has been important to facilitate the high rates and efficiencies of production in modern poultry. Steve has been instrumental in the development of omega-3 fatty acid enriched eggs. His work has focussed primarily on using plant feed sources, high in omega-3s, in the diet. Recently, he has begun to evaluate how fishmeal might be deodorized to enrich eggs in eicosapentanoic acid and docosahexanoic acid, without affecting the taste of the egg. In this work, Steve has consulted with one of the leading producers of omega-3 enriched eggs in Canada and their product now stocks the shelves of many grocery stores in Ontario. Steve has been heavily committed to improving education and knowledge of poultry nutrition in the developing world. He has had several graduate students from developing countries and while they have done research under his advice, they have resolved problems of interest back in the student's country. Feeding high tannin sorghum grain and using Nigerian minerals in poultry diets are two examples of work that has evolved from these relationships. Steve has been invited for several consultations and lecture series in developing world countries, in Central and South America in particular. He has also given lectures in Beijing. During all of his career at the University of Guelph, Dr. Leeson has been committed to teaching at the diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels. In particular, he has designed and taught courses on poultry production (diploma level), introductory animal science and industry as well as in animal nutrition (undergraduate level) and in poultry nutrition and metabolism (graduate level). Recently, the Ontario Agricultural College revised the undergraduate curriculum in agriculture for the B.Sc. Dr. Leeson planned and coordinated a new two semester course, which has been given to all of the B.Sc. (Agr) students in their second or third years of the degree since 1996, on Animal Production Systems and Industry. Steve has been an Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Animal Science from 1985 to 1987 and has served the journal, Poultry Science, in a similar capacity for most of his professional career. Recognition of Dr. Leeson as a poultry nutritionist was evidenced by his appointment to the N.R.C. Subcommittee to revise Nutrient Requirements of Poultry (1995). With assistance from a colleague, Dr. John Summers, Steve has recently completely revised the book - Nutrition of the Chicken. This book had originally been written by Dr. M.L. Scott, Cornell University, but had not been revised since the 1970s, and the new edition will surely become a text of major significance to anyone studying or learning about poultry nutrition. Steve has been recognized by three awards - Outstanding Research (Ontario Agricultural College), Service in Extension and Public Service (Canadian Society of Animal Science) and in Poultry Nutrition (American Feed Manufacturers Association).

Dr Leeson was nominated for this award by Drs Jock G. Buchanan-Smith and Roger R. Hacker. The Canadian Society of Animal Science is pleased to present the Canadian Society of Animal Science Fellowship to Dr Leeson in recognition of his outstanding contributions to animal science.