

CSAS Honorary Life Membership Award



Duane McCartney, PhD

Retired
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Dr. McCartney was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. John McKinnon accepted the award on his behalf.

Duane McCartney grew up in Ontario and was very active in 4-H as a youth. He graduated from the University of Guelph receiving his BSc and MSc. where he evaluated different winter housing systems for beef cattle as a means of lowering the cost of production. During this period he also worked for Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a 4-H representative.

Following university, Duane spent two years teaching animal sciences courses and designing and rebuilding the University of Nigeria Nsukka Research Farm which had been destroyed by the Biafran civil war. He then joined the staff of the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Melfort Research Station in Saskatchewan and was instrumental in developing the first “Pasture to Plate” forage beef research system in Canada. The project operated for many years and involved rotational grazing research, pasture rejuvenation, remote sensing, forage variety evaluation, bloat assessment, early and late calving seasons, cross breeding evaluation, low cost straw based winter feed rations, animal health and vaccine development and economic evaluation research all of which Duane took a leading role.

Duane was always interested in getting the research findings from the Melfort Research Station out to the livestock producer. He initiated the formation of the Western Forage Beef Network that brought all the forage and beef research scientists in Agriculture Canada plus university and provincial extension specialists together to develop and carry out joint research and extend the information to the livestock producers in Western Canada.

In 1997 he was transferred to the Lacombe Research Centre Western Forage Beef Group, a joint research and extension education initiative with Alberta Agriculture and Agri Food Canada. Through his efforts, the group evaluated and promoted the use of winter swath grazing which lowered wintering costs of cows by nearly 50% compared to the traditional way of wintering on stored feed. The research findings of Duane and the Western Forage Beef Group have been widely adapted and had a major impact on lowering cost of production for beef producers all across Canada.

In addition to forage beef systems research he was active with the executive of Canadian Society of Animal Science including being President as well as being very active with the awards committee. He was chair of the Canada Expert Committee on Forage Crops and was instrumental in bringing the forage industry and researchers from across Canada together in the formation of the Canadian Forum on Forage and Rangelands. With the help of forage and beef extension specialists and research scientists across Canada, the CSAS and CSPA, Duane created www.Foragebeef.ca a web site that highlights and summarizes forage and beef research from across Canada and the USA.

Over the years Duane was senior author on numerous forage evaluation, soil fertility and beef cow management research papers. In recent years, he wrote several review papers summarizing all the past research on all annual crops that could be used for grazing in Canada, wrote book chapters on haying systems around the world, and in his retirement co authored a new booklet on *Management of Canadian Prairie Rangelands* and developed *Canada's Pasture Profile* for the FAO United Nations web site.