

## 2006 ADSA-ASAS Sectional Awards

### 2006 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Distinguished Service Award

For more than 33 years as a research geneticist at USDA's Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory and now as a retired collaborator, **Rex Powell** has



made numerous individual and team contributions to the development of genetic evaluations critical to improvement of dairy cattle in the United States and around the world. His career began with BS (1964) and MS (1968) degrees in dairy production from Michigan State University and a PhD (1972) in animal breeding from Iowa State University. He has authored more than 325 pub-

lications and is senior author of more than 200 of those, including 50 articles published in the *Journal of Dairy Science*. Powell was the primary researcher in charge of calculating and improving USDA-DHIA Cow Indexes. His methodology led to including maternal ancestor information and an adjustment for the dams of contemporaries. He was a member of the team that introduced the modified contemporary comparison and animal model methods of genetic evaluation. He was a coauthor of lactation projection factors that were used to standardize lactation records for nearly 2 decades. His major contributions have related to conversion of foreign genetic evaluations into a form comparable with US evaluations and directly usable by US farmers, first through conversion equations and later through the International Evaluation Bull Service (Interbull). His research has facilitated the use of the best bulls from around the world as sires of cows and of bulls for sampling. Powell is recognized as an authority on genetic yield trends, cow evaluation, and international comparison of bull evaluations. The respect afforded to him as a dairy industry spokesperson is apparent from the numerous invitations that he has received from throughout the United States and from 26 foreign countries. He has responded to invitations for more than 150 presentations at international, national, state, and district meetings and at universities. Powell also is rec-

ognized as an international leader in cooperative efforts to coordinate genetic evaluations of dairy cattle and to enhance genetic improvement on a global basis. He was the US representative to Interbull for 23 years and served on its steering committee for almost 20 years. In 1991, Powell was a member of the USDA team that received the National DHIA Award of Special Appreciation in recognition of continued superior research performance on genetic improvement of dairy cattle. He also was a member of the scientific teams that received a USDA Distinguished Service Award in 1991, Government Executive magazine's Government Technology Leadership Award in 1998, a National Partnership for Reinventing Government (Vice-Presidential Hammer) Award in 2000, and an ARS Award for Superior Technology Transfer in 2000. As an individual, Powell received the National Association of Animal Breeders Research Award in 1994, the ADSA J. L. Lush Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics in 1997, and the Outstanding Service Award from National DHIA in 2005 in recognition of his many years of outstanding service and leadership in improving and advancing DHIA. He also was selected as an ADSA Fellow in 2005.

### 2006 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Young Scientist Award for Research

**Matthew E. Wilson** is a native of Indiana and received his BS degree in animal science from Purdue University in 1994. A work-study position in animal



sciences was stimulation enough for him to change his focus from pursuing a graduate degree in chemistry to animal science. He accepted a graduate assistantship at Iowa State under the mentorship of Stephen P. Ford where he received the MS in physiology of reproduction in 1996 and the PhD degree in physiology of reproduction with a minor in genetics in 1999. The focus of his graduate research

was on placental efficiency, embryo development, and litter size in swine. Much of his work utilized the Meishan in a comparative model system with the Yorkshire

breed. Wilson accepted a postdoctoral research fellow position at West Virginia University in 2000 working with E. Keith Inskeep. In 2002, he accepted his current position of assistant professor in the Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at West Virginia University. He currently conducts studies on the effects of growth hormone and uterine IGF-I on conceptus development and postnatal growth and development in sheep and mechanisms regulating nutritional influences on progesterone catabolism. In addition, he is a co-investigator on a project to evaluate the effects of orally active melengestrol acetate for ovarian regression and recrudescence in hens as an alternative method for molting.

Wilson has authored or coauthored 2 book chapters, 4 conference proceedings, 42 refereed journal articles, 10 technical publications, and 48 abstracts. In addition to his research, Wilson demonstrates outstanding teaching as an instructor in animal physiology, reproductive physiology, graduate seminar, and journal club. He is a member of ASAS, SSR, AAAS, and the Society for the Study of Fertility. He was a member of the board of directors (2001–2003) and editorial board (2002–2005) of ASAS. He is currently a member of the Academic Quadrathlon Committee for ASAS serving as chair of this committee in 2006. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for 6 scientific societies.