

2007 ADSA-ASAS Sectional Awards

2007 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Distinguished Service Award

Lewis W. Smith, who recently retired from USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), provided 45 years of outstanding service to animal and dairy science in



the Northeast, the last 19 of which were as a national program leader. He received a BS in dairy science (1959) and MS (1961) and PhD (1968) degrees in animal science from the University of Maryland.

Smith's USDA career began in Beltsville in 1961 with the Dairy Cattle Research Branch of the Beltsville Agricultural Center (BARC), and his research focused on waste and forage utilization, forage chemistry, biochem-

istry, and ruminant digestive physiology. He held positions as scientist, research leader, and institute director before joining the national program staff. His research replaced speculation with coefficients in ruminant production models. As director of the BARC Animal Science Institute (1979–1988), Smith determined the direction of future animal and dairy science research at BARC. His efforts provided the basis for modernization of the BARC animal research facilities.

Smith's most current position as a senior national program leader included responsibility for relevancy, planning, review, re-evaluation, coordination, and communication for USDA research programs on animal well-being and aquaculture. He served in various advisory or consulting roles for national and international organizations and has (co)authored over 125 scientific reports.

2007 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Young Scientist Award – Research

Erin Connor received BS and PhD degrees in animal science from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an MS degree in wildlife science from Virginia Tech. After a postdoctoral fellowship in the Growth Bi-

ology Laboratory at the USDA-ARS, Beltsville, she was hired as a molecular biologist in the Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory.

Connor's research focus is improving production efficiency of dairy cattle through studies of gene expression and marker-assisted genetic selection. Her research includes 1) improving comparative chromosome maps between cattle and humans near quantitative trait loci and integrating the bovine genetic and physical maps, 2) studies of mammary gland biology, and 3) understanding regulation of feed efficiency in cattle. Her research in mammary gland biology includes characterizing molecules of the Toll-like receptor



signaling pathway, investigating effects of variation in the *BPI* gene on somatic cell score of Holsteins, creating the first SAGE (serial analysis of gene expression) libraries of bovine mammary gland to study impacts of milking frequency on gene expression, and characterizing the ontogeny of ovarian steroid receptors and estrogen-responsive genes in bovine mammary gland.

Her stature and contributions to the field are attested by funding of two USDA-NRI competitive grants, service on federally funded grant panels, chairing sessions at the national ADSA/ASAS meetings, an invited presentation at the 2006 ADSA-ASAS joint annual meeting, and her recent election as the Northeast ASAS-ADSA secretary/treasurer.

2007 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Young Scientist Award – Educator

Carey Williams began her position at Rutgers University as an assistant extension specialist in equine management on July 1, 2003. Her goal as an incoming professor was to establish a strong program in the field of equine nutrition and exercise physiology and maintain the role of liaison to the equine industry in New Jersey through extension responsibilities.

Williams's programs address the needs of equine professionals, feed and seed dealers, farm managers, horse trainers, 4-H leaders, volunteers, and youth. Williams



organizes the Rutgers' Annual Horse Management seminar designed for horse enthusiasts to enhance their horse care skills through more knowledge about various aspects of horse health, nutrition, reproduction, and management. She organized the "Horses 2007" seminar sponsored by the Equine Science Center on March 31 and April 1, 2007. This educational seminar drew close to 800 people from

the mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions to Rutgers University and focused on horse health-related issues for the general horse public and equine professionals.

Williams was principal investigator on the first equine-specific NE-SARE grant-funded project titled "Sustainable Pasture Management for Horses." Williams is the team leader for a multi-discipline project involving other Rutgers' faculty. The project is funded

by the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station State Equine Initiative, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Environmental Protection Agency for a total of nearly \$400,000.

Although Williams does not have a formal teaching appointment, she has been part of the George H. Cook student honors research program and she participates in both undergraduate and graduate teaching and training and readily incorporates students in her extension and research programs. She has received outstanding evaluations for all of her teaching (extension and undergraduate) and support from both students and her industry clientele. She was recently nominated and received the Rising Women of Rutgers Outstanding Woman Educator Award.

Carey Williams is truly a master educator as an extension specialist; she develops, coordinates, and administers education and outreach programs throughout New Jersey and the mid-Atlantic region. She teaches regularly to groups throughout the state and is noted for the same enthusiasm and passion that she has for Rutgers University students. Williams has accomplished much in her four short years at Rutgers University. She is well qualified for the Northeast ADSA-ASAS Young Scientist – Educator Award.