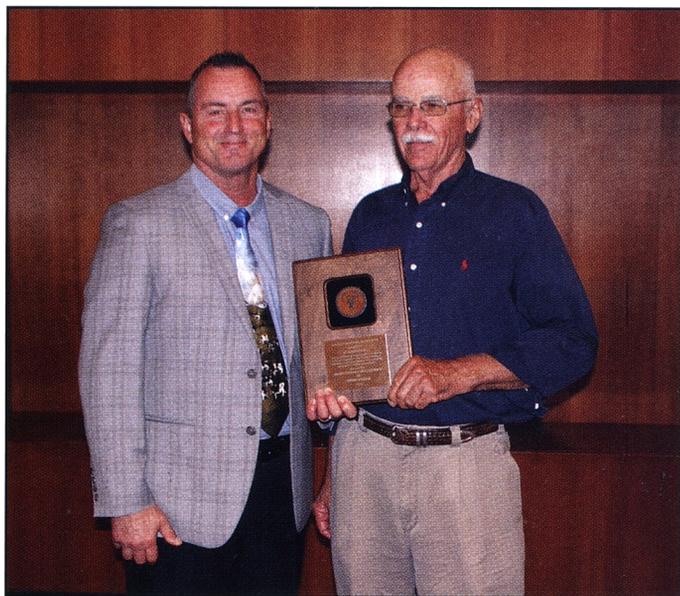


# 2017 AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Bovine Practitioner of the Year



*Dr. Norman LaFaunce (right) receives the Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award from Dr. Bryan Halteman.*

Dr. Andy Bennett, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, described the AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award. “The Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award has been awarded annually since its establishment in 1978. Since its inception, this award has been sponsored by Syntex Animal Health, Fort Dodge Animal Health, and now Boehringer Ingelheim. The award consists of a diamond ring and commemorative plaque. The award winner exhibits those qualities that exemplify the AABP and its members. Candidates are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Must be a bovine practitioner in active practice;
- The quality of veterinary service provided as judged by his or her peers;
- Participation in organized veterinary medicine, such as AABP, as well as activity on veterinary boards, such as licensing, specialty, etc.;
- Contribution to the knowledge of the profession through case reports, scientific reports and continuing education; and,
- Achievements and activities which have an impact on the cattle industry and bovine practice.

On behalf of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, I would like to express our appreciation for allowing us to participate in recognizing one of your outstanding members. To present the winner of the 2017 AABP–Boehringer Ingelheim Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award, please welcome Dr. Bryan Halteman.”

“Today’s winner of this prestigious award is a fourth generation Californian, born and raised in northern California. That is the little-known part of California with few

cities and no palm trees. He attended the University of California-Davis during his undergrad years and veterinary school, graduating with the DVM degree in 1970 at the top of his class. He then moved east to Cornell University on an NIH grant to obtain a master’s degree in clinical science (theriogenology specialty) under the guidance of Steve Roberts and Ken McEntee. He stayed an additional year in New York in a Courtland County large animal practice before moving west to Lander Veterinary Clinic in Turlock California. There he became the fourth member of the large animal practice founded by Dr. Bob Harris. In addition to clinical dairy practice he became involved in pioneering embryo transfer work at Carnation Genetics, a client of the practice. As a member of the Carnation team, he helped produce the first live bovine birth from a frozen embryo in North America.

In 1979 he returned to Cornell University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Science, where he taught theriogenology to third and fourth year veterinary students and did collaborative research with the Animal Science Department and the veterinary school’s Physiology Department. During this time, he also became board certified in theriogenology. In 1982, his wife Barbara, who was his college sweetheart who he had married during his graduate student days at Cornell University, announced that she was not willing to endure another New York winter, and that he should look for a job somewhere warm, preferably back home in California. After exploring a potential academic post he decided that his true love was clinical practice, so he returned to the Turlock practice where he still works today.

He helped the practice grow from a mixed large animal practice with four veterinarians to a food animal exclusive practice with 17 veterinarians. He helped design and oversee the construction of a new practice facility that includes a standalone milk quality laboratory and dairy supply business. The practice has incorporated housing to encourage teaching of veterinary student preceptors. Over the years the practice has hosted hundreds of students from all over the United States and many foreign countries as well. Our award winner has facilitated this outreach and served as a role model and resource for these visitors and younger members of his practice.

He served for nine years as AABP’s representative on the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and also served a term as president of the board. In addition, he was recently appointed as the food animal designee on the AVMA Council on Education. He has also served on various committees at the California VMA and California Department of Food and Agriculture.

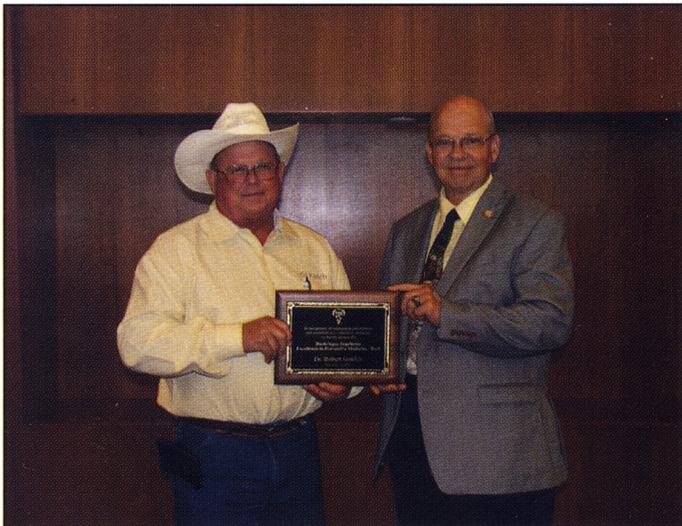
Please help me recognize an icon in bovine practice and a great representative of the AABP, our 2017 recipient of the AABP-Boehringer Animal Health Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award, Dr. Norm LaFaunce.”

# AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Awards for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Andy Bennett, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, described the awards. “The awards were established in 1982, and consist of a \$1,500 general scholarship contribution made in the name of the recipient to his/her veterinary college of choice and a specifically designed plaque given to the recipient. The awards recognize individual member

practitioners or practices that have developed outstanding preventive medicine programs. One award is given to recognize an outstanding program for beef production and another is given to an outstanding program in dairy production. We, at Boehringer Ingelheim, are proud to be this year’s sponsor of this award, and wish to congratulate the 2017 winners.”

## Beef Award



*Dr. Robert Gukich (left) received the AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine-Beef from Dr. John Crews.*

Dr. John Crews introduced the 2017 beef award recipient. “Dr. Robert Gukich started his love affair with beef cattle when he raised his first steer and entered him in the Polk County Florida Youth Fair. Now some 50+ years later he has been volunteering his time at the Annual Polk County Youth Fair Check-in for kids following in his footsteps. And to boot, he has been providing free health exams and certificates to those who successfully fitted their calves for the fair. One of his proudest moments was last year when his grandson, who is the fifth generation Polk Countian, also entered his first animal there!

In the formative years as a child Robert knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. With no family heritage of DVMs in his family he wasn’t sure how he would get there. He began his academic endeavors toward that goal by first gaining his Associates Degree from Alabama’s Marion Military Institute. He then went on to Auburn University and garnered his Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science in 1972 and his DVM degree from Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 1976.

After Auburn, Robert and Doris, the real love of his life and wife of now 46 years, returned to his hometown of

Lake Wales, Florida. Lake Wales is most often pictured as that place where the Florida Natural Citrus guy steps through the orange trees to hand the carton of orange juice to the lady in the supermarket. But little known is that it is the center of Florida’s Heartland and more importantly today is the home of thousands of acres of ranches and hundreds of thousand beef cattle. Robert’s family has lived in this area for 3 generations. After graduation with his DVM degree, he started and developed Lake Wales Veterinary Hospital. His practice developed in to a six-man mixed animal practice. After 25 years of a primary focus with bovine and equine species, Robert decided to sell his interest in the general practice and focus on just these two species as Lake Wales Large Animal Services. His cattle clients are among the Who’s Who in the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association lists. To his clients he is most often referred to as Doc, and his practice serves cattlemen owning over 50,000 brood cows. Most of these clients started with him over 40 years ago!

The focus of his practice has always been preventative medicine. Long before computer days, he meticulously wrote out detailed herd health plans for his clients, not just relying on them hearing it while he performed routine pregnancy exams and BSEs in their cattle pens. He has hosted numerous client educational meetings and one I attended myself was on the importance of fetal programming in our beef cattle operations.

The same year he opened his large animal practice Robert started practicing what he preached in the cow pens by building his own herd by leasing a local ranch and purchasing 500 head of cows. He named it G7 Ranch, named for himself, his wife Doris, and their five daughters, Hayley, Brannan, Ambrey, Ashton, and ML. G7 has grown to now over 1300 head of cows on some 6500 acres. He also oversees a 4000-acre ranch in South Florida purchased by his grandfather in 1947. That ranch has been designated as a Florida Panther Mitigation Bank through the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Robert not only manages the cattle ranch and his veterinary practice, he recently took on a new responsibility. Robert has the unique role of being one of the founding members of the Florida Cattle Ranchers, LLC, who are raising “Fresh From Florida” beef. In March of this year, the first

FCR beef—born, raised and fed in Florida—was sold in local grocery stores throughout the state.

Robert has traveled throughout the US to serve on drug advisory councils with nationally recognized drug companies. He has been on the RFD TV's program "Cattlemen to Cattlemen". The show has featured him on multiple occasions explaining vaccines and the vaccination protocol. He is a long standing member of AABP, Society for Theriogenology, AAEP, AVMA, and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

On a personal note, I have known Robert and Doris since veterinary school since I graduated from Auburn just one year before him. I practiced in a neighboring city with the same kind of practice, I have worked for him as an as-

sociate in his mixed animal practice when I came back from missionary service in Africa, I served his practice as Director of Florida's Animal Diagnostic Labs and as his District Veterinarian for 16 years. For 20 years I have served his practice by culturing the nearly 2000 annual trich tests for his clients and am currently involved in a research project with him to validate an assay to select cattle for high immune response capabilities which is designed to select animals with a higher production potential. But greater than all of this, I am proud to call Robert my friend! Please help me congratulate our 2017 AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Beef Award winner, Dr. Robert Gukich."

## Dairy Award



*Dr. Fred Muller (left) received the AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Preventive Medicine-Dairy from Dr. Dale Moore.*

Dr. Dale Moore introduced the recipient of the 2017 AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Award of Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine-Dairy. "The winner of this year's Preventive Medicine Dairy category award is an innovator and leader in dairy practice as well as a cattleman. His practice services primarily dairy herds, and his innovations have come from working with them and the dairy industry in general.

After graduation from veterinary school, he worked with other innovators in dairy practice and a previous recipient of this very award. Most of us know what is involved in dairy practice, including reproductive programs, surgeries, developing protocols, and the list goes on. But this person has gone above and beyond what we might think of a traditional dairy practice.

Before I get into his innovations, which will give away who this is, I would like to discuss his service to this

organization. He has been on committees and has served in leadership in this and other organizations. I am sure that those of you who have worked with him in groups may have considered him quiet but speaking at just the right time with just the right thing to say.

This year's winner takes students in his practice and gives them the practical and the progressive look at dairy practice. He has been a major collaborator with his dairy clients on numerous research projects and is a supportive alum. He is always learning something! That is true of his ventures into beef cattle breeding, showing, and husbandry.

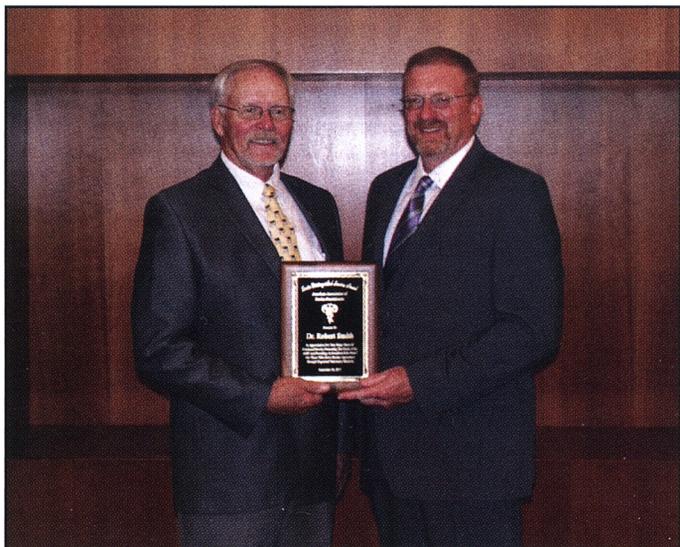
What makes this person unique is the laboratory system he has built to better serve his clients as well as clients of other veterinarians and nutritionists. In addition to milk culturing, his lab offers feed analyses, manure analyses, water analysis, as well as blood tests for pregnancy for cattle, goats, sheep, and horses. His was the first commercial affiliate laboratory to offer blood pregnancy tests to clients. They have even ventured into hop analysis for beer production.

Another innovation in practice that is relatively unique is that he has learned low-stress cattle handling and has incorporated training for employees on dairies he serves as well as on feedlots and ranches.

He is married to another veterinarian and they have three great daughters. As he put it "They started life with mounds of student debt and a couple of degrees." Since then he has built his lab and practice through hard work, learning, and focus. He is the epitome of an excellent dairy practitioner in preventive medicine.

This year's winner of the AABP-Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine-Dairy is Dr. Fred Muller from Sunnyside, Washington."

# AABP-Zoetis Distinguished Service Award



*Dr. Bob Smith (left) is presented the 2017 AABP-Zoetis Distinguished Service Award from Dr. Mike Apley.*

Dr. Dick Wallace, Zoetis, described the award. “This award was established in 1989. Beginning in 1996, it has been given annually by Pfizer Animal Health, Inc., now Zoetis. It consists of a commemorative plaque and a certificate of appreciation. Candidates for the award are those individuals who, through long and continued service, have promoted the goals of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), and whose accomplishments have served as a model for service to bovine agriculture through organized veterinary medicine. Selection criteria include the following:

- A career of self-effacing commitment to excellence in bovine medicine as evidenced by conscientious involvement in the affairs of the AABP;
- Demonstrated leadership in keeping organized veterinary medicine abreast of the times;
- Peer recognition as an effective spokesman for the bovine practitioner.

Dr. Mike Apley will introduce this year’s award winner.”

“President Thomas, AABP members, and guests, this year’s award winner is no stranger to the AABP. He was raised on a small livestock farm in Southeastern Kansas. He received the BS and MS degrees in animal science from Kansas State University, and was commissioned as an Army Air Defense Artillery officer through the K-State Army ROTC program. He served a total of 25 years in the U.S. Army on active duty and as a reservist, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Following graduation from veterinary school at Kansas State, he completed a large animal medicine and surgery internship and clinical instructorship at Oklahoma State University. At Oklahoma State he was a Field Services Clinician for 15 years, with

concurrent responsibilities for clinical research on stocker cattle diseases.

He then worked as a feedlot veterinarian for nearly two years with Palo Duro Veterinary Services in Canyon, Texas, then returned to Oklahoma State for 9 years where he held the McCasland Chair in Beef Health and Production, with responsibilities for respiratory disease research, extension, teaching, and industry service. He is Professor Emeritus at Oklahoma State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

He returned to private practice since 1999, with primary practice emphasis on feedlot and stocker health and management. Today the 10 veterinarians associated with the practice provide service to feedlot clients in 13 states with a combined one-time capacity of over one million cattle.

He is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Food Animal Practice). While serving as the Food Animal Regent for the ABVP, he led the effort to establish specialties in swine, dairy and beef practice, making board certification more attractive to veterinarians whose practice deals intensely with one species.

During his career, our honoree was involved in numerous research studies, and has co-edited a major textbook and authored or co-authored 11 book chapters, along with numerous other publications. He has a passion for continuing education, and has presented over 250 papers at veterinary conferences in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and has made well over 300 presentations to producer groups across America. He has been the consulting editor of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America Food Animal Practice* since 1999, publishing 57 issues to date. That same year he also assumed the role of editor for the *American Association of Bovine Practitioners*, where he established the peer-review system for the journal and has edited and published 38 volumes of the *Bovine Practitioner* and 19 issues of the *Proceedings of the AABP’s Annual Conference*. He is adjunct faculty (~ 35 years) at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, lecturing to all but two of the classes since the school opened, guest lectures to veterinary students at Texas A&M University during each spring semester, and serves as a Visiting Professor at the University of Nebraska to teach the feedlot rotations.

He has served as a Director and President of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and the Western Veterinary Conference. To fill a vacancy resulting from restructuring of the WVC Board, he was recently appointed as vice-president of the Western Veterinary Conference. He chaired the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s Cattle Health and Well-being Committee, and has been a member of

the NCBA Beef Quality Assurance Advisory Board for over 25 years, and currently is chairing the Board. In 2004 he represented the US cattle industry at the World Health Organization's (OIE) Conference on Animal Welfare in Paris, France, and in that same year represented the US in trade talks with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding trade barriers. He claims his most satisfying opportunity in this arena was to chair the working group that developed the beef industry's Cattle Care and Handling Guidelines, which have dramatically improved the handling practices and welfare of beef cattle in the US. In addition, he has served on numerous committees and task forces for such things as food safety, cattle health, animal identification, animal welfare, foreign animal diseases and prudent use of antimicrobials.

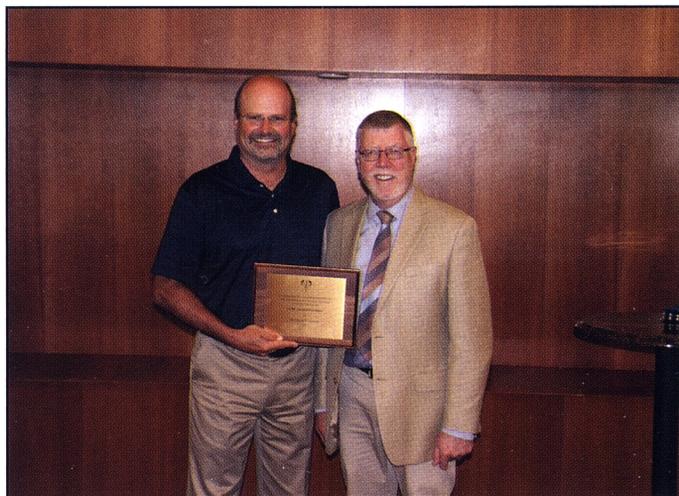
Our award winner has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to veterinary medicine and the beef industry, including the AABP Bovine Practitioner of the Year; the Academy of Veterinary Consultants Consultant of the Year; the AABP Award for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine - Beef; the Oklahoma Food Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award; the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Distinguished Service Award; the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished

Alumnus Award; the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners Outstanding Service Award, and in 2016 was honored as a Kansas State University Alumni Fellow. In 2013 he was named as one of the "20 Influential Beef and Dairy Veterinarians from the Past 20 Years", and received the Oklahoma Beef Council BQA Producer of the Year Award that same year. In 2017 he was named the National BQA Educator of the Year.

Like me, he's a gear head! There's a story that his young gear-head grandson directed his mother to the edge of town, and then firmly said "Mom stop, see those long black marks on the road?" Puzzled she said they were very obvious, and the grandson proudly said "Grandpa and I did that!!" She asked "Is Grandpa supposed to be burning rubber like that?" His reply, "C'mon mom, it's a SS 396 Super Sport!"

He co-owns and operates a stocker cattle operation, and enjoys flying his plane on business and tinkering with his two classic cars, especially the modified Chevelle. He and his wife, Gerri, reside in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and have four children and 10 grandchildren. Help me congratulate the 2017 AABP-Zoetis Distinguished Service Award winner, Dr. Bob Smith."

# AABP Award of Excellence



*Dr. David Kelton (left) receives the 2017 AABP Award of Excellence from the presenter, Dr. Ken Leslie.*

Dr. Ken Leslie described the award. “This award was first established in 1989. Candidates for the award must be nominated from teaching, research, industry, or government areas. The nominees’ professional activities must have had a consistent and direct influence on daily activities of veterinarians in bovine practice. Eligibility also includes a degree in veterinary medicine and AABP membership.”

“President Thomas, Executive Vice-President Gingrich, AABP members and guests, it is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce the 2017 recipient of the AABP Award of Excellence. I have very vivid recollections of the first time that I met our recipient. It was in the winter of 1982, and I was recruiting a couple of second-year veterinary students to serve as research and clinical assistants for the upcoming summer. I was absolutely amazed at the knowledge-base, talent, and energy of two of the student applicants, one of which is our recipient of this award. We had a very successful summer, and these two students have been a huge part of my professional life ever since.

Our awardee graduated from Guelph with his DVM degree in 1984. I vividly recall discussions about his decision to become an ambulatory intern at Cornell University, working with Drs. Chuck Guard, Mary Smith, and others. Even more vivid are discussions that we had concerning his decision to stay on as a resident at Cornell, as opposed to returning to work at Guelph. I was convinced, and I lamented, that Guelph had probably lost an outstanding bovine clinician to some career in the USA. While at Cornell, our recipient published several outstanding peer-reviewed manuscripts, and developed very impres-

sive clinical skills. To my surprise, in 1987, our recipient returned to the University of Guelph to commence what has become a 30-year journey of excellence in teaching, research, and continuing education.

Our awardee completed his MSc degree on evaluation of the accuracy of rectal palpation, and commenced his PhD using the Ontario Sentinel herd project to monitor and evaluate the associations between health and performance in dairy herds. It was a landmark contribution to the development of dairy herd monitoring and analysis in Ontario. Our awardee completed his PhD in 1996. While completing his doctoral studies, he was the Director of the University of Guelph Dairy Health Management Certificate Program, which solidified his integral role as one of few individuals in the world with advanced knowledge of quantitative epidemiological analytic techniques, at the same time as having practical knowledge, experience, and abilities with topics like mastitis control, lameness, reproductive performance, and prevention of infectious disease for dairy herds. Needless to say, it is extremely rare to find a combination of these skills in the same person. Our recipient assumed a faculty position in the Department of Population Medicine and is now recognized as a world leader in veterinary epidemiology.

The list of graduate and undergraduate students that our awardee has supervised and encouraged to take further steps in their own research and education careers is becoming very long. There are outstanding young faculty members at the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, Virginia Tech University, and other institutions that give substantial credit to our awardee for their success.

Recently, our recipient has assumed an important position as the Dairy Farmers of Ontario’s Research Chair in dairy cattle health at the University of Guelph. In this role, he is responsible for coordination of dairy research activities at the university, with the mandate to ensure that practical and useful results are achieved for the dairy industry in Ontario and beyond. Our awardee was integral to the Ontario Johnne’s Education and Management Assistance Program, and the Ontario SCC Working Group which supported the dairy industry moving to a SCC penalty level of 400,000 cells/mL. The recipient serves as the Canadian representative to the International Dairy Federation Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare, and is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Canadian Bovine Mastitis and Milk Quality Research Network. Over the last several years, our awardee has initiated a national dairy study for Canada, built upon the model of the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in the USA. Finally, this year’s recipient is the Vice-President of NMC, destined to be NMC President in 2018.

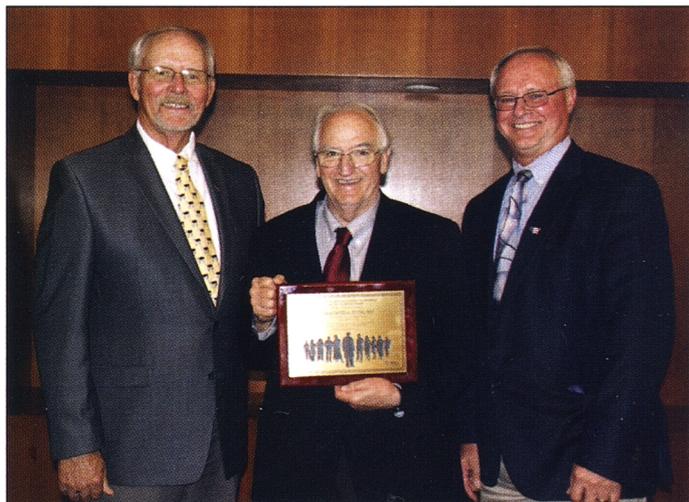
While this individual's academic and other accomplishments are voluminous and impressive, he undertakes many other activities and responsibilities. To name a few, he gathers massive sponsorship for, and competes in, a 200-mile cycling fund-raiser for cancer research each year. He participates in recreational hockey. He is a long time, high-level coach of girls and ladies' ringette.

Thinking back to 1987, I have a vivid recollection of my current graduate student at the time, who is an extremely intelligent and productive dairy researcher and extension educator in her own career, meeting my new graduate student returning from Cornell University. Inter-

estingly, this couple is coming up to 30 years of marriage, with two amazing and beautiful daughters, one who is a new graduate emergency medicine human physician, and the other who is about to graduate as an engineer. Given this couple's energy and efforts, it is amazing to reflect upon their impact on the Ontario dairy industry. After 2018, our recipient and his spouse will be the only wife and husband who have both served as president of NMC.

Without further comment, please join me in welcoming the recipient of the AABP Award of Excellence - Merit Award Series for 2017, Dr. David Kelton of the University of Guelph."

# AABP-Merck Animal Health Mentor of the Year Award



*Dr. Dee Griffin (center) receives the AABP-Merck Animal Health Mentor of the Year Award from Dr. Rick Sibbel (right) and Dr. Bob Smith.*

Dr. Rick Sibbel, Merck Animal Health, described the award. "The AABP-Merck Mentor of the Year Award is presented annually to an AABP member who has been engaged in the field of veterinary medicine for at least 25 years and has served as both advisor and role model to pre-veterinary and/or veterinary students. This award was instituted in 2007 and is conferred annually to a member that embodies this spirit whether in practice, the clinic, or the classroom. The recipient is presented with a commemorative plaque at the annual business luncheon."

The 2017 award winner was introduced by Dr. Bob Smith. "Today's award winner is an ever present giant among bovine veterinarians, mentors, and the beef cattle industry. He is a native of the South, and received the DVM degree in the mid-70s. Following graduation, he and his wife moved to West Lafayette, Indiana, to do a residency under the legendary Dr. Harold Amstutz. He completed his residency and the Master of Science degree in 1978, and returned to his alma mater as an assistant professor and clinician in the food animal clinic.

This award winner was well known during his initial three years in academia as a man who set the standard for his peers, who continually challenged students to do their very best, who had more energy than a truckload of Energizer® bunnies, and was always looking for new, practical ways to solve a problem. But most of all he mentored students not only in veterinary medicine skills, but life skills as well.

One of his life-long heroes is Dr. Don Williams, who was a founding father of the AABP. Dr. Williams left

practice in eastern Oklahoma to become the staff veterinarian, and later a manager, for Hitch Feeders which is headquartered in Guymon, Oklahoma. In 1981, he hired today's honoree to become the staff veterinarian for Hitch Feeders. There he was responsible for the health care for cattle in the three company feedyards, which had a one-time capacity of 175, 000 head.

As a staff feedlot vet, our award winner's limitless energy and passion for the cattle industry served as the stimulus for development of one of the most modern, progressive beef safety and quality programs in the history of beef production. Due in large part to his leadership, the consumer became a focus of the beef industry. With his accomplishments, he became the "father of beef quality and safety programs".

I can't begin to guess the number of veterinarians, veterinary students, cowboys, cowgirls, and industry partners that have adopted cutting edge beef health and BQA programs because of his mentoring...but certainly enough to have moved the entire food animal veterinary profession in the right direction. He blazed the trail; he set the example!

In the mid 1980's, he moved to the corporate world. He served as a technical services veterinarian for five years. When offered a university position in the North in the very early 1990's, he jumped at the opportunity. There he was involved in a wide array of programs. He headed the very popular feedlot rotation, which received veterinary medicine students from all across North America. In this extremely intensive course, students were immersed in feedlot production medicine, diagnostics, nutrition, beef quality assurance and food safety. He was unselfish with his time—close to 50 hours per week—and students reported that the course was jam packed and challenging, especially trying to match his pace. The long hours of training for the students and the rides in the infamous SUV are legendary!!

He was also a co-founder of the popular Beef Certification Course for graduate veterinarians taught at Clay Center for many years. There they were responsible for mentoring veterinarians—158 in total—in a wide array of topics, ranging from epidemiology, computer usage, conducting research, agricultural economics, and quality assurance to name a few. More than one veterinarian has told me that this course changed not only their practice, but their lives as well. What a compliment!! That's mentoring at its best.

He is also very active in service to veterinary medicine and the beef industry outside the walls of the university. He was a key player in helping develop beef

quality and safety programs that were recognized as the model for other programs in the United States. He has served for many years as a member of the NCBA BQA Advisory Board, and is a regular and popular speaker at cattlemen's meetings. At AABP he has been honored previously for his contribution to beef production medicine and veterinary education, and has served the AABP as a committee member, speaker and one of their biggest cheerleaders. In addition, he recently served on the AABP Board of Directors.

Whether working on issues facing the beef industry, in the classroom, on the lecture circuit, or in a feedyard helping to diagnose a problem or training cowboys, he always stands out as a leader and mentor...one who has truly made a difference! To top it off, he was nearing retirement but instead of taking up golf or knitting he

accepted a position with the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and is helping head up the veterinary teaching program in the Texas Panhandle ... yes mentoring trumped retirement, which should not surprise anyone of us that know him.

He has been married for over 40 years to his wonderful (and patient) wife, Joan, and they have three outstanding children who themselves are making a significant mark on society...two MDs and a PhD. After all, they are following their parent's example!

To top it off, he does not seek recognition or reward for his mentoring!

Dr. Dee Griffin is the mold from which you make more mentors for the future, and the recipient of the 2017 AABP-Merck Animal Health Mentor of the Year Award!"

# AABP James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders



*Dr. Trent Fox (left) receiving the James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders from Dr. Del Miles.*

“The recipient of the 2017 James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders was raised on a farm in south-central Kansas. His lifelong interest has been cattle production. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science, a PhD in diagnostic medicine/pathobiology, and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University, as well as a Master of Science degree in ruminant nutrition from Texas A&M University. He worked as the chief veterinarian for the largest cattle feeding company in the world for the first 5 years following his graduation from veterinary school, where he was responsible for the health and well-being of their cattle, and played an active role in their research program. He entered private practice in 2015, and now owns Veterinary Research and Consulting Services, LLC, a consortium of 10 veterinarians that provides health care services to feedlots and grazing operations. The clients his practice serves have a one-time capacity of approximately 1.5 million cattle, and are located in nine states. VRCS, LLC conducts numerous research trials attempting to elucidate the cost-effectiveness of products and management practices used in the beef industry.

He is a faculty affiliate at Colorado State University, serves on the Kansas State University Beef Cattle

Institute Advisory Board, and on the advisory board for several industry corporations. He has been a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants since his freshman year of veterinary school, and was a recipient of the 2009 AVC-Doug Armstrong Scholarship. He currently is serving on the AVC Board of Directors, and is a member of the Phi Zeta Veterinary Medicine Honor Society, the National Cattleman’s Beef Association, and the Texas Cattle Feeder’s Association. At AABP he has served as a speaker, and has chaired the Feedlot Sessions for the AABP Annual Conference. He has authored or coauthored 25 peer-reviewed publications, 8 extension publications, and 1 book chapter.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, working with his cow-calf herd, and attending K-State football games.

His more challenging roles are as a husband to his wife Mandy, and father to his kids Kyzer (12 yrs), Izaac (10 yrs), Zerelda (6 yrs), and Brazos (4 yrs).

Please help me to welcome our 2017 James A. Jarrett Award for Young Leaders winner, Dr. Trent Fox!”