Obituaries

Dr A. William Jasper
June 3, 1925 - June 7, 2012



Dr A. William 'Bill' Jasper was born in Philadelphia, PA. His collegiate career took him to the University of Vermont, Ohio State University, and Cornell University. He obtained degrees in Poultry Science and Agricultural Marketing. His career included prominent posts in the poultry industry, poultry science, and related trade associations. Dr Jasper served as a Marketing Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture and was an Associate Professor of Farm Management and Marketing at Cornell University. While at Cornell, he was extremely active in Cooperative Extension work and his ability to relate to producers remained one of his professional hallmarks. He loved the written word and used that passion, along with his knowledge of poultry, during his tenure as Managing Editor of the Poultry Tribune.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) was Dr Jasper's professional home for 23 years. He was the AFBF Poultry Department Director and Manager of AFBF's affiliate, the American Agricultural Marketing Association (AAMA). Following his tenure with AFBF and AAMA, he became the International Vice President and Director of Technical Services for Agrimerica. He moved to California in 1985 and was General Manager for Consolidated Egg Producers. Shortly thereafter he was made the First President and General Manager of West Coast United Egg Producers. In 1998 the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association (a trade association in the western United States and Canada) named Dr Jasper 'Poultry Scientist of the Year'.

A founding member of the WPSA USA Branch, he served as a Councillor from 1963 to 1971. He was the first Vice President for the branch and agreed to take over as President, upon the death of Dr C.D. Carpenter. He was a Vice President of WPSA from 1974 and elected President in 1974. He authored the draft of a new Constitution and served on the Constitution Committee which resulted in a new version in 1971.

Due to his extensive travels and efforts to make contact with as many branches and members as possible, Dr Jasper remains one of, if not the most travelled WPSA Presidents of all time. Dr Jasper was a member of the Official United States Delegations to the XIII, XIV, XVI, and XVII World Poultry Congresses. Of course, the WV WPC was held in the United States and he was an important member of the Organizing Committee. He was adept at making friends wherever he went. He made special efforts to visit the Soviet Republic and, while the Cold War was still being fought, he kept repeating, 'Science should know no politics.'

Dr Jasper was inducted into the International Poultry Hall of Fame in 1988, was twice decorated by the Government of France for his agricultural contributions, and was honoured in Belgium for his participation in the Battle of the Bulge. He received many other accolades during his life of service to poultry science, agriculture, his

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country, and her allies around the world. He will continued to be honoured in the memories of all those he mentored and assisted. He was a professional giant who never raised himself above those with whom he came in contact.

Daniel L. Fletcher
1949 - July 16, 2012



Daniel L. Fletcher, internationally recognized poultry researcher, teacher, mentor and administrator died July 16, 2012, at the age of 63. He received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida. He joined the faculty of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia as an assistant professor in 1977. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1984 and full professor in 1990. While at UGA he received 11 awards for teaching and research from his department and college (including the UGA Outstanding Poultry Science Faculty Award 1986, 1991, 2002; D. W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Research, 2002; Gamma Sigma Delta and Alpha Zeta Awards). At the national and international level, he received nearly every major research award in the discipline of Poultry Science. Awards he received included the PSA Poultry Products Research Award, the Merck Award for Achievement in Poultry Science, the Broiler Research Award, the American Egg Board Research Award, and the University of Helsinki Research Medal. He was named a Fellow of the Poultry Science Association in 2005 and inducted into the International Poultry Hall of Fame in 2008. He taught numerous courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including introductory poultry science, poultry processing, poultry products technology, special problems and seminars. He served at Graduate Coordinator for the Poultry Science Department at UGA and 14 M.S. and 8 Ph.D. students completed degrees under his guidance. His research on egg yolk and broiler skin colour work led to improved analysis of egg yolk and broiler skin colour and evaluation of pigment sources. His research on early rigor, antemortem stress and early processing factors has contributed to the understanding of the effects of production and processing methods on poultry meat colour, texture, shelf life and overall quality. They also addressed regulatory and animal welfare concerns in the poultry processing industry. Over one million dollars of research support and grants were awarded to support his work which also led to the publication of 143 refereed journal articles and 292 abstracts, proceedings, invited papers and trade publications. After 30 years of service to the University of Georgia, he was recruited to serve as Chair of the Animal Science Department at the University of Connecticut, a position he held for 5½ years. During this period he hired four new members of the faculty, oversaw the building of new beef cattle facilities and remodelling of poultry buildings and assisted in other infrastructure improvements at the University of Connecticut. His tenure as Department Head was exemplary.

The quality and impact of his research was recognized by national and international awards and invitations to participate in major scientific meetings and symposia. Dan was active in professional societies, serving on the editorial and review boards of nine journals, including Poultry Science, of which he was a Section Editor for many years. Dan was world renowned as a poultry scientist doing a Sabbatical at Spelderholt Institute in the Netherlands (1983). He participated in European poultry symposia and did

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cooperative work with the University of Bologna and The University of Helsinki. He was on the WPSA (USA) Branch Board of Directors and was President from 1995-1999. In addition to all these impressive accomplishments, he was a devoted husband and father with an unforgettable sense of humour. He gave unselfishly of his time and knowledge not only to his students but also to his colleagues and co-authors. Those of us that were fortunate enough to work along side of him are much better scientists and people as a result of it. He was very well thought of and respected during his life and will be deeply missed by many of us for many years to come.

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