

Jeff Hill

Jeff Hill currently serves as the Livestock Welfare Specialist for Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, having spent the past 25 years in various positions throughout the livestock industry, most recently as the Director of Animal Welfare & System Design for Premium Standard Farms. PSF is where he became heavily involved in euthanasia, and since that time he has been involved in the research, development and utilization of captive bolt, electrical and CO2 euthanasia systems for swine, cattle, sheep, poultry and fish. Due to recent extenuating circumstances, Jeff Hill has utilized his knowledge and expertise in animal euthanasia to develop techniques and technologies for the mass destruction of livestock.

Jeff Hill serves on the NPB euthanasia committee, the CFIA humane destruction team and the Physical Agents Working Group of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. He is currently collaborating on several research projects regarding euthanasia and has recently coauthored a chapter entitled "Recommended On-Farm Euthanasia Practices: for Dr. Grandin's latest book "Improving Animal Welfare-a practical approach", and is collaborating on the writing of the AbVMA/AFAC euthanasia manual.



Dr. Steve Mason

Steve is Principal of AgroMedia International Inc, a company that provides information services as well as contract scientific and technical support to the Canadian dairy industry.

Steve is the editor and AgroMedia the publisher of Dairyman's Digest, a quarterly magazine that is received by dairy farmers in every province as well as many industry affiliates across the country. Dairy Production Primer, a modular CD-based training resource, DairyWeb (www.dairyweb.ca), an on-line relational database of dairy production information, and Dairy Science Canada (www.dairyscience.ca), featuring recent Canadian dairy production research publications, are some of the other current projects he has developed and retains responsibility for.

As Research Associate with Alberta Milk, Steve has provided support to that organization for the past 12 years. His work with Alberta Milk's Research and Extension Committee has involved the establishment of a clear set of guiding principles and priorities, joining Alberta's Agriculture Funding Consortium and guiding the allocation of producer funds to a large number of research and development projects.

Dr. Clover Bench

Clover Bench is originally from California, where she grew up in Silicon Valley, spending many years active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) raising and showing pigs, poultry, beef cattle, and sheep. Dr. Bench graduated from the University of California at Davis in 1997 with a B.Sc. in Animal Science (specializing in Animal Biology) and then in 1999 with a M.Sc. in Applied Domestic Animal Behaviour with Dr. Ed Price. In 1999, she immigrated to Canada and earned her PhD degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005 in Applied Ethology working with Dr. Harold Gonyou.

Dr. Bench spent two years as a NSERC Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellow with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Lacombe Research Centre, and is currently an Applied Ethologist at the University of Alberta with the Department Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science. Dr. Bench's primary research interest lies in understanding how perceived stress impacts disease susceptibility, overall welfare, performance, and meat quality. Current projects deal with behavioural indicators of stress and disease, the impact of transport and handling on meat quality, the impact of housing and management strategies on welfare and performance, and benchmarking current production practices with regard to current or changing welfare standards. Much of this research is done in a multi-disciplinary and collaborative team environment involving economists, agricultural engineers, physiologists, endocrinologists, nutritionists, meat scientists, geneticists, and veterinarians.

Dr. Nigel Cook

Nigel Cook was born in Wales, UK and grew up as an avid rugby fan. He graduated from Portsmouth Polytechnic, UK in 1980 with a B.Sc. (hons) in Biology. He worked as a biomedical scientist at the Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research, Cardiff, Wales, from 1980 until 1994. He completed a Ph.D. at the Tenovus Institute in 1992 on the measurement of steroid hormones in saliva and their relationships to stress in health and disease. Dr. Cook immigrated with his wife and two daughters to Alberta in 1996. He obtained a term scientist position at the Lacombe Research Centre to develop salivary steroid analyses to study stress in farmed animals.

He is currently employed with Alberta Agriculture as a research scientist in the Livestock Welfare Unit, Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian. Dr. Cook's research areas involve the development and application of methods to measure stress hormones using minimally-invasive sampling such as saliva, eggs and fecal material. He is developing a research program to search for proteomic biomarkers of stress, pain and disease. Recently, Dr. Cook has begun a research program with the objective of testing and developing an automated system to remotely record temperature by infrared thermography for the early detection of diseases of swine. Dr. Cook is currently an associate editor with the Canadian Journal of Animal Science. His personal interests include, sprint triathlon, kayaking, hiking and skiing.

Dr. Al Schaefer

Al Schaefer was born in Red Deer Alberta and spent the first 18 years of life on a family farm in Alberta. He attended the University of Alberta beginning in 1970 and obtained a Bachelor of Physical Education (1974), Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) in 1976 and a Masters of Science (Animal Science) in 1979. He attended the University of British Columbia in 1979 and obtained his Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science in 1984. In 1984-85 he was awarded an NSERC Post Doctoral Fellowship and studied with the Growth Physiology Group at Ruakura, New Zealand.

On returning to Canada in 1985 he joined the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada staff at the Lacombe Research Centre. Research interests include growth physiology and the impact of stress on animal growth, meat quality and welfare. Dr. Schaefer has also investigated the use of non-invasive stress detection methods such as infrared thermography. He has served on executive and editorial positions with the Canadian Society of Animal Science and is an adjunct professor at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Personal interests include hockey, judo, canoeing, mountain climbing and skiing.

Dawn Lawrence

Dawn Lawrence volunteers her time to the Saskatchewan Horse Federation and the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC) to assist as she can in areas related to the care and welfare of horses, including acting as one of HWAC's two national spokespeople. Employed as a program coordinator for the Canadian Pork Council, Dawn works in the areas of food safety and animal care for the hog industry. A lifelong horse enthusiast and supporter of animal agriculture, Dawn is also involved in a mixed family farm in west-central Saskatchewan where they have a cow-calf operation and keep American Quarter Horses.