

Howard Wilmot Carter

November 18, 1908 – September 2, 2007

Howard Wilmot Carter, a pioneer in the establishment of the Cornell University Dairy Records Processing Laboratory and a leader in the tabulating and distribution of genetic evaluations of dairy bulls, died September 2, 2007 in Delray Beach, Florida.

Wilmot was born November 18, 1908 in LaRaysville, Pennsylvania, the son of a dairy farmer. He graduated from high school in Montrose, Pennsylvania and matriculated to Pennsylvania State University (B.S., 1932). He earned an M.S. degree from the University of Connecticut in 1934. He married Helen Westcott in 1935 and moved to Kentucky as a County Agent. From 1943-46, Wilmot taught animal husbandry as an Associate Professor at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

Wilmot joined Cornell University in 1946 as an Instructor. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1949, Associate Professor in 1951 and Professor in 1961. Wilmot earned his Ph.D. degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1951. He and his wife experienced sabbatical leaves in Argentina in 1958 and in the United States in 1964, studying dairy records processing and dairy cattle breeding programs.

Professor Carter was instrumental in establishing (1947) and operating the Dairy Records Processing Laboratory. This laboratory was one of the first in the world to electronically tabulate production records on dairy cows for Dairy Herd Improvement, a farmer cooperative established and nurtured by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The laboratory serviced over 450,000 cows in 10,000 herds in New York and the northeastern United States. Carter and his colleague, C.R. Henderson, tabulated sire summaries that evaluated genetic merit of dairy sires three times a year and distributed copies to cooperating dairy farmers. In addition, the archived data from the Dairy Records Processing Laboratory proved to be a valuable resource for the research programs of Carter and his colleagues and students at Cornell as well as at other northeastern universities.

Wilmot Carter was a valued Extension specialist with expertise in data processing and dairy cattle genetics. Wilmot crisscrossed New York and New England holding farmer meetings on dairy records and dairy cattle breeding. He was the farmer's resource for advice on genetic programs and won their acceptance for the concept of sampling young sires, a truly

revolutionary idea in the 1950s. In addition, he was a consultant to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and helped establish dairy processing laboratories in Argentina and Costa Rica. Professor Carter also helped the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, establish a dairy records processing center.

Carter established a strong working relationship with New York Artificial Breeders Cooperative (NYABC). NYABC served as a valuable extension and multiplier tool for the dissemination of new ideas as well as a research laboratory for new ideas and student training. The Cornell-NYABC relationship was the strongest university-industry relationship in New York and resulted in numerous advances, including the young sire program, and linear model genetic evaluation systems, used throughout the world today.

Carter's work exemplified the ideal of the Land Grant concept of coordinated extension and research efforts. He was rewarded for his excellence and hard work with the 1961 Award of Merit by the New York Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi and the 1969 DeLaval Award in Dairy Extension by the American Dairy Science Association. He was a member of the American Dairy Science Association, American Society of Animal Science and American Genetics Association.

An avid fisherman, even well into his 10th decade, Wilmot enjoyed annual fishing expeditions in Canada with family members from 1972 until 2007.

Helen, his wife of 64 years, predeceased Professor Carter in August 1999. Three sons survive him, James E. (Lois) of Elmira, New York, Wilmot R. (Bill) (Sherry) of Arizona and Richard L. (Kathy) of Arizona, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Robert W. Everett, Chairperson, J. Murray Elliot, Douglas E. Hogue