



June 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Retirement of Dr. George R. Wiggans

TO: All Northeast Area Employees
ARS Administrator's Council

FROM: Dariusz Swietlik /s/
Director, Northeast Area



Dr. George R. Wiggans, Research Geneticist with the Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory, retired on June 25, 2016. He has been an ARS Research Geneticist for 38 years and served as the Acting Research Leader of the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory from 2012 to 2014.

Dr. Wiggans has made numerous contributions to improving the accuracy of genetic evaluation procedures for economically important traits of dairy animals (cattle and goats). His most recent research on genomic evaluation emphasized quality and management of over 1 million genotypes of cows and bulls. His research has resulted in over 300 publications of which he is senior or sole author of over 50 refereed journal articles. He has been an author on four featured articles of the month in the Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics section of the *Journal of Dairy Science* articles. He is recognized internationally as an authority on projection and standardization of yield records, genetic and genomic evaluation of dairy cattle and goats, computer analysis and application of an animal model to large data sets, and development of genomic evaluations based on DNA markers.

Dr. Wiggans was the recipient of the American Dairy Science Association's Jay L. Lush Award (1996), Fellow Award (2012), and Most Cited Award in Genetics and Breeding (2014). He also received the National Association of Animal Breeders' Research Award (1996), the American Dairy Goat Association's Mary L. Farley Award (2000), and the National Dairy Herd Information Associations' Outstanding Service Award (2006). As a research team member, Dr. Wiggans has received *Government Executive* magazine's Government Technology Award (1998), the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's Hammer Award (2000), and the

USDA Secretary's Honor Award (2010). In 2015, Dr. Wiggans received the ARPAS (American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists), Washington, D.C. Chapter, Dr. Vernon G. Pursel Memorial Distinguished Service Award.

A reception will be held on **Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 2–4 pm, in building 005, room 021, BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland.** Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wiggans on an outstanding career and wishing him an enjoyable retirement.