

Dr. Chris Calkins Receives NAMP's Educator Award



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(WASHINGTON, DC Monday, March 30, 2009) University of Nebraska's Dr. Chris Calkins received the Educator of the Year Award from the North American Meat Processors Association (NAMP) Saturday at its Meat Industry Management Conference in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Calkins is the Nebraska Beef Industry Professor of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE.

Dr. Calkins' recent activities include development of new cutting procedures for the beef chuck and for veal. Many companies in the meat industry today are reaping the benefits on Dr. Calkins research in muscle utilization, by selling previously undervalued cuts from the carcass.

NAMP President Michael Strauss of the Colorado Boxed Beef Company presented the award at Saturday's luncheon, saying,

"We present this award with grateful appreciation and recognition of Dr. Calkins' untiring efforts and valuable contributions towards meat education, and for his deep loyalty in carrying out his responsibilities with enviable pride and professionalism that brings credit to both himself and the University of Nebraska.

"And for his friendship and his commitment to excellence in assisting the meat and other food industries, we hold in high honor and esteem Dr. Chris Calkins."

In accepting the award, Dr. Calkins in turn praised NAMP for its leadership in helping the industry and its members.

In 2004, Dr. Calkins' muscle profiling research team was awarded the International Meat Secretariat World Prize for Meat Science and Technology, the only time the prize has ever been awarded in the U.S.

Dr. Calkins has been on the Animal Science faculty of the University of Nebraska since 1981, and holds the rank of full professor. Dr. Calkins conducts research on muscle characterization, objective grading technology, meat quality, and the effects of feeding wet distiller's grains on beef quality. He is active as a college advisor and teacher.

He is a past president of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) and a teacher fellow of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

A native of Washington State, Calkins received his B.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in Animal Science with an emphasis in meat science and muscle biology. He also earned the M.S. degree in Food Science and Technology from the University of Tennessee.

Joining Dr. Calkins at the NAMP conference were his wife, Ellen, and daughter Christie.

NAMP awards the Harry L. Rudnick Educator of the Year Award each spring at its annual management conference to an educator who has made outstanding contributions in the field of meat science education. The award was established in 1969.