

Sheila E. Scheideler, PhD Recipient of the 2008 Nebraska Poultry Industries Hall of Fame Award.



Dr. Sheila E. Scheideler, Professor and Interim Department Head of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was named recipient of the 2008 Nebraska Poultry Industries Hall of Fame Award during the organization's annual meeting in February 2008. This is the most prestigious award offered by the Nebraska Poultry Industries and recognizes an individual who has made a commitment of outstanding contributions to the poultry industry. Sheila Scheideler is a native of Bennington, Nebraska, where she was raised on a dairy farm. She is the oldest of four children (three girls, one boy). Her parents, Janet and Fred Epperle, describe Sheila as an extremely hard worker on the farm who was also heavily involved with 4-H activities. Sheila was valedictorian of her high school and also a state champion in track. She entered college on a cross country/track scholarship. Sheila's father remembers the day after Sheila's first 3 weeks at college when she came home very upset and refused to return to class saying, "I'd rather milk cows the rest of my life than return to college!" Mr. Epperle explained to his daughter that she had to stick out the semester. So...she went back to class...and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science and her Master's Degree in Animal Nutrition from the University of Nebraska. She then obtained her doctorate degree in Animal Nutrition from Iowa State University. Upon receiving her doctorate degree, Dr. Scheideler began her career in poultry as an Extension Poultry Specialist at North Carolina State University. The rest is poultry history! In 1992, Dr. Scheideler accepted the position of Extension Poultry Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she continues to serve in that capacity as well as serving as the Interim Department Head for the Animal Sciences Department. Her professional contributions to the University of Nebraska, as well as the poultry industry in Nebraska and the nation, are too numerous to mention. Most recently, in 2007, she was the last recipient of the prestigious Helene Cecil Leadership Award in recognition of her significant role in the Poultry Science Association and sustained contribution towards research in poultry science. Over the years, Dr. Scheideler has been recognized by the poultry industry as an applied scientist who excels at problem solving and industry relevant and applicable research. Her research and extension programs have received both regional and national recognition. She has been instrumental in advising many graduate students now serving in academic and industry positions worldwide, and continues to maintain an active advising program at UNL. Dr. Scheideler has contributed to the poultry industry in numerous leadership roles during her professional career, as teacher, poultry scientist and extension specialist. Significant to the Midwest is the fact that she has served as the chairperson for the Midwest Poultry Federation's Nutrition Symposium since it began over 10 years ago. She is an active 4-H leader for her county extension community, and enjoys spending free time with her two sons, William and Alex, riding and showing horses.