

My retirement from the University of Nebraska did not follow the normal pathway. As I was preparing to submit my resignation in 1998 to accept the position as Dean of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Irv Omtvedt suggested that instead of resigning, I retire and request Emeritus status. It was a great suggestion because it allowed me to continue an official affiliation with a department, university and state that were very good to me and for which I have very high regard. And it allowed me to continue purchasing football tickets in the faculty section, which we use periodically and our daughters and their families and friends use regularly.

I found great agricultural people in Wisconsin, just as supportive and conservative, maybe more conservative, as those in Nebraska. In addition to the agricultural and natural resources departments, it was a pleasure to work with a world class biochemistry faculty and outstanding departments of genetics (jointly administered with the Medical School), bacteriology and nutrition. I retired, for real this time, from the dean position in 2005 and Carrie and I have continued to live in the Madison area. After being affiliated with land grant universities for nearly 50 years from the time I entered Kansas State as a student until retirement in 2005, it just seems right to continue being associated with one.

I did some consulting work for a couple years after retiring, first with an agriculture start-up company here in Madison and then with the Kansas Wheat Board in collaboration with Kansas State to develop a proposal for a research center focused on the improvement of wheat and sorghum. The center was subsequently funded by the Kansas Bioscience Authority. A National Research Council committee to evaluate the quality of research doctoral education in the United States occupied me for several years. There had been several similar studies over the years but this was the first to include the agricultural science disciplines. As the only committee member from agriculture, it was an education both for me and the other committee members, a few of whom hardly knew how to spell agriculture.

The Animal Sciences Department at the UW has given me an office in the Meat Laboratory with an excellent view down the hallway to the slaughter floor. So I have improved my circumstances in the past 40+ years from a graduate student office located under the slaughter floor at Michigan State to one on the same floor as the slaughter facilities as a retiree.

Volunteer professional activities have included a several-year stint as chair of the group that oversees the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame (they just convinced me to come back and do it for another two years). Two years ago, a former colleague at Purdue, two of our former graduate students and I completed the 5th revision of the textbook, "Principles of Meat Science". This is the final revision for me; younger minds are needed for future ones. And I continue to enjoy participation in Kiwanis and serving on some foundation boards.

Golf, deer and ruffed grouse hunting and annual fishing trips to Canada are among leisure activities I continue to greatly enjoy. I have taken up woodworking and so far have not lost any fingers. Carrie has become quite active in Daughters of Demeter, a group for women that is similar to Ceres at Nebraska. They provide scholarships to students in the College of Agricultural and Life Science at the UW among other activities. Their scholarships annually total more than \$40,000. We do a bit of traveling each year and our trips have taken us to Alaska, Hawaii (several times), South Africa, Zambia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, through the Panama Canal with stops in several countries, and Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, Texas and Wyoming in the contiguous 48 states and to our daughter's homes. Krista and her family live in Woodbury, MN just east of St. Paul and Barbara and her family live in Summit, NJ just to the west of Newark.

Both Carrie and I, other than a few stiff joints, continue to enjoy good health. We would love to have you visit anytime you are near Madison.

Abe Aberle

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