

Oklahoma State University's Advance Degree Graduate of Distinction Award

This award, presented annually since 1984, recognizes those recipients of M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Animal Science who have attained singular professional excellence in the field of animal agriculture.



Terry L. Mader was reared on a crop and livestock operation in northwestern Kansas. He earned his B.S. in 1973 from Kansas State University in Feed Science and Technology and his M.S. (1979) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees from Oklahoma State University in Animal Nutrition. Dr. Mader is an Extension Specialist and Professor of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska (UNL), Haskell Ag. Laboratory, Concord, Neb. He has over 30 years experience studying factors which impact domestic animal welfare and productivity. Dr. Mader's beef cattle management research and extension program have achieved national and international recognition. His international experience includes collaborative research and extension efforts. Dr. Mader's recent activities have been devoted to minimizing impact of environmental stress on livestock performance and mortality. Research efforts included development of stress indices, based on multiple weather parameters, and related management strategies which could be utilized to mitigate effects of mud and/or cold and heat stress. Seasonal and climatic factors influencing water utilization in cattle were also updated and better defined. Dr. Mader was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which was awarded a share in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Terry and his wife, Kay, have two children, Jason and Jillian, and one grandson, Micah.



Rick Rasby, a native of western Nebraska, was raised on a diversified livestock/crops farm. Rick received a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska in Animal Science (1980) and his M.S. (1983) and Ph.D. (1986) in reproductive physiology at Oklahoma State University working with Dr. Bob Wettemann. Rick became a faculty member in Extension at the University of Nebraska in the Animal Science Department in December of 1986. Rick developed Nebraska's Integrated Resource Management program that was co-lead by the University of Nebraska and a steering committee composed of producers and members of the Nebraska Cattlemen organization. He has been on the 4-State Beef Conference (NE, KS, IA, MO) program development committee for 24 years and has been a frequent presenter at the conference. Rasby has been a leader in developing programs for the use of distillers grains in cow/calf production and heifer development. He has lead the beef group at Nebraska in the development of a web site about beef production (<http://beef.unl.edu>) that has about 1,000 visitors daily, delivers 1.9 million pages, and has 12 million hits annually. In addition, he also leads a national team of beef specialists to develop the eXtension

Beef Cattle Clearinghouse website. Without question, Rick has enhanced the use of available information for profitable production of beef. Rick and wife, Tammy have two children, Nicholas and Andra.