



Three UNL Animal Science Faculty Members Retire.

Of the 81 UNL faculty members participating in the 2011 Voluntary Separation Incentive Program, 20 are from the Institute of Ag & Natural Resources, and three of those are from Animal Science. Animal Scientists who retired effective July 1, 2011, are Rodger Johnson, Jeffrey Keown, and Roger Mandigo. All three are retaining ties with UNL as Professor Emeritus of Animal Science and are often seen in the Department where they continue to maintain offices. For more information, go to [here](#) to get more information.



Rodger Johnson, Omtvedt Professor of Animal Science, came to UNL in August 1978. He taught animal breeding and conducted research on the genetic and physiology components of sow productivity and, more recently, the genetics of disease resistance. He provided leadership for the North Central Region “Genetic and Functional Genomic Approaches to Improve Production and Quality of Pork” project. Johnson’s emphasis in reproduction was to identify major genes and their effects responsible for responses in ovulation rate, litter size and uterine capacity during 27 generations in the NE lines. The most recent recognition of his accomplishments was being named a Master of the Pork Industry by *National Hog Farmer* Magazine. This honor was one of many accolades Johnson received during his career. He is most proud of the Irvin & Wanda Omtvedt Professor of Animal Science appointment he received in 2003, a position he held until his retirement.



Jeffrey Keown, Animal Science Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist, came to UNL in January 1985. Keown studied dairy expansion in Nebraska and worked to attract dairies to the state. He authored more than 40 NebGuides; worked with 35 graduate students and post docs in quantitative genetics; supervised management of the Dairy Unit at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead; and coordinated study tours to Mexico. At the 2012 annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association, Jeff was awarded their DeLaval Extension Award recognizing outstanding achievement in dairy science. Jeff was the first Nebraskan to be honored with the award, a fitting recognition of his career achievements.



Roger Mandigo, Animal Science Professor, came to UNL in July 1966. Mandigo's discoveries in meat restructuring and better use of lower-value meat parts are internationally known. His most recent awards were being inducted into the national Meat Industry Hall of Fame in October 2010 and the American Association of Meat Processors' 2011 Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and service to the meat industry. His extension work provided solutions for processed meat issues for small local companies through the largest international companies. He also taught upper-level meats classes and short courses. From 1982-2010, Mandigo served as Head Marshal at UNL's honors convocations, doctoral hooding ceremonies and commencement programs. He also served as departmental project manager for the Animal Science Complex's major renovations.