

Biography of Dr. Gene H. Deutscher

Dr. Gene Deutscher of North Platte, NE, is a Professor Emeritus of the UNL Dept. of Animal Science and the Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

He was born December 12, 1940, on the family farm west of Ellis, KS, to Emil and Jennie (Wendling) Deutscher. He was the youngest of six children born in this German Christian family. He has been a committed believer and active Christian throughout his life. He was also a member of Beta Sigma Psi, a Lutheran Fraternity, while in college.

Gene graduated with honors from Ellis High School in 1958. He served two years in the U.S. Army as an SP-4 in a Supply and Transportation Company. His formal education was received from Kansas State University with a B.S. degree in animal husbandry in 1966. He then was employed as a professional farm/ranch manager with Doane Agri. Service, Inc. for four years in MO.

Gene returned to the academic world in 1968 and entered graduate school at Oklahoma State Univ. He earned a masters degree in 1970 and a doctorate degree in 1972 in animal breeding and reproductive physiology. Dr. Deutscher then accepted an Assistant Professor position as a beef cattle research scientist at Rapid City, SD, with So. Dak. State Univ. and stayed for six years. He then moved his family to Nebraska in 1978 and joined the Univ. of Neb. West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte as the first beef cattle reproduction and breeding specialist. Deutscher's research and extension programs emphasized the improvement of cattle reproduction through reducing calving difficulty and calf losses, heifer development, estrous synchronization and new breeding programs, including sexed sperm. His research on using heifer pelvic measurements and calf birth weights to reduce dystocia was internationally acclaimed. He has been a popular guest speaker at conferences across the U.S. as well as a consultant in Argentina and Australia. Several graduate students completed degrees under Deutscher's supervision. Numerous scientific and extension publications (over 150) resulted from his research. Dr. Rick Funston, North Platte, has continued this research at UNL.

At a University retirement celebration in December, 2000, Deutscher gave a quote: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care". He has always cared about people and always tried to conduct research and education programs that would help ranchers improve their cattle production.

In retirement he has enjoyed ranching and raising and selling Gelbvieh-Angus cattle. He has also continued many activities at Messiah Lutheran Church such as Church Council with leadership of several committees (Finance and Endowment), and has been a willing worker on numerous church projects including serving as treasurer of the building fund, organizer of the stained glass window project, and chairman of the Endowment Fund.

Gene married Karen Lofstead in Ellis in 1963, and they had three children: Deborah Jo who died at birth, Krystal Ann and Brett Joel. They divorced in 1987. Gene married Judy Bostwick of North Platte in 1989. They continue to live in North Platte during their retirement years.

Dr. Deutscher is a Professor Emeritus in the UNL Animal Science Dept., a member of the American Society of Animal Science, was on the editorial board of the Journal of Animal Science, a Certified Animal Scientist and a diplomat of the American College of Animal Physiology. He was also co-leader of the Neb. IRM program from 1984 to 1989. His awards include Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, and Gamma Sigma Delta (scholastic honoraries). He was Scholarship Chairman of the Elks Lodge #985 for ten years, a member of the American Legion and the Neb. Cattlemen organization.

In 2013, Gene established the “Gene Deutscher Fellowship in Beef Cattle Reproductive Physiology Fund” at the University of Nebraska Foundation which, with his and other individuals’ donations, will fund one or more fellowships to Animal Science graduate students participating in research being done at the West Central Research and Extension Center or the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory.

His family includes his wife, Judy, two children Krystal (Jak) Konrad of Phoenix, AZ, and Brett (Mary) Deutscher of San Jose, CA, and two grandchildren Devynn and Cassidy Deutscher of San Jose, CA.