

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LARRY D. SATTER**

Larry D. Satter, one of the world's foremost dairy nutritional scientists succumbed to an aggressive form of renal cancer on August 13, 2006 at age 69 after a career that spanned nearly four decades. Dr. Satter's legacy includes outstanding research contributions and the training of an entire generation of new scientists.

Larry was born on July 30, 1937 in Madelia, a small farming town of southwestern Minnesota. He received his B.S. in animal science from South Dakota State University in 1960 and completed his M.S. degree in dairy science and his Ph.D. in dairy science and biochemistry (1964) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After a brief assignment at the University of Ife in Nigeria, Larry joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Dairy Science, where he served full time as an assistant, associate and full professor. In 1981 he accepted a position of research dairy scientist at the newly established USDA Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison. While maintaining an active research program Larry also directed the center in 1987 and 1988. During these years, Larry used his position to create a model of collaboration between the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the USDA and the university. In 2003 he retired and was granted emeritus status from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 2002 Larry was named a highly cited scientist, a title granted to less than 0.5% of published researchers. He authored 134 peer-reviewed publications, 29 of which have been cited more than 50 times and two have earned "Citation Classic" status from the Science Citation Index.

His first citation classic: "*Effect of ammonia concentration on rumen microbial protein production in vitro*", was published in the British Journal of Nutrition in 1974 and has been cited more than 685 times since. This original work spurred nutritionists worldwide to revise the prevalent ruminant protein utilization concepts of the time. It also led to rational use of non-protein nitrogen supplements in ruminant livestock industries around the world.

His second citation classic: "*Nitrogen requirement and utilization in dairy cattle*" was published in the Journal of Dairy Science in 1975 and has been cited approximately 250 times. This publication described more accurately than ever before a system to predict intestinal supply of amino acids in ruminants. This research effort contributed significantly to fundamental improvements in protein feeding systems in ruminant animals not just in North America, but again throughout the world.

In the last year of his career, Larry had played a major role in determining the phosphorus requirements of high producing dairy cows. Results of this research were embodied in the revised National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle published in 2001. This research was essential in reducing excessive supplementation of phosphorus in dairy cattle diets. This research saved millions of dollars for the U.S. dairy industry, and helped protect water quality throughout the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

In addition to his research, Larry's service as a leader and administrator was truly exceptional. He was president of the American Dairy Science Association, chair of the American Dairy Science Association Foundation Board of Trustees and a founding father and first president of the Federation of Animal Science Societies.

Throughout his career Larry remained a humble and unassuming person who did not draw attention to himself. His quest to answer important questions was at the service of the greater good of the farming communities and society at large. Yet, his many contributions have been recognized with numerous awards. Notably, Larry received the Award of Honor (1999) and he was made a fellow of the American Dairy Science Association (2000).

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Larry enjoyed sincerely the interactions with his graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. He often found their ideas stimulating. In return, he empowered them to become their best. Overall, he trained 26 M.S. students, 25 Ph.D. students, and 8 post-doctoral fellows. Remarkably, 14 of his trainees became faculty at North American universities and several more made important research contributions in the private sector.

Larry also helped undergraduate students achieve their dreams. In fact, one of his most treasured satisfactions was to witness the progress and success of the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWA) in securing housing facilities on campus. For many years, this group of young women dedicated to agriculture was without a home. Larry's perseverance and mentorship as the head of an advisory committee led eventually to the financing and building of a new AWA house at 1909 University Avenue. As he did with so many others, Larry helped these young women achieve their dream.

Although Larry is no longer with us, he will remain the model of an altruistic scientist and mentor for years to come. We will miss a wonderful friend, a person who truly made a difference in the life of his fellow human beings.

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