

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARTHUR LLOYD POPE

Professor Emeritus Arthur L. Pope was born in Caldwell, Idaho on January 28, 1921 and died at his home on his farm just west of Madison on July 5, 2010. He was reared on a livestock farm in Michigan and later completed the BS degree at Michigan State University. The Pope family has a long history with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His cousin Clara Colby obtained a Bachelors of Philosophy in 1869, his father Leon graduated from Farm Short Course in 1906, and Art earned a Master of Science in animal nutrition in 1943 and the PhD in biochemistry in 1946, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Pope joined the faculty of the Department of Animal Husbandry at the University of Wisconsin as an assistant professor in 1946. He retired from the Department of Meat and Animal Science 43 years later, in 1989, after having chaired the department from 1969 to 1980, but continued participating in departmental extension activities up until his death in 2010.

Art Pope owned and raised a flock of purebred Hampshire sheep for 73 years. There were only one or two Hampshire flocks in the U.S. that had been under ownership of the same family for a longer period. Art consigned rams to the Wisconsin Ram Test Station and was an active participant in the National Sheep Improvement Program. His rams were sought after by commercial producers looking for fast-growing, muscular sheep with true Hampshire breed type.

Art Pope was hired by the Department of Animal Husbandry to be a resource person for all aspects in the science of raising sheep in Wisconsin. As a supervisor of the Hill Top Sheep Farm (located at Hilldale, later moved to the Arlington Agricultural Research Station) and the Sheep Unit at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, he was a perennial presenter of research results and sheep husbandry recommendations at field days throughout the state, especially at the annual Spooner Sheep Day. He taught countless numbers of college students in his BS degree and short course sheep production, animal nutrition, and livestock judging courses and a few hundred shearers in beginning sheep shearing schools. One student recalls, "... [As an eager 13-year-old 4H-er,] I first met Dr. Pope ... at the 1977 UW shearing school. After a training session... Dr. Pope came up to me and my father and discussed a possible future of me pursuing a degree in animal science. He even suggested that I might end up in a position similar to his one day.... He recently congratulated me for accepting a faculty position as small ruminant specialist at Michigan State University!"

Professor Pope had many opportunities to interact with a variety of scientists within the college and across the university. Sheep were considered an excellent animal for experimentation and were in high demand by scientists at the university. As a result, collaborating with a number of scientists throughout the UW, Dr. Pope was able to develop a unique blend of basic and practical experiences in sheep nutrition, genetics, reproduction and veterinary care.

At the outbreak of WWII, sheep producers in Northern Wisconsin were experiencing 20 to 50% (in one case 84%) death losses in their flocks even though their sheep had been raised on the same pastures for a number of years. Dr. Pope discovered that the addition of a cobalt-containing salt to their diets reversed these losses. Continuing these investigations with a graduate student, William Hoekstra, in Dr. Paul Phillips' Department of Biochemistry laboratory, they went on to discover that the supplemental cobalt increased Vitamin B12 activity in tissues of these sheep. More importantly, these early relationships opened the door for Drs. Pope and Phillips to investigate numerous mineral interactions in sheep diets and as a result, to formulate the first trace mineralized salt supplement for sheep. From this background in mineral requirements for sheep, Dr. Pope was asked to chair an early National Research Council committee to develop recommendations for feeding trace elements to sheep.

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William Hoekstra went on to become a very accomplished scientist in his own right at the UW Department of Biochemistry. Starting in 1971, Drs. Hoekstra and Pope began to identify the role of selenium in protecting red blood cells from oxidative challenges, then moved on to investigate the structural relationship between selenium and glutathione peroxidase, the first selenoenzyme identified. Their cooperation continued for the next 20 years as the last manuscript they published together, in 1991, demonstrated that selenium protected against peroxidation by exogenous lipopolysaccharides in rats.

Within the Department of Meat and Animal Science, Dr. Pope also had a very long and productive career collaborating in particular with Drs. L.E. Casida and A.B. Chapman in investigations in reproductive physiology and genetics, respectively, in basic and applied studies with sheep. Dr. Pope also collaborated with a number of faculty in the Department of Veterinary Science and the School of Veterinary Medicine in comparing various medicines and in the development of practical advice in preventing nutritional anomalies in sheep.

These collaborative experiences are exemplary of the University of Wisconsin's atmosphere of collegiality and cooperation affording Dr. Pope the opportunity to participate in hundreds of refereed publications. For his investigative efforts, Art Pope was awarded the American Feed Manufacturers, the Gustav Bohstedt and the Morrison awards. These are national awards, the latter being the highest award achievable within the membership of the American Society of Animal Science. Noteworthy, Drs. Bohstedt and Morrison were legends in the field of animal nutrition and they were both, directly or indirectly, mentors of Dr. Pope at the University of Wisconsin. On the practical level, Dr. Pope received numerous awards from the sheep industry including the Silver Ram Award from the American Sheep Producer's Council. And in the state, the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative honored him with the creation of the Art Pope Award for exceptional service to the sheep industry.

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