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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ANTON G. SENDELBACH

Anton G. "Tony" Sendelbach, emeritus professor of dairy science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died January 26, 2000 in Madison of a heart attack. He was 75 years old.

Sendelbach grew up on a small dairy farm near Waumandee, Wisconsin. Following completion of his B.S. degree in agriculture education from the Wisconsin State University at River Falls, he came to the UW-Madison in 1954 as a research assistant. Sendelbach joined the faculty of the Department of Dairy Husbandry (now Dairy Science) in 1956. He earned his doctorate in dairy science in 1960.

Moving through the tenure process, Sendelbach was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and full professor in 1973. Following his retirement in 1991 after nearly 37 years at UW-Madison, he was granted emeritus status.

As an extension dairy specialist, Sendelbach spent more than three decades helping to lay the groundwork for computerized dairy-herd management. When he was in graduate school, he set up cow, sire and herd files on punch cards for the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program, processing the data on the university's 6,000-tube IBM mainframe computer. He helped to form Agricultural Records Cooperative, and the Wisconsin DHI Cooperative, in 1959. The two later merged and now operate as AgSource, a subsidiary of Cooperative Resources International. After the records cooperative took over routine record processing, Sendelbach continued his research into dairy cattle breeding and genetics, and worked to develop and promote the DHI program in Wisconsin.

Sendelbach was recognized throughout the state and nation for his contributions to better dairying through computerized record-keeping and herd management. He led Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement programs into the computer age, assisting numerous dairy farmers and breeding organizations with their record-keeping needs. A long-time promoter of the use of artificial insemination for Wisconsin’s dairy herds, he received a number of service awards from the dairy industry.

Sendelbach is survived by his wife, Maxine; three sons, Lee, Paul and Tom; a daughter, Jean (Bill) Sternman; and nine grandchildren. Funeral services were held January 29, 2000 in Waumandee, and a memorial service was held February 5 in Madison.

Maxine Sendelbach and Tony’s many friends have established a scholarship in Sendelbach's name at the UW-Madison. The $500 scholarship will be presented annually to a top continuing student in dairy science, preferably for use in the sophomore year. Selection will be based 75 percent on scholarship and 25 percent on student activities. In honor of Sendelbach’s years of dedication to the Dairy Herd Improvement program, special consideration will be given to applicants from farms that utilize dairy production records in their management programs.

Sendelbach was the quintessential extension specialist – translating the research and knowledge generated by the university for practical application by his industry clientele. He leaves a legacy of innovation, creativity, progress, and significant economic improvement for Wisconsin’s dairy industry.

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Tony will be remembered for his dedication to improving dairy management through better record keeping, his insistence on the use of artificial insemination to improve dairy cattle genetics, his early leadership in applying computer technology for the dairy industry, his collegiality, his sense of humor and his extremely dry wit.

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