

Ellis A. Pierce

May 12, 1919 — November 4, 1978

Ellis A. Pierce was born and raised in Onida, South Dakota, and received his Bachelor of Science degree from South Dakota State University. After four years in the army in World War II, he reentered South Dakota State University and received his Master of Science degree in agriculture in 1948. He was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at South Dakota State University in charge of teaching and research in meats. In 1953 Professor Pierce enrolled in the graduate school at Cornell University and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1955.

Professor Pierce was a member of the animal science faculty of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University from 1955 until his retirement in 1975. He spent a six-month leave in 1961 doing advanced study at North Carolina State University and a seven-month leave for study in Europe in 1968. Upon his retirement the University Board of Trustees appointed him professor emeritus.

As a member of the animal science faculty, he was responsible for the development of the meat and swine extension programs for New York State. At the time of his appointment as assistant professor there were few, if any, guidelines for conducting such programs in the United States. This situation existed because of the relatively minor emphasis given by the producers of livestock to the interests of consumers of meat products and to the marketing of meat and livestock, especially swine. Due to the large urban and city populations within New York State, Professor Pierce felt the best methods for expanding extension programs would be those directed primarily toward the consumer. Thus, he developed programs in the area of consumer education in cooperation with staff members of the College of Human Ecology, on the identification of cuts of meat, quality of meat, best choices of meat, storage and preparation of meat, outdoor cookery of meat, and many other subjects related to the purchase and use of meat by the consumer.

As an extension specialist Professor Pierce was responsible for the swine as well as the meat program. He recognized the interdependence of the two programs and utilized it to augment each. The market hog pool was developed and involved swine producers, marketing agencies, and meat packing companies. Hogs were sold for slaughter on a graded basis through this improved system. Professor Pierce actively participated in developing swine and beef cattle evaluation programs, which established the relationship between live animals, their carcass grade, and their cutout value. He started the annual Quality Meat Contest at the New York State Fair. Through his

initiative and leadership he prepared many bulletins, reports, and articles covering practically all phases of swine production and meat subjects. The development and success of both the swine and meat programs was a tribute to his persistence, originality, and resourcefulness.

Professor Pierce worked closely with all the livestock organizations of New York State and held offices in several of them over the years. His leadership was not limited to New York State, however, for he was recognized throughout the country as an authority in the field of carcass judging and the evaluation of meats. He served as assistant superintendent of the Quality Meat Contest of the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago for many years. He was a charter member of the American Meat Science Association, a member of its executive committee, and chairman of its board of directors. He was the recipient of the American Meat Science Association Extension Award in 1966 in recognition of his leadership and his development of extension meat programs.

Professor Pierce was a guest professor in the Institut für Tierzucht und Haustiergenetik at the University of Göttingen, Germany, in 1968 and travelled extensively in Scandinavia, Western Europe, and Great Britain studying livestock production practices and research methods at agricultural colleges and institutes. He authored a chapter on the meat industry of the United States for Collier's *Encyclopedia*.

From his retirement in 1975 until his death, Professor Pierce was a livestock and meats economist with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy. His duties were primarily involved with the development of projects submitted by the various member countries to advance their livestock and meat industries to increase and better their nutrition and diets. In this work he travelled extensively, advising and consulting on these proposals.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Noethe Pierce, who resides in Ithaca, New York.

Robert W. Spalding, George H. Wellington, Samuel T. Slack