J. Thomas Reid

March 14, 1919 — November 18, 1979

J. Thomas Reid, professor of animal science at Cornell for thirty-one years, and a Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor since 1977, was known and respected worldwide as one of the foremost animal nutritionists of the past three decades.

Professor Reid, known to everyone as Tom, was born and reared on a farm near Cumberland, Maryland. After his early education in the elementary and high schools in Cumberland, he enrolled in the University of Maryland, receiving the Bachelor of Science with honors in 1941. He earned much of his college expenses through work in the university dairy barns where he developed interests that ultimately led to his major contributions in animal biology.

Tom's graduate work was done at Michigan State University where he earned the master's degree in 1943 and in 1946 the doctorate, with distinction, in animal nutrition and biochemistry. He served as assistant professor at Michigan State for one year and as associate professor at Rutgers University for two years before joining the faculty at Cornell in 1948 as associate professor of animal husbandry (as the department was then known), with major responsibilities in research and teaching in dairy cattle nutrition and production. He was promoted to professor in 1951 and later served as head of the Department of Animal Science from 1971 to 1976.

Professor Reid's research and publications rapidly led to national and international recognition. Methods and principles he developed were widely adopted as research tools by fellow scientists around the world. His early work on perennial forages showed their nutritive value could be predicted by the date of harvest, a principle that changed forage harvesting and storage patterns throughout the Northeastern United States. It was an important factor in providing forages of higher nutritive value for livestock.

Professor Reid led a team of colleagues and graduate students in long- term studies on energy use by dairy cattle for productive, reproductive and life-span performance that led to the determination and clarification of the nutritional requirements of a number of species. A classical study was conducted on the effect of level of early nutrition on ultimate lifetime performance of dairy cattle that clearly showed the disadvantages of both overfeeding and underfeeding during the growing period. His intensive research on the quantitative nature of body composition as influenced by energy, growth rate, age, and species was acclaimed by animal scientists in

many countries. These studies with cattle, sheep, and swine demonstrated that sex, breed, and body weight are more significant in predicting the composition of carcass at slaughter than the kind of ration fed.

Tom Reid and his graduate students published more than two hundred articles dealing with nutrition and physiology in national and international scientific journals. He contributed one or more chapters to sixteen books on forage evaluation and utilization by livestock, physiology of digestion and metabolism in ruminants, body composition in animals and man, and food production and consumption.

Tom Reid was a popular lecturer and discussant and presented over seventy-five invitational papers at national and international meetings and conferences. He served on numerous committees of scientific and professional organizations and was a consultant to research institutions in Uruguay, Brazil, and Peru; the United States Department of Agriculture; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and the Latin American Society of Animal Production.

At numerous times, Professor Reid served on committees of the Cornell faculty and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on educational policy, graduate studies, and administration.

Professor Reid was a very effective teacher for both undergraduate and graduate students. His standards were high and he always gained the deep respect and admiration of the students. He was chairman or cochairman of graduate committees for forty-four doctoral students, plus many master's degree candidates, of whom about one-half were from other countries. Tom Reid's influence on the intellectual growth of these graduate students was deep, rich, and rewarding. Most of them now hold key positions in major universities and research centers in the United States and in other countries and in industries allied with animal agriculture.

Possessed with a keen, analytical mind, Tom Reid served very effectively as a critic and interpreter of research data. He was a theoretician, but was always seeking a practical application of the principles and postulates of nutrition and energetics.

To the public, Tom was always dignified, serious, and reserved. This often tended to mask an intense interest in sports and a dry sense of humor. He was a dedicated and prodigious worker, spending long hours both day and night, including Sundays and holidays, in his office and laboratories, even to the detriment of his own well-being. At the time of his death, Tom was engaged in the writing of extensive grant proposals intended to procure financial support for domestic and international research. Also, he was preparing an invitational paper for presentation at the Sixth Western Hemisphere Nutrition Conference in 1980.

In recognition of his accomplishments Professor Reid was the recipient of many high awards: the American Feed Manufacturer's award in nutrition in 1950 and the Borden Award in 1957 (from the American Dairy Science Association); American Grassland Council's award in 1965; and the Morrison Award in 1967 (the highest award of the American Society of Animal Science). His portrait was hung in the gallery of the world's leading nutritionists in the Royal College of Agriculture of Norway in 1968. He also was honored with a request to give an invitational paper at the 1972 Sir John Hammond Memorial Lectures to the British Society of Animal Production. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship Award in 1955-56 and spent the year as a visiting scientist at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, University of Reading, England. Also, he was visiting scientist at Cambridge University in 1960 on a National Science Foundation travel award.

Tom was a member of the American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science, the American Institute of Nutrition, the British Society of Nutrition, and the British Society of Animal Production.

He is survived by his father, F. Ernest Reid of Cumberland, Maryland, his wife, Alice Smalley Reid, four daughters and one son, two sisters, a brother, and several nieces and nephews.

Kenneth L Turk, George H. Wellington, Samuel T. Slack