

James David Burke

October 3, 1907 — January 23, 2004

James David (Jim) Burke, Professor Emeritus of Animal Science, died January 23, 2004 in Port Orange, Florida at the age of 96.

Jim was born in Beech Creek, Pennsylvania in 1907 and his experience growing up on a farm led him to his career in Animal Science at Cornell. After high school, he received a teaching certificate from Lock Haven Teachers College in 1927 and taught elementary country school for two years before entering Pennsylvania State College where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1932. He worked in the dairy industry until 1936 when he joined Cornell as an Extension Assistant in Animal Husbandry at the salary of \$1,800 per annum. He was appointed an Assistant Professor in 1946, Associate Professor in 1948 and Professor of Animal Husbandry in 1957. Jim completed his Master's degree from Cornell in 1946.

While he was noted as a Dairy Extension Management Specialist, some of his early extension efforts included proper hitching of multiple horse teams and how to cut pork the easy way (with photos by Elmer S. Phillips).

Jim was instrumental in the organization of the New York Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative and the establishment of central laboratories for milk testing and recording. He was especially effective in the early days of the computerization of dairy records and the incorporation of management factors—especially of feeding recommendations for individual cows in the dairy record reports returned to the dairymen enrolled in the testing program. His understanding of farm procedures and in what form information could be used was unique. This was enhanced by the respect and admiration the dairy farmers had for Jim, which contributed to his success as an Extension Professor in Animal Science. At one time over 6,000 New York dairy farmers were enrolled in his program.

Jim received many awards including the Epsilon Sigma Phi Award in 1964 and an Appreciation Award from the New York Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative in 1967 as well as the DeLaval Award for Dairy Extension from the American Dairy Science Association. He held all the offices in the Extension Section of the American Dairy Science Association. Jim was also a member of the American Society of Animal Science, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta and Epsilon Sigma Phi. He maintained his subscriptions to both the *Journal of Dairy Science* and applied dairy magazines throughout his life and was always anxious to discuss new findings and their application to the dairy industry.

Jim was continually active in the Department of Animal Science after retirement including frequent attendance at seminars and social gatherings when he was in Ithaca. Most recently he participated in the Department Centennial Program in November 2003. He retired and became an Emeritus Professor in 1971. After his retirement, he spent most of his winters in Florida.

He married Velma Dillen in 1932 and they had eight children. She predeceased him after 55 years of marriage. Jim then married Helen Meek and they had 15 wonderful years before his death. In addition to Helen, he is survived by his children: Barbara Brown, Michael Burke, Nancy Drane, Betty Chupp, Sharon Wright, Timothy Burke, Tom Burke and stepdaughter, Sandra Meek True. His daughter, Susan Howser, predeceased him. He also has 24 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren; all of whom gave him great pride and joy.

Dale E. Bauman, Robert W. Everett, Douglas E. Hogue