

# George Harvey Wellington

*September 19, 1915 — September 20, 2004*

George Harvey Wellington, Professor of Animal Science and Food Science, Emeritus, died in Weslaco, Texas on September 20, 2004 at the age of 89.

Born in Springport, Michigan, George was raised on a general livestock and dairy farm. He graduated with a B.S. degree from Michigan State University in 1937. For one year he was an Instructor in Vocational Agriculture in Holly, Michigan. He continued his studies at Kansas State University, receiving the M.S. degree in 1940. He served as officer in the Remount Service in the U.S. Army from 1941-45, during which time his rank on duty rose from Second Lieutenant to Major. After being discharged from the Army in 1945, he served as an Assistant Agricultural Agent in Charlotte, Michigan for two years. In 1947, he accepted a position as Cornell Extension Meats Specialist with the rank of Assistant Professor. In 1949, he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. In 1952, his responsibilities were changed to resident instruction and research in the Department of Animal Science. He received his Ph.D. degree in Animal Science from Michigan State University in 1954 and he was promoted to Professor of Animal Science at Cornell University in 1957. George also had a joint appointment as Professor of Food Science. He retired as Professor Emeritus of Animal Science and Food Science in 1978.

For 24 years, he was in charge of the meat plant operation in the Department of Animal Science. He was involved in teaching five undergraduate and graduate courses dealing with Meat Science and he was very active in graduate training programs. He served as chairman of the graduate committees for four M.S. and nine Ph.D. students. George has contributed greatly to scientific knowledge through his research activities as evidenced by the thirty-six scientific papers, which have been published. Each paper resulted from research planned carefully and executed with great detail and precision. Professor Wellington's major research included pioneering studies on the effect of steroid hormones on meat production and quality, humane slaughter of animals, and the development of techniques for live animal and carcass evaluation. In the carcass studies in collaboration with Professor J.T. Reid, the interrelationships among concentrations of the chemical components of various meat-producing animals were found to be quite specific within species irrespective of breed, sex, and level of nutrition. Long-term studies with cattle were concerned with the influence of energy input, sex, body type, age, and body size on carcass composition and quality. Tenderness, cookability, and acceptance of meat products were measured. An interesting observation was that beef of higher fat content was not tenderer than leaner beef if produced by animals of the same age. He devoted substantial time to agricultural development and study in other countries.

In 1962, he was consultant to the Ford Foundation on agricultural programs in the Syrian Department of Agriculture, Damascus, Syria and Visiting Professor at the University of Aleppo, College of Agriculture, Aleppo, Syria in 1965-66. George studied the meat research programs in England and Ireland in 1975.

Professor Wellington was a charter member of the Reciprocal Meat Conference and was its chairman in 1960. He helped form the American Meat Science Association and was awarded the Signal Service Award in 1966 and served as the president of that organization in 1970. George was a member of the American Society of Animal Science and the Institute of Food Technologists. He received the 1975 Distinguished Service Award, Northeast Section, from the American Society of Animal Science. He continued his international involvement after retiring with assignments to: the Federal University of Minas Geras, Belo Horizonte, Brazil in 1978; he represented the American Soybean Association as a delegate to the Soviet Union in 1979; he made on site recommendations of Animal Science related research activities in Botswana and reviewed the agricultural research programs in Malawi in 1982.

Professor Wellington's community activities included St. Paul's Methodist Church, Ithaca, New York; First United Methodist Church, Weslaco, Texas; and the Ithaca-Cayuga Rotary Club. His hobbies included organized programmed exercise, including jogging, and he was an avid golfer. The construction of dry stone walls and splitting wood supply for home heating provided him with much pleasure and satisfaction.

His wife of 65 years, Gladys Brown Wellington died on March 6, 2005. He is survived by three children: Earl C. (Myra) Wellington of Harlingen, Texas; a daughter, Mary W. (Richard) Daly of Tucson, Arizona; a daughter, Ann W. (Louis-Henri) Marguet of Glen Ridge, New Jersey; and by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*Robert H. Foote, Douglas E. Hogue, James R. Stouffer*