

Robert John Young

February 10, 1923 – April 19, 2010

Robert John Young, Professor of Animal Nutrition, Emeritus, was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on February 10, 1923. He grew up on a dairy farm in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Bob Young attended schools in Chilliwack and Sardis, B.C., graduating from the Chilliwack School System in June, 1942. In October of 1942 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force where he served as engine mechanic and then as radio operator until he was honorably discharged in 1945 with the rank of Flying Officer, Navigator. After military service, Bob entered the University of British Columbia, Vancouver where he received a 5- year B.S.A. with Honors in 1950 and was awarded the Winifred Sader Gold Medal for being first in his class. During this time he met Greta G. Milne whom he married in 1950. He was admitted to the Graduate School at Cornell University where he earned a Ph.D. degree in Animal Nutrition in 1953.

After graduation, Bob accepted a position as Research Associate in the laboratory of C. H. Best in the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research at the University of Toronto where he conducted research on choline and related factors in methyl group metabolism from 1953 until 1956. He held positions as Research Chemist from 1956 until 1958 at International Minerals & Chemical Corporation in Skokie, Illinois and in the Research Division of Proctor and Gamble Company in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1958 until 1960.

Bob Young was appointed Associate Professor of Animal Nutrition in the Department of Poultry Husbandry in 1960. Thus began a highly productive academic career of 26 years as researcher, instructor, and administrator in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. The research of Bob and his graduate students and research associates touched on many aspects of poultry nutrition. His contributions include an exquisite demonstration, via the chemical synthesis of specific fatty acyl glycerides, that the chain length and degree of unsaturation of free fatty acids as well as the position of fatty acid moieties in monoglycerides affect the absorption of fatty acids in the chicken. They reported on the zinc requirement of chicks, the calcium and phosphorus requirements of chickens and the pathology of excess calcium in growing pullets, the requirements for indispensable amino acids by chickens and Japanese quail, and the utilization of dispensable amino acids and non-protein nitrogenous compounds for growth and egg production by chickens and quail. Bob Young was called upon to present overviews of poultry nutrition in numerous conference venues. He published some 77 research articles and technical papers and 22 abstracts of presentations at scientific meetings. Many of his publications were cited as resources in the National Research Council-National Academy of Science publication, *Nutrient Requirements of Poultry*. He was co-author of the world renowned book, *Nutrition of the Chicken* by M. L. Scott, M. C. Nesheim and R. J. Young (M.L. Scott & Associates, Ithaca, New York) three editions of which were published in 1969, 1976, and 1982.

Bob was energetic and proactive. He had a knack for organization and efficiency. Shortly after his appointment as Associate Professor, he was called upon to serve as Acting Head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry. By 1965 Bob was appointed Full Professor of Animal

Nutrition and Head of the Department of Poultry Science and the Cornell University Duck Research Laboratory at Eastport, Long Island. He served in this capacity until 1976 when he was asked to assume the chairmanship of the Department of Animal Science, a position which he held until his retirement in 1983.

Bob Young's administrative ability led to many assignments. Around the time that he was appointed Head of the Poultry Department, for example, he was appointed chairman of the Interdepartmental, Interdisciplinary Task Force on Agricultural Waste Management. The Task Force had responsibility for research proposals, identifying funding, and coordinating research programs on agricultural waste management and nutrient run-off among six departments. He was director of an interdepartmental project, supported by a six-year Rockefeller Foundation grant, entitled The Management of Nutrients from Agriculture that Affect Water Quality. He participated in some 24 University assignments and committees. After his retirement from the chairmanship of the Department of Animal Science in 1983, Bob was appointed for one year as co- Associate Director of Research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and co- Associate Director of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. He served as Associate Dean of the College from 1984-1985, and Director of the Physical Plant of the College from 1985-1986.

Bob was a member of the American Institute of Nutrition, the Poultry Science Association, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi. He took sabbatical leaves at the University of Lund, Sweden in 1966 and the University of British Columbia in 1974 and participated in numerous overseas assignments. In 1966, he spent 5 weeks in Greece under the auspices of the U.S. Feed Grains Council lecturing and consulting with farmers and feed manufacturers on animal and poultry nutrition. He traveled to the People's Republic of China in 1980 as a member of a team of Cornell University faculty invited by the Ministry of Agriculture in the People's Republic to review academic programs in five leading colleges of agriculture, and participated in the signing of a joint Cornell University, Nanjing College of Agriculture cooperative agreement. In the same year he was invited by the Council for Agricultural Planning and Development in Taiwan to evaluate agricultural research in livestock and poultry as part of the development of a cooperative program. He also traveled to Japan, Argentina and Brazil on professional assignments.

Bob enjoyed travel, and he vacationed overseas with his family on several occasions. He was an avid fan of Cornell hockey and basketball and enjoyed woodworking, sailing and, later in retirement, looking after the aviary in Kendal at Ithaca.

Bob is survived by his wife, Greta, and their son, Kenneth and wife, Madeline, of Ithaca, New York, and their daughter, Donna and her husband Don of Binghamton, New York, two sisters, Dorothy Crockatt and family of Toronto, Ontario, Jean Mitchell and family of Chilliwack, British Columbia, and two brothers-in-law, Allen Milne and family and Wesley Milne of Victoria, British Columbia.

Richard E. Austic, Chairperson; Douglas E. Hogue, Michael L. Thonney