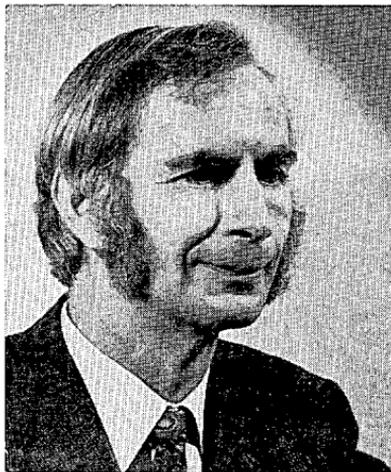


THE McMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD



In 1974 the New Zealand Society of Animal Production approved the establishment of an award to recognize "outstanding contribution to Animal Production or to the Society". The award has been named the McMeekan Memorial Award in honour of the considerable contribution that Campbell Percy McMeekan made to Animal Production in New Zealand and internationally.

The late Dr McMeekan was a foundation member of the Society, its second President, and served on the Management Committee for seven years. The *Proceedings* record thirteen of his writings ranging from specific techniques in animal production studies to Memorial addresses delivered on "Ernest Short of Paorangi" and "W. J. Croucher, father of the pig industry", and he imparted considerable vigour and stimulation in discussions within the Society.

The detailed achievements of C. P. McMeekan should be described elsewhere but to those who knew him well he was "a leader in a new generation of animal husbandmen who combined an understanding of farming problems and practices with an advanced specialized knowledge of more basic science".

The first McMeekan Memorial Award is made to Patrick Shannon for outstanding contributions to animal production.

Pat Shannon, after graduating B.Sc. (Agric.) in the University of Durham in 1952, emigrated to New Zealand where he worked for Lever Brothers as a quality control chemist and subsequently joined the New Zealand Dairy Board in 1954 as a Research Officer.

For most of the succeeding years he has been based at the Artificial Breeding Centre, Newstead. Although engaged mostly in research, he has also served as Administrative Officer and in 1969-70 as Superintendent, Newstead AB Centre, responsible for the day-to-day operation of this centre which produces semen for more than 800 000 inseminations annually. He is currently Senior Research Officer in charge of all research in the Dairy Board's Farm Production Division.

He has been active in three main fields. The first of these is mating management where he has done considerable work on methods of identifying herd mating problems by analysis of mating results.

The second main field of work, and the one for which he is best known, is the processing, storage and distribution of semen. His early work on the dilution and storage of fresh liquid semen at ambient temperature has made possible the existing highly successful system of liquid semen distribution over the whole country from just two semen production centres. This work has continued until today we have the remarkable situation of a bull achieving more than 80 000 inseminations in the short spring mating period.

This great increase in dilution rate over the years has not been achieved at the expense of conception rate, for it was not attempted until conception rates were improved to the point that they were comparable with natural mating, a situation that has continued ever since.

In concentrating his attention on improvements in processing and use of liquid semen, Pat Shannon has not neglected other techniques of processing, storage and transport. His "rediluted deep freeze" technique is in regular use in New Zealand to boost the inseminating capacity of top bulls through the short spring mating period while remaining within the basic liquid semen system.

Still another technique has enabled the shipment of fresh liquid semen overseas for further dilution and freezing (in Australia).

His third main interest is genetics. Though his work in this field is less well known, he has nevertheless made a considerable contribution in methods of progeny testing dairy bulls, an example being the method of incorporating genetic change used in the New Zealand system at present. A more recent discovery is the age-of-daughter interaction in the Friesian breed which may call into question the common practice of calculating dairy sire progeny tests on first lactation records only. In 1974 he was invited as

moderator of the session on "progeny evaluation" at the First World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production held in Madrid.

It might be expected that any introduction of a recipient of the McMeekan Award would include reference to a large number of published papers on which the reputation of the author has been built. Pat Shannon is perhaps more notable for the opposite. His natural inclination is to get the research project completed and to put the results into practice. Such an attitude was strongly advocated by C. P. McMeekan. It must be a great satisfaction for any research worker to see the results of his efforts applied in practice with little delay, because the implementation and the research are in the hands of the one organization.

The contribution of Pat Shannon to this Society consists not only of papers presented on four occasions at annual conferences, but also as an office bearer. He was a member of the Management Committee in 1966-67 and has held the offices of Vice-President (1969-70) and President (1970-71).

M. F. McDONALD,
President.

NOTICE TO AUTHORS

Two copies of the typescript and one set of illustrations of your paper to be printed in the *Proceedings* of the Society must be forwarded to the Editor of the *Proceedings* by January 31, next.

The layout to which your typescript should conform is:

1. FULL TITLE OF PAPER.
2. SHORT TITLE. This should not exceed 30 letters (or spaces between words) in length.
3. AUTHOR'S NAME AND INITIALS.
4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION where the author is usually employed. If the work reported was carried out at a different institution, this can be stated in a footnote if desired.
5. SUMMARY of the paper.
6. TEXT of the paper. *Papers from 10- and 20-minute time slots should not exceed 5 and 10 pages of A4 paper, respectively, including tables, figures and references:*
 - (a) In double-spaced typing;
 - (b) With a 30 mm left-hand margin;
 - (c) With references cited as Smith (1972), or (Smith, 1972), *NOT* as (1) or Smith 1.
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS if appropriate.
8. REFERENCES if appropriate, stated in the form:
Smith, J. W., 1972: *J. agric. Sci., Camb.*, 15: 137 with punctuation as indicated, and abbreviations in accordance with the World List of Scientific Periodicals, 4th edition.

TABLES with explanatory headings should be typed on separate sheets, but their approximate position indicated in the text.

ILLUSTRATIONS: *Photographs* — glossy and with full range of tone.

Diagrams — in black ink on white paper. Lettering for axes of graphs and keys to symbols used should be included on the graph. Each illustration should be numbered lightly in pencil on the back and accompanied by its caption. The approximate position of illustrations should be indicated in the text.

Please do not fold, or pierce with paperclips, or in any other way disfigure the illustrations, since "blocks" have to be made from them for printing.

New material should not be added when proofs are sent to you for correction.

Units of measurement: SI units should be used.

Symbols and abbreviations: The following levels of statistical significance may be indicated without explanation:

* = $P < 0.05$, ** = $P < 0.01$, *** = $P < 0.001$.

Reprints should be ordered when you return the corrected galley proofs to Editorial Services Ltd., P.O. Box 6443, Wellington.

The Society reserves the right to modify or summarize papers to conform with the length required for publication. Such modification will be referred to authors prior to publication.

From time to time the Society receives requests to reprint, translate or otherwise make fair copies of papers published in the *Proceedings*. In accepting papers, the Society reserves the right to grant permission in such cases.