

## SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD 1988

R.D. WALLACE



The nominations of David Wallace for the Society's Sir Arthur Ward Award recognises his significant contribution to the development and application of technology in a wide range of production systems in the New Zealand livestock industry. This contribution has been made over a period of 25 years since he graduated from Massey Agricultural College.

His agricultural enterprise includes activities in the local and overseas dairy industry and in beef and sheep. Thirteen hundred dairy cows, including the 600 cows in a herd owned in partnership with the staff of J.D. and R.D. Wallace are milked through a centralised rotary parlour on the farm at Monavale, near Cambridge. A large efficient and innovative rearing operation sees 5000 calves reared individually, by teams of ladies who achieve weaning rates of over 97% for 3000 Taurindicus heifers and 2000 Friesians. A bull beef unit has recently been developed, farming up to 3000 bulls.

The Wallace partnership rears the Taurindicus heifers under contract to New Zealand Agricultural Exports, of which David is a Director. These animals are grazed from weaning on leased properties until sold for export to tropical countries. His desire to improve the performance of these animals led to a small herd run as part of the Taurindicus Partnership with MAFTech to progeny test Sahiwal sires for less desirable traits before they

are used extensively in artificial insemination contracts with dairy farmers to produce daughters for export. Further, genetically superior Taurindicus cows are identified and an embryo transfer programme is carried out for rapid multiplication.

David is a keen supporter of the development of practical agricultural technology. A good example was his support for the controlled internal drug releaser (CIDR) development programme, where he committed his resources and enthusiastically encouraged the joint Ruakura/New Zealand Dairy Board development programme. He accepted failures, that impinged on his own herd management as part of testing new ideas and concepts, and focussed on the benefits of ultimate success. Similarly he has encouraged research on his farm on fertiliser application for peatland development.

Visitors to the Wallace enterprises have been encouraged over many years. Not only has he hosted overseas diplomats and dignitaries and groups of scientists and extension people, but students from both Massey and Lincoln have seen the separate elements of his operations, which are constantly being improved through the application of research results and new technology to herd and farm management. He has truly been one of the ambassadors of the New Zealand livestock industry.

David Wallace has been closely associated with the development of live sheep exports to the Middle East. Feedlots have been built to familiarise the ram lambs with pellet feeding before they are loaded. The success of this preconditioning is reflected by loss rates of only about 0.5% on the most recent shipments. His tenacity in dealing with the groups who seek to undermine this trade reflects his desire to ensure that the New Zealand sheep farmer gets a much better return for his effort and investment.

The Society has benefited from David's interest in animal production. He has presented papers at the annual conferences. He has also promoted the Society's activities bringing overseas delegates to the Dairy Production Conference and to the 4th Asian-Australasian Animal Production Societies Congress in Hamilton. He obtained sponsorship funding for the latter event and also contributed to the Society's participation at the 1st Asian-Australasian Animal Production Societies Congress.

It is because of his enthusiasm, innovation and success in the livestock industry that the Society recognises the national and international nature of David Wallace's contribution to animal production in New Zealand by its choice of him to be a recipient of the Sir Arthur Ward Award in 1988.

K.E. Jury  
A.H. Kirton