

## SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD

### Stephen T. Morris

The Sir Arthur Ward award recognises service and application to the animal production industries of New Zealand, through the successful development of new concepts and their extension to the farming community. The endeavours of Professor Steve Morris over the past 22 years in the areas of beef cattle and sheep production place him firmly in this category.

A consistent feature of Steve's work over many years has been his very close relationship with the Beef Cattle and Sheep Industries. This has led to invitations to serve as a technical representative on the National Beef Council since 1993 and on the lower North Island Sheep Council since 1996. He has also written five research and development briefs for Meat and Wool NZ. These invitations show that Steve's opinion has been sought at the national level for defining priority areas for industry research and development expenditure in both the beef cattle and sheep industries.

A feature of Steve's research is that it has always been driven by industry relevance. Examples of successful research programmes include beef production from Jersey x Friesian steers, once-bred heifers, Friesian bull beef production, effects of early pregnancy nutrition on calf birth weight and calving difficulty in heifers, hogget management to maximise reproductive performance, management of triplet bearing ewes and mid pregnancy shearing of ewes to improve lamb birth weight and survival. Steve has always been a practical 'hands on' researcher. Photographs of him participating in his research with his students and other staff have regularly appeared in the farming press and they still do. He has successfully obtained funding for these large applied research programmes through competitive application processes.



Steve has trained a future generation of New Zealand agricultural scientists through supervising 22 Masterate and 11 Ph.D. students and has successfully communicated these results to the livestock farming industries of New Zealand. Communication has been a regular feature of Steve Morris' work, to industry leaders via the Sheep and Beef Councils, and Meat and Wool NZ, to industry consultants, to farmers and to University students. Because of the

applied nature of his work, Steve receives many invitations to speak at Field days and to contribute to a range of industry publications. He instigated the Central Districts Sheep and Beef Cattle Farmers Conference in 1992 and edited the Proceedings for a 10 year period. Over the past five years he has authored 45 technical papers for industry readership, as well as 45 refereed scientific conference papers and 37 full length scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.

Industry service has always been high on Steve's agenda. In addition to the roles already mentioned, he has served on the Board of the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre since 2003 and on Massey University Animal Ethics Committee since 1994. Steve has made substantial contributions to the New Zealand pastoral livestock industries through serving on Industry Councils and Boards, through leadership in industry relevant research programmes, through communication of the results to the farming industry and through the training of future agricultural scientists.

These contributions over a 22 year period make him a most suitable person to receive the Sir Arthur Ward Award.

*Tom Barry, Paul Kenyon and Hugh Blair*