

**American Society of Animal Science
Candidates for the Office of President-Elect
2010**

Margaret E. Benson

Margaret E. Benson currently serves as the chair of the Department of Animal Sciences at Washington State University, a position she has held since February of 2007. She grew up on a diversified livestock (beef and sheep) and grain farm near Okabena, Minnesota, and remains an owner of the family farm. Benson received BS and MS degrees in animal science and ruminant nutrition, respectively, from North Dakota State University. Her PhD in ruminant nutrition was earned at the University of Kentucky. Benson began her career in academia when she accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University in 1985. She was promoted through the ranks to the position of professor in 1996, and for most of her career, she has held an appointment with a 3-way split in teaching, research, and extension responsibilities. While at Michigan State University, she taught a variety of courses including Introductory Animal Science, Ruminant Nutrition, Sheep Production and Management, and Ethics in Animal Agriculture. Throughout her career, Benson has been recognized as a dedicated and skilled educator, and she received Michigan State University's Teacher Scholar Award in 1992. She was also recognized by the American Society of Animal Science in 1995, winning the Outstanding Young Teacher Award for the Midwestern Section. Applied research and extension were part of her responsibilities when she conducted applied sheep and beef cattle nutrition and management studies and served as the state sheep extension specialist. In 2000, Benson completed a master's of business administration degree at Michigan State University to attain new expertise for application in teaching, extension, and administrative activities. She served as the interim chair of the Department of Animal Sciences at Michigan State University for 2 1/2 years. In 2007, Benson accepted the position of chair in the Department of Animal Sciences at Washington State University. In this position, she leads a faculty and staff who are engaged in, and committed to, delivering outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs, conducting diverse research programs that contribute new findings to fundamental and applied animal science disciplines, and delivering extension programs that address emerging and relevant issues designed to sustain animal agriculture in the Pacific Northwest, nationally, and globally. In her role as department chair, her responsibilities include fiscal and administrative management of department allocations from academic programs, Agricultural Research Center, and Washington State University extension funding lines. Administrative and fiscal responsibility and oversight also includes 4 animal production units, a meats laboratory, an experimental animal laboratory, a feed mill, and a farm shop. Benson has served the American Society of Animal Sciences throughout her career with service on a variety of committees at the national and sectional levels. She recently completed a term on the Board of Directors and was involved in developing the current strategic plan.

Vision Statement

To describe my vision for the American Society of Animal Sciences, I first looked at our last 100 years, which have been marked with many accomplishments. Although the future is unpredictable, our core values must remain unchanged. The changes that society is experiencing have likely affected all of us at personal and professional levels, and the federal, state, and local economic environments are having dramatic effects on higher education, departments of animal science, allied industries, and our stakeholders. How we respond to these and other changes, collectively and individually, will determine what we as an organization will accomplish over our next 100 years.

With change comes opportunity. It is the responsibility of ASAS to embrace change and play an important role in helping to position our animal and agribusiness industries and academic institutions for a successful future. How we, our students, our stakeholders, our clientele, and society respond to challenges and opportunities will chart the course for what animal science and animal scientists will do in the future. To effectively respond to a continually evolving landscape, our association must be nimble and flexible, capable of proactive and reactive actions. Proactively, ASAS needs to anticipate upcoming needs and situations and empower our membership to move forward with new initiatives. Reactively, we must address the unexpected and provide sound leadership and effective communication. The current strategic plan does a good job in combining visionary perspectives for an unknown future with the acknowledgment that current issues such as membership, communications, and relevance to an increasingly diverse core of scientists need to be addressed. I served on the ASAS Board when the strategic plan was written, and it was rewarding to see the dedication and commitment our membership has in making ASAS successful in the future. Membership input clearly demonstrated investment in the strategic plan process and a desire for a successful outcome. The five goals and objectives of the plan include having a strong voice with decision makers, expanding membership numbers, investing in our membership, effective use of communications technologies, and our desire to serve as a generator and disseminator of scientific information and knowledge. These goals address our changing demographics, our need to be responsive and expansive to those we serve, and our need to employ the tools and technologies we have available to enhance our communication effectiveness. The strategic plan is a map to use to aggressively reach our goals. What we do as a society must be examined in the context of our goals, and our plan needs to have the flexibility to change course if necessary.

I believe ASAS needs to continue to take a stronger and more visible stand to meet one of the strategic directives—to be the scientific voice of animal agriculture. We must convey the importance of federal funding support of animal research to legislative bodies, academic institutions, and stakeholder groups. Proposed or actual changes in funding priorities and the effect changes will have if implemented must be clearly communicated. Within USDA, animal research dollars are in direct competition with plant science research. The current reorganization at USDA may change how grant funds will be allocated, and there is speculation that the proportion of grant dollars going to support animal science research may be reduced. If this is true, it will significantly alter how basic and applied animal research will be conducted in the future. Our ASAS leadership must work actively to educate USDA, legislators, and the agricultural industries so they understand the importance of investing in animal science research and the value and effect of its past investment. Although USDA is currently in the spotlight, the competitive federal funding environment is one that affects most all of our departments of animal science, and our competitive position in the other federal funding programs is also of concern. As a Society, we need to voice a unified and compelling position and be proactive in defining our needs and abilities if we are to continue to advance our sciences and move our industries forward in a competitive global society. With a Public Policy Committee in place and a formal scientific presence resumed in Washington, DC, important first steps have been taken.

The American Society of Animal Science also needs to be a recognized and reliable voice of science in communicating with audiences ranging from regulatory officials to the general public on difficult and controversial subjects. We must be prepared to provide science-based, unbiased information and be viewed as the reliable source for that information. How effective we are in communicating with diverse audiences will have a bearing on our successful and sustainable future.

The American Society of Animal Science has been an important part of my professional career, and it has provided many valued opportunities for me to grow professionally. Today's Society has a different membership demographic and faces different challenges than when I became a member. However, ASAS must and can

provide professional relevance to today's and tomorrow's members. I am committed to giving back to an organization from which I have benefited and look forward to working with the members to keep ASAS relevant and important. Helping to chart the course to lead the American Society of Animal Science on a continuing and successful journey would be an honor and an opportunity I would welcome.

Jerry C. Weigel

Jerry Weigel is presently responsible for global nutrition, nutritional research, product application and scientific/technical services for BASF Plant Science and BASF. His areas of interest and expertise are in the field of animal and clinical nutrition, feed ingredient application, commodity processing of all cereal grains and oilseeds, fermentation, and plant biotechnology. His knowledge is extensive in both domestic and international areas, and he has traveled and lectured in almost every country in the world on plant biotechnologies application to improve animal and human feed and foodstuffs.

Weigel is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, where he studied animal science, and he spent one year on the staff of the University of Florida. He spent five years with Savannah Foods and Industries, Birmingham, Alabama, before joining Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) in Decatur, Illinois, where he was responsible for global nutrition. He was with ADM from 1980 to 1996 as vice president, nutrition. His areas of responsibility at ADM included coordinating technical service, quality control, and research of fermentation products, including amino acids, organic acids, and vitamins, as well as research that involved the processing of corn, soybeans, rice, wheat, canola, sunflowers, cotton, and peanuts.

Weigel joined ExSeed, now BASF, in 1996 and is still actively involved with a number of other divisions of BASF globally. His responsibilities include researching new and novel functional, nutritional, and quality traits for insertion into farm commodities, such as corn, wheat, rice, and soybeans. He is also involved with technical service to the end-use community, training of the seed industry on value-enhanced commodities, product application to the food sector, and biofuel research.

He is a member of numerous groups and organizations, including US Grains Council, American Feed Ingredient Association, NCGA, ASA, Distillers Grains Technology Council, US Grains, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Institute of Food Technologists, American Cereal Chemists Association, American Society of Oil Chemists, American Seed Tradesman Association, American Society of Animal Science (including chair, ASAS Foundation and Executive Committee), Poultry Science and Dairy Science, World Poultry Association, American Institute of Nutrition, American Chemical Association, National Chicken Council, National Pork Producers, and many more state and federal organizations.

Weigel is involved in a number of the Triangle North Carolina area civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America.

He is located at BASF Plant Science, 26 Davis Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, and his office phone number is 919-547-2554 and e-mail is gerald.weigel@basf.com.

Vision Statement

My vision as president-elect of the American Society of Animal Science is to firmly adhere to the existing vision of ASAS in providing our membership with desired services and professional development in a very

accountable, transparent, and proactive manner. I believe our organization is the vehicle to train and develop our future animal scientists. It is my belief that we need to only use science-based logic and be able to deliver these words to our stakeholders, both internal (members) and external (academia, industry, government, and the press), and reach beyond our US borders to the world.

**American Society of Animal Science
Candidates for the Office of Director at Large
2010**

Cathy Bandyk

Cathy Bandyk is currently the cow/calf and stocker cattle nutritionist and product manager for Quality Liquid Feeds. Her professional background has allowed her to develop an industry perspective that draws on experience from all segments of animal agriculture: industry, academia, international trade, and production. Bandyk and her husband operated a diversified farming and ranching operation in the Kansas Flint Hills for 20 years. During that time, she also held positions with Kansas State University Extension Animal Sciences and the International Grains Program and operated a private business based on ration-balancing software. Bandyk earned 3 degrees from Kansas State University, including an MS in livestock production and management and a PhD in ruminant nutrition. Her primary areas of interest have been supplementation of forage-based diets, applications for feed additives, beef quality assurance, modeling and development of decision-making tools, and integrated resource management. She is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, serving on the Alpha Beef Cattle Symposium and Ruminant Nutrition (chair, 2009) committees; the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (Membership Committee); and the AFIA Nutrition Member Interest Group and Ingredient Approval and Definition Committee, and she recently completed the NCBA Masters of Beef Advocacy program. Bandyk has authored 20 professional articles and proceedings papers, 12 software packages, and dozens of technical bulletins and newsletters. Her monthly “CattleSense” is routinely featured on various electronic media outlets and reprinted in a range of industry publications.

Vision Statement

Throughout my career, I have greatly appreciated the benefits of ASAS membership: the journal, the annual meetings and symposia, and the opportunities for networking. The scientific data and ideas generated through these venues are invaluable, and so I have felt an obligation to do my part to support the society. More recently, I have watched our organization actively respond to some of the growing challenges faced by animal agriculture. I am excited by this affirmation of leadership; now I want to be more actively involved. I hope I can share that renewed commitment with all our members.

We are well aware of the issues confronting our industry. Our task is to feed a growing world population and at the same time address challenges ranging from organized attacks on all livestock production, to competition for limited natural resources, to restricted funding for research. We also recognize the large disconnect between most of the population and the source of their food and other agricultural products. A recent paper effectively made the point that any sustainable response must be (1) economically viable, (2) scientifically verified, and (3) ethically grounded. The American Society of Animal Science, in conjunction with the other FASS societies, is uniquely positioned to be a major source of “knowledge and perspectives” that meet these criteria.

As an organization, we have a mission, a vision, and a long-term plan that embrace this broad goal. To be successful, we will need a strong membership that is representative of the many disciplines that make up the animal sciences. That, in turn, hinges on providing member services and benefits that provide a positive return on the investment made in dues, registrations, and time. Our historic avenues of disseminating new research and stimulating ideas will continue to provide that level of value, as will adoption of new technologies. A key role of the society is to incorporate the contributions of members involved in research, teaching, extension, allied industry, and government and effectively communicate that knowledge both internally and externally. Our audience must now, more than ever, include policy makers, regulatory bodies, consumers, and students.

Bruce L. Golden

Bruce Golden has been department head and professor of dairy science at California Polytechnic State University since 2007. Before his appointment, he was chief executive officer of a livestock and pet technology company he founded after a 19-year career on the faculty at Colorado State University (CSU). At CSU, he was professor of animal breeding and genetics, and he conducted research in trait development, computation, and statistical methods for genetic evaluation. At CSU, he founded and directed the Center for Genetic Evaluation of Livestock, a provider of genetic evaluations for breed organizations and breeding companies worldwide. He was also the founder of the Animal Geneticist's Discussion Group. He trained over 15 graduate students for MS and PhD degrees. He pioneered one of the first courses in computerized livestock records processing and courses in applied genetic evaluation.

As chief scientific officer and then chief executive officer of a startup company, he was instrumental in raising over \$12 million in investment capital and managed all aspects of the company, including personnel, production, intellectual property development, IP portfolio, and innovation. He has extensive experience in developing and managing a board of directors and advisory board. He was responsible for hiring and personnel configuration. Under his leadership, the company grew to full commercialization. He also lead a multiyear effort to shape policy and regulations in Washington, DC, building on his previous experience successfully advocating for federal funding for cattle genetic evaluation support.

As department head of the Dairy Science Department at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, he has applied his business experience to manage academic programs and two commercial operations. He has forged his management skills through very challenging economic conditions. In this leadership role, he has developed innovative programs in areas such as Best Dairy Practices in Environment and Water Quality and an annual Producer Symposium that addresses topics such as dairy animal welfare.

A native of California, Golden's family had ranches in California and Oregon. He grew up riding horses and discovered his passion for animal agriculture. He currently owns a ranch in central Washington State. He attended Washington State University, where he received his BS and MS degrees in animal science. Golden received his doctorate degree in animal breeding and genetics from CSU.

Golden's research and service to industry have resulted in numerous awards and publications including a series of patents related to animal identification and diagnostic instruments. He has extensive international experience in livestock production, including work with China, Brazil, Venezuela, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK, Canada, Germany, Argentina, Uruguay, Japan, South Africa, Mexico, and Australia.

Vision Statement

Animal agriculture has arrived at a nexus where we must be especially circumspect and show leadership in navigating increasingly complex economic issues and societal demands. The American Society of Animal Science is now, as much as ever, a crucial agent of change. We must continue to expand our roles of advocacy, articulating opportunities and disseminating solutions. We will grow as a platform for the generation of accurate scientific and technical information to form sound policy and will develop and maintain viable, healthy livestock industries.

We know that recently the public has sometimes turned away from our expertise and decision makers have more frequently formed policy relying on opinion or popular notion. We will build on the Society's already great legacy to reinstate the confidence of the public and decision makers. I believe we now have an opportunity to help create a more reasonable process for the development of regulation and to help the consumer understand the effects of their decisions. We can show the consumer that our values are their values, that we all want a vibrant economy, with clean air and water, and food and fiber emanating from well-cared-for animals. We will achieve this by connecting these values to the unprecedented innovations and revelations occurring in science and technology through enhanced communication tools and efforts.

The American Society of Animal Science also has a crucial role in the dramatic changes occurring in higher education. According to a survey by the Sloan Consortium published in 2010, more than one in four students took an online course in the fall of 2008. The opportunities are available for the members of the Society to take a leadership role in forming the university experience of the future. Clearly, in a very short time, higher education in animal agriculture will look very different than it does today. The Society, through our members, will have an essential role in creating this new university model.

New models for the dissemination of scientific information are creating opportunities to accelerate the growth of scientific knowledge. We must continue to embrace these new vehicles without inadvertently sacrificing the quality and accuracy of the information. We must seek methods to maintain our high standards of peer review while increasing access. The challenge comes in doing this in an economically viable way. I believe that we have solutions at hand that, when configured, will allow us to meet these challenges as opportunities.

I will work diligently to ensure that the Society continues to expand its effect on all scientific disciplines in animal agriculture. I will ensure that our members' vision influences policy, including the expansion of funding and support of relevant and essential research. I will work to ensure the Society successfully navigates the economic challenges we face to continue to thrive.

Stacey A. Gunter

Stacey A. Gunter is at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Southern Plains Range Research Station in Woodward, Oklahoma, where he is the research leader of a multidisciplinary research program focused on breeding and evaluating native and introduced grasses appropriate for the Southern Plains. He was raised on a cattle ranch in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Gunter received a BS degree in animal science at Oregon State University (1987), an MS degree in animal science from the University of Nevada–Reno (1989), and a PhD degree in animal nutrition from Oklahoma State University (1993). After a postdoctoral position in feedlot nutrition at New Mexico State University's Clayton Livestock Research Center, he was the state livestock specialist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service in Orono for 2 years. In 1996, he joined

the faculty in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Arkansas and was housed at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope for 12 years; he reached the rank of professor in 2006 and was appointed interim center director in 2007. He focused his research in two areas: forage utilization and the management by grazing cattle and by-product utilization as supplements. Gunter has over 329 professional publications, including 61 peer-reviewed publications, and has presented numerous invited national and regional lectures. He has served on a total of 15 graduate committees, 9 as the chair. He has participated in USDA/ARS program evaluations and T-STAR and SBIR grant reviews. He has served on multiple national and sectional ASAS committees and has received \$2.2 million in research grants. He has twice been a member of the editorial boards of *The Professional Animal Scientist* (2003 to 2006), the *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture* (1994 to 2003), and the *Journal of Animal Science* (2003 to 2005), plus serving as an associate editor for the *Animal Production Section (Rangeland, Pasture, and Forage Utilization, 2005 to 2008)*.

Vision Statement

Animal agriculture and the American Society of Animal Science annually face new and unexpected challenges; I believe these challenges are opportunities to fulfill our mission to discover, disseminate, and apply scientific knowledge, regardless of the current political will. A look at our Society's Seven-Year Strategic Plan reveals how well our Society is planning for new challenges and embracing a broader vision of animal science as an inclusive group that has a diverse community of professionals who are able to answer a wide array of questions regarding the use of animals to benefit humans. Advancements in basic and applied animal research have rapidly increased in recent years and are poised for even greater acceleration in the future. As animal scientists develop powerful tools and adapt ones already associated with other sciences, the demand for our talents and skills also grows along with the growing global demands for food, the increasing social distance from the farm of major stakeholder groups, and the increasing importance of companion animals in cultures around the world. Along with these opportunities come the challenges for applied researchers to continue to bridge the gap between the influx of new basic research and practical implementation tools for large-scale production systems. Academic, government, and industry scientists must continue to recruit and guide the brightest young people through successful animal science careers, which I believe is one of our most important responsibilities to our profession. I believe our Society must remain an unbiased scientific voice that educates the global community, including policy makers, on pertinent issues such as food quality and animal well-being. Also, all of us need to communicate the value of our disciplines to the more and more distant public through communication systems that our stakeholders actually access. My career is rooted in a small farm in western Oregon; land-grant university systems from seven different states; and more than 18 years of activities in scientific research, teaching, and outreach as a university professor and a government research scientist. I have had the opportunity to contribute to the research and development of animal production systems in large scales that create and capture the value from new technologies. This career path has heightened my appreciation for the importance of strong programs that link academia, government, and industry in research. I also believe our hard work could die in vain if we do not encourage the use of our research in education and public relations. The American Society of Animal Science plays a vital role in supporting and communicating this message. It is our responsibility as a Society to continue to search for greater efficiencies and high impact in publications, encourage new programming within and collaborate among disciplines, and build a diverse and international membership that can unify and promote the animal sciences and animal well-being around the globe.

Deb Hamernik

Since April 2009, Deb Hamernik has served as associate dean of the Agricultural Research Division, associate director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, and professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her primary responsibilities include administration of Animal Health federal formula grants, administration of McIntire-Stennis federal formula grants, and enhancing the competitiveness of interdisciplinary faculty teams for extramural funding. She also serves on the advisory board for the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

From 2001 to 2009 she served as national program leader of Animal Physiology in the Plant and Animal Systems unit of the USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). Hamernik also served as program director for the USDA-CSREES National Research Initiative (NRI) Bovine Genome Sequencing Program (\$10 million) and the NRI Porcine Genome Sequencing Program (\$10 million). She served as the executive secretary for the interagency working group on domestic animal genomics for the White House National Science and Technology Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy. She provided national leadership for formula grant activities (\$22 million) within the disciplines of animal physiology, molecular biology, functional genomics, and biotechnology. She administered congressionally directed line items (earmarks) totaling approximately \$3.5 million per year, and she led program, department, and/or college reviews for the land-grant university system. From 2000 to 2001 she served as scientific review administrator in the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she administered the Biochemical Endocrinology study section as well as the review of Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) applications that focused on endocrine-based therapies to control reproduction and reproductive disorders. From 1997 to 2000 she served as program director for the USDA-CSREES NRI Animal Reproduction (\$4 million per year) and Animal Growth and Development (~\$4 million per year) competitive grants programs. She was also an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at the Arizona Health Sciences Center at the University of Arizona (1995–1997) and assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (1991–1995).

In 2008 she was inducted into the CSREES Hall of Fame, and she received the CSREES Employee of the Year Award in Science and Education in 2004. She also received the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for Excellence for the eGrants Implementation Team in 2007 and for the Plan of Work Review Team in 2000. Hamernik also received the Women's History Month Alumni Award from the Washington State University College of Agriculture in 2004 and the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Department of Animal Science at Washington State University in 2010. Hamernik earned a BS in animal science from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; a MS in animal science from Washington State University; and a PhD in animal physiology from Colorado State University. She also completed postdoctoral training in molecular endocrinology at Case Western Reserve University, where she was supported by a National Research Service Award from the NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Vision Statement

The future of animal science holds many exciting opportunities as well as many potential challenges. The global demand for animal protein has never been greater. However, economic, environmental, and societal issues pose considerable threats to the livestock industry in the United States. At the same time, the global economic slowdown has led many land-grant universities to propose closing entire colleges or research stations, place university employees on furlough and/or reduce salaries and benefits, cut research or extension budgets, and stop hiring new faculty.

How can animal scientists deliver on our mission to “foster the discovery, sharing and application of scientific knowledge concerning the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well-being”? We must use state-of-the-art technologies such as genomics and nanotechnology to generate new knowledge to ensure the sustainability of animal production systems. Sustainable animal production systems of the future must be economically viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally responsible. Applied research and education efforts must generate outcomes beyond new knowledge and publications. We must develop multidisciplinary approaches to address societal challenges associated with animal production. We must take every opportunity possible to educate the next generation of livestock producers as well as the public on the high standards of animal care provided by this industry. And, we, as the American Society of Animal Science, must play a more active role in setting national priorities for research, education, and extension. We must work with the federal funding agencies (e.g., the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy) to ensure that our tax dollars are spent on research with agricultural animals that will benefit agricultural sciences, biomedical sciences, and the life sciences.

If elected to the board of directors, I would focus my efforts on Strategic Directions #1 (ASAS will strengthen its scientific voice and increase its influence in public policy and funding for research and education in the field of animal sciences), #2 (ASAS will market and make known to the larger public its value, knowledge, and contributions as the leading comprehensive scientific information resource in the field of animal sciences), and #6 (ASAS will partner and cooperate with other scientific societies, organizations, and government agencies to sponsor multidisciplinary educational forums, symposia, and activities that address and problem-solve critical and timely issues in the animal sciences) as described in the American Society of Animal Science Seven-Year Strategic Plan FY 2008–FY 2014. I welcome the opportunity to use the insights gained during my 11+ years of work experience with the federal government to help ASAS move forward aggressively on these strategic directions as the Society enters its second century.

Alison L. Van Eenennaam

Alison Van Eenennaam is a cooperative extension specialist in the field of animal genomics and biotechnology in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California (UC) Davis, a position she has held since 2002. She received a bachelor of agricultural science from the University of Melbourne in Australia and both an MS in animal science and a PhD in genetics from UC Davis. She worked as a UC cooperative extension dairy and livestock farm advisor in San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties in California, 1991 to 1993, before returning to UC Davis to complete her doctoral training in genetics. The mission of her Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Extension program is “to provide research and education on the use of animal genomics and biotechnology in livestock production systems.” Her integrated research and outreach program focuses on various uses, aspects, and issues associated with animal biotechnology, broadly defined as “the application of science and engineering to living organisms.” Her research interests include the transgenic modification of dietary milk lipids for the improvement of human health, the application of DNA-based biotechnologies to the beef cattle industry, and the development of methods for the biological containment of genetically engineered fish. Her outreach program is focused on the development of science-based educational materials outlining the uses of animal genomics and biotechnologies in livestock production systems, including the controversial biotechnologies of genetic engineering and cloning. She has used a variety of media, including film, to inform general public audiences about science and technology. Van Eenennaam also works with the beef cattle industry and has developed a variety of extension programming for producers on topics ranging from marker-assisted and whole-genome enabled selection. Since 2005 she has served as the extension representative on the National

Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC) Advisory Board, and between 2005 and 2009, she was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the national USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21), which examines “the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the US food and agriculture system and USDA, and provides guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.”

Vision Statement

I applaud my immediate predecessors on the ASAS Board of Directors for the development of the ASAS seven-year strategic plan and would see my role as a Director-at-Large as assisting in the implementation of the strategic directions and visions that are outlined in that strategic plan. The growing demand for animal products in developing countries shows no evidence of diminishing. According to a recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the world needs to double its output of meat by 2050. This same report states that almost a billion people depend on livestock production to provide income, high-quality food, fuel, draught power, building material, and fertilizer. Given that reality, I believe animal scientists have a moral imperative to help animal agriculture meet this demand sustainably, i.e., balancing environmental, social, and economic goals. However, animal agriculture has its detractors, and there are numerous well-funded organizations that are aggressively pursuing public policy change in the area of animal agriculture. It is crucial that animal scientists have a voice in these discussions and weigh in with research-based judgments on the effects of proposed changes. Living in California for the past 20 years and being involved in public education and outreach have given me a unique perspective on these issues as they pertain to animal agriculture. I think it is crucial that ASAS implements Strategic Direction #1 of its seven-year strategic plan, which is that “ASAS will strengthen its scientific voice and increase its influence in public policy and funding for research and education in the field of animal sciences.” I also concur that ASAS needs to become more proactive in promoting the expertise that exists within the organization to deliver on its stated mission of being “recognized as the leading source of new knowledge and perspective on animals that enhance human life and well-being.” Toward this end, I have a particular interest in ensuring follow-through on Strategic Direction #5, which is to “develop and invest in cutting-edge communications technology and infrastructure that can effectively and efficiently facilitate scientific exchange, dissemination and networking to ASAS members and other interested audiences around the globe.”

Kimberly Vonnahme

Kimberly Vonnahme grew up on a livestock and grain farm near Breda, Iowa. Vonnahme earned her BS at Iowa State University (1996), her MS at Oklahoma State University (1998), and her PhD in reproductive physiology from the University of Wyoming (2003). In the fall of 2003, Vonnahme moved to North Dakota State University (NDSU), where she initially held a postdoctoral scientist position and later became a member of the faculty. In April 2004, Vonnahme accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Animal Sciences to teach and conduct research. In 2009, Vonnahme took on the responsibility of being codirector for the Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy, a multidepartmental NDSU center dedicated to investigation and dissemination of research-based recommendations on nutrition programs for healthy pregnancies. Her research focus is how maternal nutrition and other maternal environmental factors can influence nutrient delivery to the conceptus and neonate. Currently, Vonnahme is lead instructor in ANSC 463/663 (Physiology of Reproduction). Furthermore, she has reformatted the Reproductive Management course, in which undergraduate students interact with local livestock producers to solve and address producer reproductive management problems and concerns. She has also established a Research in Reproduction course in which undergraduate

students undertake an independent research project. She currently serves on the University Senate, the Graduate Council, and NDSU's Animal Care and Use Committee. She has been an active member of ASAS, serving on the following committees: 2009 Triennial Reproductive Symposium and the ASAS Midwestern Section Quadrathlon, Undergraduate Research, Graduate Research, and Physiology.

She has published 46 peer-reviewed articles, 105 abstracts, and one book chapter and has been principal (or coprincipal) investigator for more than \$1.6 million in funded research.

Vonnahme is married to Michael Kangas, and they have one daughter, Katie (2).

Vision Statement

Never has there been a more exciting time to be in animal agriculture! Our society and the industries we serve continue to face challenges. Although we have access to an ever-growing scientific knowledge base, our greatest resource is still our ASAS members and those future leaders whom we have the opportunity to educate through their undergraduate and graduate studies. We must continue to attract the brightest individuals to advance our sciences and promote animal agriculture in a world where the distance between "gate and plate" appears to be ever increasing. I feel that the two greatest challenges in our near future are 1) the continuing need to be proactive in the area of animal welfare and responsible use of animals for the betterment of humankind and 2) the need to provide for the increasing food demands of a growing population. The increased need for food by 2050 must be met, in part, by livestock production. Just as those before us who had the foresight to know that there is strength in numbers, we can join together to face these new challenges. We must continue to strive for excellence in our research and teaching and be the face for responsible animal food production.

American Society of Animal Science Candidates for the Graduate Director Position 2010

Rebecca R. Cockrum

Rebecca Cockrum graduated in 2004 with her BS degree in animal science from Arkansas State University. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, she obtained an externship with the St. Louis Zoo in the endocrinology laboratory, where she received training in laboratory techniques and management. After her externship, she served as a scientific recruiter, managing more than 90 employees and working directly with managers of scientific research companies to provide quality scientists with all levels of experience. In 2007, Cockrum began her MS program in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming under the direction of Kristi Cammack. During her thesis research, Cockrum had the opportunity to take the lead role on 3 research projects and collaborate on 3 additional projects. In 2009, she successfully defended her thesis, titled "Effects of Subacute Nitrate Toxicity on Production, Reproduction, and Gene Expression in Suffolk Ewes." Her thesis work has produced one publication as a primary author, one publication currently in revisions as a primary author, and 2 publications as a contributing author. Cockrum is continuing her education at the University of Wyoming in the Department of Animal Science, where she will focus on determining genetic mechanisms controlling feed intake in sheep and identifying markers that can be used by producers to genetically select for more highly efficient animals. She plans to complete her PhD program in May of 2012. Cockrum is a proven leader; she has served as president of the University of Wyoming Animal Science Graduate Student Association and is currently serving on the Small Ruminant Committee for National ASAS.

In addition, she has assisted professors and instructed students in Principles of Animal Breeding and Current Issues in Animal Science courses offered at the University of Wyoming. Cockrum has been an active member of ASAS since 2007 and seeks to obtain a position with ASAS where she can have a direct effect on the next generation of animal science professionals and their role in the agriculture industry.

Vision Statement

Americans are continually moving further away from agriculture as privately owned farms are absorbed into corporations, leading to a growing disconnect between the processes involved in food production and the end product. It is my vision to inspire both future and current animal scientists to actively engage in educating the public on the importance of agriculture and the effect that animal scientists have on its continued improvement. Through student recruitment by both innovative and classic technologies and dissemination to committee members of graduate student feedback from surveys, personal interviews, and networking, I will be able to assist ASAS in its goal for continued diverse and global expansion and appropriately represent the voice of future scientists. As the graduate student director, I will support the endeavors of ASAS in the discovery, dissemination, and application of animal research for the sustainability of the agriculture industry and the people it serves.

Cassandra Jones

Cassie Jones is a PhD candidate in nutritional sciences at Iowa State University under the guidance of John Patience. She hails from Beulah, North Dakota, where her family raises Rambouillet sheep. Jones graduated with her BS in 2007 and MS in 2009 from the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University (KSU). Her MS research generated 2 journal articles published or in press, with 2 more submitted or in preparation. While at KSU, Jones was a member of the meats judging team, Block & Bridle, College of Agriculture Ambassadors, and the MW-ASAS Quadrathlon Team and served as president of the department's Graduate Student Association. She has held internships with KSU's College of Agriculture and the National Pork Producers Council in Washington, DC. Jones began her PhD in 2009 and was awarded the Miller Fellowship from Iowa State University, where she is involved in the Department of Animal Science's graduate association. Her research is focused on determining the biological and physiological differences between fallback pigs and their heavier contemporaries. She and her husband, Spencer, enjoy building their purebred Angus cow herd.

Vision Statement

The Food and Agriculture Organization's recent report that the world needs to double its meat output by 2050 underscores the importance of both the animal agriculture industry and ASAS. We will need to maximize the use of current technologies and aggressively develop new ones to meet the rising need for animal products, even when faced with increasing budget constraints. It will be the continued duty of ASAS to facilitate the spreading of knowledge across the scientific community to meet these needs. In addition, ASAS must continue to evolve to meet its Vision for the Future as the diversity and needs of our industry and membership change. As a graduate director, I would serve as our generation's voice to ASAS during this evolution and would keep students abreast of the actions and opportunities available in the society. I would continue the excellent outreach efforts begun by previous graduate directors but would like to begin an ASAS-sponsored weekend retreat where students could make contacts and attend workshops focused on personal development. I would work to share

the current opportunities for students offered by ASAS and ensure that the society continues to be heavily invested in the training of future animal scientists.