

**American Society of Animal Science
Candidate for the Office of Director at Large
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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.