

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

**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.