

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

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.”