

David C. England, 1922–2001: A brief biography

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David England, the 75th president of the American Society of Animal Science, died on January 3, 2001, in Corvallis at age 79.

Born in Myrtle, Missouri, he grew up on the family farm, which he left during World War II to serve as a pharmacist's mate at a Naval Hospital in New Caledonia. After returning home, he studied at Washington State University, where he earned the bachelor's degree, with distinction, in 1949. He proceeded to the University of Minnesota, where he received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, majoring in animal breeding and genetics. Following his doctoral program, he was employed at the Hormel Institute of the University of Minnesota at Austin. While there, he became strongly in-

volved in the development of miniature pigs for medical research, an accomplishment that brought him international recognition and a write-up in *LIFE* magazine, a distinction that not many animal scientists share.

England joined the faculty of the Department of Animal Science at Oregon State University in 1956, where he completed a distinguished career in research and teaching. He directed the department's Swine Center, which tripled in size during his administration, and worked closely with the Oregon Pork Producers' Association, which honored him with its distinguished service award.

Those who speak of university professors living in ivory towers certainly never had David England in mind. He traveled extensively around the state, and, though swine continued to attract his major attention, he also found time to work with producers of other livestock. In Umatilla county, in north-central Oregon, he worked with producers of peas for the canning and frozen-food businesses, developing uses for their by-products that otherwise might have become environmental pollutants. For some years, pea vine silage, which he championed, was a staple feed for local cattle producers until changes in harvesting methods made the vines no longer available. Moving with the times, he pioneered efforts to reduce the labor in hog-barn cleaning through the use of slatted floors with a collection pit beneath. A number of swine operations in Oregon were built to specifications established with England's input, and some of them continue to serve profitably.

England was never one to confine himself to strict disciplinary areas; when he saw a job that needed to be done, he liked to get on with it. Four references are appended from his lengthy bibliography that indicate diverse research areas in which he simultaneously worked. A hallmark of England's work was the enthusiasm he brought to it, which he passed on to graduate students and others who were involved with him. It was difficult to doubt the success of research under his direction after hearing his descriptions of it. His enthusiasm for his work was equaled by his enthusiasm for his adopted state of Oregon. I remember traveling with David and listening to his glowing remarks about the state's rolling wheat country, forests, rivers, and mountains, all of which he loved. David was an expressive talker given to the use of hand gestures, and I recall occasions when I hoped his enthusiasm wouldn't result in his taking more than one hand off the wheel at once. He was active in sports, too, both as a spectator

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and a participant, and organized pick-up basketball games at lunch time behind Withycombe Hall, where students and faculty could let off a little steam and where David usually ended up the high-point man.

England took his professional responsibilities seriously and involved himself in scientific meetings and association affairs whenever time permitted. He was elected president of the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science in 1975 and of the parent society in 1981, and both organizations prospered under his leadership. They recognized him with the distinguished service award of the Western Section of ASAS and the title of honorary fellow by the American Society of Animal Science.

David England married Alice Ahearn in 1946 and she died in 1972, after which he married Ann Novotny in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Ann, and by his sons, David and John England and David Novotny, and daughters, Mary England, Margaret Winnie, Mona No-

votny-Tofell, and Sharin Lumphins. A scholarship has been established in his name at the Department of Animal Sciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis, where his photograph hangs in the entryway to Withycombe Hall.

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