

# David Leslie Mackintosh, 1895–1982: A brief biography

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David L. Mackintosh was born in Peebleshire, Scotland on April 18, 1895. He and his parents came to the United States in 1907, and his education was continued in the Geneva, New York and St. Paul, Minnesota school systems. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in 1921. Prior to graduation, he managed the Leslie Smith and Sons Shorthorn herd in Minnesota, served 2 years in the Canadian Army, and managed the C. F. Curtis Shorthorn herd in Iowa.

“Davey,” as he was affectionately known, accepted an appointment as instructor in the Animal Husbandry Department at Kansas State College and began teaching its only course in meats, entitled “Farm Meats.” He and his associates initiated a number of other courses, and, at the time of his retirement, 10 meats courses were offered.

In 1922, Davey also assumed responsibility for horse breeding, which he relinquished in 1934. Between 1922 and 1927, he was secretary of the Kansas Stallion Registration Board, and, from 1922 to 1936, he was secretary of the Kansas Angus Association. Between 1927 and 1947, he coached numerous men’s winning meat judging teams at the American Royal and International Livestock Exposition. He also coached many home economics meat judging teams at the Midwest Contest in Wichita and at the American Royal. The first course in meats for home economics students at Kansas State was organized and taught by Davey. From 1942 to 1946, he served as a Nutrition Officer in the U.S. Army in both the Pacific and European theaters.

The Kansas Frozen Food Locker Association was organized by Davey, and he served as secretary for several years. He was also active in the Kansas Retail Meat Dealers Association. He served as superintendent of horses as well as the pork carcass evaluation class at the American Royal for several years. The state 4-H and FFA meat identification and judging contests were also organized by Davey. He was a member of the original committee, sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, that organized the Reciprocal Meat Conference. His contributions and guiding council to the Reciprocal Meat Conference were recognized in 1959, when he received the Signal Service Award from the American Meat Science Association.

Davey made a tremendous impact on students during his teaching career. Members of the American Society of Animal Science recognized this fact in 1963, when they presented him with the Distinguished Teacher Award, and, in 1965, Davey was presented the first Distinguished Teacher Award by the American Meat Science Association. One of the outstanding projects with which Professor Mackintosh was associated was the establishment of the Meats Section of the American Society of Animal Production (now ASAS). This was accomplished despite considerable opposition from some traditionalists within the society. The impact he made on students is legendary, and his firm guidance of the Block and Bridle Club is the source of many

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stories. His pitching marksmanship directed at sleepy students was well known.

For 15 yr, Davey served as faculty advisor to the Kansas State Block and Bridle Club and served 2 yr as National Block and Bridle President. He was a faithful member and advisor to Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. However, one time when he drove through a celebrating student picket line in his Buick and parked it behind Waters Hall, his sense of humor was challenged. When he came back to his car several hours later, he found a high mound of snow totally covering it. His Scottish sense of humor led him to admit it was a good trick.

Despite a heavy teaching load, Davey completed the Master of Science degree at Kansas State in 1925 and continued graduate study at the University of Chicago and at the University of Minnesota. He is author or coauthor of over 50 scientific bulletins or papers dealing with the influence of animal background, nutrition, and carcass traits on tenderness, color, and other sensory traits of meat. He also published research results on transportation stress and pork carcass quality, and his studies on the antioxidant effects of sage were pioneering.

Although Davey retired from Kansas State in 1965 at the then mandatory age of 70, he attended many Reciprocal Meat Conferences after his retirement, which attests to his devotion and enthusiasm for this conference and the meat industry. It was most appropriate that he received the R. C. Pollock award in 1978, the highest award given by the American Meat Science Association. The following statement submitted by R. C. Pollock in support of Professor Mackintosh's nomination for the ASAS Distinguished Teacher Award sums up the vital role he played in developing Meat Science education: "Professor Mackintosh has devoted his life to the advancement of animal agriculture. An untiring worker fortified with good judgement and the ability to get things done will long be remembered by those who knew him."

A listing of his accomplishments by R. C. Pollock included the following:

1. He was a leader among college meats men for the advancement of meat teaching methods.
2. His leadership in meat endeavors at Kansas State University was far reaching in projecting meat courses for Animal Husbandry as well as other students.
3. He was a leader among college personnel in the establishment of intercollegiate meat judging contests for both men and women.

4. He was a pioneer in establishing meat contests for students within the college, the purpose of which was to create major interest in meat education.
5. His teaching methods were enhanced through the use of descriptive literature and demonstrations of meat cutting and cooking methods, a method of teaching most effective in getting across an idea, yet difficult to put over unless fortified with a vivid imagination.
6. Several projects of major importance for the advancement of animal agriculture were set up during the life of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Professor Mackintosh was one of the leaders in establishing the Reciprocal Meat Conference, cooperative meat investigations, intercollegiate meat judging contests, and educational meat exhibits extending from coast to coast.

Davey Mackintosh was willing to challenge accepted ideas. In the 1930s, very common medical advice for exema, especially in children, was to withdraw all sources of fat from the diet. When the Mackintosh family returned from the University of Minnesota, where Davey had been exposed to pioneering fatty acid research, he spread the word that the accepted medical measures were exactly the opposite of what they should be. On another occasion, at a meat judging school for meats coaches, some individuals extolled the desirability of a thick, uniform covering of external fat over a beef round. Davey strongly challenged this view, and time has certainly come down on his side of the argument. These are just two examples of his thinking.

Davey and his late wife, Constance, were married in 1923 and were blessed with four children, all graduates of Kansas State University. David is a veterinarian at Gallatin, MO. Donald was a herdsman for Monohan Cattle Co. in Nebraska for many years. Elizabeth (Mrs. John Oswald) is the wife of a rancher/businessman at Hutchinson, KS. Mary Belle (Mrs. Don Bastian) is the wife of a businessman in Coffeyville, KS. Davey and his family were active members of the Congregational Church in Manhattan. David Mackintosh died April 12, 1982, following a short illness.

Davey, even during his more mellow last years, was always ready to emphatically express his opinion. However, he was also willing to later apologize and even ask forgiveness if he expressed his opinion too forcefully. Our society is definitely stronger because of individuals like David L. Mackintosh, who was willing to challenge tradition when this was needed and who was also willing to devote much of his time to develop young people.