

In memoriam: Douglas Emerson Hogue

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Figure 1. Douglas Emerson Hogue.

Douglas Emerson Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Animal Science and world-renowned specialist in sheep nutrition and management, died in Ithaca, NY, on July 25, 2012 after a brief illness. Born in Holdrege, NE, to Emerson and Harriette Nelson Hogue, he was raised on cattle ranches in the Sand Hills of Nebraska, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. At 16 he moved with his family to Santa Rosa, CA. After graduating from high school, he attended Santa Rosa Junior College and then transferred to and graduated from the University

of California at Davis. Doug began his career at Cornell in 1953 as a graduate student in animal nutrition. After obtaining his PhD degree in 1957, he was appointed assistant professor, with responsibility for the teaching and research program in sheep. Moving through the ranks, he was appointed associate professor (1963), professor (1973), and professor emeritus (1995). In retirement, Doug spent most mornings during the work week in his office in Morrison Hall, which was a gathering place at coffee time for a few of his colleagues who enjoyed the camaraderie and baiting as well as the research and other useful discussions that occurred. A long-time member of the department, Doug had become an institution in Morrison Hall, and his friendship and homespun counsel were sought and enjoyed by many, from custodians to faculty members.

Hogue's research program resulted in improvements in the nutrition of ruminants and in the management of sheep and cattle throughout the world. His early work helped to establish the role of selenium in preventing nutritional muscular dystrophy (stiff lamb or white muscle disease). He readily collaborated with others, an example being an original experiment which estimated the glucose turnover of highly productive lactating sheep which was done in collaboration with Emmett Bergman in the College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to a substantial list of publications contributing to various aspects of nutrition, he developed several management plans for different-sized sheep farms that were adopted as references by the industry in the early 1960s. At that time he gave many of what some of his colleagues referred to as "big buck" talks across the country, explaining the relationship of mature size to growth and elaborating on how crossbreeding could be used to take advantage of this knowledge. He was a member of National Research Council committees that developed two successive editions of the widely used feeding standard, "Nutrient Requirements of Sheep." Doug coined the term "accelerated lambing" to describe several schemes designed to make it possible to have market lambs available

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year round while improving production efficiency. A major contribution was the result of his work with Brian Magee (the Cornell shepherd from 1978 through 2010) in developing the STAR accelerated lambing system, which exploits some sheep being able to breed aseasonally with the potential for a ewe to lamb 5 times in 3 yr. This intensive system allowed lamb production to be raised from approximately one lamb per ewe per year to three and required the development of a nutritional regimen that could support such a high level of production. More recently, he became an advocate of genotyping for the “M-gene” (a term he coined for a specific allele of melatonin 1A receptor gene), known to be important in the ability of ewes to lamb aseasonally and for accelerated lambing (Mateescu et al., 2009). Some of Hogue’s research, especially in later years when he assumed responsibility for many of the sheep extension activities, was published in magazines and other practical outlets aimed at farmers.

Doug taught a popular course in sheep production. He enjoyed mentoring and interacting with students, both undergraduate and graduate, and sometimes baffled them with his keen sense of humor and attempts to make them think for themselves. He had a remarkable ability to reduce complex issues into a series of simple, clear-cut questions that were amenable to experimental testing. Along with Harold Hintz and Lennart Krook, he introduced to the journal literature the use of superscript letters to indicate statistical differences among tabulated means, an approach that is now universally adopted. His facility with mathematics and experimental design led him to help many students and some faculty members with the design of experiments and sometimes with the statistical analysis of the resulting data. As an example, he helped design the elegant experiment of a graduate student that clearly demonstrated the futility of vaccinating

young lambs against enterotoxemia and the importance of vaccinating the pregnant ewes (de la Rosa et al., 1997).

Throughout his career, Doug Hogue carried evidence of his roots in western cattle country. He was fiercely independent (he did things Doug’s way), stoic, loyal, and helpful and generous to family, friends, and colleagues and he loved country music and stories. After his death his family fondly referred to him as the “consummate cowboy.” In retirement, he couldn’t help getting into the business of feeding beef cattle, an enterprise that almost certainly did not return a profit but fitted perfectly into his idea of fun. He used to tell some of his colleagues pointedly that this was a better way to spend time than playing golf! Interestingly, during this interval, the cowboy scientist, over numerous “coffee hour” discussions about the control of feed intake, came up with a novel concept of balancing ruminant diets on the basis of fermentable fiber, which conflicts with traditional approaches for diet formulation, and used his cattle feedlot to help collect evidence for the hypothesis.

Professor Hogue is survived by his wife of 57 yr, Deborah Vicars Hogue, his son James Hogue (Jeanette Crispell) of Bozeman, MT, his daughter Allison Hogue (Jim Bold) of Ithaca, NY, and his grandchildren, Brandon, Rachel, Samuel and Wesley Hogue, all of Bozeman, MT.

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