



Dr. John Pollak has accepted the position of Director of the Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska.

In his 29 years with Cornell's Animal Science Dept., John has been highly valued and recognized for his teaching of Animal Genetics 221 as part of our core curriculum. His research efforts in genetics and animal breeding contributed to advances in beef and dairy cattle and other species. We will miss his thoughtful contributions and vision within the departmental program and much more.

Secretary Tom Vilsack has approved the appointment of Dr. John Pollak to the position of Center Director of the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. This appointment will be effective in mid-January 2010.

Dr. John Pollak received his B.S. degree in Animal Science from Cornell University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Breeding from Iowa State University in 1973 and 1975, respectively. Dr. Pollak started his career in 1975 as an Assistant Professor in the Animal Science Department at the University of California in Davis, California. He recently completed a 29+ year career at Cornell University holding the rank of professor in the Animal Science Department where he serves as division leader of the animal breeding group. Dr. Pollak also serves as the Director of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC) where he leads the development of programs and projects, fosters interactions among researchers, organizes multidisciplinary research teams, builds coalitions with industry partners, and conducts research. Dr. Pollak has also served on the international committee of the World Congress on Genetic as Applied to Livestock Production for two terms (eight years) and as that organizations president in the last term. During his career, he has received numerous awards including Educator of the Year Award and Presidents Award from the New York Beef Producers Association, Edgerton Career Teaching Award from Cornell University, Rockefeller Prentice Memorial Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), Pioneer Award from the Beef Improvement Federation, and the Young Scientist Award from the Northeast Section of the ASAS.

