

Dr. Tim McAllister receives the 2016 Canadian Beef Industry Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation

For immediate release

August 10, 2016

Calgary, AB – Respected nationally and internationally for his work on antimicrobial resistance, beef cattle nutrition, silage science, greenhouse gas emissions, E. coli O157:H7 and prion science, Dr. Tim McAllister was formally recognized tonight by the Canadian beef industry.

Presented with the 2016 Canadian Beef Industry Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation at the inaugural Canadian Beef Industry Conference, he was honored by hundreds of producers and industry stakeholders, including many past and present colleagues and students.

Dr. McAllister is a Principal Research Scientist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge Research and Development Centre. He also holds adjunct appointments at six universities in Canada, as well as universities in China and Ghana. He has made phenomenal contributions to advancements in the competitiveness and sustainability of the Canadian beef industry through his passion and dedication to progressive science, and exceptional collaboration, leadership and communication with industry, as well as governments around the world.

His research is helping beef producers in Canada remain as leaders in producing high quality beef in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Dr. McAllister has conducted years of research to develop a safe means of composting specified risk materials, which is influencing new regulations for their disposal following the BSE crisis in 2003. He has made tremendous advances in the area of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in cattle, which is leading to the development of alternatives to antibiotics. In addition, he has led many other important projects related to optimizing the nutrition of beef cattle. Most recently, he led a research project that found that the amount of greenhouse gas generated in producing one kilogram of Canadian beef has dropped by 15 per cent over the past three decades.

Dr. McAllister brings current Canadian science to the global stage through his active participation in a number of international initiatives, including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organizations Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership.

Dr. McAllister takes a collaborative approach to research. He is well known for his ability to assemble and lead Canadian and International research teams to advance the field of beef science.

The importance of Dr. McAllister's research is aptly demonstrated by requests for his participation in numerous national and international committees and conferences. His publication record is exemplary, with over 585 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 60 reviews, as well as 1050 abstracts and conference proceedings. He has trained over 60 graduate students, as well as numerous undergraduate students, technicians, postdoctoral fellows, and has collaborated with scientists from around the world.

Dr. McAllister is a sought after speaker at not only producer meetings and industry events but also at international conferences, symposiums, and policy meetings, where he skillfully shares his knowledge, research findings, and opinions on pertinent industry issues. He is an effective communicator not only at highly technical scientific forums but also in communicating research findings in a practical and applicable manner to cattle producers and industry stakeholders.

"His ongoing impact on animal agriculture is monumental," said Bryan Thiessen, Chair of the Beef Cattle Research Council and Manager of Namaka Farms near Strathmore, Alberta. "While maintaining a stellar scientific career, Dr. McAllister has never lost sight of the practical application of his research, and his willingness to transfer knowledge to beef producers, industry associations, and the general public never diminishes."

The Canadian Beef Industry Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation is presented annually by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) on behalf of Canada's beef industry stakeholders. The award recognizes scientists and academics that are actively involved in strong research programs aligned with industry priorities, continually engage with industry stakeholders, and demonstrate their passion and long-term commitment through leadership, teamwork, and mentorship. Nominations are accepted by the BCRC from industry stakeholders and must be accompanied by letters of support from industry stakeholders and scientific colleagues. The recipient is selected by a committee comprised of beef producers, industry experts and retired beef-related researchers located across the country. The award was established in 2015.

Nominations for the 2017 award must be submitted to the BCRC by May 1, 2017. It will be presented at the 2017 Canadian Beef Industry Conference.

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