

Dr. Jim Kennedy

It is our sad duty to inform you of the unexpected death of Dr. Jim Kennedy, Director of the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the Rocky Ford Branch on December 31, 2011. In addition to his strong leadership of the Rocky Ford laboratory, he was an outstanding veterinarian, diagnostician, colleague and friend. Jim grew up in Kansas and earned his veterinary degree in 1979 at the University of Missouri. Prior to obtaining his DVM, he served as Captain in the US Air Force between 1970 and 1974. He began his veterinary career in production animal medicine, working in cow-calf operations, first in South Dakota and then for many years in Kansas. He then turned his attention to academia and taught at the University of Nebraska before arriving at the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in September 2002. Jim was an outstanding Director of the Rocky Ford Branch of the CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. In his ten years that he served in the position, he expanded the services of the laboratory and increased the volume of use of the laboratory five fold. Jim was dedicated to serving all clients of the laboratory. Jim's focus was on improving and providing practical diagnostics for the benefit of cattle and cattle producers. He was a pioneer in developing pooling techniques for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) and Trichomoniasis. He vigorously evaluated all aspects of pooling technology, not only on the test sensitivity and specificity, but also the practical application of these diagnostic strategies in the field and how they impact the producer, improve herd health and consequently the economics of the cattle industry. He was a leader in developing a BVD voluntary Control Program in the State of Colorado which soon became a model for other states that adopted similar programs. This program involves not only testing cattle for BVD but also in developing good biosecurity strategies to prevent disease from entering herds. Similarly, Jim developed and improved testing strategies for Trichomoniasis and was the lead scientific advisor to the state's bovine trichomoniasis advisory panel. In 2007 Jim was recognized for his many professional contributions as Colorado Veterinarian of the Year by the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association. Jim was a regular contributor to the CSU laboratories newsletter, LabLines, (see <http://www.dlab.colostate.edu/webdocs/news/LablinesVol16-1.pdf>), providing useful real-world information for livestock veterinarians and producers. In addition he published his scientific findings in peer-reviewed veterinary journals. He was a prolific public speaker within the state, western region and across the country. He was a regular participant in the Academy of Veterinary Consultants and was the liaison between the Academy and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

Beyond his administrative and scientific accomplishments, Jim was a wonderful person that many across the country claimed as friend. Jim's "very dry" sense of humor kept those around him amused and guessing whether he was serious or teasing. Jim was a recognized and respected member in his community of Rocky Ford, actively

participating in the Rotary Club and his church. Jim loved flying; he had his own small plane and pilots license. He frequently would fly over the Rocky Ford area and wave his wings at his neighbors. He felt that flying gave him a different perspective on the world and made all problems disappear. After spending nearly a decade with us at the Diagnostic Laboratory, Jim was planning to retire in 2012. We are saddened that he will not get a chance to enjoy retired life following a very successful career. He will be missed by all of us in the Diagnostic Laboratory. He will be missed by many across the state, especially in Southern Colorado.