

March 6-7, 2014

ITEM 162-2002-R0314

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences upon Rodney W. Kott; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Rodney W. Kott from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Kott received his B.S. and M.S. from Texas A&M University in 1974 and 1976, respectively, and his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in 1980. After graduation, he joined Montana State University (MSU) as an Assistant Professor of Animal Science and Extension Sheep Specialist. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1986, became a full professor in 1994 and served in that position until his retirement in 2013. During his 33 years at MSU, Dr. Kott made significant contributions to teaching, extension, research and service to MSU and the State of Montana as well as the national sheep industry.

At MSU, Dr. Kott developed programs for providing educational support to county agents and producers in areas of sheep management, nutrition, breeding, reproduction and wool production. Dr. Kott also worked closely with allied industry representatives and organizations in continued development of Montana's sheep industry.

With his participation in the Sheep and Skeen Institutes, Dr. Kott reinvigorated the wool pools in Eastern Montana enabling them to participate in a global market. He directed the collection and evaluation of ribeye measurements to improve sire selection and carcass quality of Montana sheep. Dr. Kott also directed targeted grazing programs with growers to control noxious weeds using 30,000 sheep on 100,000 acres across the state.

Dr. Kott was very active in research, even though it was a small percentage of his appointment. He authored or co-authored over 75 refereed publications, 8 book chapters and numerous Extension fact sheets and popular press articles. Dr. Kott was extremely active in supporting his Extension and research activities through grant acquisitions, receiving over \$5,000,000 throughout his career.

Dr. Kott has received formal state and national recognition for his programs, receiving the Extension Award from the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science in 1996, the Hall of Fame from the US Targhee Sheep Association in 2005, the Outstanding Extension worker of the year from Montana Extension Service in 2007, the Agency Weed Fighter of the year from the Montana Weed Control Association in 2007, and the Flock Guardian Award from the American Sheep Industry in 2009.

In support of the ASI award, Doug Steele, former Director of Extension, said of Dr. Kott, "While Rodney is a recognized leader in the field of Extension sheep education and outreach, I believe that it is his personal characteristics that set him apart from others. He has the highest level of integrity, his energy level is unsurpassed and he quietly leads by example."

Dr. Rodney Kott has served the Montana Extension Service, MSU and the State of Montana with innovation and distinction.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer Rodney W. Kott the rank of Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None