

Dr. Robert A. Dailey



Dr. Robert Arthur Dailey of Morgantown was born in Charles Town in 1945 and grew up on a family farm in Jefferson County. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

He earned a degree in Animal Science from WVU in 1967, followed by a M.S. and a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1973. He did post-doctoral work and taught at Emory University.

In 1977 he returned to WVU to teach and serves as the coordinator of the Davis-Michael Scholars Program at WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, which helps prepare students for success in veterinary school. He has been a steadfast advocate for students and dairy producers throughout. He was instrumental in establishing the West Virginia Dairy Quality Assurance Program, has served as coach of the WVU Dairy Judging Team, and has been a longtime fixture at the State Dairy Show, which was dedicated to him in 2001.

He has produced numerous Extension and Experiment Station bulletins for producers of dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep. He has also developed classes and short courses for students, producers and veterinarians providing training on pregnancy diagnosis, ultrasonography of reproductive organs and artificial insemination. One bulletin who wrote on Ringworm in Sheep has had to be reprinted because of its popularity.

He has obtained numerous grants, advised hundreds of students at all degree levels and has worked as a reviewer for nine different scientific journals, while authoring more than 100 research papers of his own. He wrote a history of the Davis College, and is a section editor for the Journal of Animal Science.

Over the past decade, he has spent countless hours developing and testing a system to convert waste biomass such as animal manures into fuel. A company has been formed to further the concept, which should provide economic and environmental benefit to the state.

He taught seven different courses and served with distinction as both Acting Director of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and as Interim Dean of the Davis College. His research and the success his students have experienced has brought much positive attention to WVU and the state. One former student noted that when he started veterinary school, a professor warned the students of the difficulty of a particular class on the first day, but that “those who attended WVU for undergrad, it should be mostly review.”

He was named the WVU Foundation’s “Outstanding Teacher” in 1997, won a Benedum Distinguished Research Award in 2005, was presented with the Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Award, and was the recipient of the Ethel and Gerry Heebink Award for Distinguished and Extended State Service, WVU’s highest award for service to the state, among many other honors and awards.