



### Wayne S. Pitchford

Professor Wayne Pitchford is the Director of the Davies Livestock Research Centre at the University of Adelaide. Wayne has had a significant impact on genetic improvement in both the sheep and cattle industries in Australia from his applied research and development across the supply chain for both species.

Wayne was born in 1966 in South Australia in the Adelaide suburb of Blackwood and grew up there and in nearby Coromandel Valley. His father John was the grandson of market gardeners and although he was an accountant he dreamt of being a farmer and this no doubt influenced Wayne's career path and farming interests. During Wayne's childhood there were many visits to the dairy farm of a family friend at Mannum as well as trips to the Flinders Ranges, with much time spent on Motpena station.

As an undergraduate at the University of Adelaide, Wayne studied Agricultural Science and in 1987 completed Honours in the Biometry Department, a rare and unusual choice which none of his fellow ag students could understand. His supervisor was the JS Davies Research Fellow, Scott Newman and his topic was the genetic analysis of crossbreeding in sheep. Wayne was awarded first class Honours and secured a position as technical officer at CSIRO, Griffith, working on irrigation research. However, Wayne chose to follow his future wife, Judith to Sydney and undertook a PhD at UNSW (Dept Wool & Science) under the supervision of John James and co-supervisors Ian Franklin and Oliver Mayo, studying the effects of genotype and environment on various traits in crossbreed sheep and cattle.

Wayne is currently Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics and has lectured at the Waite and Roseworthy campuses since 1992. He has been a program leader in the CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies and the recent Advanced Livestock Measurement Technologies project, a

director for the CRC for an Internationally Competitive Pork Industry and continues to lead multiple sheep and cattle projects. He and his wife Judith have a farm at Keith run in partnership with their eldest son, James. Wayne has been actively engaged in industry development within South Australia since 2003 including both the sheep and cattle industry Blueprint working groups and their executive teams since 2015.

He has supervised 40 PhD and 57 honours students and works closely with the beef and sheep industries in Australia and New Zealand. Wayne's research and development has focused on maternal productivity, feed efficiency, carcass and meat quality as well as genomic analysis of commercial beef, sheep and goat breeding programs. More recently, he has been working closely with abattoirs to help them extract more value from carcasses by using objective measurement of quality. The logic is that as abattoirs extract more value from carcasses, demand for better carcasses will grow, thus leading to financial signals to farmers which will inevitably lead to adoption of improved genetics and production systems.

Wayne has had a long association with AAABG. He has not missed a conference since attending his first in 1988 before starting his PhD. He was Editor for the 1995 conference, President for the 2009 conference and Vice-President for the 2021 conference. He has also contributed papers to almost all AAABG conference proceedings since 1990 and more generally produced 270 publications with a h-index of 32. Wayne has also been a Treasurer (2002) and Vice-President of the Australian Society of Animal Production (now AAAS, 2016).

For his outstanding contributions to the science of genetics and animal improvement, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics is pleased to elect Wayne Pitchford as a Fellow of the Association.