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THE ARK

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Dr. Reuben Mapletoft, S.O.M.

Dr. Reuben J. Mapletoft, a professor in WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and an internationally known researcher of animal reproduction, was one of seven Saskatchewan citizens to receive the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2007.

Since its inception in 1985, 148 men and women have received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit — the province's highest honour.

Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon Barnhart invested Mapletoft and the other recipients into the Order during a special ceremony in Regina on December 13, 2007.

"The newest members have been well chosen; each has made extraordinary contributions that have benefited the people of Saskatchewan and beyond," said Barnhart.

In Mapletoft's case, three decades of research in reproductive biology and the application of assisted reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer, superovulation and ovulation synchronization in cattle have benefited producers worldwide. Some of Mapletoft's key achievements in those areas include:

- patenting a substance that replaces serum in the cryopreservation of embryos. He also assisted in the development of a drug to induce superovulation in cattle, allowing for increased embryo production from superior animals.
- developing embryo transfer protocols that have become the *de facto* standard for clinical use worldwide. His recent work on estrus synchronization and ovulation induction also allows producers to schedule artificial insemination, increasing its use as a breeding tool.

Mapletoft has brought over \$5.75 million in research funding to the University of Saskatchewan through grants from federal and provincial governments, industry associations and private corporations. His work has led to new developments, setting international standards and improving cattle genetics on every continent.

The researcher is past president of the International Embryo Transfer Society and served as its Chair of the Import/Export Committee for 10 years. He is founding president of the Canadian Embryo Transfer Association and is currently a member of the Certification Committee.

Active in technology transfer, Mapletoft has given over 150 invited lectures in more than 30 countries and has trained graduate students from all over the world. He has contributed more than 300 papers to published conference proceedings and authored more than 130 refereed publications. In addition, Mapletoft has conducted more than three dozen embryo transfer workshops for over 200 veterinary professionals around the world.

For more information about the 2007 Saskatchewan Order of Merit recipients, visit www.gov.sk.ca (news releases).



MAPLETOFT'S MAJOR MERITS

- **1998:** Honorary life membership, Canadian Embryo Transfer Association.
- **2000:** Honorary life membership and Distinguished Service Award from the International and Canadian Embryo Transfer Society.
- **2003:** Distinguished Researcher Award, University of Saskatchewan.
- **2005:** Earned Doctorate, University of Saskatchewan.
- **2007:** Saskatchewan Order of Merit.