

**The Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2004
is dedicated to ISU Animal Science alumnus**

**Thomas Sutherland
M.S. 1956, Ph.D. 1958**

Thomas McNee Sutherland was born in Falkirk, Scotland, May 3, 1931, and grew up on a 50-cow farm. He received a B.Sc. in Agriculture from Glasgow University, Scotland, in 1953 and a postgraduate diploma in animal husbandry from Reading University, England, in 1954, doing research on pigs. He came to the United States for graduate work in animal science, earning his M.S. in 1956 and Ph.D. in 1958 from Iowa State University. He then took a position at Colorado State University where he was honored for his research and teaching excellence. During this time he also took a sabbatical leave to spend a year at a leading agricultural research station in France, and worked for two years in Ethiopia at the International Livestock Center for Africa.



*Photo provided by the
ISU Alumni Association*

In 1983 he began serving a three-year term as dean of the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. This term was interrupted on June 9, 1985, when he was abducted by the Islamic Jihad and held hostage for six-and-a-half years. After his release on Nov. 18, 1991, Sutherland returned to the United States. Sutherland and his wife Jean were honored by many organizations and entities, including Iowa State University where they served as marshals for the annual VEISHEA celebration parade.

In 2002 the couple took the lead in establishing the Jay Lush Endowed Professorship in Animal Breeding and Genetics at Iowa State University by donating \$500,000. Lush, who was Sutherland's major professor during his graduate studies at ISU, is considered the father of modern animal breeding and was one of the first to teach students about the importance of selective breeding. His program at ISU was the first in the U.S. to promote a quantitative approach to animal breeding, a drastic change to the then-popular method of making breeding choices based on show ring appearances.



*Photo courtesy of the Colorado Academy
Horizons Program*