

**ASAS Midwestern Section  
2009 Officer Nominations  
Candidate for ASAS President-Elect**

**Catherine W. Ernst**

**Catherine Ernst** is associate professor of animal science at Michigan State University, specializing in animal molecular genetics. She received her BS degree in animal science from The Ohio State University, MS degree in animal breeding from Iowa State University, and PhD degree in animal science from The Ohio State University. After completing postdoctoral training, she joined the Michigan State animal science faculty in 1997, where she has both research and teaching responsibilities. She co-teaches an upper level undergraduate molecular genetics course and a graduate level genetics course.

Ernst's research efforts are focused on determining genetic mechanisms controlling growth, carcass composition, and meat quality; she and her colleagues have garnered nearly \$3 million in research funding since 1998. She has authored or co-authored 37 refereed journal articles and proceedings, 1 book chapter, and 89 abstracts, and she has mentored 6 graduate students and 5 postdoctoral scientists. She participates on Michigan State University's genetics graduate program faculty, and she has held offices in several regional or national animal genetics research committees, including serving as chair of the National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP-8).

Ernst is currently completing a term as secretary for the ASAS Midwestern Section. She has served on the *Journal of Animal Science* editorial board, the Midwest ASAS/ADSA Breeding and Genetics Program Committee, the Midwest ASAS/ADSA Undergraduate Competitive Research Paper Evaluation Committee, the national ASAS Breeding and Genetics Program Committee, and the national ASAS Graduate Director Nominating Committee. She is a past recipient of the Midwest Young Animal/Dairy Science Leader Outstanding Researcher Award.

**ASAS Midwestern Section  
2009 Officer Nominations  
Candidate for Secretary**

**John Killefer**

**John Killefer** is an associate professor of animal sciences at the University of Illinois, in the Meat Science and Muscle Biology Program. He received his BS degree from Hastings College and his PhD in animal science and biochemistry from Oregon State University. After completing a USDA postdoctoral fellowship at the USDA RLH Meat Animal Research Center, he joined the faculty of West Virginia University in the Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. He taught both undergraduate and graduate level courses in agricultural biochemistry and directed a research laboratory focused on muscle growth and molecular genetics. In 2002, he joined the faculty of the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois. In addition to directing a research program, he currently teaches an undergraduate meat science course and a graduate level muscle biology course.

The overall goal of the Killefer laboratory is to develop a better understanding of the mechanisms regulating muscle growth and physiology at both the embryonic and postnatal stages of development, to assess the impact of these processes on muscle function, and ultimately to apply this knowledge to develop higher-quality production animals and meat products. Since 1994, he and his colleagues have garnered support from external sources exceeding \$6.1 million. He has published approximately 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 2 book chapters, 80 abstracts, and has mentored 4 PhD and 12 MS students and 4 postdoctoral scientists.

Killefer is a member of ASAS, AMSA, PSA, APS, and the NC-1131 Regional Project. He has been on the Organizing and Host Committees for both the RMC and NC-1131 annual meetings. He has served on the MWASAS Career Fair and Outstanding Young Researcher Award Selection Committees. He has been a member of NRICGP grant review committees, serves as a reviewer for numerous scientific journals, and is currently on the editorial board of the *Journal of Animal Science*.

**ASAS Midwestern Section  
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Candidate for Secretary**

**Bryon R. Wiegand**

**Bryon Wiegand** is associate professor of animal science at the University of Missouri, specializing in meat science. He received his BS

degree in animal science from the University of Missouri, MS degree in animal breeding from Auburn University, and PhD degree in animal science from Iowa State University. He joined the Illinois State animal science faculty in 2000, where he had both research and teaching responsibilities. He taught seven upper level undergraduate and two graduate level courses in the food animal and research methods curriculum. In 2007, he joined the faculty at the University of Missouri.

Wiegand's research efforts are focused on nutritional interventions to improve meat quality. His specific area of expertise is the lipid profile of fresh meat products. He has garnered \$1.1 million in research funding support since 2000. He has published 15 refereed journal articles, 41 abstracts, 13 extension publications, and 1 book chapter. He has mentored nine graduate students. He supervises the University of Missouri Meat Sciences Processing Facility, serves as Block and Bridle Club faculty advisor, and is the technical advisor to the Missouri Association of Meat Processors.

Wiegand has served multiple years on the Midwest ASAS Academic Quadrathlon Committee and on the Meat Science and Muscle Biology Committee. He chaired Meat Science and Muscle Biology in 2004. He is also a member of AMSA and serves on the Graduate Research Poster Competition Committee and was nominated for the Early Career Achievement Award in 2008. He is currently serving on the *Journal of Animal Science* editorial board.