

USDA/ARS Food Scientists

win FLC 2019 Excellence in Technology Transfer Award

Cherry Hill, NJ, Feb. 6 2019

The Federal Laboratory Consortium recently announced the winners of a 2019 Excellence in Technology Transfer Award are Dr. Tommy Wheeler and Dr. Terry Arthur of the USDA/ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. The Excellence in Technology Transfer Award is presented to 'laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring federally developed technology'.

The Award recognized their innovative and comprehensive work on developing new sampling technology for detecting pathogens in beef trim. Their study, "Novel Sampling Methods for Beef Trim Pathogen Testing," describes how the new sampling technology functions and how it provides a more representative sampling of the product being tested. It compares two novel nondestructive sampling methods developed by them, to the current "gold standard" excision methods of collecting samples for pathogen testing. This new sampling technology has been extensively reviewed and certified by USDA/FSIS with a Letter of No Objection. It has been demonstrated to be equal to or better than the excision testing methods for detecting pathogens in beef trim. It is now in commercial application in major beef packers across the United States.

This technology is shared through a joint patent pending and exclusive licensing agreement with FREMONTA Corp., their commercial partner in bringing the technology to industry.

Congratulations to Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Arthur on receiving this prestigious award for developing innovative breakthrough technology and transferring it to the industry!