

Bob Smith

Kansas State University
Animal Sciences & Industry
Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023



Dr. Bob Smith was raised on a small livestock farm near Pittsburg, Kansas. He received his bachelor's (1968) and master's (1970) degrees in animal science from Kansas State University. Following graduation from veterinary school at K-State, he completed a large animal medicine and surgery internship and clinical instructorship at Oklahoma State University. At OSU he was a Field Services Clinician for 15 years, with concurrent responsibilities for clinical research on stocker cattle diseases.

He then worked as a feedlot veterinarian for nearly two years and then returned to OSU for 10 years where he held the McCasland Chair in Beef Health and Production. He is professor emeritus at OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. He joined Veterinary Research and Consulting Services LLC in 2000, with primary practice emphasis on feedlot and stocker health and management.

During his career, Dr. Smith was involved in 45 research studies, producing 30 research reports and co-authoring or authoring over 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He has served as president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and the Western Veterinary Conference. He was instrumental in developing and implementing the Beef Quality Assurance Program used as guidelines by thousands of beef cattle producers in the U.S. Dr. Smith has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to veterinary medicine and the beef industry, including the AABP Bovine Practitioner of the Year; the Academy of Veterinary Consultants Consultant of the Year; the AABP Award for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine; the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award; and in 2016 was honored as a K-State Alumni Fellow.

He and his wife, Gerri, have four children and 10 grandchildren.