

USDA-ARS Scientists & FREMONTA Corp.

Win the 2020 USDA-ARS Technology Transfer Award

Award Presentation Sept. 15, 2020 online from Beltsville, Md.

The USDA Agricultural Research Service announced this year's winner of the Excellence in Technology Transfer Award. The award goes to Dr. Tommy Wheeler and Dr. Terry Arthur of the USDA-ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska, and Dr. Florence Wu and Garth Hoffmann of FREMONTA Corp.

The Technology Transfer Award is presented to USDA-ARS Employees and collaborators who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring federally developed technology to the private sector for commercialization and practical use.

The Award recognizes the efforts of Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Arthur and 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. The two new novel non-destructive sampling methods identified as MSD (Manual Sampling Devise) and CSD (Continuous Sampling Devise) have been validated as equal to or better than the current "gold standard" excision methods of collecting samples for pathogen testing. This new sampling technology has been extensively reviewed and accepted by USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. It has also been independently vetted and validated by one of the largest commercial beef consuming companies in the US and around the world.

The Award also recognizes the efforts and accomplishment of CEO Dr. Florence Wu, and President Garth Hoffmann of FREMONTA Corp. FREMONTA Corp. is responsible for the manufacturing, marketing, and selling of the technology and materials necessary for implementing this innovative sampling technology in the beef processing industry.

It is now in commercial application in major beef processors across the United States. Currently MSD and CSD testing using MicroTally™ Swabs accounts for approximately 50% of all pathogen sampling done in beef processing plants in the

US. It is also being introduced in beef processing plants for pathogen sampling in Australia and New Zealand.

This technology is shared through a joint patent and exclusive licensing agreement between the USDA and FREMONTA Corp.

Congratulations to Dr. Wheeler, Dr. Arthur, Dr. Wu and Mr. Hoffmann for receiving this prestigious award for developing and commercializing this innovative breakthrough technology!