

Citation for Stephen P. Oliver
Recipient of the 2002 Land O'Lakes Award of the
American Dairy Science Association

Stephen P. Oliver is Professor of Animal Science, Co-Director of the Agricultural Food Safety Initiative, and Co-Director of the Food Safety Center of Excellence at the University of Tennessee. He was born in Cortland, NY and earned the B.S. degree from North Carolina State University and the M.S. and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Oliver has been a pioneer in conducting research focused on milk quality and mastitis in dairy cows. Dairy producers who have adopted a technique developed by Oliver for prevention and control of mastitis in heifers have increased efficiency and production of milk, and produced a higher quality milk. This procedure is simple, cost-effective, and fits easily into most dairy management schemes. The DNA fingerprinting techniques developed by Oliver for identification of mastitic pathogens have contributed to mastitis control by separating new from persistent intramammary infections by subtyping pathogens and by establishing that horn flies can transport *Staph. aureus* if sufficient organisms are present. He also has shown that clinical and subclinical mastitis during early lactation can have a negative effect on reproduction. Expertise in mastitis and milk quality led to a new research and outreach initiative in dairy food safety by Oliver that has received significant funding. His food safety research focuses on the occurrence of pathogens on dairy farms, development of accurate and rapid methods for detection of foodborne pathogens, and characterization of foodborne pathogens isolated from milk. He also is conducting research based on cloning technology to produce genetically identical cows that have been previously confirmed as either resistant or susceptible to mastitis. This novel approach provides animals that are invaluable for determining potential genes, immune components, and other factors associated with and responsible for mastitis resistance and other animal diseases. A prolific writer, Oliver has published 142 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 4 book chapters, and 159 proceeding papers. His research accomplishments have been recognized nationally and internationally. He is an excellent and much sought after speaker presenting invited papers at 9 international and 9 national meetings since 1998. Oliver has been named recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award, UT Whatley Distinguished Young Scientist Award, UT Thompson Award for outstanding faculty performance, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station Research Impact Award, University of Tennessee/Oak Ridge National Laboratory Science Alliance Research Award, ADSA Agway, Inc. Young Scientist Award, ADSA West Agro, Inc. Award, and ADSA Merial Dairy Management Research Award. His accomplishments and awards attest to his originality, productivity, resourcefulness, creativity, and innovation. Research and outreach efforts of Oliver have increased the awareness of scientists, extension specialists, veterinarians, dairy producers, dairy consultants, pharmaceutical companies, and members of the dairy community, regarding the importance of prevention and control of mastitis in lactating and nonlactating heifers and cows. He has indeed compiled an enviable record of scientific accomplishment and has been continuously active in service to dairy science research, to promotion of the dairy industry, to education, and to the ADSA that makes him truly deserving of the Land O'Lakes Award.