

November 19-20, 2009

**ITEM 145-2002-R1109**     **Title of Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences:  
Michael W. Tess; Montana State University–Bozeman**

**THAT:**                     Upon the occasion of the retirement of Michael W. Tess from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the State of Montana.

**EXPLANATION:**         Michael W. Tess received a B.S. in Animal Science from the California Polytechnic State College – Pomona in 1971. He received a M.S. in Animal Science from Montana State University in 1978. In 1981, he received his Ph.D. in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Tess began his academic career as an assistant professor at North Carolina State University in 1981, and was promoted to associate professor in 1987. In 1988, Dr. Tess joined the faculty of the Animal and Range Sciences Department at Montana State University. He was promoted to professor in 1993. Between 1996 and 2005, Dr. Tess provided administrative leadership as department head on several occasions.

During his 21 years of service at Montana State University, Dr. Tess has taught eight different Animal and Range Sciences courses. His specialty has been animal breeding, animal systems, and beef cattle management. In the latter area, Dr. Tess developed a complete set of Beef Cattle Management Software, a series of computer spreadsheet templates developed for use in ranch planning and analysis. This software is provided to ranch managers and students at no cost.

Dr. Tess is an outstanding researcher. He has authored or coauthored over 70 scholarly publications during his professional career. He has been invited to give over 25 invited presentations on his research outcomes in breeding and beef cattle management throughout the U.S.

In the context of professional activities, Dr. Tess has served on an editorial board and as editor for the Journal of Animal Science, as a review panel member for an USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program. He is currently Chair of the Beef Improvement Federation's Commission on DNA Markers.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Michael W. Tess the rank of Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.