The American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) introduced Early Career Achievement Awards in 2007 to recognize the achievement of outstanding young scholars working toward the mission of ASAS, namely to “foster the discovery, sharing, and application of scientific knowledge concerning the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well-being.” In this, its third year, 2 outstanding recipients were selected from a competitive field of 10 candidates nominated by current ASAS members. Candidates are not required to be ASAS members, and there are no restrictions on country of residence, but candidates must have completed their most recent degree within 10 yr of the time of nomination. Nominations are composed of a brief biography, summary of scholarly work, and letters of support from at least 2 ASAS members. Collectively, this material must demonstrate that the achievements of the nominee serve the mission of ASAS. Successful recipients are required to contribute a presentation at the Joint Annual Meeting, submit an abstract for that presentation, and submit a manuscript highlighting the presented material. In return, they receive a travel allowance, complimentary registration at the meeting, and 2-yr membership in ASAS, sponsored by the ASAS Foundation. Finally, recipients become members of the award committee in the following year and participate in the challenging task of identifying their successors.

The nominees represented the diversity enjoyed by the ASAS membership pool in terms of country of origin, discipline or species interests, public or private sector employment, and job responsibilities in terms of teaching, research and extension, and gender. There was much less diversity in the level of achievement of these nominees; all the candidates were worthy of recognition for performance beyond the level of their average peers, whether in terms of research grants and peer-reviewed publications, leadership in their disciplines, graduate and undergraduate teaching, or extension activities. Most candidates did many of these activities, regardless of the nature of their employment. Two candidates, Galen E. Erickson and Graham Clifford Lamb, were particularly outstanding and were selected to be the 2009 recipients of ASAS Early Career Achievement Awards.

Galen Erickson received a BS degree from Iowa State University, followed by MS and PhD degrees at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He then joined the University of Nebraska–Lincoln faculty working in feedlot cattle nutrition and serving as the Beef Feedlot Extension Specialist. His research areas include corn milling, byproduct utilization, nutrition and environmental interactions, growth promotion, production systems, and decreasing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in feedlot cattle. In less than a decade, Erickson supervised 31 graduate students who have completed their degrees and published some 35 papers as lead or corresponding author on research undertaken since his graduate studies. In addition to these research outputs, he has acquired almost $3 million in extramural support for research and extension and has been active in outreach, coauthoring 142 peer-reviewed extension reports, 124 abstracts presented at professional meetings, and 4 book chapters. His invited presentation and corresponding paper focused on reducing nitrogen losses from beef feedlots (Erickson and Klopfenstein, 2010).

Graham Lamb was born in Zimbabwe, received a BS from Middle Tennessee State University, and MS and PhD degrees at Kansas State University. Lamb had an academic appointment for 9 yr at University of Minnesota where his research focus was on applied reproductive physiology in beef and dairy cattle, emphasizing synchronization of estrus in replacement heifers and postpartum cows. His recent focus has been on hormon-