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For Immediate Release

## **Iowa Poultry Association Honors Jeff Coit and Dr. Sue Lamont with Honorary Member Awards**

**Urbandale, Iowa** (August 26, 2020) - Iowa Poultry Association is pleased to announce this year's Honorary Member Award Recipients are Jeff Coit and Dr. Sue Lamont. Iowa Poultry Association's Honorary Member Award is given annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the poultry community in Iowa.

**Jeff Coit** has worked as Vice President and Poultry Industry Specialist at Farm Credit Services of America in Sioux Falls, SD since 2007.

Growing up on his family's Jersey dairy farm in North Dakota, Coit worked with all types of livestock at home and through 4-H including showing and judging livestock and even collecting eggs.

His passion for agriculture continued at North Dakota State University where he was a proud 3rd Generation member of Alpha Gamma Rho. Coit met the love of his life Lisa while at North Dakota State University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Ag Economics and Finance.

After graduating in 1984, Coit started his career in ag finance with the Farm Credit System in Carrington ND. The Coits then took a journey to California in 1987 where he worked in the Agribusiness Finance field primarily financing the Egg and Poultry Industry in Southern California.

After 14 years there, they were ready to return to the Midwest. Fortunately, Coit found a job with Farm Credit Services of America in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 2001. A new start which eventually led to a return to financing the poultry industry in 2007. In total, he worked with the Farm Credit System for 31 years during which he had the opportunity to work with so many great teammates and clients.

“What I've always loved about the poultry and egg industry is it is relatively easy to connect with the key players in the industry as the number of companies involved in it are small in comparison to other industries. As such, it is easier to get to know most of the principles of these companies on a professional and personal level. Which makes assisting them in achieving their goals and dreams even more rewarding. I also cherish the 12 years I served on the IPA Fall Festival Committee as it allowed me to give back to an industry of people that were such a Great Blessing to me,” Coit shared.

“Personal relationships have always been important to me,” Coit stated. “I am truly surprised, thankful and blessed to receive this honor from an Industry that has been so good to me! I especially want to THANK my wife Lisa for her love and support as none of it would have been possible without her!”

**Dr. Susan Lamont** is a C. F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Lamont has dedicated her education and career to teaching and research. Growing up in a small farming town in Illinois, Lamont knew she wanted to have a career working with animals. She majored in Biology as an undergraduate, and her PhD research was on the immune system of chickens at the University of Illinois. After a post doc in poultry genetics at the University of Massachusetts, Iowa State University hired her in 1983 for the poultry genetics faculty position.

Lamont both worked with and contributed much to her students and to the poultry industry during her career. At Iowa State, she has served as a dedicated mentor to staff, served on committees, and has served as editor for poultry publications. Lamont is a sought-after speaker, presenting her research in over 19 countries throughout her career. She is a tremendous industry collaborator and has ongoing relationships with Hy-Line International and other poultry genetics companies across the country.

Lamont stated, “I still remember Dr. Jim Arthur’s warm welcome and detailed orientation on my first visit to Hy-Line. I was so impressed. Working on problems of importance to the poultry industry, and doing some of my research in collaboration with poultry genetics companies, is a tremendous opportunity to apply Iowa State’s motto: “Science with Practice”. Poultry plays such an important role in food security and in livelihoods in Iowa, the US, and the world, so I’m grateful to play a small role in aiding the industry.” In 2019, she served as the interim director of the Egg Industry Center, which gave her the opportunity to serve as an ex-officio member of the Iowa Poultry Association Board of Directors. Iowa Poultry Association has called upon Lamont on numerous occasions for education program efforts.

Kevin Stiles, Executive Director and CEO of Iowa Poultry Association stated, “While Jeff Coit and Dr. Lamont bring two different talents to the poultry community, both have made priceless contributions to our industry, and both have benefitted Iowa poultry and egg farmers. We thank them both for their efforts, and look forward to honoring them with this award in September.”

Honorees will be recognized during Iowa Poultry Association’s 50<sup>th</sup> Fall Festival and Annual Meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> as a part of their Virtual Awards Celebration Webinar.

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*Founded in 1929, Iowa Poultry Association is a non-profit, membership-based association focused on actively raising confidence in the poultry community through leadership, support, advocacy, and education. For more information, visit [www.iowapoultry.com](http://www.iowapoultry.com)*