

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Professor Agnes Winter BVSc PhD DSHP DipECSRHM MRCVS FRAgS**

Agnes Winter has developed an internationally renowned reputation for veterinary expertise in her chosen speciality of sheep health and production. This has been achieved throughout a lifetime of involvement in the sheep industry by keeping her own flock, providing health care for many sheep flocks and passing on her considerable knowledge to a wide range of others involved in the industry including farmers, students and veterinary surgeons.

Graduating from the University of Liverpool in 1965 Agnes went on to spend 20 years in mixed, mainly farm animal practice. During this time she became well known in the sheep industry throughout the UK, particularly in Northern England and North Wales, playing a major role in farmer education on sheep matters and also taking a leading role in pedigree sheep breeding and breed promotion, almost certainly saving the Wensleydale breed from extinction.

Agnes then returned to Liverpool to complete her PhD after which she worked at the University in teaching and clinical roles, becoming Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science in 2004. In 2008 she was awarded an Honorary Chair in Veterinary Clinical Sciences in recognition of her contribution towards veterinary education at Liverpool.

Agnes has many professional achievements. In 1988 she was one of the first two people to be awarded the RCVS Diploma in Sheep Health and Production and she is one of only five RCVS Recognised Specialists in this field. She has been President of the Sheep Veterinary Society and in 2005 was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of her contributions. Through her nine-year membership of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, from 1991, she advised Government on sheep welfare (as well as cattle and pigs). She was also asked to advise the Chief Veterinary Officer on sheep movements during the early days of the Foot and Mouth disease epidemic in 2001.

Agnes's main research interests include lameness in sheep; problems of lambing ewes, particularly obstetrical problems; neonatal lamb problems; and abortion, especially some aspects of the epidemiology of *Chlamydophila abortus*. She is currently involved in research into the prevalence of white line lesions in the feet of sheep: this is an area in which no work has previously been done.

Agnes has had a highly distinguished career in veterinary teaching and research which she has dedicated to improving sheep health and welfare and encouraging dissemination of her expert knowledge to students, farmers, government and other relevant organisations. In addition she has performed (and indeed continues to perform) important representational or advisory roles on behalf of BVA (at specialist and territorial divisional levels), RCVS and DEFRA.

Agnes retired from her position as Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science at the end of 2008 but continues to take an active interest in the veterinary projects she has been involved with. Her outstanding lifetime career achievements fully reflect the criteria for this highly prestigious award.