

David A. Benfield, MS, PhD
CRWAD Fellow Inductee

David A. Benfield is currently and emeritus professor at the Ohio State University. He retired in December 2019, as the Associate Vice President and Director of the Wooster Campus of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Associate Director of the Experiment Station, Ohio State University.

Dr. Benfield received his BS (1973) and MS degrees (1976) from Purdue University and a PhD in Microbiology (1979) from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has a distinguished career of research, teaching and outreach related to RNA virus infections (rotavirus, coronavirus, arteriviruses) of the respiratory, intestinal and reproductive systems of agricultural animals.

In 1990, Dr. Benfield, and former graduate students Dr. Jim Collins (University of Minnesota) and Dr. Eric Nelson (South Dakota State University) co-discovered the virus causing porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), the leading economic disease of swine in the world. Dr. Benfield has 65 peer reviewed publications, 12 book chapters and numerous presentations at professional meetings. He holds nine US and several foreign patents related to vaccines and diagnostics for PRRSV.

Dr. Benfield is a member of the American Society for Virology, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, and American Association for the Advancement of Science and an Honorary Diplomat of the College of Veterinary Microbiologists. Prior to serving in administration, he received \$21.29 million in grant funding from USDA NIFA, NSF, NIH and NPB for individual and interdisciplinary research proposals. He served as the on the CRWAD Council and as the Executive Director from 2015-2019. One of the accomplishments as Director of CRWAD was the initiation of travel grants for graduate students to attend the annual meeting.

In September 2022, he was recognized with a national leadership award from the Experiment Station Section of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities for his service related to agricultural research.

