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Friona Industries' Manager of Animal Health, Dr. Tom Portillo, DVM, was named the 2015 Consultant of the Year at the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC) winter conference in Kansas City. The award, sponsored by Zoetis, recognizes outstanding achievements in beef-cattle medicine.

In introducing Portillo at the award event, Zoetis Technical Services Veterinarian Mike Wells DVM, MS, said Portillo's evidence-based approach to production medicine is respected by the AVC, his clients and other veterinary colleagues. "He is especially talented at training the feedlot workers, pen riders and hospital crews he works with."

Portillo, Wells said, takes time to teach crew members about their impact on beef quality assurance and animal well-being, along with the crew's importance to the operation, consumers and the long-term sustainability of the beef industry. "He measures progress and holds himself and feedlot crews accountable for job performance," Wells went on to say.

Portillo, who currently practices in Amarillo, Texas, graduated from Colorado State University in 1997. He spent three years practicing in New Mexico and Arizona, where he focused on equine medicine and large animal production medicine. Portillo joined Veterinary Research & Consulting Services in Greeley, Colo. in 2000, focusing entirely on feedlot consultation. In 2008 he moved to Amarillo to work in the pharmaceutical industry focusing on Investigational New Animal Drug approvals and post-approval pharmaceutical research and technical support. He returned to private practice in 2011, and currently focuses on feedlot, stocker/backgrounder, cow-calf production medicine and in-clinic equine medicine and surgery.

Portillo is a member of the AVMA, AABP and AVC, and currently serves as president-elect for AVC.

Formed in 1972, AVC is an association of veterinarians involved in beef cattle medicine, herd health programs and consultation. The international organization now has over 800 members in the United States, Canada, Australia, Scotland, South Africa and Israel. Each year during its winter meeting, AVC recognizes one of its members with the prestigious Consultant of the Year award.