

THE POWER OF GENETICS

EXPLORING THE UNIQUE TRAITS THAT DEFINE US



DR. MUHAMMED WALUGEMBE
Geneticist

When you experience a milestone, whether big or small, that moment can change the trajectory of your life. For Dr. Muhammed Walugembe, that milestone moment came during his high school biology class when he was first introduced to animal science.

Originally from Kampala City in Uganda, Walugembe continued to explore his newfound interest in animal science throughout his undergraduate career. After receiving his Bachelor of Science from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, he continued his education at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, where he received his Master of Science and Ph.D. in animal science with a focus on animal breeding and genetics. But his education didn't stop there. After receiving his degree, Walugembe continued his research on the genetic basis of disease resistance in chickens.

“As an undergraduate student, I was taught that an animal's

phenotype is influenced by genetics and the environment,” he said. “For that reason, I wanted to understand the genetic basis for various livestock traits and how to improve them. This curiosity was the foundation for much of my research focused on understanding genetics and improving livestock traits.”

As a geneticist with DNA Genetics, Walugembe focuses on trait development and index implementation for the company's Terminal Line 600 and Maternal Line 241. He supports new trait development and implementation of new traits into an index for selection. As the geneticist in charge of central Nebraska, Walugembe leads all efforts to understand, summarize, interpret and troubleshoot data from the nucleus farms in his territory.

Walugembe loves using data to solve problems and says there is plenty of it in his position.

“The swine industry has various

challenges, and my role as a geneticist is to work with our teams to improve the genetic program that addresses the challenges our industry faces,” he said. “Right now, the swine industry is looking for a robust pig, and it's through the work we do as a team that'll help us produce that desired pig for the industry.”

When asked what he is most looking forward to, Walugembe said it's bolstering DNA's Maternal Line 241 and improving sow retention in a commercial herd environment.

In his free time, Walugembe enjoys watching soccer, cooking, exercising and spending time with his family.

To learn more about DNA Genetics' robust genetic program, visit dnaswinegenetics.com.