

THE POWER OF GENETICS

EXPLORING THE UNIQUE TRAITS THAT DEFINE US



DR. TOM RATHJE
Chief Technical Officer

For Chief Technical Officer Tom Rathje, the opportunity to continuously learn new things is a privilege he doesn't take lightly. In fact, one of his favorite quotes is by Donald Rumsfeld about known knowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns.

"It's the end of that quote that never ceases to amaze me," he said. "The more we think we know about God's creation, and just about when we think we have it figured out, there is a deeper layer of complexity that we never even knew was there."

Rathje grew up on a livestock and grain farm in Clinton, Iowa. Through his work on the farm, his love for animals continued to grow. He attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, where he received his Bachelor of Science in animal science. He then continued his education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he received his Master of Science and PhD in genetics.

As a geneticist, Rathje is able to combine his interests in animals,

math and science in his daily work. "Life is an intricate puzzle, and this field combines the complexities of biology interacting with the environment in a way few other fields do," he said.

Rathje has been with DNA Genetics since the company started nearly 29 years ago. As the Chief Technical Officer, he spends each day focusing on strategy, development of DNA's genetic program and providing customers with technical support, among many other responsibilities.

"It's been a blessing to be part of watching DNA go from selling its first pig to where we are today as a company, team and customer base," he said.

At DNA Genetics, our work contributes to making a better pig every day. As a result, we help our customers run viable and successful businesses, care for their families and give back to their communities.

"We might focus on very specific

traits with genetics," Rathje said. "But at the end of the day, we help our customers be successful."

Aside from science, helping others achieve success is one of Rathje's favorite parts about his job. As a leader in the company, Rathje is a valued resource for many customers and individuals.

"Helping our team members believe in themselves, focus on projects that matter and accomplish more than they thought possible is far and away my favorite part of my job," he said. "On the other hand, hearing the problems and challenges of our customers, then doing what we can to find a solution to help them be successful, is extremely gratifying."

To learn more about DNA Genetics and its genetics program, visit dnaswinegenetics.com.