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Dave grew up in the Adelaide Hills on a mixed farming enterprise. He has been called the Laymans Professor due his ability to connect research with industry outcomes. Current responsibilities include program manager for Meat Science in both the Beef and Sheep CRCs and manager of eating quality R&D at Meat & Livestock Australia.

Dave has been nationally and internationally recognised for his research and extension by several fellowships and prizes in recent years including (i) The International Meat Secretariat Millennium Prize for Meat Science and Technology awarded to the Meat Standards Australia Pathways Team (ii) Howard W Yelland Award awarded by the Beef Improvement Association in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Beef Industry and fellowships to Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology and the Australian Society of Animal Production.