



"Serving Michigan's Cattlemen Since 1960"

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MICHIGAN CATTLEMEN SUMMER ROUND-UP

Speakers, tours, and awards included in summer cattle industry program.

OKEMOS - (June 2019) –Distinguished individuals and businesses were recognized for their contributions and dedication to the cattle industry during the [Michigan Cattlemen's Association](#) (MCA) Summer Round-Up in Clare. MCA "Member of the Year" was awarded to Carla McLachlan of Lakeside Farm in Evart; "Agribusiness of the Year" was awarded to Dave and Randi Clark of Clare County Livestock Auction; John and Connie Miller of J/C Simmentals out of Clare were awarded "Seedstock Producer of the Year"; and "Young Cattleman of the Year" was awarded to Paul Dawson of Dawson Angus Farms in Hanover.

Round-Up participants attended a field demonstration at Nevill Supply which included information about fencing technologies and handling other equipment in addition to learning about rotational grazing strategies. Participants were also able to attend multiple speakers including Barb Wilkinson of NCBA and associates from Jay's Sporting Goods to learn about the priorities and direction of the MCA and predator control techniques to keep animals like coyotes off the farm. The tour destinations included Gloryland Ranch where the economics of grazing and cow size were discussed along with discussing soil health management and backgrounding strategies at the Wernette Cattle Company.

Member of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association's "Member of the Year" is Carla McLachlan. Carla McLachlan is a graduate of Michigan State University and has been employed by the University for over 30 years. For nearly 25 years Carla has worked in the Department of Animal Science. Carla is currently the Event and Program Manager for the Department. Carla's primary responsibilities at MSU include coordination of 10 to 15 statewide youth events each year. Events include; livestock, dairy and horse shows, educational workshops and contests geared for 4-H/FFA youth. Additionally, she oversees arrangements for adult producer workshops, grant committees, and academic events. Complimenting her work at MSU, she is a member and active volunteer of several agriculture sector organizations, including MI Cattlemen's Association, MI Junior Livestock Society, MI Shorthorn Breeders Association, and MI Shows.



Agribusiness of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association awarded the distinction of "Agribusiness of the Year" to Dave and Randi Clark of the Clare County Livestock Auction. The Livestock Auction has been the Clark way of life for generations. Grandpa Duane Clark bought cattle from Standish, Lincoln, Lapeer, Sandusky, Gaylord, St. Louis, Detroit and many more; he watched barns open and close. Duane bought for Standard Beef out of Detroit for 22 years, hauling cattle with a straight truck. David's Dad, Jack, and Uncle Larry raised finished cattle on the farm in Oxford until 1987. Since purchasing the barn in August of 2007, it has been a goal of Dave's to be an advocate for the producers. Many hours on the phone bring both buyers and sellers to the barn. Dave has developed value-added programs such as the RVP form (Recorded Vaccination Program Form), provided at feeder auctions, and encourages producers to become BQA Certified with the help of the MSU Beef Team offering several group certification sessions.



Seedstock Producer of the Year

The J/C Simmental cattle operation started back in 1970 when John was in 4-H. He would sell his steer and then buy a bred heifer along with a steer back in the fall. By the time he graduated from high school they had 20 polled Hereford Cows. They currently run a herd of 225 cows consisting of 200 registered Sim-Angus cows and 25 registered Angus cows. They market their bulls through the Great Lakes Beef Connection bull sale held in Clare each year. Their females are marketed as bred heifer's private treaty and through the Value By Design Sale each November in Anita, Iowa.



Young Cattlemen of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association awarded "Agribusiness of the Year" to Paul Dawson of Dawson Angus Farms. Dawson Farms was established over 100 years ago when it was taken up from the government. In 1996 the registered Angus herd started with the purchase of 2 cow/calf pairs and a bred heifer. When Paul graduated from Michigan State University, he became involved in the cow herd and farming operations. Through artificial insemination and embryo transfer the herd has grown to over 100 cows. Dawson Farms is involved in Michigan, Indiana, and Midland bull tests, the Michigan beef Expo, and the Michigan Fall Angus sales. Paul is a member of Michigan Cattleman's Association and Michigan Angus Association, where he serves on the board.



The Michigan Cattlemen's Association is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and represents all segments of the beef cattle industry including cattle breeders, commercial producers and cattle feeders. MCA is a grassroots policy development organization for the beef business. Through the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, cattle producers work to create a positive business environment, while providing consumers with a safe and wholesome product.