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**Contact: George Quackenbush
(517) 347-8117
Photo Attached**

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Michigan State University Livestock Club Recognizes Cattle Industry Leader
Cattleman Gary Voogt Honored by Block and Bridle Club

EAST LANSING - Cattle industry leader Gary Voogt was the honored guest of the Michigan State University Block and Bridle Club at the club's annual awards banquet held March 22, 2014. Each year the Block and Bridle Club recognizes an individual who has had a strong positive influence on Michigan agriculture. The MSU Block and Bridle Club was originally known as the Animal Husbandry Club that began in 1929. The club strives to provide student members with an opportunity to promote agriculture and to build new relationships through multiple livestock, social, and community service events.

Voogt was recognized because of his extensive leadership within the beef industry. He is a past Chairman of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission where he served as a Director for 18 years. He is also a past President and a current Director of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA), having been a member for nearly 40 years. Gary and his family have been awarded both MCA Member of the Year and MCA Purebred Breeder of the Year .

Throughout his involvement in the beef industry, Gary Voogt has represented Michigan since 1989 as a Director of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). He served as Region I Federation Division Vice President (2003), Chairman for the Federation of State Beef Councils (2007), as well as being a part of the NCBA Nominating Committee, Evaluation Committee, the Beef Checkoff Working Group, Vice Chairman of the Beef Promotion Operation Committee, Vice Chair of the Global Marketing Group, and Director of the U.S. Meat Export Federation. In 2009, Voogt was honored to serve as NCBA President.

Gary Voogt and his wife, Shirley, own and operate a registered Angus farm located in Marne, Michigan. Their farm has been the home to their five children, and now welcomes the help of their 10 grandchildren. Mr. Voogt graduated from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan with a degree in Civil Engineering and retired after a 41 year career as a municipal engineering consultant.

"The future of agriculture is in excellent hands," said Voogt. "I was very impressed with the Block and Bridle Club members. They are a hardworking and intelligent group of young adults."

Gary is always encouraging young people to become involved in agriculture and the beef industry. He has hosted livestock judging teams and the MCA Summer Round-Up at his farm. A portrait of Gary Voogt will be displayed in the MSU Livestock Pavilion along with previous Block and Bridle Club honorees.

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