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CATTELMEN RECOGNIZE INDUSTRY LEADERS

OKEMOS - (June 27, 2012) Four distinguished individuals and an agriculture business were recognized for their contributions and dedication to the beef industry during the Michigan Cattlemen's Association's (MCA) Summer Round-Up. "MCA's Member of the Year," was awarded to David Girton from Sturgis; "Agribusiness of the Year" belongs to Falmouth Co-Op in McBain; Trent Tilding, from Edmore, received the "Young Member of the Year"; Michigan State University Purebred Cow-Calf Teaching and Research Center in East Lansing, received "Purebred Breeder of the Year"; and "Cattle Businessman of the Year" was awarded to Andy Salinas from Marion, Michigan.

Member of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association's (MCA) "Member of the Year" is David Girton. He and his wife Ronna own and operate a 550 acre, 6th generation family farm, dating back to 1847. The farm consists of two major enterprises, cattle and crops. In addition, he serves as clerk for White Pigeon Township.

Being a graduate of Michigan State University, Girton is active in alumni activities. He served as a member of the statewide MSU Extension and Agriculture Experiment Station Advisory Council.

Girton has been an MCA member for eleven years and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010. As a

Director, he has taken an active role in MCA policy formation. His knowledge of agriculture and especially the cattle industry have proven to be a great asset to the Association.



MI Cattlemen's Association director Dale Oeschger (l) presents David and Ronna Girton (r) with the MCA Member of the Year award.

Agribusiness of the Year



Alden Gonder, representing Falmouth Co-Op (l) accepts the MCA Agri-Business Award presented by MCA President Kevin Wernette (r).

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) awarded the distinction of MCA's Agribusiness of the Year to Falmouth Cooperative. One of the key employees and a loyal supporter of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Alden Gonder, nutrition specialist in charge of the Feed Division, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

The company offers a selection of feeds and health products for animal nutrition. In addition, the Co-op offers advice and products for fuels, agronomy, gardens, trees and wildlife.

Young Producer of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) awarded the "Young Member of the Year" honor to Trent Hilding. He is a fifth generation farmer on a Centennial Farm located in Edmore. Hilding cares for 115 cows in a rotational grazing system.

Hilding is a graduate of Michigan State University and Drake University where he earned a JD with a food and Agricultural Law Certificate. He uses his legal expertise to assist farmers in growing their family farms and transitioning it to the next generation. Much of his work is related to wind and gas issues. At a recent MCA Annual Conference, he was the keynote speaker where he discussed the hidden costs of wind energy leases.



Trent and Diana Hilding (r) receive the MCA Young Member of the Year award presented by MCA Director Jeff Kala (l).

Purebred Breeder of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) awarded the Michigan State University Purebred Cow-Calf Teaching and Research Center, the honor of "Purebred Breeder of the Year," for the impact the Center has made on the purebred industry. Ken Geuns, the faculty coordinator and Cody Sankey, barn manager, accepted the award on behalf of the Animal Science students and department.



MI Cattlemen's Association director Monte Bordner (r) presents the MI Cattlemen's Association Purebred Breeder Award to the Michigan State University Purebred Cow-Calf Teaching and Research Center. Accepting the award is (l) Dr. David Hawkins, Ken Geuns and Cody Sankey.

The farm's origins date back to 1885 when the first purebred Hereford cattle were purchased through the University. In 1909, the first purebred Angus cattle were introduced to the herd. Today, the herd consists of both the purebred Angus and Hereford cattle alongside some commercial crossbreds.

The purpose of the Purebred Beef Farm is to provide a hands-on teaching laboratory for the MSU students. It is estimated that over 700 students visit and utilize the Purebred Center each year to take advantage of the facilities and cattle to enrich their education and evaluation skills.

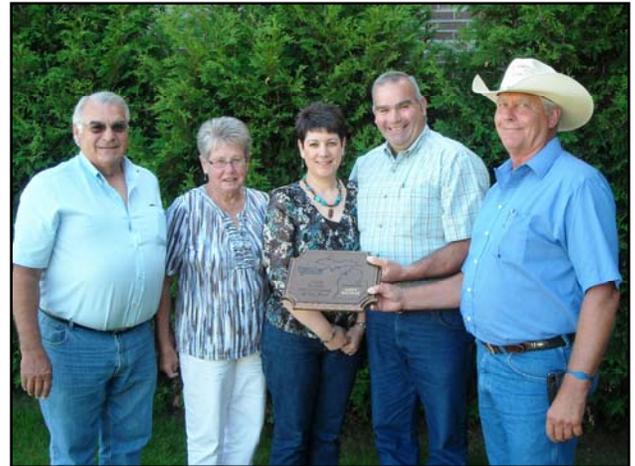
Cattle Businessman of the Year

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) selected Andy Salinas, as "MCA Businessman of the Year. Andy and his family have been commercial cow-calf producers since 1980. Their farm has evolved from having a couple of commercial Angus cows to raising 200 Angus-Simmental cows, many of which are registered.

The Salinas family was one of the earlier adopters of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and has earned the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification.

Salinas is an industry leader on both the national and state levels. While serving as MCA's President, Salinas was Michigan's representative on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Board of Directors. Currently he is Michigan's representative on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board and is the Vice-Chair of the Producer Education Committee.

For the past thirty years, Salinas served his community as a volunteer fire fighter and was a 4-H leader in Osceola county.



MI Cattlemen's Association director, Garry Wiley (r) presents the MCA Cattle Businessman of the Year award to the Andy Salinas. Along with Andy, family members accepting the award are (l) Andres, Doris and Lynn Salinas.

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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, producers and feeders. It 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.