



Leaders Who Make a Difference

By Betty Jo Gigot Publisher

When it comes to *CALF News* and the cattle community, our special emphasis is on the feedyard industry. One of the most impressive developments in our feeding community has been the launch of the Cattle Feeder's Hall of Fame in 2009. Honorees since then include Paul Engler, W.D. Farr, H.C. (Ladd) Hitch, Kenneth Monfort, Dave Wood and Lee Borck.

The 2012 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame inductees exemplify the values we share and admire as an industry. These are the pioneers nominated for this year's induction class.

ROBERT (BOB) REBHOLTZ, SR.
Agri Beef Co. Inc.

Bob Rebholtz, Sr., started in the cattle-feeding industry with the purchase of his first feedyard in 1968. Along with a partner, Rebholtz founded Agri Beef Co. in 1978. Today, the company operates a vertically integrated system complementing the company's feedyards.

WILLARD SPARKS
Sparks Companies Inc.

The late Dr. Willard R. Sparks founded Sparks Companies Inc., an agricultural research, information, and consulting firm. He was part owner of Cattlco Inc., one of the nation's largest cattle-feeding operations and was affiliated with Refco LLC, one of the world's largest futures commission merchants. He was instrumental in the first large sales of soybeans and some of the largest U.S. grain sales to the former Soviet Union.

MARSHALL "JACK" REEVE
Reeve Cattle Company
Jack Reeve had private veterinary practices in St. Charles, Mo., and Garden City, Kan. Always an entrepreneur, he began feeding cattle, which

led to the purchase of the Reeve Cattle Company. Reeve had a significant impact on higher education as a member of the Kansas Board of Regents and numerous other state and national boards and committees.

LOUIE DINKLAGE
Dinklage Feedyards Inc.

Louis Dinklage was one of the pioneers in the cattle-feeding business in eastern Nebraska. In 1923, he established a 3,000-head operation near Wisner. Through the years, he was instrumental in making the area one of the nation's cattle-feeding hubs.

JAMES HERRING
Friona Industries L.P.

James Herring is the president and CEO of Friona Industries L.P., the fourth largest cattle-feeding operation in the U.S. Friona operates four commercial feedyards in the Texas panhandle and has a one-time capacity of more than 275,000 head. Herring previously served as president of Cattle-Fax and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

In 2010 the first of the Industry Leadership Awards was given to Richard McDonald. The 2011 honoree was John Lacey.

The 2012 nominees for the Industry Leadership Award have contributed to the cattle-feeding industry through outstanding advocacy and leadership. Their efforts embody our core beliefs and help us communicate our message within the industry and to our end-users — American families.

TOPPER THORPE was the first market analyst hired by Cattle-Fax and the company's former CEO. In his 32-year tenure with the company, he provided the cattle industry with invaluable market information.

TERRY KLOPFENSTEIN, PH.D., teaches and conducts research on feeding value, protein utilization and systems of beef production at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has served as president of the American Society of Animal Science and the Federation of Animal Science Societies.

BURTON ELLER served the cattle industry for more than 30 years, increasing the industry's presence in Washington, D.C., and lobbying for the national Beef Checkoff program. He also played a pivotal role in the merger that formed the current National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

One of the neatest things about the cattle-feeding business is that, comparatively, it's a young business. Many of us older folks have had the chance to meet and get to know the people who were actually on the forefront of the industry's development, and they do have tales to tell.

The only problem with an awards program is that we have so many heroes that it will take a while to recognize all of their contributions to the industry that we treasure. We here at *CALF News* greatly appreciate the effort it has taken to get the Cattle Feeder's Hall of Fame off the ground. ■



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