

Hereford Hall of Fame, Merit Inductees Honored

Truman Lawrence, Somerset, Ky., and Conard and Nancy Stitzlein of Mohican Farms, Glenmont, Ohio, were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame Nov. 1 in Kansas City, Mo., during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting.

Also during the Annual Meeting, Jim Boyd, Abilene, Texas, and Dorian Garrick, Ames, Iowa, were honored with the Hereford Hall of Merit Award.

The Hall of Fame honor recognizes breeders who've dynamically influenced the direction and advancement of the Hereford breed. Hall of Merit inductees aren't necessarily Hereford breeders but have, in their own ways, greatly influenced the Hereford breed and cattle industry.

Truman Lawrence

Truman Lawrence started as a "horseback-riding, roping cowboy in Oklahoma and Texas"

according to his longtime customers, Mary and Bill Mericka, Triple M Ranch, Browns Summit, N.C., but worked his way to be one of the most well-respected and beloved Hereford farm managers in the country.

Truman managed McIntosh, Double L and Poca Dot Hereford farms over the years and then spent 25 years working for Morlunda Farms, Lewisburg, W.Va. When Truman began managing Morlunda in 1960, the farm was a horned operation that Truman was able to transition into one of the best polled Hereford herds in the country.

Dr. Donald Richardson, Crozet, Va., says he made many trips to Morlunda with his father, Warren, while Truman was manager. "Truman was my father's favorite cowperson of all time," Dr. Richardson said in his enthusiastic endorsement of Truman's induction into the Hall of Fame.

"Truman was a superb fitter and shower of cattle," Dr. Richardson adds.

While Truman was managing Morlunda, owned by the Nelson family, it won many banners for excellent show cattle. During Truman's employment in 1968, Morlunda traveled across the country to more shows than any other Hereford farm.

Truman also gained national respect as a judge.

The Merickas have nothing but the utmost respect and admiration for Truman. "Truman was a real believer in trying to improve the breed. He went to Canada and bought cattle to increase frame size. He believed in records and kept detailed ones before that became the thing to do," they wrote in their recommendation.

Truman was also focused on youth, spending much of his time mentoring young cattlemen and cattlemen. Bill Nelson attests to this. "All the grandchildren thought of Truman as a second father," Nelson says.



Truman Lawrence, Somerset, Ky., was inducted into the AHA Hall of Fame. Pictured at the awards presentation (seated, l to r) are: Eric Nelson, Charleston, W.Va.; Tina Nelson Rucker, Shelby, N.C.; Bill Nelson, New Orleans, La.; Truman Lawrence; Eric Nelson Sr., Charleston, W.Va.; Mary Elizabeth Nelson Barnes, Richmond, Va.; and Danny Slusher, Somerset, Ky. Back row (l to r) are: Lyle Gross, Manning, Iowa; Richard Harvey, Staunton, Va.; Phill Boggs, Columbus, Ohio; Kara Slusher, Somerset, Ky.; Tripp Nelson, Charleston, W.Va.; Cort Slusher, Somerset, Ky.; Dale Micheli, recently retired AHA director, Ft. Bridger, Wyo.; Cliff Copeland, recently retired AHA president, Nara Visa, N.M.; Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president; and Marty Lueck, recently retired AHA director, Mountain Grove, Mo.



The late Oscar Nelson, Jr., who was Truman's employer at Morlunda, was quoted as saying, "Truman is an expert judge of cattle. He's also an excellent salesman, but more than these things, the one thing that is dear to my heart is his ability and desire to work with young people."

Dale Stith, an auctioneer from Maysville, Ky., has known Truman Lawrence for 35 years: "Mr. Lawrence has been a mentor and teacher to an untold number of young and old alike. It is because of managers like this that so many successful businessmen and women have had their success in our industry."

Truman's children, Linda and Larry, along with his wife, Melba, have passed away. Truman is 90 years old and still enjoying retirement.

Conard and Nancy Stitzlein

The Stitzleins have been in the purebred Hereford business since 1963, but Conard's dad bought the farm and the first Herefords in 1937. Then in 1953, Conard and Nancy purchased their place and raised commercial cattle until the early '60s. At the time they kept their herd

relatively small, as Conard was busy with a growing metals business and Nancy was shouldering most of the cattle work along with raising children.

In 1977 they stepped up their Hereford game by purchasing the Mountain Meadow herd. They hired professional help and started showing on a national level. After enjoying some success, they expanded to the West, as they already had a growing market for their Ohio-raised bulls. Their second ranch is called Mohican West, located near Laurel, Mont.

Although they've had national show success, their focus has always been developing a good, productive cow herd.

Over the years, Conard and Nancy have been involved in the Hereford industry through various leadership roles.

One role was that of president of the Buckeye Hereford Association (BHA).

The BHA gave its wholehearted recommendation of the Stitzleins for this Hall of Fame induction. "Conard has been and continues to

be a strong, positive influence on the Hereford industry," Scott Pennell, BHA president writes. "The quality

Hereford genetics that he has provided this region as well as the world have shown to help Hereford cattle regain the market share of the beef industry."

Moreover, the Stitzleins have always been huge supporters of Hereford programs. Pennell adds, "They have consigned cattle to our state sale, regional feeder calf auctions as well as hosting their own events. Conard and Nancy are great supporters of our youth and the Hereford cattle they raise."

Lou Ellen Harr of J&L Cattle Services,

Jeromesville, Ohio, says that the Stitzleins have been great personal friends and friends of the breed, supporting sales and youth not only locally but across the country. "However," Lou Ellen adds, "it's all of the good things that Conard and his family quietly do for the breed, their community and people they are involved with that makes them such outstanding candidates for the Hereford Hall of Fame."

Jim Boyd

James F. (Jim) Boyd was raised on a livestock and grain farm near Arnett, Okla. He earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University. After

graduation he worked for and eventually managed several cattle operations before accepting a position with the AHA in 1972 as a fieldman serving west Texas and New Mexico.

Upon his retirement in December 2003, Jim had dedicated more than 30 years to promoting the Hereford breed and doing all he could to support, encourage and get the highest bid for each lot.

"Jim had the uncanny ability to work with diverse breeders and make them feel good about being in the business," says Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president. "The eternal optimist, Jim was one of the most positive promoters of the Hereford breed. His relationships were strong with the managers of some of the largest, most historic ranches in the country, yet he would take the time to help a new breeder or a youngster coming up through the youth program."

John Dudley of Dudley Bros., Comanche, Texas, wrote in his letter to the AHA Board about Jim's nomination, "I am happy to offer my support of his nomination. Certainly Mr. Boyd is the grand example of the 'Old Guard' and very deserving of this recognition."

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Conard and Nancy Stitzlein, Glenmont, Ohio, were inducted into the AHA Hall of Fame. Pictured at the awards presentation (seated, l to r) are: Conard and Nancy Stitzlein. Pictured standing (l to r) are Dale Micheli, recently retired AHA director, Ft. Bridger, Wyo.; Cliff Copeland, recently retired AHA president, Nara Visa, N.M.; Terry Powlesland, Mohican West, Laurel, Mont; and Marty Lueck, recently retired AHA director, Mountain Grove, Mo.



Jim Boyd, Abilene, Texas, was inducted into the AHA Hall of Merit. Pictured at the awards presentation (l to r) are: Dale Micheli, recently retired AHA director, Ft. Bridger, Wyo.; Cliff Copeland, recently retired AHA president, Nara Visa, N.M.; Jim and Marylee Boyd; and Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president.

Jim was the Fort Worth National Show honoree in 2004 and the Livestock Marketing Association's Marketer of the Year at the 2004 National Western Stock Show in Denver. He was also awarded the title "Friend of Texas Hereford Association" in 2012.

Jim and his wife, Marylee, live in Abilene, Texas. They have a son, James, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

University in his home country of New Zealand and then a doctorate from Cornell in 1988. He was named to the Jay Lush Endowed Chair in Animal Breeding and Genetics at Iowa State in 2007. He is also the executive director of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium.

Dorian's current research project is to improve the accuracy of predicted genetic and phenotypic merit using high-density genomic information. Generally his work focuses on the portfolio of endeavors that are involved in the design, enhancement, implementation and monitoring of genetic improvement programs. These include aspects of genetics, economics, statistics and biology. Attention is directed

to variance component estimation, prediction of breeding values, development of breeding objectives, exploitation of breed/heterosis effects and breeding industry structure, primarily in regard to their application to the national improvement of beef cattle, but other species are also considered.

His Hereford connection comes from his research. Dorian has been instrumental in developing and implementing genomic information into the Hereford genetic evaluation. His work has allowed Hereford to be the first beef breed to develop and market its own genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs).

AHA Chief Operating Officer and Director of Breed Improvement Jack Ward explains Dorian's influence on the Hereford breed: "This may be the most important genetic improvement tool that has ever been developed, and with his leadership, the AHA has positioned itself to utilize this information to continue to identify genetics within the breed that will be useful to the seedstock industry and ultimately continue to create demand for Hereford genetics within the commercial industry. Dorian is recognized worldwide for his expertise in the area of genomics, and the AHA has been fortunate to work side by side with him." **HW**

Dorian Garrick

Dorian is a professor of animal science at Iowa State University. In 1981 he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural science from Massey



Dorian Garrick, Ames, Iowa, was inducted into the AHA Hall of Merit. Pictured at the awards presentation (l to r) are: Jack Ward, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement; Dale Micheli, recently retired AHA director, Ft. Bridger, Wyo.; Cliff Copeland, recently retired AHA president, Nara Visa, N.M.; Dorian and Karen Garrick; Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president; and Marty Lueck, recently retired AHA director, Mountain Grove, Mo.

