

COUNTRY VIEWS

HARLAN NEWSPAPERS • SPECIAL SECTION • MAY 24, 2019

BLUM FAMILY FARM -

Blum family finds raising cattle and farming makes for a satisfying life for themselves and their children.

by Alan Mores, co-publisher

EARLING - The 2019 Cattlemen of the Year, Gary Blum, was raised on a small farm near Defiance and has been involved in the livestock industry since he was a young man.

In 1971, as a senior at Harlan Community High School, he worked through the Trades & Industry program at the Harlan Veterinary Clinic under veterinarians Don Jacobi and Bruce Havick to further his understanding of animal care and husbandry.

"I used to go out with them on their farm calls and Saturday mornings I ran the front office for them. Then that summer their secretary left so I ran the office for them that summer," Blum said. "It was a great experience learning about large animal care, how businesses operate efficiently and the proper care practices for your cattle and hogs."

Variety of ag-related jobs

Blum worked a variety of ag-related jobs prior to getting into cattle production and in 1972 he began working fulltime at Farmland Foods, Denison, and assisted his father and uncle's farming operation and then started farming on his own in 1979.

It was then his uncle Jerome Mumm offered him the chance to farm on 120 acres of his land by Defiance.

At Farmland Blum worked the loading dock where he said he averaged 40 to 50 hours a week then would go home to farm "those were some very long days, but I enjoyed farming and to make ends meet I had to work two jobs or I never would have been able to farm," he said.

Family

In 1981, he married Earling native Ann Tremel and they settled into their home in Earling where they have lived since 1982. Ann does finish work and is also an integral part of the farming operation. When they first were married she handled their hog farrow to finish operation while Gary drove to work in Denison.

The Blums have three children: Matt, co-owner of Advanced Machines, Council Bluffs and his wife, Jen, who works at Midstates Bank; Jenna Schaben is a dietician at HCHS and her husband, Ben, just obtained his civil engineering degree from UNO and son Jesse is a district salesman for LG Seeds and will soon be operating his own poultry operation north of Earling called Grove Ridge Poultry. He helps with the farming operation his friend Leah Miller is an accountant.

Their daughter, Jenna, and son, Jesse, both graduated from Iowa State while Matt graduated from Iowa Western.

Farmland and farming

With the help of his wife Gary continued to work at Farmland, farm and also raise hogs before starting his own small cattle herd in 1993.

The first herd consisted of 30 cows and he rented bulls for breeding. Since then he has grown that cattle herd to more than 120 head and 31 replacement heifers.

Currently the herd consists of 80% purebred black Angus cattle.

Continued on page 4

Harlan's Tim Meyer newly named Associate VP of the Iowa Cattlemen



AMES - Harlanite Tim Meyer, associate vice president of the Iowa Cattlemen Association and senior vice president of the Omaha-based Producers Credit, was recently interviewed by Delaney Howell for her podcast, Ag News Daily. What follows is an excerpt from her interview with Meyer.

Howell: Tell me a little bit about your operation.

Meyer: I currently own about 65 cows. I run them on shares with a caretaker.

Howell: Tell me a little bit more about that because you're kind of seeing things from both perspectives - you're seeing it from being a cattle producer and also seeing it the business side of things.

Meyer: I think I've been able to do that my entire career and it's helped me.

Continued on page 2



Gary Blum, Earling, is one of many proud Shelby County cattle farmers who believes and supports their communities and the county.



The Blums purchased their farmstead in 1982 from the Billy Langenfeld estate.



Cattlemen of the Year, Gary and Ann Blum, Earling.

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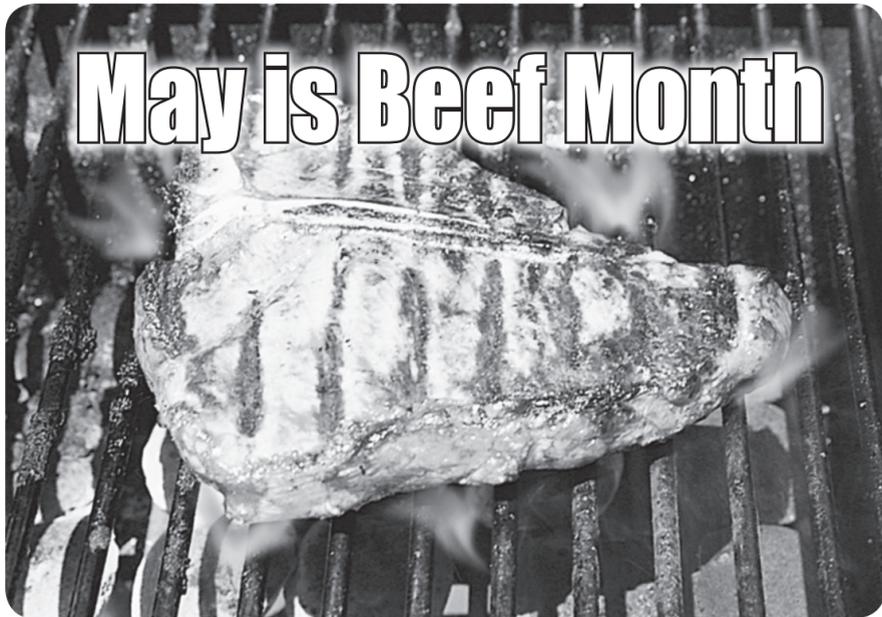
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May is Beef Month



Meyer gives insight into cattle industry

Continued from page 1

When someone's sitting down across the desk from me and putting a projection out, I've got a pretty good feel whether that's an accurate projection or whether that's really just maybe blowing smoke. It also helps me empathize.

I understand we don't make money on every turn of cattle and I understand that sometimes the cow/calf thing doesn't work as well as it should. So I hope that brings some value to the relationship with the people I'm talking to because I do feel it in my own checkbook and in my own household.

General sense of caution optimism

Howell: And right now a lot of the producers are feeling the impacts from trade tensions and what not. Have you had those conversations with producers that you're working with or with folks in your hometown area?

Meyer: Well, I think there's a general sense of optimism - cautious optimism - that something's going to work out and hopefully be favorable at the end of the conversation. But I do know that there is some serious concern. I talk to people everyday in various sizes and shapes of operations and it affects each one of them differently. I think we've got to come to a resolution fairly soon or I think there will be some long term damage politically out here in the midwest.

Howell: Organizations like the Iowa Cattlemen's Assoc. help to alleviate some of that stress and work with producers to make them aware of these issues. What are some of the issues that you're watching right now?

Meyer: I think, obviously, that trade is at the top of the ladder. Traceability is also a major issue out here. Talking to independent sale barn owners, they're very concerned about how that affects their business and their clients' independence in the cattle business. We've got to somehow keep our guys out here working for themselves, feeding

their own cattle, and having that profit opportunity.

Traceability's impact

Howell: When you say traceability, what are we talking about?

Meyer: I think what we're trying to do is provide our consumers with some comfort that the animals that they're consuming - whether that's beef, pork, turkeys, chicken, whatever it is - have been well-cared for, have been treated humanely, have been given respect in how they were taken care of.

It's a difficult thing because cattle industry comes from all over the country and across Canada, Mexico, and all over the world. So it's a tough task to track every animal from start to finish and that presents the biggest challenge. But I do know that our feeders out here are doing the very best they can to take good care of their cattle.

Howell: I want to ask you about another interesting thing that you mentioned there just briefly. You said "keeping independent producers independent." Explain that a little bit more for me. Do you see the cattle industry mirroring what we see right now in the hog industry?

Meyer: That's exactly what I'm talking about and I am fearful that that could be the direction the cattle industry could be taken. We've always felt fairly confident that it was going to be a very difficult thing to have happen because we do have a cow/calf industry that markets calves to feedlots and other places, and we thought there's no way that could all be integrated.

Well, I'm not so sure that that's completely out of the question and I've been in my industry long enough to see it happen in poultry and to watch it happen in the hog industry. When you look at the hog side, essentially 60-100 integrators own all breeding stock and I don't see 60 -100 integrators owning the entire

cow herd in America, but I do know they want to influence the cow herd and the genetics going into that cow herd. It's a good thing in the sense that they want a consistent product and a reliable product for the consumer, but if that means replacing the ownership from the ranch to the feedlot to the backgrounder to the finisher, that's not a good thing for American agriculture.

Howell: No, it absolutely isn't. So Tim, as an Iowa Cattlemen's Association board member what role then can you play or can I play as a member to help shape policy or shape this or prevent this really from happening?

Meyer: You know, I think we need to work with our legislators. We need to emphasize how important the cattle industry is to the economy of Iowa and to the economy of the U.S. I think we need to really, really focus on promoting our product as a safe, healthy product.

There's a lot of news out there and it's not all accurate about what our product is and what it does to you in your daily diet and I think there's a lot of positive information that needs to get shared and we need to do that.

Association goals

Howell: What are some of the goals moving forward for the Cattlemen's Association?

Meyer: Obviously, we want to advocate for our members. That's the biggest emphasis that we've got. Our members pay a due to us; we need to work hard for them to promote their product and to promote the well being of the industry.

I think we need to educate the general public on the product, as I mentioned, on how safe and nutritious beef can be. And I think we need to continue to look forward for the industry. We have to look to the future, we have to see what's coming, and try to at least stay with it, if not ahead of it.

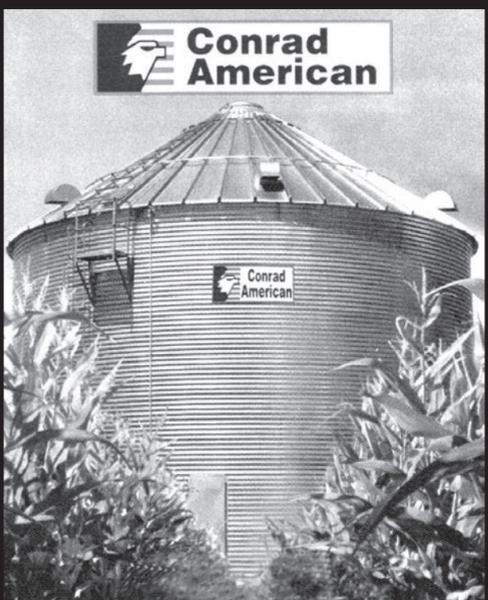


Gary Blum, cattleman of the year, is pictured at his pasture land which was purchased from his grandfather, Henry Blum, in 1993. The 80 acre pastures are beautifully situated among the hills of grove township complete with a Oak, Elm trees and Ash trees. Amazingly, 45 acres of the pasture has never been farmed.

Top 5 states for cattle in feedlots U.S. beef inventory by State

1. Texas	4,585	7. Montana.....	1,497
2. Missouri.....	2,166	8. Kentucky.....	1,033
3. Oklahoma	2,131	9. North Dakota	985
4. Nebraska	1,910	10. Iowa	970
5. South Dakota.....	1,801		
6. Kansas.....	1,507		

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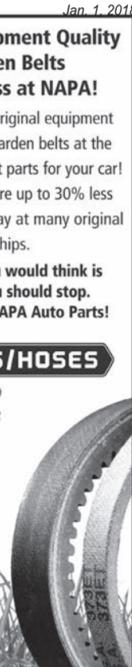
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SHELBY COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S HEIFER SCHOLARSHIP

Application Deadline
Friday, June 28, 2019
at the Shelby Co. Extension Office

Applicant must be entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade at the time the application is due. The recipient(s) may receive a scholarship toward the purchase of five first calf heifers and will not be eligible for a future Cattlemen's educational scholarship.

Iowa Labor shortage sends Cattlemen to seek help

Labor issues in agriculture, both on the farm and in related business, such as processing plants, continues to be an urgent issue, according to Iowa Cattlemen's Association members.



Economy would collapse if deportation occurred

"If we exported or deported all of the illegal immigrants in Sioux County, Iowa, our economy would collapse, plain and simple, there's no question about it," said Kent Pruismann, past ICA president and Sioux County feedlot operator.

Ed Greiman, another past president of the association and current manager of the Lime Springs packing plant, agreed. "We've got to figure out a way to make it simple, with a path they know they can follow to become legal citizens," he said.

The policy committee created an immigration task force to study the issue, and also passed policy supporting legal immigration and a pathway to citizenship. The group discussed the challenges of a labor shortage across sectors of the cattle industry and acknowledged the importance of immigrant labor.

After discussing the current U.S. immigration system, proposed legislation, and facts about the role of immigrants in the agricultural workforce, the task force developed questions to be answered and action items to move forward on.

Are labor shortages affecting Iowa's farmers?

Iowa's three percent unemployment rate is among the lowest in the nation.

In Sioux County, Iowa's most livestock-dense county, unemployment is at 2.3%. This means that competition for employees is fierce, in agriculture and other industries, and finding able-bodied employees is a challenge.

ICA Immigration Task Force members, several of whom are from northwest Iowa, indicated that producers they've talked to are having difficulty meeting the labor demands of their day to day operations. Supporting businesses, especially packing plants, are also experiencing labor shortages.

to Lee Schulz, Assistant Professor in Iowa State's Department of Economics, "The industry was in a situation where supply was right up against packing capacity.

That left both cattle supply and demand the same and fixed in terms of quantity — the packers weren't be able to take any more cattle (in part due to limited operational capacity from limited labor) and producers weren't able to ship any fewer.

The result of this is what economists call an 'indeterminate price' — it could be anything from zero up to, perhaps, last year's price level. In late 2015 in Iowa, it was a \$40/cwt lower price than the previous year."

A steady source of workers is necessary to keep product moving through the supply chain and keep that situation from happening again.

What's next?

Four members of the task force are visiting Washington, D.C. this week to share their concerns about labor shortages, and other issues affecting cattle producers, with Iowa's congressional delegation. In the meantime, ICA staff and leaders are reviewing the current immigration system as well as proposed bills that would help provide agriculture with a stable, legal workforce.

While federal lawmakers have seen several proposals for immigration reform offered, so far Congress has not been successful in addressing some of the challenges with the current system.

One proposal that specifically addresses the need of ag labor and is still viable in Congress is the Ag

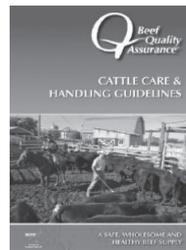
Guestworker Bill which is now part of the "Securing America's Future Act". Proposed by Congressman Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, this proposal would replace the existing H-2A program with an H-2C.

Among other provisions, this bill would provide temporary legal, skilled guest workers who would go home after a period of time but could re-certify to come back to the U.S. Proponents say the program would provide enough workers (450,000) to do the needed

jobs with a portion of those allocated for packing house workers, useful as cattle numbers increase.

Other federal priorities for ICA

They include changes to CRP, funding for the FMD vaccine bank, a permanent solution to the Electronic Logging Device and Hours of Service issue for livestock haulers, increasing international trade and protecting the industry from "fake meat" and misleading labels.



Cattle Care & Handling Guidelines booklet

Cattlemen have long recognized the need to properly care for the animals under their care. An updated and informative 28-page booklet "Cattle Care & Handling Guidelines" illustrates sound animal husbandry

practices to help farmers and ranchers ensure the wellbeing of their cattle. Not sure where to begin?

Let your checkoff-funded BQA Program lead the way! Besides the booklet, there are self-assessment BQA manuals created specifically for your farm — including cow-calf, stocker and feedyards.

Contact Doug Bear at the Iowa Beef Industry Council, doug@ia-beef.org or 515-296-2305 to get your booklet or find out more.

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How do labor shortages at packing plants affect producers?

Reports from packers in the midwest indicate that labor shortages have had a direct impact on the amount of cattle slaughtered over the past couple of years.

Following the drought of 2012, slaughter numbers decreased, and the number of shifts and employees at packing plants followed suit. As beef herd expansion has gained steam since then, the packing industry has, at times, struggled to keep up, resulting in a lot of market-ready fed cattle with nowhere to go.

History has taught Iowa's cattle industry that packing plant labor can have an impact on the bottom line. Labor availability was one of several factors in the rapid decline of the market in October 2015. According

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Front row: Jace, Ann, Edith, Leo, Alyssa, Gary and Henry. **Back row:** Jen and Matt Blum, Jesse Blum, Jenna and Ben Schaben. **Not pictured:** their new grandchild, Ella.

Blum family shares a great tradition

Continued from page 1

He has extended his livestock practices to include not only traditional breeding but artificial insemination (AI) to increase the herd's quality.

"AI has allowed me to be more selective and pick better sires out to enhance our breeding stock and improve overall herd quality. I also did embryo transfer for five years for a cattlemen near Logan and he'd use my recipient cows and we'd use his embryo eggs to place into our cows -- and the following year he would buy the calves."

Selling purebred black Angus bulls

Besides his traditional cow/calf practice, he is involved in retaining his own stock and selling purebred black Angus bulls and replacement heifers.

"I do enjoy doing that and financially it's an incentive also," he said.

For the last three years he has teamed up with Cogdill Feed Supply's Frank Cogdill, Panama, and his brother-in-law, Marvin Tremel, Earling, to create a program that assists local producers with retaining their own breeding stock when they don't have their own feedlot.

"I was visiting with Frank Cogdill and we were talking about how my brother-in-law has an extra feedlot. We then came up with the idea of offering area farmers who don't have room for replacement heifers they could do it on Marvin's feedlot," Blum said.

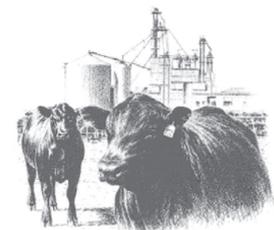
We put the word out and we have had between four to five area cattlemen participate annually. In our first year we had close to 40 heifers, the second year 50 heifers and this past year 40 heifers.

"Marvin feeds them and I oversee the AI breeding program. Last year we only had one open heifer out of the 50 which we felt was a very successful year."

"We start feeding them the first of March and then they pick them up the first of October.

Family help

Aside from his cattle



operation, his two sons help when they can with the farming operation that covers 800 acres of rented and owned farm ground.

During his spare time, you can find him playing with his six grandchildren or assisting neighbors who need help dur-

ing the calving season. The Blums are also active members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Other hobbies include golfing and hunting White-tailed deer and turkey with his two sons. Their daughter Jenna and Ann enjoy riding their horses when time allows.



Harlan hosted Cattlemen's Feedlot Forum here on Wed., Jan. 16

HARLAN - Tim Graeve, board member of the Iowa Cattlemen's Assoc. and Shelby County Cattlemen, said the two organizations partnered to host a free Harlan Feedlot Forum on Wed, January 16 at Vet's Auditorium

in Harlan as shown above.

Graeve said the event featured guest speakers, trade show booth and a free luncheon.

Speakers included: Dr. Brent Meyer, Merck Animal Health - VFD's; Craig

Belknap, Diamond V - Nutrition; Tamara Hein - Overview of Beef Checkoff Trip and Paul Mussman, AgWest Commodities on the market outlook.

Wood Iron Grille - Iowa's Best Burger

OSKALOOSA - It has been an exciting seven months for Michael Glesener and Matthew Gunn, owners of the Wood Iron Grille here. Last fall, they opened their new restaurant with the goal of making it into the Top 10 in Iowa's Best Burger Contest. This spring, they not only reached the Top 10, but ultimately won the competition.

Inspired to enter the competition by a past winner, the Wood Iron Grille staff has been working hard to make their restaurant great since opening. After studying pastry arts in Chicago, Glesener, the head chef, temporarily worked in banking while his business partner, Gunn, worked in various restaurant roles along with turf and greenhouse management. Luckily, they joined forces to make the Wood Iron Grille what it is now. See the 10 finalists on page 7.



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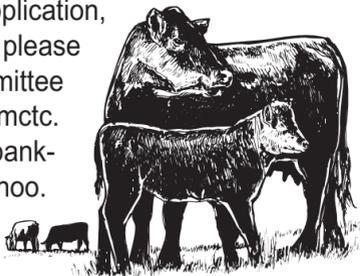
Scholarship to go toward Shelby County Heifer Program



The Shelby County Cattlemen at their annual banquet in February announced the winners of the Shelby County Heifer annual Scholarship Program.

The program is to help get our youth involved with the cattle industry and to hopefully spark an interest of continuing their involvement in the future.

If you have any questions about the application, receiving an application or its requirements please feel free to contact any of the following committee members: Ken Schechinger (schechfarms@fmctc.com); Kevin Goshorn (kevingoshorn@arborbanking.com); Tim Graeve (homers_crew@yahoo.com) and Brandi Huddle (blhuddle@gmail.com).



HEIFER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Friday, June 28, 2019 deadline
at Shelby Co. Extension Office

HEIFER SCHOLARS - These winners were recognized at the 2017 Shelby County Fair Auction and to date, 23 youth have started in the cattle industry in Shelby County through this loan program. \$7,500 was awarded to each of the 2016 recipients with \$1,500 being a scholarship and \$6,000 being a non-interest loan.

HEIFER SCHOLARSHIP HONOREES

These winners were recognized at the 2018 Shelby County Fair Auction and to date, 26 area youth have started in the cattle industry in Shelby County through this loan program. Award recipients received \$7,500 with \$1,500 to go toward a scholarship and \$6,000 is a non-interest bearing loan.

The 2018 winners were:

Teagan Kasperbauer, son of Ryan & Toshia Kasperbauer, Irwin. He is an eighth grade student at Harlan Community Middle School.

Logan Gawley, son of Steve & Andria Gawley, Irwin. He is a freshman at IKM-Manning.

Gavin Maguire, son of Wayne & Lonnie Maguire, Logan. He is a freshman at Logan Magnolia Community Schools.

- Must be entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade at the time the application is due, along with three recommendation letters are required.
- Recipient must be interested in agriculture and willing to accept total responsibility for the daily care of the heifers.
- The recipient must maintain an accurate report of income, expenditures, health protocols and records, as well as calving records during the five years. The recipient will be asked to submit these records plus a brief summary of activities annually.
- The recipient(s) will receive scholarship towards the purchase of five first calf heifers.
- The amount distributed to the recipient may change from year to year if scholarship amounts change.
- If the purchase price of the heifers exceeds the amount given by the Shelby County Cattlemen, the recipient and recipient's parent/guardian is responsible for that amount.
- The first year of the program, which begins April 15th following the announcement of the winner, the recipient is not required to pay any money back to the Cattlemen. This is considered the scholarship portion of the program. On April 15 of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th year, the recipient is required to pay back 20% of the original amount given. This is considered the interest free loan part of the program.
- The recipient must submit an invoice/verification of heifer ownership. Ownership of heifers must be obtained by April 15th following the announcement of the recipient. The Shelby County Cattlemen will have a security interest in the cattle and have the right to obtain and sell them if there was ever a problem.
- Shelby County Cattlemen reserve the right of an annual inspection of animals and facilities used.
- Sickness and/or death of the heifers purchased as part of this program remains the responsibility of the recipient and the Shelby County Cattlemen do not make any guarantees regarding profit or loss upon sale of the animals.
- If a recipient chooses to exit the program, re-payment of the loan in full is mandatory at the time the animals are sold.
- Recipient will **NOT** be eligible for a college scholarship later on. Shelby County Cattlemen reserve the right to change the application and requirements.

What cattle eat for dinner!

The fact is that just like humans...a healthy, balanced diet includes simple carbohydrates that can be provided by a variety of sources, and in rare cases include candy or other sweets. Molasses, for example, has been used as a simple carbohydrate in cattle rations for a long time.

Unlike humans, cattle have a complex (or four-part) digestive system that includes the rumen, where beneficial microorganisms help digest their food. Cattle are uniquely able to turn a variety of feed ingredients or unusable byproducts into the nutrients they need to grow and be healthy.

Based on the geographic

region of the country where the cattle are raised, the feed may also include locally grown products that otherwise would be sent to landfills or burned and would go to waste.

For example, in California, cattle might consume almond hulls as part of their ration, while cattle in Idaho might have potato starch re-

maining from making hash browns or fries mixed into their ration.

There is great diversity in what is locally available and cattlemen take advantage of the existing natural resources in their geographic regions and transform these resources into great-tasting, nutritious beef consumers love.



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BEEF BYTES

Most popular steak cuts served in U.S. restaurants:

- 1 - Tenderloin/Filet
- 2 - New York Strip
- 3 - Ribeye
- 4 - Top Sirloin
- 5 - Porthouse/T-Bone

Top Uses of Ground Beef^s

% of Ground Beef Eatings

- Burgers 29% 
- Spaghetti 14%
- Mexican dishes 9%
- Casseroles/Helpers 8%
- Meatloaf 8% 
- Chili 7%
- Sloppy Joes 3%
- Non-sandwich patty 3%
- Meatballs 2%
- Lasagna 2% 
- Stew 2%
- Other 13%



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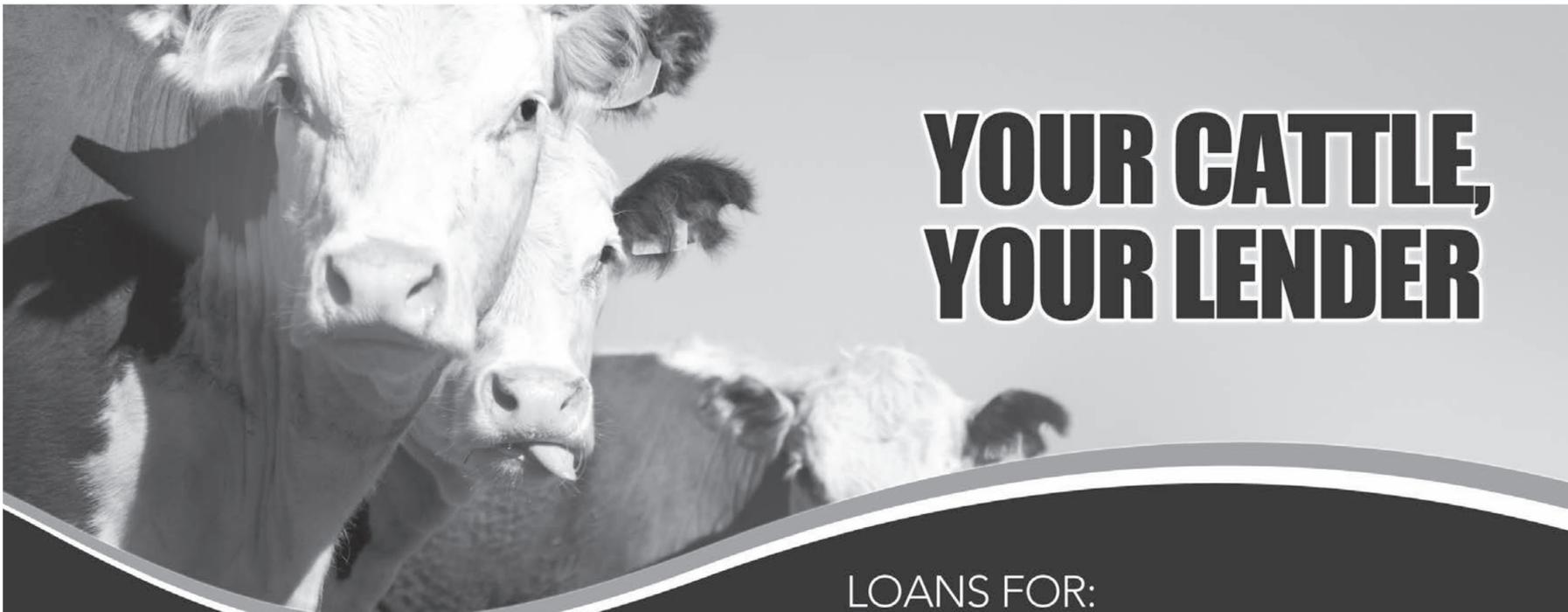
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photo courtesy Summit Livestock Facilities (www.summitlivestock.com)

Minimize heat stress on cattle this summer

Prevention is key.

Make sure facilities are working effectively: cattle have adequate pen space, access to clean water, and, if possible, shade and ventilation. Be aware of future weather forecast to prepare ahead of time before it is too late.

Cattle should not be worked.

Cattle should never be worked during the heat of the day and if it is absolutely necessary, only very slowly in the early morning. It is best to be finished working cattle by no later than 10 a.m.

Fresh clean water.

All cattle should have immediate access to clean, fresh water supply at all hours of the day. An animal's water requirement may significantly increase due to their increased respiration rates during periods of heat stress.

Shift feeding times.

Feeding times of cattle may be shifted with 70% of the total feed being administered between 2 to 4 hours after peak ambient temperatures. This is because the rumination process will cause an increase in temperature 4 to 6 hours after feeding.

Shade and ventilation.

During periods of excessive heat, shade and ventilation should be increased to minimize the environmental stress on cattle, especially dark hided cattle. Increasing air flow can help cattle cope with extreme heat events. Ensure that wind breaks used during winter are removed to allow the greatest air movement during summer.

Fly control/manure management.

These two management strategies will assist to minimize cattle congregating together, which may further increase heat stress of your livestock.

Southwest Iowa location for regional Cattlemen "Beef Meet" is in Malvern, June 4

MALVERN - Plan to the Iowa Cattlemen's Association regional beef meet in Malvern on Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30 - 9 p.m. at the Lakin Center.

At each BeefMeet, you'll have a chance to: learn how to improve your cattle operation, hear an update on state and national policy topics, visit with industry-leading trade-show vendors, give feedback to ICA staff and board and enjoy a great eat beef meal. Register at iacattlemen.org



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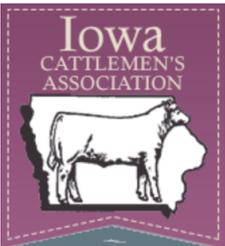
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More than 700 pack into Defiance's Parish Hall

DEFIANCE - More than 700 area residents dined on a New York strip loin dinner, enjoyed auctions and 27 scholarships that were awarded on Saturday, February 9 here.

A quick review of the evening included:

- 27 - \$1,000 scholarships
- 3 - heifer loan scholarships, award recipients received \$7,500 with \$1,500 to go toward a scholarship and \$6,000 is a non-interest bearing loan.

Cattlemen vice president Kevin Goshorn said, "Over the last nine years we've given 226 \$1,000 academic scholarships, awarded 26 heifer scholarships in the amount of \$39,150 and interest free loans in the amount of \$156,600.

"That's a total of \$421,750 in scholarships and interest free loans given back to the youth of our communities."

He said over the last three years alone, the Cattlemen have

given out 81 \$1,000 Academic scholarships, \$13,200 in Heifer Scholarships and \$76,800 in interest free loans for a three year total of \$171,000 in scholarships and interest free loans.

With final results from the 2019 banquet showing the trophy and community auction raised approximately \$91,000 -- that now puts the 10-year total to \$512,750 raised.

Funds raised go toward the Shelby County Fair trophy awards, college scholarships, heifer scholarship programs, beef promotions and banquet expenses."

Honorees included:

- Cattleman of the Year -- Gary Blum, Earling
- Beef Backer -- Paul Leinen
- Friend of the Industry - Mase and Bill Bruck, Portsmouth

Top 10 Iowa's Best Burger finalists

AMES - "Iowa has over 28,000 beef producers, and this contest is a great way to celebrate the beef they produce and the impact they have on Iowa," said Katie Olthoff, Director of Communications for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association.

To qualify, the burger must be a 100% beef patty or patties, although other ingredients may be added such as spices, and served on a bun or bread product. Burgers may include any combination of condiments, sauces, cheese or toppings.

"Several restaurants have really unique and creative ways to encourage customers to vote. It was a close race to the finish line," said Kylie Peterson, Director of Marketing for the Iowa Beef Industry Council. "In total, we had over 500 towns and cities across Iowa represented which proves that there are a lot of great tasting burgers all across the state."

- Ankeny Diner, Ankeny
- Dotzy's Restaurant and Saloon, Elgin
- Landmark Restaurant, Williamsburg
- Morgan's Corner Bar & Grill, Ottumwa
- Rides Bar & Grill, Fort Dodge
- Robin's Nest Café and Bakery, Clarinda
- Saucy Focaccia, Cedar Rapids

Beef and Green-house Gas Emissions

Accusations against the beef industry, including Iowa's 28,000 beef producers, have recently been included in The Green New Deal and EAT-Lancet.

However, research shows that eliminating meat consumption would only have a very minor impact on the environment. "In fact," says Matt Deppe, CEO of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, "removing all livestock and poultry from the U.S. food system would only reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by less than one-half of one percent."

Concerns about livestock and greenhouse gases (GHG) generally reflect a world-wide view of livestock production. Because of advances in animal health, animal welfare, genetics and nutrition in the U.S., our beef has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world, 10 to 50 times lower than some nations, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also reports that greenhouse gas emissions from cattle only account for 2% of U.S. GHG emissions.

The concerns also fail to take into account the incredible advances made by US farmers and ranchers. Research from the Beef Checkoff Program shows that since 1977, today's beef farmers and ranchers produce the same amount of beef with 33% fewer cattle.

Iowa farmers maximize land use and resources

In Iowa, cattle are able to maximize land use and utilize resources that might otherwise go to waste. In our state, cattle often graze hillsides not suitable for row crops. They also consume grain grown by Iowa's farmers, and make use of crop residue, ethanol co-products, and cover crops as feed. Cattle then return the nutrients back to the land via manure. It's a continuous cycle of growth and regeneration.

Corn-fed cattle from Iowa are truly part of the solution, not the problem. Compared to beef from other parts of the world, like Brazil or Australia, which often comes from grass-fed cattle, grain-fed cattle have up to a 67.5% lower carbon footprint. This is due heavier carcass weights, a shorter time spent on feed, and a higher energy, lower forage diet.

Despite the myths about the beef industry, Iowans can know its impact on greenhouse gas emissions is low and continues to decrease. Learn more at www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/raising-beef/beef-in-a-sustainable-diet and beefresearch.org/sustainability/index.html

- The IowaStater Restaurant, Ames
- The Twisted Tail Steakhouse & Saloon, Logan (Beebeetown)
- Wood Iron Grille, Oskaloosa (eventual winner)

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A salute to past Shelby
County Cattlemen of
the Year recipients:

SHELBY COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

Ken Schechinger, President; Kevin Goshorn, Vice President;
Steve Leinen, Secretary; Dave Kramer, Treasurer;
Tim Hastert, Membership Chairman; Dave Schomers, Grill Captain;
Brandi Huddle, DVM, Heifer Scholarship Chairperson.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

Tim Graeve, George Langenfeld, Todd Berndt, Mike Fara, Maria Wingert,
Ernie Peters, Kent Andersen, Justin Ahrenholtz, Bree Schwarte, Josh Leinen.

Heifer Scholarship Application Information
will reach your mailbox soon. We encourage all eligible students to apply!

Cattlemen trophy auction winning bidders



Trophy Buyers, l-r, Reserve Champion Market Steer, Titan Machinery, Gary Collins; Grand Champion Pen of Three, Kirkman Farms, Matt VanBaale; Champion Light Weight Steer, Farm Credit Services Brad Renze; Grand Champion Breeding Heifer, Shelby County State Bank, Kevin Campbell.

Second row, l-r, Grand Champion Cow Calf, Community Bank, Kim Johanssen; Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer, Farmers Trust & Savings Bank, Roger Kenkel; Champion Middle Weight Steer, Titan Machinery, Travis Bissen; Reserve Champion Carcass, Cogdill Farm Supply, Sally Hoesley and Shawn Cogdill; and directly in front of them is Kevin Gross, Agriland FS with the Champion Heavy Weight Steer trophy.



Trophy Buyers, l-r, Grand Champion Market Heifer, Shelby Vet Clinic, Dr. Clay McGargill; Reserve Champion Pen of Three, Midstates Bank, Trent Svendsen; Grand Champion Market Steer, United Bank of Iowa, Lee Schoof; Reserve Champion Market Heifer, E-4 Sons, Greg Reisz.

Second row, Reserve Champion Cow Calf and Very Last Place in the Very Last Class, Shelby County State Bank, Janet Buman; Reserve Champion Middle Weight Steer, Farm Service Coop, Aaron Bauer.

Third row, Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Steer, Defiance State Bank, Frank Powers; Grand Champion Carcass, Cyclone Seed, Chad Manz; and Reserve Champion Light Weight Steer, Nelson Farm Supply, Todd Berndt.

Cattlemen honor Portsmouth's Club 191 and Harlanite Paul Leinen



Friend of the Industry, Mase and Bill Bruck, Portsmouth, along with the Cattlemen's Dave Kramer holding their scenic cattle photo.

Friend of the Industry

This year's Friend of the Industry awards goes to a couple who have been a part of the beef industry their entire lives. Mase Bruck grew up on a farm west of Panama and Bill Bruck grew up just west of Portsmouth both on farms that raised beef cattle and row crops.

They were married in 1967 and in 1989 they opened up the Club 191 Restaurant in Portsmouth an amazing 30 years ago.

Emcee Steve Leinen said, "The couple and their children who also helped at the restaurant supported the beef industry by serving some of the best prime rib you will find and they have catered many area events, including our cattlemen's banquet."



Beef Backer, from left: Mary Leinen, their son Josh, and Paul.

Beef Backer of the Year

This year's beef backer, Paul Leinen, Portsmouth and Harlan, grew up in western Shelby County and following high school graduation he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam until 1970. Upon his return home he married his wife, Mary, and to this union they had three children Josh, Jamie and Jeremy.

He has served on multiple Shelby County boards for his community, county and church, where he has been a lifelong member.

Leinen enjoys golf, having participated in the Iowa Cattlemen's Assoc. tournament for more than 20 years. He also helped start the annual Beef Golf Tournament at the Harlan Golf & Country Club that pays out more than \$5,000 in beef certificates each year.

Upon his retirement from his family business, he continues to stay very busy with a wide variety of home-based businesses as well as spending time with his wife, children and nine grandchildren.

An avid griller and pellet smoker, he turned his hobby into a business and prepares meats of all kinds especially beef brisket. And if you talk nice to him, he may share some of those grilling secrets with you - he always has suggestions about meat selection, preparation and seasoning.



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