Former resident honored in Iowa

Former St. Francis resident, Darrell Busby, received the 2012 Hall of Fame award at a dinner during the Iowa Cattlemen's Association convention and annual meeting held in December in Altoona, Iowa.

Mr. Busby of Oakland,

is always seeking ways to better understand what's going on inside cattle that can improve outcomes on the outside. He has worked on a broad range of issues from helping youth learn from 4-H and FFA beef projects, to demonstrating that cattle do not compact corn ground while grazing cornstalks, to showing the effectiveness of hoop barns in finishing cattle.

However, his emphasis on collecting in-depth growth and carcass data for more than 30 years has given cattle producers useful information in 'cause and effect' ways that impact their bottom line.

Mr. Busby went beyond looking at expected progeny differences (EPDs), and drilled down into feeding and health data, recording comments at the chute when loading cattle for the packing plant, to gathering carcass information on each animal as it was processed at the plant, including tenderness and percent fat. His work has shown that all these production elements ultimately had an impact on the bottom-line profit of cattle producers, and the eating quality for consumers.

He worked on these and many other issues during his 30 years of work as Iowa State University Extension's livestock specialist in Southwest Iowa, a position he retired from in 2010. He still continues to focus on collecting data about beef cattle as manager of the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity cooperative

He has worked jointly on projects that have collected data on over 100.000 head of cattle through his work at Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity and through former programs such as the Midcrest Area Cattle Evaluation Program, and Precision Beef Alliance. This is the largest U.S. database on producer



retained ownership cattle, and is the basis of the most published and used information on disposition, health, growth, quality grade and known breed and

At Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity, he publishes a Sire Profit Summary that shows consignors how

their bulls stack up from a genetic perspective for growth, health, carcass quality and yield grade performance, and profitability. In 2011 more than 60,000 head of cattle and 3,100 bulls were evaluated, representing 17 breeds of cattle. 'Benchmark Reports' is the first report for U.S. commercial cow-calf producers that compared their cattle to averages of similar cattle.

Mr. Busby was born in the agricultural community of St. Francis where he and his brothers raised cattle, sheep and pigs. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science from Kansas State University, and came to Iowa as an extension specialist in 1980. He refers to this background as "Kansan by birth, Wildcat by the grace of God, and Iowan by choice." He and his wife Catherine, have two children. His father, Willard, still lives in St. Francis.

During his time at Iowa State University Extension, he earned the R.K. Bliss Award, Excellence in Agricultural Extension Programs, and two achievement awards. He has also received recognition for his community work, including service on his local school board, Optimist Club, and church. He is well-known as the beef superintendent at the AK-SAR-BEN 4-H livestock show.

Mr. Busby was nominated for the award by Gregory Feedlots who note "his years of service to Iowa cattle producers are without equal."

Since 1962, leaders in the Iowa cattle industry have been selected for the Hall of Fame based on: contributions to the beef cattle industry, contributions to the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, community and civic contributions, and cattle business accomplishments.





BACK TO THE BOOKS! Whoops, back to the computers! Susan Dinkel's computer class was busy at work on the first day back to school after the holidays. Above, Zack Koger, middle, liked what he saw on Brady Dinkel's computer. Dakota Morris just happened to be caught with his eyes closed (he wasn't sleeping). Left, Audrey Meyer was busy with her assignment.





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