

# Biographies



2017-2023

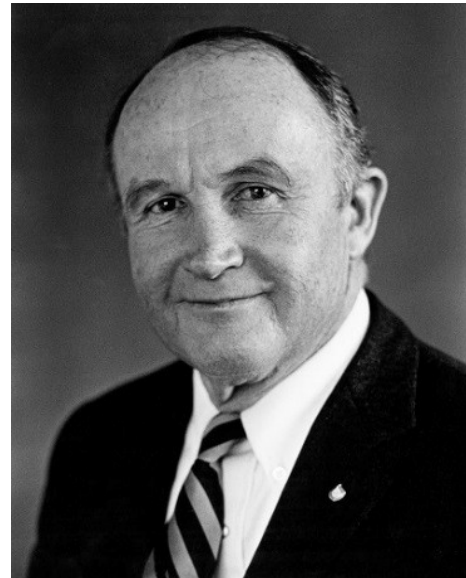
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## 2017

### James A. Fish Sr.

James A. Fish Sr. has been recognized many times for his outstanding contributions and progressive leadership which have benefitted the dairy industry in Michigan and nationally, as well as for his efforts in tree farming, wildlife habitat, conservation, and as a successful manager of his dairy herd. Jim was born in Scranton, PA on Feb. 21, 1927, and died on August 25, 2016, at age 89. He attended Scranton Country Day School and Choate in Connecticut. In 1950, Jim graduated from Penn State University with a BS in dairy science and a minor in forestry. He moved to Michigan to manage Lockshore Farms, in Hickory Corners, for R.F. Locke. Jim served in WWII and the Korean War. In 1957, Jim married Alice Belin and in 1963, they bought Lockshore Farms. They have three children, Tamalyn, James Jr. and Susan. Jim progressively improved the dairy facilities moving away from tiestalls to free stalls, when he saw that his cows produced better using this type of housing and feeding system. Being a supporter of AI, Jim was one of the first to use synchronization of estrus. He worked with MSU and Upjohn Animal Health on a number of research projects. Jim focused on producing quality alfalfa and raising good heifer replacements. Jim had one of the top Guernsey herds in the country and later moved to grade and registered Holsteins. He won multiple awards while exhibiting cattle at local, state, and national shows and was a well-respected judge, nationally and internationally.



Jim's passion for the dairy industry and dairy cattle is spelled out in his leadership for breed organizations, his milk marketing cooperative and milk promotion. He served on the Board of Directors for the American Guernsey Cattle Club, serving as Vice President, and was responsible for the breed implementing the use of USDA Cow Indexes for recognition of superior Guernsey females, making the Guernsey Breed the first to use genetic evaluations to recognize top cows in their breed. Jim was on board for the Michigan Guernsey Breeders Assoc., the Michigan Purebred Dairy Cattle Assoc., Farm Credit Services, Barry County Farm Bureau, and Dairy Farmers of America. Jim served as treasurer for Independent Cooperative Milk Producers Association and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, and served on the MSU Dairy Advisory Council, the Governor's Milk Marketing Committee, and the Governor's Advisory Council for the Michigan Dairy Industry. He was instrumental in supporting component pricing of protein for milk and milk products as chair of the Milk Component Pricing Committee. In 1987, Jim was named Michigan State University Dairy Farmer of the Year and in 1991 was inducted into the Michigan Farmer's Hall of Fame.

Jim also loved the woods where he hunted, fished and worked as a tree farmer. As an avid hunter and conservationist, Jim was a member of eight hunting and conservation groups including the Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Forest Association and Michigan United Conservation Club. Jim served on the Board of Directors for the Four Township Water Resource Council and the Barry County Soil and Water Conservation District. Jim received the Dow Conservation Award, the Goodyear Conservation Award and District Conservationist of the year for Barry County. In 1986 he was recognized nationally as the Outstanding Chairman for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In 2000, he was named Michigan Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and in 2001, U.S. North Central Region Tree Farmer of the Year. Jim loved working with dairy cows and in the woods and learned to care for and manage both well.

## Mike Fordyce

Mike Fordyce grew up in Bismarck, North Dakota, the son of Gordon & Arlys Fordyce. He attended college at Minnesota (Mankato) State University earning a degree in Education. Outside the classroom Mike played baseball for 4 years, competing in Division II College World Series, and played one year of hockey.

Mike began his dairy career in Wisconsin in 1980, working for the Ralston Purina Co. Mike and his wife Sandy transitioned into sales management in 1989, training in Lafayette, Indiana. Then in 1990, they moved to Michigan, to lead the Sales Team to support and grow the dairy business through a value-added approach.

Mike led the Purina Dairy Team in Michigan for 24 years, before being asked to work nationally for the company. He and his team worked closely with many producers, positively impacting their business, their quality of life, and the Michigan dairy industry. Successfully the team navigated through rapidly changing dairy markets during challenging years for the dairy industry.

His passion for people and the dairy industry led him to engagement with Michigan State University's dairy program. He was invited to do many guest lectures for MSU dairy classes and interviewed and mentored students to help prepare them for career paths. In addition, he developed dairy internships for dairy students in Michigan, and supported the MSU Dairy Club exemplifying his commitment to young people and Michigan's dairy industry.

Mike and his team provided key support in growing the MSU Dairy Challenge program, and initiated Purina's support of the program both nationally and regionally. Finally, his leadership and engagement helped create a unique collaboration with MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine in the establishment of the Training Center for Dairy Professionals at Green Meadows Farms.

Always asking 'What Next', Mike found another avenue to make a difference by serving on the Michigan Dairy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation Board beginning in 2000. He contributed actively to the Board in various roles, including serving on the Scholarship Selection Committee for several 3-year terms, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, the Promotions Committee and from 2003 through 2006 as Vice-President and President of the Board.

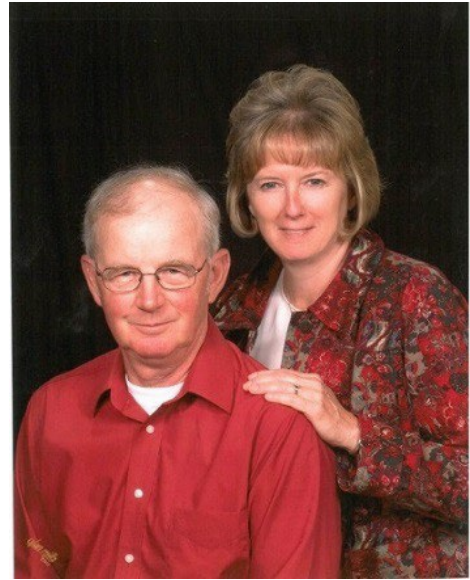
The dairy industry of Michigan has held national prominence as Michigan's dairy producers continue to lead in key leadership roles. Mike's vision & drive meshed very well with the Michigan dairy industry's history of impact & leadership.



## Richard and Patricia Hyde

Richard and Patricia Hyde have built a family and a registered Holstein herd in Morley, Michigan. Both Richard and Patricia grew up on dairy farms where they were both involved with 4-H and working on the family farm. The romance started at the Rustic Herd Dispersal Sale in 1973. From then a journey took place where both Richard and Patricia continued following their love for farming and cows. Together they had three kids, Shaun, Michelle and Katie and were together for 39 years until Richard's death in 2014.

Richard Hyde was born October 9<sup>th</sup> in Ionia, Michigan. He graduated from Morley Stanwood High School in 1964. After graduation he attended Michigan State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science. In 1969, he was drafted in the United States Marines Corp. and served in the artillery division during the Vietnam War. After returning from the war, Richard returned to the family farm and married Patricia in 1975. Richard was passionate about agriculture and was involved in many organizations including Michigan Farm Bureau, 4-H Leader for Winfield Hustlers, Michigan Maple Syrup Association, Michigan Milk Producers Association, and former President of the Michigan Holstein Association.



Patricia is the daughter of George and Jean Robb and graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1973. Patricia was a MMPA Dairy Communicator for 20 years and also served on the Montcalm County Farm Bureau board. She too was a 25 year 4-H leader in Montcalm County and for 30 years helped as a dairy diplomat organizing the Little Red Barn at the Montcalm County 4-H Fair. Patricia was the Winfield Township Clerk for 8 years and has worked for Morley Stanwood Schools for 20 years as a paraprofessional.

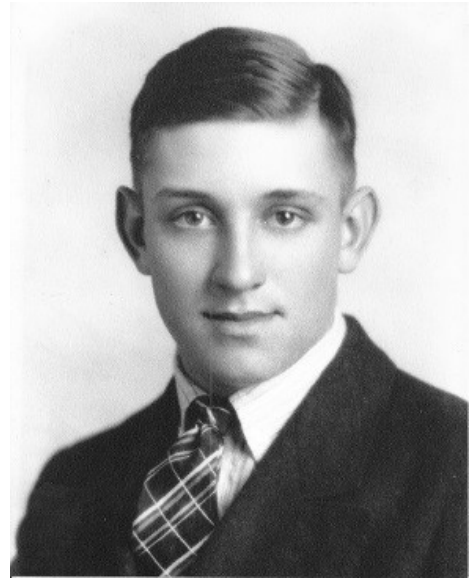
In 1980, Richard and Patricia were District 5 Outstanding Young Dairy Couple for MMPA. Over the years Richard and Pat enjoyed watching their children grow up in 4-H and showing cows. The family showed at Montcalm and Ionia Free Fair and at the state level shows. Richard and Patricia also enjoyed traveling to the National Holstein Conventions each year.

All three of the Hyde children attended Michigan State University and were recipients of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. Each is currently involved in the Michigan agriculture industry. Richard influenced many during his 68 years in Michigan agriculture and he and Patricia provide a legacy of love for family and cows.

## Howard W. Nash

Howard W. Nash was born in 1919 in Ionia County, Michigan, the oldest boy in a family of seven children. He grew up on the dairy farm of his father and mother. He and his family were avid attenders at the Ionia Free Fair and when he was old enough to show dairy cattle, he was anxious to show his latest dairy prize. The animal was auctioned at the 4-H auction to fund later educational pursuits.

His participation in Future Farmers of America in high school in Ionia was instrumental in his decision to enter the farming profession. He and seven other members of a dairy judging team in 1936, not only won the state competition of FFA dairy judging, but they went on to Kansas City, Kansas and won the National competition as well that year. The FFA instructor, Mr. Woods, became a lifelong friend of the eight as they matured. A partial scholarship came with the judging championship, and he attended the Michigan State University short course in the fall of 1936, concentrating on dairy farming.



Howard married Josephine Heator in April of 1945 and they together began farming on an eighty-acre farm in Orange Township. He raised Holstein cattle, swine and chickens. He sold milk from his herd. He raised hay, beans, wheat, oats, corn, and sorghum at different times. He was actively involved in an Artificial Breeders cooperative in Ionia.

He was a frequent attendee of the Lake Odessa Livestock Auction so it only made sense to work there in later years. Howard was employed at Allis Chalmers parts warehouse in Lansing for several years in the late 60's and early 70's. He was a life member of the Levalley United Methodist Church in rural Ionia.

He and his wife Josephine had three children, Dwight, Sherry Jo, and Teresa, who he enjoyed watching grow on the farm. The family grew to include eight grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren. He was always eager to hear of their adventures, but especially if it involved agriculture. He was active on the farm until 2009 when they as a couple sold the farm to grandchildren.

Howard lived a full life of 93 years, passing away in 2012. He always enjoyed a trip to the livestock shows at the fair and livestock auctions, even after leaving the farm.

## Joe and Melva Oesch

Joe was born in 1926 and raised on his family's first-generation dairy farm. Joe was forced to grow up fast. He sacrificed his education for his family when both his brother and brother-in-law were drafted to serve in World War II. Joe wasn't able to return to school the summer after 8<sup>th</sup> grade because there was so much work between the 24-cow family dairy and also his brother-in-law's cropping operation. He sometimes worked all night long planting and harvesting crops for both farms.

Joe was finally able to have some free time after the war ended and found a local girl named Melva Crosby. They were married in 1950. Melva was a country girl but did not grow up on a farm. It didn't take long for her to fit in with her work ethic. She acclimated quickly and took on milking responsibilities.

Joe and Melva had six children of their own: Fred, Bonnie, Sam, Jeff, Sally, and Tom. They also opened their home to a couple foster children over the years. One of the children, Ken, fit right in and was adopted into the family in 1974. In 1981, Joe and Melva formed a partnership with their three sons (Fred, Tom, and Jeff) and named the farm SwissLane Dairy Farms.

Joe and Melva both were very active members of the Alto Apostolic Christian Church. They entertained overnight guests, hosted many events, participated on many committees, and taught Sunday School.

Melva's love for food, cooking, and nutrition led her to a couple of different jobs not related to the farm. She was a Shaklee distributor and worked as chef/waitress at the local restaurant owned by Joe's sister.

Their social time even revolved around the farm. They were members of the Star Farm Bureau, a networking group of local farmers mainly focused on dairy. Joe especially loved these monthly meetings where he would learn about the latest technology. This was his best attribute as a farmer. He loved learning about ways to improve, become more efficient, and innovate. This was evidenced as he pushed for the farm to be one of the earliest adapters of Harvestor silos, DHI testing, and artificial insemination. Another favorite project of his was carrying on the family tradition of making maple syrup.

Joe has been to every single dairy show at the Kent County fair since 1935. His enthusiasm for 4-H has become a family tradition that his great-grandchildren get to benefit from today.

Joe and Melva leave a legacy to the Oesch family and SwissLane Farms of family values, God-honoring conduct, and thinking light-years ahead. In 2011, 8 automatic milking units were installed to expand the herd by 500 bringing the milking herd to 2,000 cows. At the time, this was the biggest robotic dairy in the Midwest region. More than 33 members of the Oesch family live within two miles of the farm today. Joe and Melva have 24 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren (with more on the way!). Currently, there are 19 members of the family that work on the farm. It is still farm policy to do minimal labor and no cropping on Sunday to honor the Sabbath.





## John Partridge

In honor of John Partridge's 37 years of service to the Michigan State Dairy Industry, the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation recognizes John as a 2017 Foundation Honoree.

Dr. Partridge started his dairy career in high school at Elmwood Dairy in Newport, Vermont, which was owned and operated by his grandparents and two uncles. After he earned his B.S. in Animal Science with emphasis in Dairy Technology from the University of Vermont (UVM) in 1975, he returned home as assistant manager. After three years, Dr. Partridge returned to UVM as a research technician and finished an M.S. in Animal Science with a Dairy Technology specialization in 1980 followed by his Ph.D. in Food Science from Michigan State University in 1983. In addition to serving joint appointments in two departments, John held appointments in teaching, research and extension during the course of his career, and was responsible for the management of the MSU Dairy Foods Complex for 36 years. Over the course of his time here, he made significant advancements in the areas of Undergraduate Education, Outreach to the Dairy Foods Industry, and the Michigan State Dairy Processing Plant.



During his career, Dr. Partridge taught courses in Unit Operations, Dairy Foods Processing, Fruits and Vegetable Processing, Food Plant Management and a variety of other subjects. His deep knowledge of the dairy processing industry and his desire to help students thrive in their academic areas is what fueled his success as a professor and an academic advisor.

Dr. Partridge was recognized locally for his excellence in teaching with the Outstanding Extension Specialist Award of the Michigan Association of Extension Specialists, the Outstanding Extension Specialist Award by the Extension Specialist association of MSU, the Honorary American FFA Degree by National FFA, and the MSU Alpha Zeta Distinguished Teaching Award. Nationally, he was recognized as the recipient of the ADSA Kraft General Foods Teaching Award by the American Dairy Science Association. Partridge was also awarded the Industry Service Award from the Michigan Dairy Industry Conference and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Allied Ice Cream and Dairy Foods Association of Michigan. From the University of Vermont, he received the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He served as the Food Science B.S. Program Advisor, Superintendent of the FFA Ag Kills Milk Quality Contest, and Dairy Products Evaluation Team coach. His 37 years of dedication to the Dairy Products Evaluation Team did not end with his retirement, as he still serves as a co-coach to the team. His time and dedication to this team serves as a testament to his commitment to students and to the dairy industry.

Congratulations to Dr. John Partridge on his 37 years of service. The dairy industry is grateful for his tremendous dedication to its advancement and is proud to recognize him as an Honoree of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.



## Carl Rasch

In recognition of 40 years of service from Carl Rasch to Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) and the dairy industry, MMPA is making a contribution to the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation in Carl's name to recognize him as a Foundation Honoree.

Rasch was hired by MMPA as the director of milk sales in 1977 and while the nature of his job has changed, Rasch has remained a steadfast fixture for the last four decades of marketing milk to the greatest advantage possible.

Touted as MMPA's resident expert in the area of Federal Orders as well as the Super Pool, Rasch was credited with writing the book on milk marketing. Rasch's thorough knowledge of the business and straightforward approach cemented his position with keen milk marketing skills at MMPA.

Over his tenure, Rasch has seen the co-op evolve from a local customer base to an international scale. His connection with customers both within Michigan and outside the state provided opportunities to move milk to a variety of outlets. According to current and former MMPA leaders, Rasch could be direct and was bold enough to ask for what the market should be willing to pay.

When MMPA wanted to donate milk to the victims of the Flint Water Crisis in 2016, Rasch was the go-to-guy making the essential connections with the right customers to make the generosity of MMPA members a reality.

Rasch is responsible for negotiating contracts with processing plant customers and milk supplying members, while working on business development and strategic planning for MMPA. As head of the milk sales department, he oversees the logistics, management and strategic goals of marketing member milk.

Rasch served on the board of directors for the United Dairy Industry of Michigan and currently serves on the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Board. He also served as the secretary of the Great Lakes Southern Milk Marketing Agency and has worked on taskforces with the National Milk Producers Federation concerning Federal Order reform.

Prior to his service at MMPA, Rasch was a field auditor at USDA. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University.

Carl resides in Morrice with his wife, Roxanne, and together they have five children.

Congratulations to Carl Rasch on 40 years of serving MMPA. The cooperative and the dairy industry are grateful for his service and are proud to recognize him as an Honoree of the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



## **Alvin J. Thelen**

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation (MDMSF) at Michigan State University (MSU) is honoring the late Al Thelen for his many decades of contributions to the dairy industry through his involvement in developing one of the nation's first computer systems for recording dairy production records.

Thelen was born on the family homestead south of Fowler, the tenth of 12 children. He and his wife Marie raised six children on their 100-acre Clinton County farm south of St. Johns.

Thelen graduated from the Agriculture Shortcourse Program at Michigan State College (MSC) in 1949. Upon graduation, he accepted a job as a Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) technician in Eaton County. From there, he was drafted by the U.S. Army and served two years as the Chaplain's Assistant in Fort Riley, Kansas, during the Korean War.



After the war, Thelen took a position with Michigan State's Dairy Extension Department and was subsequently approached by what was then the MSC Dairy Department to begin developing the first version of today's DHIA data processing system. Prior to that point, all records were manually calculated in the field by DHIA technicians. Under

Thelen's leadership and direction, computerization of milk recordkeeping systems became a reality. Thelen dedicated nearly 50 years of service to the MSC Dairy Department, eventually known as the MSU Department of Animal Science, and was Michigan DHIA General Manager until his retirement in July 1997.

Thelen was recognized by National DHIA, receiving the first ever Martin A. Wilson Memorial Award in 1989 and by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as its Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award winner in 2000.

In addition to his lifelong commitment to a career in the Michigan dairy industry and improving milk production record tracking systems, Thelen continued farming and volunteered with multiple organizations, including the MSU Credit Union, the Knights of Columbus, 4-H, and the MSU President's Club. He became a member of the Knights of Columbus in 1948 and served in a variety of roles including editor of the Michigan Columbian Newspaper. Thelen also was devoted to the Michigan State Grange working diligently to expand its positive impact on society. Thelen served on numerous state boards and foundations, including National DHIA, the American Dairy Science Association, and the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives. Last, but certainly not least, Thelen was known for his passion for MSU Hockey. As avid fans and supporters, his family held season tickets for a number of years.

## **J. William "Bill" Thomas**

Bill Thomas was born in Palmyra, Utah, March 25, 1918, to John B. and Kate Annie (Tolhurst) Thomas. He died October 15, 2014. On January 6, 1945, Bill married Carolyn Palmer and they have 4 children.

He earned a BS at Utah State University and attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin and Cornell University. During WWII, Bill was involved in war-time defense chemical research at Northwestern University. After the war he returned to Cornell and received his PhD in 1946.

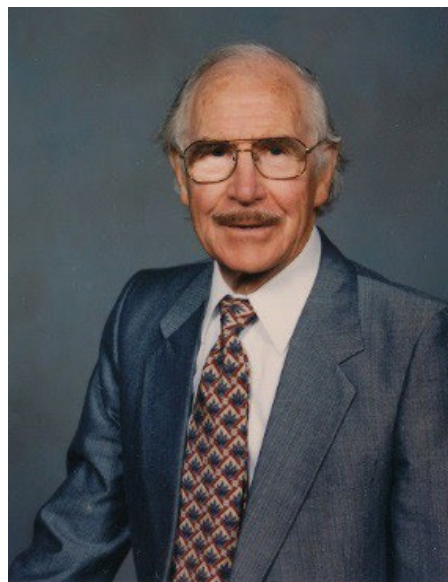
Bill was employed by the USDA Dairy Research Center at Beltsville, MD as a biochemist-animal husbandman from 1946 until 1960 when he joined the Michigan State University, Department of Dairy Science and retired from Michigan State University in 1985.

As a professor at MSU, Bill's work was primarily research related to the nutrition, feeding and management of dairy cattle. He supervised the studies of numerous graduate students and had more than 250 publications in peer-reviewed journals articles and several hundred more in other printed forms. He presented research findings at annual American Dairy Science Association meetings for sixty-five years. Bill received local and national awards in his field, the most notable being the Borden Award, the American Feed Manufacturer's Award and the Superior Service Award from USDA for outstanding research with dairy cattle.

Also, during his time at Michigan State University he presented well-received extension dairy nutrition courses and other educational programs for farmers throughout Michigan and in other states. He was instrumental in the development of the Spartan Dairy Ration Evaluator, Spartan-1.0. He consulted in Russia, East Germany, Romania, China, Viet Nam, Mexico and Brazil.

Bill is listed in American Men of Science and Who's Who in America. He belonged to numerous professional organizations and was an Emeritus Professor at MSU. Bill was awarded the honor of being a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science and the American Society of Nutritional Sciences.

In his retirement he was involved in commercially sponsored field research. Bill enjoyed downhill skiing (which he did well into his 90s), gardening and photography.



## Francis and Wilma Trierweiler

Francis and Wilma Trierweiler started what is now known today as TDI Farms in Westphalia, Michigan back in 1955 when they were married. They are being recognized by the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation for their dedication and love of God, family, farm and community.

Francis was born in 1930 on what is now a sixth-generation operating dairy farm. Wilma also was born and raised on her own family farm in Pewamo, Michigan in 1934. Although not being able to attend high school because he was needed at home on the farm, Francis did attend for two years Michigan State College, as it was known as in the early 1950s. Francis started farming on his own shortly before marrying and not long after was called to naval duty for two years in Maryland. Being newly married, they both moved to another state many miles from home and sent what little money they had back home to help the farm survive in their absence.

The couple had five children – Frank, Janet, Julie, Robert (deceased) and Paul. They also have two wonderful daughters-in-law and one son in law – Terri, Tracie and Frank (Freund).

Francis and Wilma have been active members of St Mary's Catholic Church in Westphalia as well as countless boards, committees and Catholic societies. Wilma has always been a perfect example of humility, grace and Christianity. She was a mother always there for her children, neighbors or friends evident by her willingness to serve on the Christian Mothers Society and Daughters of Isabella as well as countless other volunteer positions in the community.

Francis is known for his dedication of talents, hard work, work ethic and "can do" attitude which has served his family and community in many different ways. While getting the farm going again after his return from naval duty, Francis took on much work to provide for his young family, including two winters at General Motors, selling MoorMans feed and Northrup King seeds. He also ran a custom chopping business with his brother early on to help with reducing equipment costs on his way to achieving his dairy farm plans.

Francis received soil conservationist of the year in 1976, and other activities included Pewamo-Westphalia school board, Westphalia Township Supervisor, Westphalia Township Assessor, Clinton County Road Commissioner, and Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> degree. On top of these accomplishments, he also sold John Deere farm equipment for 16 years, which he enjoyed servicing at other farms and forming lifelong friendships with many trusted fellow farmers.

Francis and Wilma were innovative and early adopters of technology as it became available. One example is while most farms were putting in storage for ear corn in the 1960s, they invested in a grain drying bin which was one of only a handful in the region at the time.

As of today, Francis and Wilma have 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren (with one on the way). Directly employed at the farm are seven family members with many others pitching in when needed. Through their perseverance and tireless giving of time, talent and guidance the specialized dairy farm they started with the purchase of 40 heifers back in 1957 has grown incrementally to 1600 cows and cropping more than 3200 acres.

Francis and Wilma have been blessed with much but have always given back to others. This is a guiding principle in their lives, and they are shining examples of God, Country, Family and Community!



# 2018

## Tom Herremans

Tom Herremans, a native of Ravenna, Michigan, grew up on a dairy farm and went on to have a long and accomplished career in the dairy industry through his intense focus on milk quality and mastitis management. After receiving a degree in Dairy Science, he taught Vocational Agriculture and served as the FFA advisor at Capac Schools for 10 years. Following his tenure as educator and advisor, he was hired in 1982 by the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) as a member representative then later served as an area supervisor until given the special responsibility to oversee the MMPA mastitis management program.



As a mastitis management specialist, Tom used his passion for teaching to develop Milker Training Schools for the MMPA membership. He fostered other MMPA member representatives as well as farms with his unique excitement for udder health and lowering herd somatic cell counts. Herremans also trained member representatives on the aspects of mastitis management and milking systems performance to help MMPA member farms.

Tom was a teacher to the core. He inspired many with his excitement and willingness to encourage learning and a better understanding of mastitis prevention and proper milking procedures and equipment. His patience and encouragement were always met with appreciation and a better understanding of what was discussed.

According to his colleagues, the phrases, “No, I can’t” and “that isn’t part of my job” were not part of Tom’s vocabulary. He sacrificed much of his own time and resources to lend a hand to those who asked. Members and industry professionals truly valued his time and knowledge as well as his dedication to milk quality.

Herremans later retired after 31 years of service to the cooperative. During his time with MMPA, Tom served on many state and national committees including several for the Michigan Dairy Industry Conference, National Mastitis Council, Dairy Practices Council and NCIMS.

He also received numerous awards recognizing his contributions to the dairy industry including but not limited to, Michigan Field Representative of the Year in 1997 and NMC Award of Excellence for contribution to mastitis prevention and control in 2014.

Former MMPA General Manager Walt Wosje remarked upon Herremans’ retirement: “Tom Herremans is the ‘cream of the crop.’ I am convinced that Tom Herremans (and associates) have done more to improve milk quality and reduce SCC than any other efforts of other groups. Tom and his team are the best.”

Tom passed away on March 10, 2018. He has one Son: Timothy (Sarah) Herremans of Dorr, MI. Four Daughters: Melissa (Glen) Mann of Rockford, Carrie (Matt) Braford of Ravenna, Jennifer (Weston) Selent of Weaverville, NC and Lindsey (Erik) Jacobson of Jackson, MI. 14 Grandchildren and 2 Great Grandchildren. One Sister: Irene M. Herremans of Calgary, Alberta. Two Brothers: Paul W. (Marilee) Herremans, and Robert Herremans both of Ravenna.

*-presented September 12, 2018*



## Lester E. Langeland

Lester was born in 1927 near Marne, Michigan. He was raised on his family's farm and became involved in farm work at a young age. He attended Coopersville schools where he was active in FFA, serving as President of the Coopersville chapter in 1946.

Lester and his wife Adrianna raised 7 children together while working on the family business Langeland Farms. In 1955, Lester assumed management of the farm, milking 20 cows at the time. In 1980, son Merle joined in partnership of the farm, helping to grow the farm from 165 milking cows to 255 cows when their second son Marlin joined the business. The farm continued to grow with the addition of a new milking parlor in 2007 to its current size of 855 cows with 3000 acres farmed.

Lester became involved in activities off the farm with his sons, now active in Langeland Farms. He owned Coopersville Hardware and Feed from 1984-2012. Following his retirement from the store in 2012, his daughter and son-in-law took over ownership of the business. He was a seed dealer for Funk Seeds, earning the citation of Regional Dealer of the Year in 1983.



Lester generously served on the Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District Board for over 20 years. His service went beyond director as he sat as chairman for over 10 of those years. His position on the board was integral in the direction of the Conservation District.

His service to the FFA organization continued throughout his lifetime. Lester received citations from the National FFA Organization and the Coopersville chapter for his assistance to its programs. As a producer member of the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), Lester served as delegate to the regional meeting.

He also participated in Policy Study Tours led by Michigan State University to Argentina and Mexico, focusing on key issues of agricultural trade and marketing. As a member of the Ottawa County Farm Bureau for 64 years, Lester attended many national conventions and served as membership chairman and delegate to the state convention.

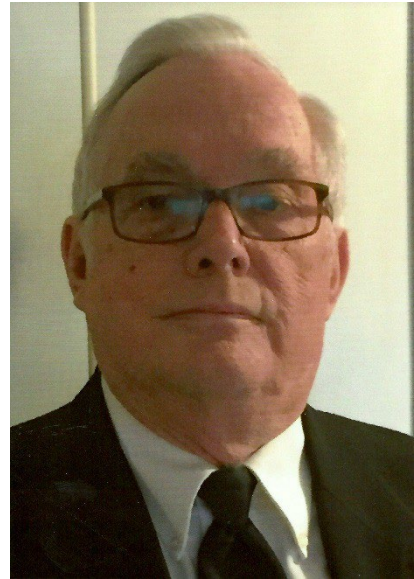
Community service was a priority for Lester along with service to agriculture. He devoted 10 years as superintendent of the Lamont Christian Reformed Sunday School and as president and board member for the Lamont Christian School.

In recognition of the service of Lester Langeland to the state of Michigan and to animal agriculture, it is most fitting to recognize him today as an Honoree of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.



## **William R. Lutherloh**

Bill was born in 1943 in Carson City, Michigan. At 2.5 pounds they took him home in a shoebox and placed him by a warm woodstove. Little did they know if he would make it through the night, let alone become a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Bill grew up on the farm his great grandfather purchased in 1893, where he still resides today. Bill attended school at the Sheridan Rural Agricultural School, where he was an active member of the FFA. He graduated in 1961 and was awarded the FFA state farmer of the year and the citizenship award.



After graduating high school Bill worked with his father on their small dairy farm. In 1968 Bill decided to start his career as a field representative working for Ira Wilson and Son Dairy, at their Carson City branch. Bill was employed there until they shut their doors in 1971. He immediately started his long journey with ICMFA, and later DFA, the following Monday, where he worked as a field representative until 1983. He was then promoted to field supervisor of the field department, where he served until he retired in 2005.

During Bill's many years of service to the dairy industry he was a part of many organizations, councils and boards. He was the vice president of the Michigan Dairy Industry Conference board for 18 years. He also sat on council three, for the Interstate Milk Shipper's council. Bill received some prestigious awards. In 1981, he received Field Person of the Year. In 1998 he received the Industry Service Award. He also really enjoyed promoting milk at the Michigan State Fair on Dairy Day.

With many achievements in the dairy industry, Bill decided to hang his hat up in 2005 after 37 years. During his years of service and after, he has been a devoted family man. He married his wife, Diana, in 1965. They will soon be celebrating 53 years of marriage. They have two children, Lucinda and Gene, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Bill also enjoys serving in the community. Bill and Diana are members of the North Plains Community Church. They are also members of the Eastern Stars. Bill is a life member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan. He has served on many affiliated organizations of the Masons, including on the Board of General Purposes for the Grand Lodge. He has also been a trustee for the Fairplains Township board for over 30 years.

## **Tom and Deanna Stamp**

Tom and Deanna (Dale) Stamp have been involved in the dairy business most of their lives. They were born in 1946 and 1949 in the Marlette, MI community and have lived there all of their lives. Tom attended the MSU Agriculture Short course program upon his graduation from Marlette High School in 1966. Tom and Deanna have 3 children, Brian, Lisa, and Laura, along with 9 grandchildren.

The Dale Farm has been in the family since 1854. Dale-Stamp Farms is a partnership of Tom and Deanna Stamp and Deanna's brother Linwood Dale and his wife Elizabeth. This partnership was formed in 1976 and is still operational today. The Dale-Stamp dairy herd was sold in December of 2009. Since then, they have raised heifers for D&P Dairy (daughter, son-in-law and nephew) which is located a few miles north of the home farm, and also take care of dry cows and maternity operations for D&P Dairy. They also farm 3200 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat and dry edible beans.

Over the years Tom has been involved in many organizations, including the following, MMPA local and district offices, MABC local and district office, Marlette Coop Board of Directors and treasurer, Southern Thumb Coop Board of Directors and treasure, Sanilac County Holstein Board, Cass Valley Coop, and treasurer of his local Church.

Deanna's involvement includes the first female member of the MMPA Board of Directors, serving for 24 years. She also served on the Michigan Ag Commission, UDIM, National Dairy Board, Sanilac County Dairy Diplomats, Michigan Bean Commission, MSU Extension Advisory Committee and MSU Dairy Advisory Committee. She has received the MSU College of Agriculture Deans Award; MSU Distinguished Service Award, and World Dairy Expo Woman of the Year.

Tom and Deanna have both been strong supporters of the local 4-H program, the local Sanilac 4-H Fair and MSU Extension.



## 2019

### Blaine Baker, Kim Baker

Blaine and Kim Baker own Bakerlads Farms in Lenawee County, Clayton, Michigan. Bakerlads is a fifth-generation operation established in the 1870s. Blaine and Kim formed a partnership in 1984. The farm includes 1,600 acres plus 650 rented acres with 950 acres of corn, 950 acres of soybeans and 350 acres of alfalfa. The dairy herd includes 540 Holstein cows and 607 replacements with a DHIA rolling herd average reaching nearly 30,000 lbs. milk and is now at 27,410 lbs. of milk, 951 lbs. of 3.5



percent fat and 805 lbs. of 2.9 percent protein with an average somatic cell count of 115,000. The farm is Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verified in livestock, farmstead and cropping systems, and evaluated through the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program for animal care. A double-14 parallel milking parlor was installed in 2016 reducing milking time and improving parlor climate and employee work shifts. With seven employees, labor training is emphasized, and turnover is minimal with several employees working on the farm over 20 yrs.

Blaine graduated from MSU in 1976 with a degree in Ag Tech and has been working 42 years with the farm operation. Blaine and his wife Barbara have one daughter, Chelsea, 29. Kim graduated from MSU in 1980 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and has worked 38 years on the farm. Kim and his wife Donna have five children: Sarah, 23, Jacob, 21, Mark, 19, Adam, 17, and Hannah, 15. Kim and Blaine share responsibilities managing the dairy herd. Kim focuses on employee management and machine maintenance, Donna does the accounting and Blaine focuses on the cropping and record keeping. A major effort for the Bakers is soil and water conservation. Using no-till methods they have been able to maintain yields while reducing the carbon footprint and soil erosion and improving water quality. Erosion control practices include blind inlets, two-stage ditches, cover crops, and filter strips. They have installed phosphorus filters on tile outlets and do edge-of-field water sampling. They collaborated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a 20-acre wetland treatment and irrigation system for recycling milking parlor wash water, silage leachate, and lot runoff.

Tim Harrigan of the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering points out that “Blaine and Kim Baker have a history of leadership and service in their community. They work hard to stay on the cutting edge of production and environmentally sensitive farming practices, and to share what they learn with the agricultural community. For 22 years, they set aside cropland for research and demonstrations and co-host more than 500 visitors at the annual Center for Excellence field day.” They worked with Michigan State University on corn silage yield trials and evaluating drainage tile water quality in livestock-based cropping systems. The Bakers collaborated with MSU Extension on work to reduce the risk of transmission of Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV). Kim presented their efforts and results at a meeting of the Extension Dairy advisory Team, of which he is a member. More recently, they agreed to collaborate with NorthStar’s AntelBio on the use of a novel testing method to determine cows in the herd that are more infectious than other BLV positive animals.

The Bakers have devoted time to their community. Blaine is past president of the Lenawee County Farm Bureau Board and the Hudson School Board, past delegate of Milk Marketing Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America, and past secretary of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. He currently serves on the state Farm Services Agency Board, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan Board, and is chair of Lenawee Conservation District Board. Blaine helped start the Center for Excellence and is on the steering committee.

Kim serves on the MSU Extension Dairy Advisory Team, as lay leader for Clayton Methodist Church, and on the Lenawee County Holstein Board. He has worked with local fair promotion efforts to provide agriculture scholarships. In addition, the Bakers have worked with MSU Extension's Breakfast on the Farm events. They were recognized as TelFarm Manager of the year and Lenawee County Conservation Farmer of the Year. They received the 2012 Michigan Farm Bureau Ecology Leadership Award and a number of milk quality awards. The Bakers are well respected in the dairy and agriculture industry, and truly lead by example. They are highly deserving of this recognition as Honorees of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.

## M. Duane Green

Duane was born in Elsie, MI on November 5, 1930, to Merle and Hope Green. He graduated from Elsie High School in 1948 and continued his education for one year at Cornell University, taking all the dairy courses they offered. On November 19, 1950, he married the love of his life Grace Ensign, and they had three children: Bryon (deceased), Charles (married to Susie) and Karen (married to Arden Densmore). They were blessed with 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons. Duane was a devoted family man that loved spending time with them, often taking the grandchildren on special adventures. Duane was known for his playful teasing -perhaps you were a victim of his playful manner. The community knew him to be a generous but humble man. Duane suddenly passed away on August 14, 2018.



Duane's father Merle started Green Meadow Farms. Duane and his brother Velmar joined their father in the dairy operation. Duane was very active on the farm and especially enjoyed the show circuit traveling via train in his early years. Green Meadow holds the record for longest consecutive exhibitor at the Michigan State Fair. The trio were named Dairy Farmers of the year by MSU in 1980.

Duane was involved in many organizations in the agriculture field including past president of the Holstein USA Assoc., Director of the National Ayrshire Assoc., Director of the National Cattlemen Assoc., Director of the North Star Select Sires, and Chairman of the Holstein Foundation that he helped establish. Duane also judged many dairy cattle shows in the USA and South America.

Duane's leadership skills are exemplified in the tribute given to him upon his retirement as President of the National Holstein Association: (He served on the board for a total of 14 years- President the last 2 years)

"Duane, you are a man of few words but of great insight, perception, and judgement. You have demonstrated you can take a stand on controversial issues, regardless of the roles. Yet you are a man of compassion, humility, and patience. You have provided strong and effective leadership for the Association through very tough economic and challenging times.... Your knowledge of finances, understanding of commercial dairy enterprises, and deep commitment to the Association and its principles and purpose made you ideally suited for the top leadership position of the Association during these past years. While we may never forgive you for your sideline activities with another unnamed breed (his love of Ayrshires!), we think it demonstrates the lengths to which you will go to bring the industry together. "

Duane was also involved in his community being a member of the Elsie Lions Club for 57 years and a member of the Elsie United Methodist Church- holding various officer positions in each organization. He was a 4-H member and then leader for many years. Duane and Grace spent many winters in Florida, starting in Daytona and then enjoying Marco Island. They also loved to travel to the UP for the fall colors. Duane had a draft horse Hughy that could be seen pulling the grand marshals in the Elsie Dairy Days parade.

The dairy industry was a huge part of Duane's life, from his favorite show cows like Lassie, Naomi and Vitality to the many people that became his good friends over his lifetime. His passion for the industry and love for the dairy cow was very evident throughout his lifetime.



## Gerald Geurink

Gerald Geurink was born in 1939, and grew up on the family farm in Allendale, Michigan. The original 20 acres of the farm was purchased by Gerald's great-grandfather in 1889. The original barn was built in 1911 and had room for 18 cows plus young stock and stables for 8 horses.

Gerald's grandfather and his brother worked the farm after his great grandfather died, although his grandfather never really enjoyed farming. Therefore, when his oldest daughter, Hermina, married Henry Geurink in 1938, Gerald's grandfather sold the farm to them. During WWII, gasoline was scarce, so Henry did all the work with 3 horses. He milked 18 cows by hand until 1946 when he bought his first milking machine. In 1952, Gerald began to milk and do most of the chores.

In 1957, Gerald left the farm to attend Michigan State University. The financial assistance of a 4-H scholarship was a great help. At the beginning of his junior year, Gerald left MSU to work the farm while his father recovered from a debilitating injury. In 1961 he went back to MSU to finish his degree in Agricultural Mechanics. Upon graduation, Gerald was given an award for being the outstanding graduate in that field.



His first position after graduation was with the Extension service in Bellaire, Michigan. A year later he moved back to Allendale to work on a farm for a relative, planning eventually to purchase a farm of his own. After working for his relative for a year, Gerald took a position with the Farmer's Home Administration in Marquette in the Upper Peninsula. After a transfer to Sault St. Marie, Gerald became acquainted with John Kronemeyer, who had moved from Hudsonville to buy a dairy farm in Pickford. Two years later, they formed a partnership.

In 1970, Gerald's father's health deteriorated to the point that he was no longer able to work. In 1971, Gerald moved back to Allendale. He put an addition on the barn, milked 40 cows, and worked toward a goal of a 100% registered Holstein herd. Milk production grew from 12,000 pounds per cow to a 26,000-pound average. He also expanded the farm by purchasing an additional 77 acres during his lifetime. Today, Gerald remains involved in the industry by raising a few heifers out of the farm's best cow lines.

Gerald served his community and the dairy industry as President of the Michigan Holstein Association, NorthStar Select Sires Local, Ottawa DHIA, Allendale Planning Commission, Soil Conservation Board, and Farmers Cooperative Elevator. He was a 4-H leader for many years, and also served as Deacon and Elder in his church.

Gerald and his wife Joan were blessed with three boys and three girls as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They were involved with cattle shows most of their lives with help from their children and grandchildren. They also provided opportunities for young people in the area to show their cattle. Several members of their family graduated from MSU, including their daughter Jessica. Jessica remains involved in the dairy industry and enjoys giving back by working with 4-H youth on the fundamentals of dairy cattle showmanship and judging. Gerald continues to work two days a week at the hardware store. They are grateful for the blessings that God has provided to their family.



## John Kronemeyer

In recognition of John Kronemeyer's impact on Michigan's dairy industry, contributions by Michigan Milk Producers Association and many other individuals who knew John were made in John's name to the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation to recognize him as a Foundation Honoree.

John Kronemeyer milked cows for nearly his entire life. What began as a boy convincing his dad to buy a cow to provide milk for his family, ended as lifelong dairy farmer milking hundreds of cows on his own operation in Pickford, Michigan.

He started his first dairy farm in Hudsonville, Michigan, and later moved to Pickford in the Upper Peninsula so that he could expand his operation. He took an active leadership role in Michigan's dairy industry serving on dairy industry and promotion boards locally, regionally and nationally.

John shared his voice serving as Chippewa County Farm Bureau Chairman (1974-1984), Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association President (1985-1989), Growing Upper Peninsula Ag Advisory Committee (1972-1982), Michigan Ag Commission Chairman (1984), Upper Peninsula State Fair Board and National Dairy Herd Improvement Resolutions Committee Chairman (1987-1989).

John was also a leader at MMPA, serving as District 12 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperator in 1972, Chippewa Local Secretary from 1995 to 2015 and on the Board of Directors as District 12 Director from 1998 to 2015. In every role he filled, John represented his fellow dairymen fairly and justly, making decisions on their behalf and guiding the future of the cooperative.

John believed that the future of dairy relied on promoting dairy products to consumers. He took it upon himself to share his story with consumers in any way possible, including hosting a Breakfast on the Farm in 2011. The event invited consumers to enjoy a free breakfast, meet John and his family and freely walk through the Kronemeyer's farm. Forty-four percent of the visitors that day stepped foot on a dairy farm for the first time in the past 20 years. John left a lasting impact on every consumer he talked with, increasing their trust in farmers through his charisma and overall transparency.

Along with his passion for promoting dairy, John also cared strongly about protecting the environment. His farm in Pickford lay immediately along Taylor Creek, a flowing stream of water that gave reason for John to implement conservation practices on his farm. From taking action to prevent soil erosion to creating space for filter strips, John did everything he could to make his farm sustainable and encourage environmentally friendly choices not only on his farm, but surrounding farms as well.

John's work and leadership within the dairy industry was recognized through kind words, along with awards, throughout his lifetime. He was awarded Michigan State University (MSU) Dairyman of the Year in 1981 and in 2003 received the MSU Agriculture Distinguished Service Award and was inducted into the Michigan Ag Hall of Fame.

The impact John made continues to be felt today within his family, his community and the entire dairy industry. The cooperative and the dairy community are grateful for his years of service and are honored to memorialize him as an Honoree of the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



## 2020

### Theodore (Ted) Ferris

Theodore (Ted) Ferris, Ph.D., has been a recognized faculty member in the Michigan State University (MSU) Department of Animal Science and member of the national dairy science educational and research communities for more than 40 years.

Ted grew up on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Industry-Dairy Science in 1971 from Pennsylvania State University. He moved to East Lansing for his graduate degrees, completing a Master of Dairy Science with an emphasis on nutrition and calf health in 1974, and a Ph.D. in Dairy Cattle Breeding and Genetics in 1981. He worked with his father's dairy farm prior to seeking his Ph.D.

Joining the MSU Animal Science faculty in 1981, Ted divided his time between Extension and research. Ted led countless Extension meetings benefiting producer and industry education, particularly using PCDART software to manage and evaluate herd performance. He led the development of the Dairy Area of Expertise Team, the first Extension AoE Team with Joe Shaltry and Bill Robb. This involved computer networking for the team and developing curriculum for new Extension Dairy Educators. He helped develop "Breakfast on the Farm" into state-wide and multi-state events seeking to connect the public to food production and developed exit surveys to publish the impacts of these educational farm tours on consumer trust.

Ted was very involved with industry organizations including the Michigan and National Dairy Herd Improvement Associations (DHIA); the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative (MABC) helping with their annual seminars; and the Michigan Purebred Dairy Cattle Association. He served on many committees for the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) and National DHIA. Recognized for his contributions to academia and industry, Ted received the Alpha Zeta Distinguished Faculty Service Award, the Epsilon Sigma Phi Extension Team Award for the Animal Management Advancement Program, the Outstanding MSU Extension Specialist Award, the Michigan Ag Extension Agents Association Extension Specialist Award and the MSU Extension John Hannah Award for Program Excellence.

Active in research, Ted's work has had tangible impacts on Michigan's dairy producers through improved awareness of biosecurity practices, enhanced understanding of the economics surrounding cow and sire selection strategies, and embryo transfer. He worked with Select Sires' young sire committee to improve the use of pedigree information in selecting young sires. He organized an ADSA symposium on Functional Genomics that helped lead to discussions between USDA-AIPL and bull studs to formulate genomic predictions for U.S. dairy cattle. Co-investigator on 29 grant-funded projects, Ted's insight and expertise is valued as evidenced by his authorship of four books, including a documentary on the history of DHIA and the Dairy Farm Analysis Workbook, along with countless articles, abstracts, and research reports.

Ted appreciated the value of learning, networking and communication, and his commitment to personal development also played out in his advising of several graduate students and many years as adviser to the MSU Dairy Club.

Ted has served as Dairy Extension Program Leader, coach of the Animal Ag AoE Teams, and as faculty coordinator for research at the MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center since 2007.

During his youth, Ted participated in 4-H and Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He continued in Scouts by serving as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster, and Chief Okemos Council Contingent Leader to Philmont Scout Ranch. His service to Scouting was recognized with several prestigious Scout awards.

Ted's impact on the industry will continue through his legacy of involvement in Extension team development, Be Aware Be Prepared efforts to improve on-farm biosecurity, young sire selection



strategies, and consumer education with Breakfast on the Farm. For his significant contributions, the Department of Animal Science and the dairy community are pleased to recognize him as an Honoree of the Michigan Dairy and Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

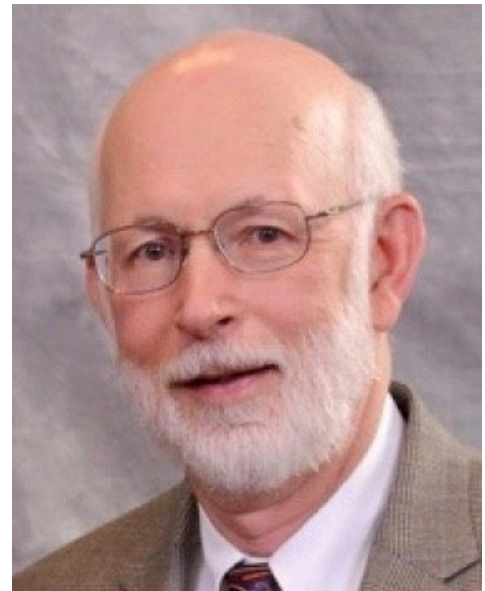
# 2021

## David Beede

David K. Beede, Ph.D., has been a member of and leader within the education and research communities of the U.S. dairy industry since 1974.

David grew up on a small livestock and crop farm in southeast Colorado. As a youth active in 4-H, he showed and judged livestock, which took him to Colorado State University for state-level events including judging contests and 4-H Congress. He became familiar with some of the faculty in Animal Science and set his sights on attending CSU. Near the end of his 4-H career in 1968, he attended the 4-H Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C.

While attending CSU, David began his long career in research as a work study student helping with various animal science research projects. Known for his ability to find novel solutions to address old problems, David participated early in life in creative projects including training bison yearlings to wear a muzzle mask to allow measurement of respiratory gas exchange to quantify basal metabolic heat production.



David completed his M.S. at the University of Nebraska in beef cattle nutrition and his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky in ruminant nutrition before taking a position at the University of Florida in dairy nutritional physiology. From 1980-1994, and subsequently as the C.E. Meadows Endowed Chair of dairy management and nutrition at Michigan State University, engaging in research, teaching and extension/outreach efforts aimed to coalesce dairy nutrition, management and environmental issues and opportunities with efficient use of resources for ecologically sustainable dairy systems. In 2015, David took sabbatical leave at the University of California-Davis and the University of British Columbia-Vancouver to focus on coursework development and teaching in the area of sustainable animal agriculture. David retired as Professor Emeritus from Michigan State University in 2018.

Recognized for his contributions to academia and industry, Dave has been the recipient of numerous awards including the American Dairy Science Association's (ADSA) Applied Dairy Nutrition Award, Merit Dairy Management Research Award, the Award of Honor for Outstanding and Distinguished Service and was inducted as Fellow of the ADSA. He received the Outstanding Extension Specialist Award from the Michigan Association of Extension Agents, and served as the MSU Delegate to LEAD<sup>21</sup>, a year-long leadership development program sponsored by the Land Grant Universities, USDA and the Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service (CSREES).

With nearly \$10 million from 42 grants and endowment resources, David trained numerous graduate students and undergraduate researchers in his laboratory. He authored 19 book chapters, 68 refereed journal articles, 116 conference proceedings and 67 popular press publications. In 14 countries around Asia, Europe, South American and Australia as well as the U.S., David gave 201 talks focused on consulting and education in ruminant management and nutrition. He was Editor-in-Chief for the international reference e-book *Large Dairy Herd Management* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) published in 2017 by ADSA.

David is known as a dedicated and visionary leader who has had his "finger on the pulse" of the dairy industry, allowing changes to be made proactively. He has the foresight to identify future challenges and his leadership greatly benefited ADSA as well as the dairy industry. He served a two-term membership on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Dairy Science* (JDS) in the late 1980s and provided extensive leadership for ADSA annual meetings. He was Chair of the 1988–1989 ADSA Physiology Program Committee, ADSA Production Division Secretary and Chair in 1996–1997, Chair of the ASDA Production Division Meeting Program in 1997, and Overall Chair of the first Joint Meeting Program Planning Committee in 2000 in Baltimore. He became more deeply involved in the leadership of ADSA when he was elected to the Board

of Directors on which he served from 1998–2004. He was elected Vice President in 2001 and served as President from 2002–2003 and immediate Past President from 2003–2004. In addition, he served on the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) Board of Directors from 2003–2004.

In retirement in his home state of Colorado, David continues to contribute to the animal sciences as editor-in-chief of the Applied Animal Science journal. He enjoys fly fishing and also works in the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter of Trout Unlimited helping to conserve and restore coldwater fisheries, and with conservation projects in the Cache La Poudre River Basin.

## 2022

### Chuck Courtade

For over 47 years, Chuck Courtade of Dairy Farmers of America, has been serving dairy farmers in his home state of Michigan and across multiple states. Chuck is currently Senior Customer Account Manager for DFA's Mideast sales and marketing team. He works with customers on a regular basis and previously was a Member Services Manager that oversaw field staff within the Michigan/Indiana region.

“Chuck has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry and works diligently on behalf of the Co-op members,” his nominator said. “He is able to bring creative solutions and value-added ideas to the table with his knowledge, commitment and passion for the industry.”



Growing up around Grand Rapids, Michigan, that passion and commitment for agriculture spawned from a young age. Chuck, who lived on a farm until he began the fifth grade, always worked and spent time around family-run operations. Once he graduated from Davenport University, he went back to his roots of working for family farms.

Courtade held several positions with Independent Cooperative Milk Producers Association prior to the merger with DFA, allowing him the opportunity to get to know multiple generations of families.

His more than four decades of work have held many memories and learning experiences — from recalculating milk checks by hand when the market administrator miscalculated the price to being a part of the merger with DFA. He has always been driven to work in the best interest of his dairy farmer members.

Chuck has always said, “Dairy farmers are truly the best people in the world and my family, and I have been blessed to have so many wonderful friends as a result of this industry.”

Beyond DFA, Courtade is involved within his community, church and the dairy industry. Chuck has served various roles on the Michigan Dairy Conference, Michigan FFA Foundation Board, Michigan Dairy Industry Review Committee, Michigan TB Committee and Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation at Michigan State University.

Chuck and his wife of over 43 years, Beverly, reside in Comstock Park, MI. They have 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren.



## Kathy Lee

Kathy Lee was born and raised on her family's dairy farm near Grand Ledge, Mich. It was here where the lifelong dairy educator's passion was first fueled for the industry she came to embody through her professional career and volunteer commitments.

Lee, who was heralded and respected by so many for her advocacy of the industry, dedication to helping producers improve their herds and farm profitability, and championing of dairy youth programs, passed away May 28, 2019.

Lee graduated from Michigan State University (MSU) in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science. She completed her Master of Science program in dairy cattle breeding and genetics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and earned a Ph.D. in dairy cattle breeding and genetics from Iowa State University.

She started her professional dairy science career as an assistant professor and Extension dairy specialist in the Dairy Science Department at Virginia Tech. Lee then applied her expertise in dairy cattle breeding and genetics at the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, where she assisted with the quarterly sire evaluations and production of the Red Book as the Director of Animal Breeding Services. In 1995, she returned to Michigan where she joined MSU Extension as a dairy educator, a role she still performed at the time of her death. Lee was known as an astute editor and critical reviewer and edited the Michigan Dairy Review. She also authored numerous publications and invited presentations during her tenure.

Lee maintained membership affiliations with the American Dairy Science Association and the Michigan Association of Extension Agents. She served for many years on the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation. Additionally, Lee served for more than 15 years on the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) Board of Directors and the NorthStar DHI Advisory Committee. She helped to integrate DHI in the cooperative and advance its adoption in the dairy industry to improve herd performance and farm profitability.

One of the most notable accomplishments of Lee's career was one she held close to her heart. She enthusiastically shared her deep passion for the dairy industry with youth. She was a positive presence every July at the 4-H Dairy Days dairy quiz bowl contest at MSU and in the fall at the national youth dairy quiz bowl contest held at the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Ky.

Lee's contributions to the profession were recognized by her peers. In 1999, she was awarded the President's Citation from the Michigan Association of Extension Agents and was part of the State Team Award presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi (MSU) in 2000. Lee was honored by the Missaukee County Conservation District with its Friend of Agriculture honor in 2003 and received the Outstanding Service to Agriculture award from the Michigan Milk Producers Association Evart Local in 2006. She was presented posthumously with the 2019 Pioneer Award by CentralStar Cooperative.

It is with deep respect and appreciation for Kathy's contributions to the dairy industry that the Board of Directors recognizes her as a Foundation Honoree.



## Don Martell

Don Martell started working with the Michigan dairy industry in 1975. He grew up on his family's dairy farm in Berrien County near Three Oaks, MI. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in dairy science. His education turned into a love for the dairy industry, and he always promoted the dairy industry and Michigan State University.

Don worked five years (1975-1980) for Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) as a fieldman. He then moved into dairy nutrition. He was a dairy consultant for Purina Mills for 21 years (1980-2001), and then with Diamond V as a dairy field technical specialist for 17 years (2001-2018). In those roles, he provided sales and technical assistance to dairy farmers, nutritionists, and veterinarians in the U.S. and Canada. He is widely recognized as an expert in feeding management as a result of his work conducting TMR and feeding audits on dairy farms.

Since 2018 he has served as an instructor in the MSU Department of Animal Science, teaching dairy herd feeding management. He has also lectured on dairy feeding management to students in the large animal veterinary programs at MSU and Purdue University.

Don has been a member of the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) for 35 years. He also belongs to the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) for 35 years and he served as a board member of its Midwest Chapter 2014-2017. Martell has been involved for many years with the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference, serving two terms as a planning board member from 2015-2017.

Don has an unbelievable talent for training people both as nutritionists and dairy producers. His tremendous passion for the dairy business is shadowed by his desire to help people. He is highly respected for his willingness to walk barns, shake out TMR rations, make ration nutritional adjustments, and counsel producers and nutritionists. As Don has done this, his humble nature always has him giving the credit to his team. It goes without saying that his engagement and leadership is paramount in helping others succeed in the dairy industry.

Today, Martell resides in DeWitt with his wife Marie. The couple has two daughters, Alina and Lana.



## Tom Michalek

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Michalek was born and raised on the family dairy farm in Perry, MI with his parents, George and Frances, and 3 brothers, Monsignor George, Ronald, and Jeffery. Tom graduated as valedictorian of his high school class and subsequently graduated in 1981 from the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine.

Tom practiced as a veterinarian for 38 years at Thumb Veterinary Services (previously known as Deckerville Veterinary Clinic). As a co-owner of the practice, he worked primarily with dairy clients. In addition, Tom served as an Adjunct Associate Professor at MSU for students in the preceptorship program. He mentored over 100 veterinary students over the years, inviting them to live with his family, ride along on his farm calls and observe daily practices at the clinic with himself and other veterinarians to provide them a glimpse of the broad spectrum of veterinary medicine. Tom served on the Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine and was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, and the Thumb Veterinary Medical Association for his entire career.



In his spare time, Tom volunteered many hours to the Sanilac County 4-H and FFA programs by checking in animals at the fair and supporting interested youth in agriculture and animal science. As a youth, Tom was an FFA member and state FFA officer as well as participating in 4-H in Shiawassee County. In addition to his veterinary and agricultural commitments, Tom was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Sandusky where he was the financial secretary for over 35 years, loved to golf and bowl, enjoyed singing and especially loved the Spartans. Green and White were his favorite colors!

Dr. Thomas E. Michalek, 66, of Kalkaska, MI, died April 4, 2022, in Zephyrhills, FL of pancreatic cancer. Tom leaves behind his cherished wife Lucinda, son Nicholas and wife Jeanna (Ellsworth, MI), son Matthew and wife Becky (Laingsburg, MI), daughters Sarah and Elizabeth (Lansing, MI) and two very special granddaughters, Shelby and Sophia.

# 2023

## Mark Adam

Until Mark Adam's retirement from CentralStar Cooperative in 2020, he often said that he had never received a paycheck that didn't come from a cow. He devoted the entirety of his professional life to the dairy industry and has been a strong and steadfast leader among the Michigan agricultural landscape for over three decades.

Born and raised in Wakarusa, Indiana, Adam developed an early interest in dairy cattle by spending a great deal of time at his uncle's farm. He began working as a DHI Technician after graduating high school and received the Agricultural Short Course certificate from Purdue University in 1975. Adam fitted cattle for numerous shows and sales. In 1980, he married the love of his life Donna, and they welcomed their daughter, Shelly, in 1986. He served as herdsman for Dr. G.W. Snider and Ron Kline from 1985 to 1987, and under his charge the herd achieved a 30,000-pound average with a 111% BAA. From 1987 to 2000, Adam enjoyed a successful career in A.I. Sales for Sire Power International, Inc., working his way up to the position of Eastern Regional Sales Manager.



In 2000, after years of planning by the Board of Directors to diversify the cooperative, NorthStar-Select Sires, Michigan DHIA, and Fox Valley DHIA merged, creating NorthStar Cooperative. Around this time, the Select Sires Federation purchased Sire Power, where Adam was the Eastern Regional Sales Manager, opening the door for him to join the cooperative and become the inaugural Director of DHI Services. Adam led the cooperative's DHI Services for nine years, growing it from 1,000 herds representing 135,000 cows, to 1,350 herds with more than 285,000 cows. During this time, he facilitated mergers with Chippewa County DHI and Elkhart County DHI. As the cooperative's offerings grew, so did the need for a leader to focus on integrating the various business areas. In January 2009, Adam was named Director of Integrated Services with the responsibility to create teams to better serve owners and customers. In 2015, Adam became General Manager and Executive Vice President of the cooperative. With the merger between East Central/Select Sires and NorthStar Cooperative, Adam was appointed Chief Operating Officer of CentralStar, a role he held until retirement in 2020.

Adam was a member of the National DHIA (NDHIA) Board of Directors for eight years, during which he was elected vice-president, and in 2006, became the first DHI Manager ever elected president of the 45-year-old organization. In 2022, Adam was awarded the NDHIA Outstanding Service Award, and at the beginning of 2023, he was recognized with CentralStar Cooperative's Pioneer Award. Adam also served as Dairy Industry Advisor for the Michigan State University Dairy Club, a member of the Dairy Data Working Group as appointed by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, and North American DHI Representative to the International Committee for Animal Recording Metering Devices Sub-Committee.

Adam's contributions have made a significant and widespread impact on the dairy industry. Through his work, Adam has also made many lifelong friends. He seems to have a reserved seat at World Dairy Expo and has only missed one since the late 1970s. He is a diehard fan of both the Green Bay Packers and the Purdue Boilermakers. In his retirement, Adam enjoys spending time with his wife Donna, daughter Shelly and son-in-law Josh, and especially his grandson, Titus.

We thank you, Mark, for the undeniable positive impact you've made on those around you and on our dairy industry. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition as a Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation Honoree!



## **Gary (Doc) Collings, D.V.M.**

Gary (Doc) Collings, D.V.M. graduated from MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977, satisfying a goal that first crossed his mind when he was in junior high school. Growing up with cattle on the farm, he was interested in how sick animals were treated and the efforts to prevent sickness. Following completion of his D.V.M., he returned to his "roots," the Thumb of Michigan, to begin his dedicated service to the dairy farming community where he was born and raised. Dr. Collings joined the Deckerville Veterinary Clinic, a practice consisting of six doctors, predominantly dairy focused. As a partner, Gary guided the practice now known as Thumb Veterinary Services, which is an 11-doctor mixed animal practice serving the dairy industry of Michigan.



Doc's passion was serving his dairy clients, not only professionally, but as a trusted friend. Dr. Collings was a favorite among students over his career and mentored hundreds of high school, pre-vet, and veterinary students. He taught in a manner that fostered the respect of everyone who spent time under his guidance while shadowing on the farm. His witty conversations and challenging teaching style always ended with a "It's been a great day!" response. Dr. Collings served as a 4-H leader, Project Red educator, and received the Jim Frey Award, presented in memory of the Brown City dairy producer and recognizing Dr. Collings' service to the dairy industry. Dr. Collings mentored as a positive role model, demonstrating how to enthusiastically serve the dairy community, asking simple questions - knowing there were not simple answers. Doc brought his best to his work on a daily basis, and his attitude was very contagious!

For his significant contributions to the Michigan dairy industry and education of future veterinarians, the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation is pleased to recognize Dr. Gary Collings as a Foundation Honoree.

## James (Jim) Liesman



James "Jim" Sawyer Liesman worked in dairy research as a research technician at Michigan State University for 49 years. First in the Dairy Department and then in Animal Sciences after the merger in 1980. He was born May 5, 1950 in Detroit and passed away on March 15, 2023. He attended Hudson High School. After graduation in 1968 he moved to East Lansing and attended MSU. He began to work in Dr. Roy Emery's lab in the Dairy Department in 1973 on fatty acid metabolism and synthesis. Jim took graduate courses related to animal nutrition including biochemistry, and carbohydrate and lipid metabolism. Roy encouraged him to take statistics courses and Jim became very proficient setting up models and analyzing data. This gave him the ability to contribute more to dairy research papers published by Dr. Emery and Dr. Herdt (five on lipid metabolism and fatty liver in cows) and others at MSU. He helped a number of graduate students analyze their experiments. His knowledge of statistics provided him with a good foundation to critically review literature. This probably led to his passion for reading and discussing research with colleagues in Animal Science, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Veterinary Science and Physiology.

Jim helped with studies looking at correlations of blood fatty acids before calving on health after calving and the effects of bST on fat metabolism.

When Dr. Emery retired in 1997, Jim began a 25-year effort with Dr. Mike VandeHaar continuing to work on dairy nutrition with projects examining effects of diets on heifer growth and on mammary physiology in calves, heifers, and dry cows, on effects of diets on immune function, and on corn silage varieties and feed additives on milk production. For the past 12 years, Jim played a major role in compiling a database of cows with feed efficiency phenotypes and genotypes from several universities under the direction of Drs. VandeHaar and Tempelman. This work resulted in genomic ranking of US dairy bulls for the expected efficiency of their daughters to convert feed to milk. Jim was a co-author with Dr. VandeHaar on 15 publications in the Journal of Dairy Science.

Jim was outstanding in his attention to detail as a research technician. Over his career he advanced his knowledge by taking course work, including a carbohydrate and lipids graduate class from Dr. Dale Romsos, attending seminars, and reading widely. As an intellectual Jim read many books and often encouraged friends and colleagues to read books related to scientific knowledge.

Jim was an avid swimmer, biker, and runner. He swam competitively in high school and continued swimming afterwards. He ran in 5k's to marathons, including the first Detroit Marathon in 1978. He biked the DALMAC 11 times and biked to work.

In the community Jim volunteered fixing bikes for Share-A-Bike and at the Lansing Food Bank. From the 1980's to about 2010 Jim held several important positions on the Bailey Community Association board which covered a very large and diverse neighborhood in East Lansing. After MSU removed the requirement that sophomores live on campus, there was a rush to convert older homes north of MSU to rental housing creating conflicts. Jim was at the forefront in trying to solve related problems by working with the city council and city officials. Jim was a founder of a nonprofit housing corporation for East Lansing with the aim to purchase houses in poor condition, repair them, and make them available to people of low or moderate income by giving them mortgage assistance.

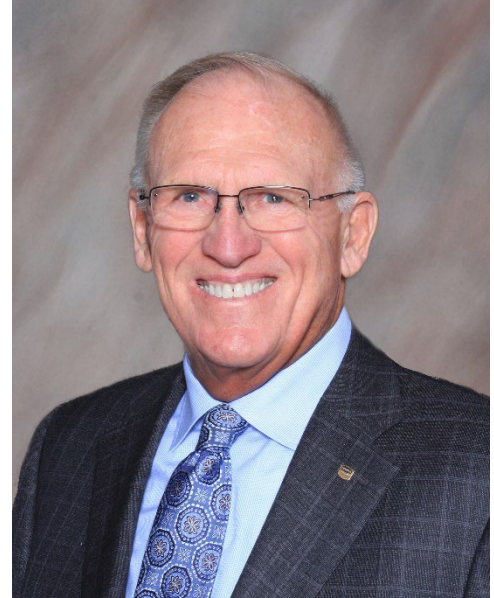
It is with great privilege that we recognize Jim Liesman as an Honoree in the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.



## Ken Nobis

Ken Nobis has served the dairy industry in a wide range of state and national leadership positions. It is through his leadership to the dairy industry that Ken has made such an impact in Michigan and across the country. Ken was first elected to the Michigan Milk Producers Association board of directors in 1992 and served as vice-president of the association for seven years prior to being elected as president in March, 2007 and served in that capacity until 2019.

Ken also served on the board of directors for United Dairy Industry of Michigan and the Michigan Livestock Expo on the state level. Ken's leadership has also been recognized on the national level. He served as First Vice Chairman and on the Executive Committee for National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) board of directors. He was chairperson of the NMPF Sustainability Committee, a member of the Dairy Management, Inc. board of directors and the U.S. Dairy Export Council board of directors. He was recognized with the Honorary Director for Life award by National Milk Producers Federation in 2021.



In addition to his service to the industry, Ken remains an integral part of his family dairy farm. He has been farming in the St. Johns area after completing his college education at Western University and a two-year term in the Army. He operates a 1,000-cow dairy farm in partnership with his brother, Larry and they farm 3,000 acres.

The Nobis Dairy Farm is viewed as one of the top herds in the state and is often utilized by Michigan State University for research trials. They have opened their farm to teaching, research and Extension for many years, serving as an extended classroom and laboratory for professors, students and Extension educators in Michigan. In 2006 the Nobis brothers were named the MSU Dairy Farm of the Year. In 2015, Nobis Dairy Farms received national recognition with the Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award presented by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. In 2006, Ken and his brother Larry were named "Dairy Farmers of the Year" by Michigan State University.

Ken was the recipient of the Honorary Alumnus Award from the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association in 2017 and received the Honorary Alumni award from Michigan State University in 2019. He served as the guest speaker for the Annual H. Allen and Ann Tucker Endowed Lectureship at Michigan State University in 2017.

Ken was instrumental in developing MMPA's partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan which was initially launched in 2015 and then further solidified when a milk donation was made to the families impacted by the Flint Water Crisis in 2016. The donation was made in partnership with Kroger Michigan Dairy. In 2020, Ken was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Michigan Food Security Council formed to help address food insecurity in Michigan.

In 2022, Ken was named a farmer ambassador by the Farm Journal Foundation which engages farmers and producers from across the country as advocates for investment in modern agricultural developments to ensure access to food and nutritional security internationally.

Ken and his wife Liz have two sons, Kerry and Mitch.

MMPA is pleased to recognize Ken Nobis as an honoree of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation for his tireless efforts to serve as an advocate for the dairy industry and his many years of commitment and influential leadership to the state and national dairy industry.