

For Immediate Release:

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MCA honors members of Missouri's cattle industry

Jimmie Long of Cole Camp, Mo., was selected as the 2009 Cattleman of the Year. Long has just been selected as the second vice president of Missouri Cattlemen's Association and has also served as chair of the feeder/backgrounder council. Long works each year to bring in livestock market partners for MCA's Convention and Trade Show.

Rick Henderson of Columbia, Mo., was presented with the Beef Industry Award. Henderson works for Apex Financial, which partners with Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation and Missouri Cattlemen's Association throughout the year. Henderson has put in countless hours to improve the IRA tax program, 1-2-3 College program, and long-term disability.

Don Bledsoe and Roy Houston, both of Olean Livestock Market, were recognized with Pioneer Awards. These two men are considered pioneers because together they built the first state-of-the-art sale barn of its kind. Don Bledsoe has been in marketing livestock his entire life, beginning with his Grandfather in Olean, Mo. Roy Houston joined Bledsoe in 1977 to create the precursor to all other sale barns in central Missouri. Bledsoe and Houston have always been very strong in the livestock marketing association.

Morgan Kueckelhan of Boonville, Mo., was crowned Missouri Beef Queen. Kueckelhan was raised in Boonville, MO on a commercial cattle and diversified crop production farm. She has shown Charolais and crossbred cattle and is a member of the MCA junior board and Missouri Junior Charolais Association.

She is a sophomore agricultural economics major at the University of Missouri, where she is the student council representative of Collegiate CattleWomen, president of Block and Bridle, and recruitment chair for Sigma Alpha professional agriculture sorority. She was also recently chosen as CCW's Classy Cowgirl.

Kristen Wright, 2009 Beef Queen, crowned Kueckelhan at the Awards Dinner during the MCA Convention.

MCA awarded 10 legislators with the new "A Friend of the Missouri Beef Industry" award. Those honored were Senator Frank Barnitz, Senator Dan Clemens, Rep. Jim Viebrock, Rep. Joe Aull, Rep. Steve Hobbs, Rep. JC Kuessner, Rep. Brian Munzlinger, Rep. Charlie Schlottach, Speaker of the House Ron Richards and Rep. Terry Witte.

These legislators given the award because of they are dedicated public servants and because they recognize the importance of beef production as a major economic sector of agriculture.

Lynette Miller was named the top overall recruiter. Miller received a trip to the NCBA convention in January. Other top hand recruiters included Jake Hostetler, Blue Geier, Shirley Wilmesher, Luke Jackson, Kenny Beltz and St. Clair County Cattlemen's Association.

Dallas County Cattlemen's Association won the first place Award for Excellence. Overall Affiliate Runner Up was St. Clair County Cattlemen's Association, Outstanding Affiliate Beef Promotion went to Boone County Cattlemen's Association and Outstanding Affiliate Activity/Event went to Lafayette County Cattlemen's Association. Also, Southwest Cattlemen's Association was recognized for having the most MCA members, with 158 members. Dallas County was recognized for having the most new MCA members, with 93 members and also for the largest percent increase, with a 373% increase in membership.

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The Missouri Cattlemen's Association was initiated in 1911 and is dedicated to improving viability of Missouri's beef industry. MCA serves as the voice of Missouri's 65,000 beef producers. Contact MCA at 573-499-9162 or at www.mocattle.com.