

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County



Dr. Gaylen Hill named 2016 Missouri Livestock Person of the Year

Dr. Gaylen Hill, a long-time veterinarian from Kirksville, MO, will be honored at the 2016 Missouri Livestock Symposium on Friday, December 2, 2016, when he will be inducted into the Missouri Livestock Symposium's Livestock Person of the Year Hall of Fame. Hill is the 14th person to be selected for this honor. Those selected have made significant contributions to the livestock industry in northeast Missouri, and beyond.

Gaylen Grant Hill was born in 1941 to Grant and Eloise Hamilton Hill in Humphreys, MO. Both the Hill and Hamilton families were settlers of Sullivan County in the 1860's. When Gaylen started the first grade, World War II was over. Soldiers were returning home, noticeably evading the horses who had been the basis of farm power. Gaylen and his best friend, Jimmy Tipton noted this, and as very young men made themselves available as mounted cowboys to help farmers corral and work their cattle. At the time they were involved in moving herds from pasture to pasture or to winter stock fields.

Sullivan County was noted as the Aberdeen Angus Capital of the World and 4-H was a very big social activity. The county 4-H show was capped off with the champion and reserve, the next top 3 and then a carlot (20 head) sent to the Interstate Show at St. Joseph competing against Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and other Missouri counties. Often Sullivan county shipped and showed 3 carlots in competition and were crowned champion carlot something like 18 of 20 times. Gaylen had a calf in the champion carlot one year. The same year that Wayne May showed the Grand Champion steer of the entire show – a home-raised Hereford.

Gaylen milked Jersey cows and raised chickens and rabbits. The milk was strained, bottled, capped and delivered the next day by bicycle to older residents of Humphreys for 10 cents a quart.

Gaylen's mother was the only member of her family of 14 to have a college education and he understood that a school teacher's son was expected to go to college. His friend's father suggested one day when he was approximately 12 that a career in veterinary medicine should be considered. He was forever after locked in on that goal. He took college preparatory courses in high school, including Latin, chemistry, and

speech for the challenge ahead.

Dr. Hill's family moved to Kirksville in 1954-55, he sold dressed rabbits to meat manager Jim Bullock of the Mackey & Williams Store. In 1959, Dr. Hill entered the University of Missouri College of Agriculture and in 1961 he married high school sweetheart Cindy Harper. Cindy graduated from the University of Missouri College of Home Economics/Food & Nutrition. Gaylen graduated with his B. S. in Agriculture in 1965 and D. V. M. in 1967, both from the University of Missouri. Dr. Hill notes they were only \$300 in debt at that time because they needed a washing machine for diapers since they had two boys born by this time.

Private practice beckoned – rural America appealed as agriculture was undergoing great revolutions – Charolais, Limousin, and Simmental cattle were being imported and advanced AI use became a useful tool. He became an early member of the American Simmental Association and helped form the Mark Twain Simmental Association.

In 1988, Dr. Hill attended Truman State University and received his Masters of Education.

Dr. Hill is an Honor Roll Member of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He was elected to Kirksville R-III Board of Education from 1973 to 1979 where he served as President and Secretary. He coached little league baseball and served as KBSA President. Dr. Hill was an officer of the NEMO Trail Riders Association and holds long time memberships in the American Quarter Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association and High School Rodeo Association.

The Hill family most enjoyed their 4-H association with family and as leaders of Challengers 4-H Club. Dr. Hill was selected as Adair County Friend of 4-H in 2013. Dr. Hill is also a member of the Truman State University Alumni Association and lifetime member of the University of Missouri Alumni Association.

Dr. Hill and wife Cindy have four children: David, Curtis, Gayla and John.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium is proud to add Dr. Gaylen Hill to the Missouri Livestock Symposium's Hall of Fame and recognize him as the 2016 Missouri Livestock Person of the Year.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held Friday, December 2 from 4 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, December 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Symposium features nationally known speakers on beef cattle, horses, forages, sheep, meat goats, stock dogs, around the farm and home topics and more. It also features a free dinner on Friday evening, December 2 and a free Governor's Style Luncheon on Saturday, December 3 at noon. No registration is required to attend and there is no cost to attend.



For additional information on the Symposium program or trade show, visit our Facebook page, go to www.missourilivestock.com or call the Adair County Extension Center at 660-665-9866.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium will have a food drive for The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Non-perishable items or monetary donations may be left at registration table. Every dollar contributed provides 15 pounds of food.

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