



2005 Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year Mr. Dale Watson Kirksville, Missouri

Dale G. Watson joins Bill Sidwell of Queen City, Missouri and Wayne D. (Doc) Smith of Winigan, Missouri, becoming the third person to be named the Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year. He will be inducted into the prestigious Northeast Missouri Livestock Hall of Fame on Friday, December 2, 2005 during the

evening program of the 2005 Missouri Livestock Symposium.

Dale's involvement with the livestock industry has been life-long. He joined 4-H in Adair County in 1949 and later became a member of the Kirksville FFA Chapter, focusing on swine and beef cattle. Early in his livestock career, Dale worked with Dr. H. D. Rodabaugh, a veterinarian in Kirksville, and later, as a cattle manager for a Hereford ranch in Kentucky. With undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Dale served as the beef herdsman for the University of Missouri, and spent two years working for a Simmental corporation in Illinois.

In 1976, Dale began his career with the University of Missouri Extension Service, and quickly became known for his outstanding work with the livestock industry. In 1987, Dale became a valued member of the University of Missouri Commercial Ag Team and transferred to the Carroll County Extension Center from his previous office in Sullivan County. Dale's work as an MU Commercial Ag Team member included the development of research and demonstration projects, in order to assist livestock and forage producers with more profitable management techniques. His efforts made him a popular speaker in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri.

One of Dale's most enjoyable experiences has been working with members of local, state, and national media. He has written weekly newspaper features for 27 newspapers and given weekly programs on 4 radio stations. Since his retirement in 2000, Dale has continued to write a monthly feature, "*Beef Cattle Thoughts.....From the Recliner,*" for the Missouri Beef Cattlemen's Magazine.

Dale Watson has always had a keen sense of community. His service includes being a 4-H leader for 20 years; membership on various church committees; a member of the Brashear, Missouri, Cemetery Board; a member of the New Haven School Board in Columbia, Missouri; a member of the National Beef Cattlemen's Association; a member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation/Friend of the Foundation Contributor; a member of the First United Methodist Church in Kirksville, Missouri; and a member of Kirksville's Thousand Hills Rotary Club, where he has served as treasurer since 1998.

Additionally, Dale has been involved with many notable livestock events on the national level, including his service on the steering committee of the Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference since 1978. Additionally, he has performed ultrasound measurements at the National Western Stock Show in Denver Colorado, and served as the assistant superintendent for the American Royal Junior Beef Show and the Junior Livestock Shows at the Missouri State Fair. Dale is a past president of the Missouri Association of County Agricultural Agents and has served as a committee member for the Missouri Livestock Symposium.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium salutes Dale G. Watson as the 2005 Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year, in recognition of his efforts as an outstanding educator, researcher, and livestock and forage producer who consistently gives back to his community. We also salute Dale's cherished family – especially Virginia, his wife of 46 years, who taught Family and Consumer Sciences in the Kirksville Public School System prior to her retirement in 2003. Dale and Virginia have three sons: Leon, Carl, and Bryan. Leon is a Vocational Agriculture Instructor in Clinton, Missouri; Leon and his wife, Kim, have four children - Zane, Shannon, McKenzie and Garrett. Carl is Director of Production Information Systems for Iowa Select Farms in Iowa Falls, Iowa; he and his wife, Donna, have two daughters - Rebecca and Kelsey. Major Bryan Watson is an attorney in the U.S. Air Force, presently stationed at the Air Command & Staff College, located at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama; Bryan and his wife, Debra, have two children - Andrew and Sara.

In recognition of this award, Dale will be presented with a hand-painted framed oil portrait at a Friday evening ceremony during the Missouri Livestock Symposium on December 2, 2005. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dale, his wife Virginia, and their entire family for a lifetime of service and achievement!