



2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium Person of the Year Mr. Robert Perry

Bethel, Missouri

Robert N. "Bob" Perry has been an active livestock producer and an advocate for quality livestock production in Northeast Missouri his entire life. His dedication and service to the community, region and state represent the essence of the Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year Award.

"Selected by performance, evaluated by comparison" is the motto for the success of Perry Farms. A farm sign north of Bethel reads "Visitors Welcome."

When Bob married Kathleen Moore in 1957, the young couple bought their original 480 acres from Kathleen's mother. The farm's roots include a centennial Angus herd that traces back to a heifer Kathleen's father bought in 1922 and the Duroc hogs Bob showed as an FFA member.

The farm provided a place for the couple to raise four children (Jim, Lindall, Michael and Eunice) and 15 grandchildren. It also provided a setting for local youth to learn animal husbandry skills, gain a work ethic, and enjoy rural life while taking on the responsibility of an on-farm job.

The Perrys maintain a closed herd. New bloodlines are added using artificial insemination (AI). They submit Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) — including birth, weaning and yearling weights; and ultrasound measurements — to attain expected progeny differences (EPDs) for each trait. Their herd is selected to satisfy customers seeking calving-ease bulls with high weaning and yearling weights.

Bob served on the National Swine Improvement Federation (NSIF) as well as the Missouri Swine Improvement Federation (MSIF). Bob served on the boards of the University of Missouri (MU) and Northeast Missouri (NEMO) swine test stations for many years. At the 100th MU test sale, Bob was honored for testing the most pens (54).

In 1970, Bob was instrumental in the MSIF's decision to purchase an ultrasound machine and to hire a technician to obtain loin eye and backfat data in order to establish EPDs for the carcass traits.

Bob has had three Duroc Hog College™ boars at the National Barrow Show. He has shown a plethora of champions at type conferences, state fairs and national shows. In addition, the Perrys have sold purebred hogs throughout the United States and internationally, including Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Japan and Korea.

In addition to welcoming 4-H, FFA and collegiate teams to their farm for livestock judging practices, the Perrys have provided hogs for intercollegiate and FFA livestock judging contests at the American Royal since the 1960s.

Their Angus bull "Perry Power Design 715" holds the record as the top-selling bull in the NEMO Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Performance Tested Bull Sale. Purchased by ABS Global, he ranks in the top 10% of the Angus breed for \$B and calving-ease direct EPD. The NEMO BCIA named Bob its Outstanding Seedstock Producer in 2007.

Bob has received the Missouri Pork Producers Master Seed Stock Producer, Outstanding Pork Producer and Missouri Pork All-American, Livestock Leadership Award (Livestock Industry-Missouri Youth Workshop), American Royal Farm Family of the Year, and the Missouri Angus Pioneer Award.

A few of Bob's national awards include FFA American Farmer degree, FFA Honorary American Farmer, American Royal Grand Champion Barrow, National Pork All-American, *National Hog Farmer* Outstanding Service Award, NSIF Achievement Award in Swine Performance Testing, National Duroc Special Test Station Award, and World Pork Expo Master Seedstock Producer.

Bob served as president of the North Shelby School Board for 18 years. Bob and Kathleen are members of the Bethel Christian Church, where Bob served as an elder for many years. Realizing that youth are the future of the ag industry, Bob has encouraged youth to participate in production agriculture, serving as a mentor, a booster, a sponsor and an employer.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium is proud to recognize Robert Perry as the 2011 Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year. On behalf of our communities and the livestock industry we congratulate Paul and his family for this accomplishment and recognition. The livestock industry and our communities have all benefited from the hard work and service provided by the Perry family.