



# ***2006 Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year Mr. Garry Mathes Greentop, Missouri***

Garry Mathes is the epitome of "community servant"! In fact, one thing that immediately sets Garry apart from others is his long tenure of service to both his community and the livestock industry. The great thing about Garry is that "he truly has both the livestock industry and the community at heart," according to Bruce Lane, University of Missouri Extension Livestock Specialist.

Garry's involvement with the livestock industry began on the farm where he grew up and through his involvement as a member of 4-H and FFA. Sheep were one of the first projects he became interested in and he has continued with sheep throughout his farming career. He has exhibited sheep at local, state and national shows and continued to be involved when his children and grandchildren started showing. He has always supported and helped youth in the community with their livestock projects.

Garry was instrumental in starting the Missouri Livestock Symposium and has served as committee chair since its inception. This has been a very successful event for both livestock producers and the community as well. Garry devotes countless hours and his own resources toward this event each year.

In addition, Garry has been involved at the local, regional, state and national level representing the interests of livestock producers as an officer, board member or director of numerous livestock organizations. He has served as chair, vice chair and treasurer of the University of Missouri Extension Council in Adair County and received the University of Missouri Extension Farm Management Award. He has volunteered in 4-H for 33 years as a sheep leader and served as sheep superintendent and chairman of the market lamb sale at the NEMO Fair. Locally he has also served as a board member of the Adair-Schuyler Cattlemen's Association, President & board member of the Adair County Feeder Calf Association, and board member and vice president of the Kirksville Jaycees. Garry was a founding member and President of the Northeast Missouri Sheep Producers. He also served as President of the Adair-Schuyler Farm Bureau and is a board member of the East Center Cemetery.

On the state level Garry has served as Missouri Sheep Producers Association President, Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council board member, Missouri Suffolk Sheep Association President, Missouri Farm Bureau Sheep Committee Chair, member of the Missouri Farm Bureau Legislative Committee and the Planning and Visioning Committee, and Missouri State Fair Sheep Advisory Committee.

Nationally, Garry has served as a State Director for the American Sheep Industry Association, served on the ASI Environmental Committee, Governor's Agriculture Advisory Council, and was a committee member on the nationally acclaimed Midwest Stud Ram Sale.

Garry has been unique from a livestock production angle as well. He produces beef cattle, sheep, corn, soybeans and hay on his farm in Greentop, MO. He has also raised hogs and presently finds time to raise fine Quarter Horses and Border Collies in addition to everything else he does.

Garry is a visionary who is interested in seeing his community and industry progress—from working on alternative energy ideas like wind power to arousing interest in the community for a potential convention center.

Garry and his wife Alice Kay have three children. David, and wife Laurie, Downingtown, Pennsylvania; Janet Reed and husband Larry of Kirksville, MO; and Julie Boyer and husband Jeff of Amarillo, Texas. They have 7 grandchildren – Nigel & Gavin Mathes, Brooke, Stephanie & Tyler Reed, and Chris & Amanda Boyer.

Garry states, "There is a sense of enjoyment and passion in producing livestock. Through my involvement with the many areas of the livestock industry, it has been a pleasure to meet and work with so many good people; and the friendships will never be forgotten."

On behalf of the Missouri Livestock Symposium committee, the Missouri agriculture industry and the many communities that have benefited from the efforts of Garry Mathes, congratulations to both him and his family on being selected as the 2006 Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year and becoming a member of the coveted Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year Hall of Fame.