

Mid-Am Finishes Business, Celebrates Merger Into Dairy Farmers Of America

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that agriculture was going to become less or totally less dependent on government and more or totally dependent on free world markets.

"But the reason I was reluctant to adopt this bill is not because we don't want less government interference on farmers," Stenholm said. "We already have too much unproductive paperwork. But the thing that bothered me, and still does, is that there really is not free world market.

"If we are going to make progress in our ability to compete with our farm programs according to the world's definition of free markets, we must have our negotiators at the tables. We are losing markets every day because Europe has negotiators at the table in South America negotiating bilateral trade agreements. We says we don't want to have our representatives at the table, but we reserve the right to complain about what they do. It is important that we determine what we need our government to do with us to level the world market playing field as much as we can."

On environmental issues, Stenholm said it is important to stop the train that is bent to impose solutions without good scientific reason and logic. "We need to be proactive on environmental issues that you do regularly and do anyway," he said. "We need to acknowledge we have problems that need to be solved. But we need to change the solutions that are presented, regardless of how many dairy farmers they put out of business, or the cost without share assistance. Part of my vision when we put team USDA together in 1994 was to have a department that had the confidence of a large number of people.

"Today you need to ask and answer a simple question. What is it you want team USDA to do for you, with you, and to you? How do we become price makers rather than price takers?"

"We are blessed with a nation that has the most abundant food supply, the safest food supply at the lowest cost in any country in the world," Stenholm said. "No one can challenge us on this, but it is not automatic. I am pledged to see that the minority voice of agriculture can be heard as much as possible. I see government as a partner, not a crutch. We will control our destiny by cooperation, or it will be controlled by others."

The cooperative named three dairymen to the hall of honors. The Mid-Am Hall of Honors was created to recognize persons, living and deceased, who have been instrumental in the development and growth of the cooperative. President Carl Baumann presented recognition to one living recipient, Harry C.M. Burger of Seneca, Kansas, and relatives of two deceased recipients, Albert Bos of Billings, Missouri, and John Moser of Louisville, Kentucky.

Burger was a highly motivated professional dairyman recognized by many organizations for his leadership and dedication to the dairy industry. He took over the management of the 960-acre family farm and 250-cow Holstein herd at age 16, following the death of his father. In 1989, he was recognized for 50 years of service on the Mid-Am and predecessor cooperative board of directors.

A generous supporter of Kansas



A bird's eye view from the hotel window of Kansas City, the home of the new Dairy Farmers of America headquarters.



Guest speaker was The Honorable Charles Stenholm, U.S. House of Representatives and ranking member of the house ag committee.



Herman Brubaker is the new chairman of Dairy Farmers of America.



Gary Hanman is the president and CEO of Dairy Farmers of America.

State University, Burger established a scholarship for the dairy judging team and served as a member of the President Club. In 1984, Mr. Burger was awarded the Kansas Distinguished Dairyman Award.

Bos was born in Holland and came to the United States in 1948. Even before becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1958, he was active in promoting dairy. In addition to operating a successful dairy, Bos served on the Mid-Am board of directors from 1975-1993 and was chairman of the southern division from 1980-1988.

He served on the DHIA board for several years and also served on the Christian County Farm Bureau board and dairy committee. Bos received the "Award of Merit" from the Southwest Conservation Department in 1986.

Moser was a longtime distinguished dairy farmer. He served as a director of Falls Cities Cooperative Milk Producers, later serving as the organization's president. He

also served as chairman of the National Dairy Council and was president of the American Dairy Association. "Mr. John" was inducted into Hoard's Dairyman Hall of Fame in 1972. The John Moser Endowed Scholarship at the University of Kentucky was established by friends and associates in his name.

Two agricultural communicators were presented with the Salute Award to recognize outstanding service to dairy farmers. Recipients were Rich Hawkins, farm director at KHB/KMZU Radio, Kansas City, Missouri, and Everett Newswanger, managing editor of *Lancaster Farming*.

Hawkins is a 35-year veteran farm broadcaster who got his start as a college student on an internship program. Having grown up on a farm and remembering the long hours of hard work, Hawkins admits he had reservations about going into any kind of business

associated with farming. But the offer of a scholarship by the National Association of Broadcasters when he was a junior at Fort Hays State University in Central Kansas was enough to entice Hawkins to give farm broadcasting a try.

At KRVN, a 50,000-watt clear channel station with coverage in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota, and Northeast Colorado, Hawkins served a diverse farm audience. Now at WHB/KMZU in Kansas City as farm director, he is best known for his daily half-hour programs that focus on in-depth coverage of current agricultural topics.

Newswanger is managing editor of *Lancaster Farming*, a highly regarded weekly agricultural newspaper that enjoys a circulation of 50,000 in Pennsylvania and six bordering states. He first joined the paper in the late 60's, working as a reporter and editor for five years

before going into public relations, advertising, and marketing. He returned in April 1986 to be managing editor. Over the years the paper had grown from a county weekly to an important national agri-paper.

Newswanger has credits in journalism and marketing from the University of Oklahoma and Penn State Extension. He studied as an associate of Grant Heilman, national master ag photographer, and later was an associate under study of the late Joseph Hull, national master of public relations. He holds professional memberships in the National Association of Agricultural Journalists and the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishing Association. He has been recognized by numerous organizations for both his journalistic excellence and his dedicated service to agriculture.

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