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Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner

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Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner
April 18, 2008 - Nebraska East Union
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

It is my pleasure to be with you tonight celebrating the accomplishments of these wonderful and worthy new additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to help recognize these Nebraskans so deserving of their honors. It is "a privilege" for all of us to say, "well done and thank you" to people who make such significant contributions to the world, who live their lives meaningfully in the way they choose to put their talents and energies to work.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate this year's honoree, Eric Brown, general manager for the Nebraska Rural Radio Association -- comprised of stations KRVN, KTIC and KNEB -- the only farmer-rancher owned radio-group in America. Eric has been so highly successful at KRVN that I am hesitant to mention his most-glaring failure, but I have overcome my hesitancy! Despite ^{"A PROBLEM BROADCASTER"} Eric's very best efforts which have included remedial training,

international workshops, and even electroshock therapy, KRVN's Farm Director, Mike LePorte, continues to tell "the absolutely worst" jokes in Nebraska. Like Eric, I also have given up on Mike and have decided, like those of you present here tonight, to laugh "politely" at Mike's jokes, despite the fact they are not funny!

*JOE GANGWISH
KSN RAHIBS*

Let me also "applaud" past honorees and those "already" named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement who are present here tonight. "Thank you" for your ongoing work and championing of Nebraska agriculture.

Those people with whom I am in contact ~~through~~ through my work at the University of Nebraska keep me "perpetually aware" of the need to preserve, to support, and to improve Nebraska agriculture, as well as "tell" agriculture's story. I continually appreciate "each person" who works so very hard to keep Nebraska agriculture strong and productive. Your determination, your wisdom, and your vision are "vital" to us all.

Now it's time to introduce you to the newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I am privileged to provide you these brief glimpses that reflect just a small part of what each of these people do and have accomplished. It is my very great pleasure to introduce the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Class of 2008:

-- M. James Barr of York, agriculture and public service leader. As agriculture and natural resources assistant for Congressman Doug Bereuter from 1979-2001, Jim was the congressman's "respected eyes and ears," constantly seeking constituent input and looking for and proposing innovative ways to make federal policy and programs work better for Nebraskans and our nation. As current Nebraska state director for USDA Rural Development, Jim helps propel rural-development-needs through housing, business, and utilities. Locally, Jim is a past president of the York Lions Club and he retains strong farming and cattle interests.

-- Ann Bruntz of Friend, development director for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska Foundation. Ann shows tireless commitment to her community and to the cattle industry. She is a member of the Nebraska Beef Council and a partner in her family's farming and cattle-feeding-operation. She is past executive secretary of the advisory board for the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, and past editor of the Friend Sentinel. Ann has served on trade missions to Hong Kong, China, and Japan to further Nebraska agriculture.

-- Homer Buell of Bassett, lifelong rancher whose common sense and thoughtful leadership for the cattle industry and all of Nebraska agriculture are as progressive as his own ranch management practices. Homer's many leadership roles include being past president of Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Hereford Association. His current activities include serving as president of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and vice chair of the evaluation committee for the National Cattlemen Beef Association. He has played a critical role in helping attract

undergraduate students to study in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Homer's points of pride include his wife and two children, and living on the family ranch his entire life.

-- Douglas A. Gibson of Lincoln, chief administrator/secretary/treasurer for Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation and Affiliated Companies. Doug's commitment to Nebraska agriculture is evident. Since joining the Nebraska Farm Bureau in 1981, Doug's accomplishments include helping grow Farm Bureau public policy; service to 4-H, FFA, and the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute, the Leadership Center at Aurora, and the Nebraska LEAD program. In addition, Doug is a member of various business and communications organizations, and is past director of the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra Foundation. Doug and others in the Nebraska Farm Bureau have worked very hard to help attract undergraduate students to CASNR.

-- Marvin D. Large, Imperial, farmer, rancher, and manufacturer. Marvin's innovative and charismatic leadership has bettered his community and Nebraska. During the tough times of the 1980s, Marvin was the first president of the Federal Land Bank Association of the Midlands. During the implementation of water-allocation and well-restrictions in his area, he was a board member of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. He was an ABS artificial insemination "representative" for 25 years, and later manufactured AI breeding units sold in 24 states, Australia, and Canada. Marvin was among "the first" in his community to implement irrigation, cattle AI, rotational grazing, and more; his biggest "pride and joy" are his wife and five children.

-- Donald B. McCabe of Lincoln, *Nebraska Farmer* managing editor. No doubt, farming today is complicated. Don's 30 years as "a member" of the Nebraska Farmer editorial staff and his thorough, "accurate" authorship on water and other natural resources topics, and crop-and-livestock production, have earned

him much respect among our state's farmers and ranchers. The Newcastle native is a supporter of FFA and 4-H, and has volunteered many hours to these organizations. Don has earned numerous awards from commodity organizations and others, and recounts his time in the U.S. Navy as among his most worthwhile accomplishments.

-- John R. Miller of Murdock, farmer, and business owner. From growing corn, soybeans, cattle, and hogs to creating a pet food business with products selling worldwide, his is a true success story. John's Oxbow Pet Products began by selling high-quality horse and dairy hay to diversify his operation. John earned the title of Small Business Association National Exporter of the Year in 2006 and Midwest International Trade Association Exporter of the Year in 2005, as well as ^{MANY} other awards. This Outstanding Nebraska LEAD alumnus is active in his church and community planning commission, fair board, and school board.

-- Earle S. Raun of Lincoln, entomologist, administrator, consultant. Earle became academic department head of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Department of Entomology in 1966 after working for USDA in Florida, Iowa, and Mexico, and at Iowa State University. As associate dean of extension at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1970-1974, Earle helped move the Integrated Pest Management concept from ^{the} laboratory to field use in the Midwest. He left UNL to start the very first crop-consulting-firm in the Midwest. Dr. Raun organized and was first president of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants. Nationally recognized for his outstanding service, Earle, an experienced private pilot, is both proud and humbled by the accomplishments and character of his three daughters and their families.

-- Carol E. Thayer of Lincoln, ^{emerita} extension specialist in entrepreneurship and department head. Carol's expertise and experience with business skills and marketing, rural economic development, and tourism "showcase" her career as an exemplary faculty member, organizer, and planner. Her workshops and materials have helped Nebraskans start, expand, and maintain small businesses resulting in increased production and improved business-management practices; as well as developing "youth" entrepreneurship materials. She has received the highest awards presented by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gamma Sigma Delta, and UNL Extension, from which she retired after a dedicated 35 years. HER BROTHER, Dr. Roy Frederick, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF Agricultural Economics & Public POLICY SPECIALIST - BROTHER/SISTER MEMBERS OF THE Please join me once again in congratulating the 2008 HALL! additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

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