

## 2007 Recipient of the Dairy Science Hall of Service Award

### MR. LOWELL W. STEVENS



Pictured: Dr. Jim Kinder (Chair, Animal Sciences), Mr. Lowell Stevens, Mrs. Julia Stevens (wife), Margaret Sennett (daughter), Molly McCumons (daughter), and Dr. Bobby Moser (Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences).

Lowell W. Stevens was born in Champaign County, OH on April 7, 1939, and he has been a part of the dairy industry ever since. He grew up showing Jersey cattle in 4-H and became a Dairy Herd Improvement milk tester after graduating from Urbana Local High School in 1957. During those 9 years as a milk tester, he met a girl on a Holstein farm named Julia Yoder, and they have now been married for over 43 years. Lowell and Julia have 2 daughters (Molly McCumons and Margaret Sennett) and 5 grandchildren.

Following a stint with the Air Force National Guard, Lowell began to work for NOB A in 1964, breeding cows for farmers in Champaign and Logan Counties. During the last 41 years, he has been with the organization as it has progressed from NOBA to Genex. Lowell has served as a breeding technician, Area Sales Representative, and during the past 8 years, he has served as an Area Program Consultant. Throughout his tenure at Genex, Lowell has developed a very profitable sales unit with a loyal customer base through his dependable service and valuable advice and training on sire selection and A.I. training, and his experiences have been priceless in training newer employees.

The Stevens family was in partnership with Mrs. F.E. Lowry, and in 1980, Lowell and Julia purchased his family's half of the Jersey herd. Club Hill Jerseys was formed from this very successful partnership, and over the next several years, Club Hill Jerseys and the Stevens family enjoyed much notoriety on the show circuit. For example, at the 1985 Ohio State Fair, Club Hill Jerseys enjoyed a banner day, winning Junior Champion, Grand Champion, and Premier Breeder and Exhibitor. His

family has participated in the All-American Jersey Show for 12 years, with highlights including several Genetic Index Awards and breeding the 1989 Reserve Grand Champion. Club Hill Jerseys was always a regular stop for 4-H and collegiate judging teams from across the country, especially when practicing en route to the World Dairy Expo. In 1992, Club Hill Jerseys hosted a complete dispersal that commanded the highest sale average (\$1700) and the highest selling female at public auction (\$10,000) for the year.

Lowell's eye for good cattle has been realized in the steady improvement of his customers' herds and the accomplishments of his own herd, and it has also been recognized through his appointments as a judge. In addition to overseeing several county and district shows each summer, Lowell has judged many state and national shows, including being Associate Judge at the All-American Jr. Jersey Show.

Lowell was a director on the Champaign County Dairy Service Unit for 30 years, serving in many positions including President. Lowell's commitment to youth is evident as he has served as a Chair of the Junior OJBA, he has served as a 4-H advisor for 25 years, and he sat on both the county and state 4-H Advisory Boards. He served on the 2006 All-American Junior Jersey Activities Committee, a national committee that he has chaired twice. He has also served on the Spring Dairy Expo Committee, the State Ethics Committee, and the Host Day Committee for the 2000 National Holstein Convention. He was Co-Chair for the 2003 National Jersey Convention held in Ohio. Lowell currently represents Genex on the board of the Ohio Dairy Producers, and he is a member of OJBA (has served as President and represented District 9 for many years), Ohio PDCA, American Jersey Cattle Association, and National Dairy Shrine. For many years, Lowell has assisted Julia in managing the secretarial and treasury duties of the OJBA. Lowell is probably most well-known in Jersey circles on the state level for the outstanding Ohio Spring Classic sale that he manages every Memorial Day that consistently rates as one of the best state sales in the country.

Among the awards that he has received include: DHIA Superior Achievement Award (1966), Ohio Jersey Breeders' Pioneer Service Award (1990), 1995 Kentucky Colonel, Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame (2000), and Genex Mission Award (2006). Lowell is a member of the Urbana United Methodist Church where he has been President of the Methodist Men and served on the Church Administrative Board. The recognition provided as a recipient of the Dairy Hall of Service Award is most fitting for commitment to advancing the Jersey breed, his dedication to educating youth, and his untiring efforts to advance the Ohio dairy industry.