

HENRY GARDINER

Commercial Producer of the Year

Henry Gardiner, Ashland, Kan., Angus breeder, was named Commercial Producer of the Year by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) during that group's annual meeting held late in March in Stillwater, Okla.

Gardiner, who was nominated by the Kansas Livestock Assn., was chosen for the national honor from among 11 cattlemen who also had been nominated by state beef cattle groups or national breed organizations. The only Angus breeder among those in contention, Gardiner was the first representative of the breed to earn the coveted honor since 1975 when Gene Gates, Coldwater, Kan., was named recipient.

Since Gardiner was unable to attend, his son Greg (who is a partner in Gardiner Angus Ranch as are his brothers Mark and Garth) accepted the honor.



Greg Gardiner

Gardiner has served on the Board of Directors of the National Cattleman's Assn. and Performance Registry International, and he is currently serving his second term on the American Angus Assn. board. He has been chairman of the Kansas Livestock Assn. Beef Improvement Committee and is a past president of his state's Livestock and Meat Industry Council.

Gardiner Herd

The 600-cow Angus herd Gardiner maintains long has been recognized for superior genetics resulting largely from the use of performance records, according to Dr. Art Linton, executive director of BIF. Because of the careful breeding management involved, Gardiner's herd has been the source of steer progeny resulting in the certification of 14 Certified Meat Sires through Performance Registry International and 24 bulls tested in the American Angus Assn. Sire Evaluation Program.



Gardiner is continuing to use his animals as a national test herd for the Angus association program. Approximately 250 calves are produced each year for this program, including the progeny of two Reference Sires plus test bulls.

Measurements recorded on these calves include birth, weaning and yearling weights plus calving ease information. Also included are feedlot gain, carcass quality and yield grade information on the steers. As a result of his use of superior sires and management changes, the average pay weight on Gardiner's steers has increased from 508 lb. in 1970 to 668 lb. in 1980.

A New Breeding Era

"I believe we are entering a new era in Angus cattle breeding," Gardiner says. "Sire evaluation is giving us rather precise measurements on the genetic ability of many bulls, and this information is going to improve the breed faster than ever before.

"In a few years, as we get more generations tested and culled, we will have cattle with more genetic predictability than we now have. As this happens, our cattle will become more and more valuable."

According to Dr. Linton, "Henry Gardiner leads the beef cattle industry in the adaptation of production technology and through service in cattlemen's organizations."

Another Kansan, Simmental breeder Bob Dickenson, was named Seed Stock Producer of the Year. In contention for that honor were several Angus breeders: Russell Denowh, Sidney, Mont., nominated by the Montana Beef Improvement Assn.; Lynn Frey, Granville, N.D., representing his state's beef improvement association; Clarence Burch of Mill Creek, Okla., an American Angus Assn. nominee; Bob and Gloria Thomas, Baker, Ore., representing the Oregon Cattlemen's Assn.; and Clayton Canning, Souris, Man.

Angus breeder Jim Wolf, Albion, Neb., won that award in 1979 as did Martin Jorgensen, Ideal, S.D., in 1976 and Carlton Corbin, Fittstown, Okla., in 1974. △