

Smith will be long remembered by Oklahoma cattlemen as a man of optimism, wisdom and humility. As a testament to his impact on Oklahoma agriculture, a memorial scholarship was set up at OSU dedicated to helping animal science and ag communication students develop the skills to effectively communicate about agriculture.

Student winners

Receiving the Roy A. Wallace Memorial

Scholarship were Loni Woolley, Texas Tech University, graduate winner, and Tyler Schultz, K-State, undergraduate winner.

Erika Downey, Texas A&M University, and Heather Bradford, K-State, received Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship awards. Their research papers are available online on the Awards page at www.BIFconference.com.

This year's graduate student travel scholarship recipients included Justin Buchanan, Oklahoma State University;

Erika Downey, Texas A&M University; Melinda Ellison, University of Wyoming; Jose Antonio Torres-Vazquez, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Bryan Welly, University of California-Davis; Jian Zeng, Iowa State University; and Xi Zeng, Colorado State University.

For more information about the BIF symposium and those honored, visit www.BIFconference.com.



Strategies for Beef Improvement

2013 BIF symposium focuses on breeding strategies, cow herd efficiency.

by Shauna Rose Hermel

Nearly 500 cattlemen, academia and industry representatives gathered at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Okla., June 12-15 for the 45th Annual BIF Research Symposium and Convention. Oklahoma State University (OSU), in collaboration with the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) hosted the event, which was themed "Where Profit and Progress Intersect."

This year's program brought together industry professionals, producers and researchers to discuss current issues facing the beef industry. Among those issues, speakers discussed using crossbreeding and straight-breeding as strategies for commercial cattlemen. They also discussed genetic tools to address environmental challenges and cow herd efficiency.

Special features of the event included an Oklahoma welcome reception, an opening symposium hosted by the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB), and a night out at the National Western Heritage Museum and Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Participants who stayed for Saturday had the option to attend a northern tour featuring the Oklahoma State Food & Agriculture Products Center and Oklahoma State Willard Sparks Beef Research Center, both at Stillwater; M&M Charolais, Perry; Pollard Angus, Enid; and Chain Ranch, Canton. Others attended the southern tour, which visited the historic Oklahoma City Stockyards; Raber's Saddlery, Colgate; the Noble Foundation, Ardmore; and Stuart Ranch, Waurika.

The *Angus Journal* editorial team coordinates an online event coverage site for the BIF Symposium. www.BIFconference.com is sponsored by LiveAuctions.tv, which provided live streaming video of the meeting, as well as video and audio for archiving. Visit the site's Newsroom for summaries, PowerPoint presentations, proceedings papers, audio and additional references provided by speakers. Visit the Awards page for announcements and photos of winners of awards and scholarships presented during the event. The Photos page features photo galleries from the meeting and post-symposium tours.

For more information about the event,



PHOTO BY TROY SMITH

► Attendees of Saturday's northern tour look over the feeding system at the Willard Sparks Beef Research Center, Stillwater, Okla.

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About BIF

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) is an organization dedicated to coordinating all segments of the beef industry — from researchers and producers to retailers — in an effort to improve the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of beef production. The organization was initiated almost 70 years ago to encourage the use of objective measurements to evaluate beef cattle. Continuing the tradition, BIF is now the clearinghouse for developing standardized programs and methodologies for recording of performance data for all traits, from birth weights to carcass traits. Its three-leaf-clover logo symbolizes the link between industry, extension and research.

For more information about the organization, visit www.beefimprovement.org.

