

Boyum & Abrahamzon Named Minnesota Cattleman & Cattlewoman of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

Paul and brother Arne Boyum started the BOYCO Farms partnership back in 1968. Later when the partnership dissolved Paul continued farming operations including maintaining a 125 plus cow-calf herd on their 1,000 acre farm. In addition to raising and backgrounding beef cattle, Paul and wife Shari also raise soybeans, corn, and alfalfa. The Boyum's have two daughters, Kari & husband Chris and Kristen & husband Mike. They have two granddaughters and two grandsons.

Paul's involvement in the beef industry started a young age as a member of 4-H. Later he became an adult 4-H leader. He is a founding charter member of the Fillmore County Cattlemen's Association. Paul continues to serve that organization as an association director.



Frank Schiefelbein 2008 Cattleman of the Year and Paul Boyum

Always willing to go the extra mile Paul and Shari served as co-chairs of the Fillmore County Cattlemen's State Tour committee. Their tireless efforts were key in Fillmore County's hosting a very successful state beef tour in 1996. For many years Paul has lead the Fillmore County Cattlemen's generous assistance with workers in support of MSCA's food both at Farmfest each year.

At the state level Paul is a member of the MSCA Policy and Resolutions committee and has served as MSCA Region 9 State Director. Paul has been heavily involved in developing MSCA legislative policy. Quiet and unassuming, when Paul speaks people listen, as he can always be counted on to examine every issue carefully and come up with reasonable solutions to the many challenges facing the beef industry today.

Paul service is not limited to the beef industry, He is a US Army veteran, member of the Peterson American Legion, and is currently President of the Arendahl Lutheran Church. Paul has also served on the local school board and was named Minnesota Commercial Cattlemen of the Year in 1990 by the Minnesota Beef Cattle Improvement Association. From all Minnesota cattlemen and cattlemen we thank Paul for his generous service to the industry!

Carol Abrahamzon was honored for her leadership and selfless service to the industry by selection as Minnesota Cattlewoman of the year. Carol is a past president of the Minnesota Cattlewomen's Association and a director on the Minnesota State Beef Council. Carol is a past recipient of the Outstanding Agricultural Mentor award presented annually at the Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference and coordinated by Minnesota's Agri-Women.

Carol is a member of the Houston County Cattlemen's Association and with husband Bill has taken a pro-active role in shaping the beef industry at the local, state and national level. Carol has served as president of the Houston County Cattlemen's Association. She has actively supported her local school district and worked as an Educational Assistant supporting youth with behavioral and emotional disorders. She also is a trained as a licensed practical nurse. Carol and Bill have two daughters, Jennifer & Julie, and a son Willie.



Jennifer Abrahamzon 2008 Cattle Woman of the Year and Carol

Carol most recent accomplishments include shepherding the National Beef Ambassador Program through a number of transitions over the past 8 years. Since assuming responsibility for management of the National Beef Ambassador Program in 2002 the program has continued to provide an opportunity for youth to educate consumers and students about beef nutrition, food safety and stewardship practices of the beef industry. National

Beef Ambassadors tell the beef production story to consumers and students through promotion, education, media and the online environment.

The National Beef Ambassador Program is sponsored by the National Cattlewomen's Association and in the past has received funding from the Beef Check-Off Program. In recent years check-off funding has been reduced for the program. Despite the challenges of reduced program funding, thanks to Carol's resourcefulness, private donations were secured to ensure the program has survived.

Carol has worked tirelessly to ensure the program continues to provide a forum for our industries youth to gain valuable leadership experience in working with the beef industry number one customer the consumer. From all Minnesota cattlemen and cattlemen we thank Carol for her generous service to the industry and especially for her tireless efforts to keep the National Beef Ambassador Program going!

NCBA Governance Task Force Report

Back in 2008 the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Board of Directors commissioned a Governance Task Force made up of 21 experienced cattlemen and women across the county. The group's mission was develop recommendations on how to improve NCBA's governance structure.

On Jan. 30, 2010 the NCBA Board of Directors adopted the task force's report by a vote of 201-13. That vote begins the process of overhauling NCBA's current governance structure.

The changes focus on creating a more responsive organization that will continue to be grass roots based with policy decisions remaining the prerogative of cattle producers.

The beef industry faces a relentless wave of anti-livestock and anti-meat consumption initiatives that are intended to put livestock producers out of business. The groups are well funded and move with lightning speed spreading false information and demanding unrealistic legislative and regulatory actions that if go unchallenged could likely destroy farming and ranching as we know it today.

The current organizational structure would be streamlined to ensure that grass roots producer policy decisions can be delivered in a much more timely and effective manner.

The new structure calls for a smaller Board of Directors that will have direct fiduciary responsibility for financial matters and be able to respond quickly to threats to the industry. The board would consist of 29 members, 26 of which are elected by the House of Delegates. Three directors, the chair and vice chair of the federation and the NCBA CEO serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

A 250 member of "House of Delegates" would be created consisting of what is essentially the current 274 member policy division, federation of state beef council division, breed associations, marketing groups, and other industry allies.

State affiliates would represent 106 seats, state beef councils 106 seats, and breed associations, product councils, and allied industry would hold 38 seats in the House of Delegates.

The representatives from State Beef Councils would be housed within the House of Delegates, and still conduct the duties the current federation is responsible for under the Beef Promotion and Research Act & Order.

The Federation of State Beef Councils within the House of Delegates would continue to elect a chair & vice chair and also elect (8) members to the Beef Promotion Operating Committee.

Basic policy will still be developed and initiated at the grass roots level through the producer committee process very similar to what is in place today. (continued on page 12)

NCBA Cattle Industry Convention Highlights

(Continued from page 1)

The discussion on if and how the NCBA governance structure should be reorganized dominated the regional caucus meetings held early on in the convention where cattlemen from their respective regions exchanged ideas on whether or not to support the restructuring proposal. Minnesota is part of NCBA Region 3 which includes; Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. Minnesota was well represented during the discussions in addition to those pictured, Glen Graff, Chuck Feikema, John Schaefer, Dar Giess and several Minnesotan's participated in the Region 3 caucus meeting.



Dennis Swan, Bill Zimmerman, Tom Pyfferoen, Steve May, & Don Schiefelbein at Region 3 Caucus listening to governance task force report

Minnesota carried forward two national policy resolutions, both were adopted as policy by the NCBA Property Rights and Environmental Management Policy Committee. The resolutions dealt with the timber wolf issue. The first resolution calls for continued support for delisting the wolves in the Midwest and 2nd resolution called for continued support for proper funding of USDA's Wildlife Services Agency.



NCBA Board of Directors vote on governance task force report

Wildlife Services deals with livestock depredation issues, including trapping wolves in Minnesota and removing and testing white tail deer for TB. The agencies professional animal control officers are well trained and highly effective in responding to disease threats poised by wild animals infected with TB, brucellosis, rabies and other diseases that may threaten domestic livestock.

A big hit with all convention goers was the NCBA's Beef Industry Trade Show which featured more than 260 exhibitors. NCBA's award-winning Cattlemen-to-Cattlemen television program aired two live programs on RFD-TV to show case the convention and conducted TV interviews of many of the convention attendees. Friday night featured the NCBA Invitational sanctioned by Professional Bull Riders Association. Folks were treated to some of best bucking bulls and cowboys in the world, McKennon Wimberly from Cool, TX to first place in competition. Immediately after the professional bull riding country western star, Darryl Worley played for the more than 3000 attendees.

Young cattlemen and women participated in NCBA's youth programs which focused on education, leadership and teamwork. Those programs included Team Marketing, Beef Quiz Bowl, Prepared Public Speaking and Cattle Judging.

The Youth Beef Quiz Bowl, had four teams competing including Minnesota's Team consisting of Nolan Hohenstein, Zach Post, Evan Koep, & Tanner Post. The team sponsored by the Florida Cattlemen's Association took first place. While Minnesota's Team didn't take first place they did an outstanding job and as gave the rest of the teams in the event some stiff competition, well done!

The Prepared Public Speaking contest is designed to stimulate interest in leadership through presentation skills. Twenty-six contestants competed in three age groups: Under 10, 11-14 and 15-19. The winners are: Katie Gardner of Fayetteville, Ark. (10 and under), Shelby Schiefelbein of Kimball, Minn. (11-14), and Lesli Garrett of Canton, Tex. (15-19). Congratulations and well done to Shelby - you did Minnesota proud!



Stick pins mark Minnesotan's attending the NCBA Convention

NCBA members elected officers. Steve Foglesong, owner of Black Gold Ranch in Illinois, was officially elected to succeed Gary Voogt as NCBA's new president. Foglesong encouraged NCBA members to join him in leading this great industry—and the association—to an even stronger future, by getting engaged in the issues and telling their story to the public, as well as lawmakers in Washington, DC.

Others elected included Bill Donald as NCBA president elect, J.D. Alexander as vice-president, Scott George as Chairman of the Federation of Beef Councils, David Dick as Federation vice chair and Bruce Hafefeld as the NCBA Policy Division Chairman.