4 Buckeye Brothers Honored in Hall of Fame for Their Contributions to Swine Industry

Four brothers, who all received their degrees from Ohio State University and have made significant contributions to the swine industry on a state and national level, have been inducted into the OSU Animal Science Hall of Fame.

Gene, Don, Bill and Dick Isler were recently awarded the honor from nominations made by animal science department faculty, staff and alumni. The Isler family is best known for its Isler Genetics operation, a company that uses the latest in swine breeding tools to improve hogs so that breeding stock customers can produce genetically superior offspring. The family built the first on-farm boar test station in Ohio and was the pioneer of the Sow Productivity Index program and the on-farm testing program called STAGES.

The Isler brothers have served on numerous local, state and national committees promoting swine and other livestock industries. Bill and Don have worked to expand the swine, dairy and crop segments of their family's farm. Gene became a partner in Isler Genetics and worked as Ohio's state swine specialist and supervisor of the Ohio Pork Improvement programs. Dick has pursued the promotion of pork through the Ohio Pork Producers Council and is recognized for making the Ohio Pork Congress and Ohio Pork Council two of the top commodity organizations in the nation.

A portrait of the brothers will hang in the department Hall of Fame in the Animal Sciences Building, 2029 Fyffe Road, on the Columbus campus.
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ANIMAL SCIENCE HALL OF FAME

SELECTION
Selection is made by the Special Recognitions Committee of the Faculty. Nominations may be made by Departmental Faculty and Staff or by Alumni.

CRITERIA
Criteria is founded upon the judicial opinion of the Special Recognitions Committee. They are guided by the following:

1. Nominees are considered who have been bona fide majors in Animal Science (formerly known as Animal Husbandry) and who have been graduated twenty (20) or more years from The Ohio State University.

2. Nominees must have demonstrated superior skill and achieved success for themselves and their families. Their major activity must be in an area related to Animal Science.

3. Nominees shall have practiced service to others. Such activity includes giving of time, energy and thoughtfulness in the local community. A reasonable amount of participation in statewide affairs is desirable.

SPONSORS
The Animal Sciences Department and the Saddle and Sirloin Club are sponsors. The portrait of the honored guest will hang in the Department Hall of Fame in the Animal Science Building, 2029 Fyffe Road, The Ohio State University Columbus Campus.

ANIMAL SCIENCE HALL OF FAME

Honoring
Gene, Don, Bill and Dick Isler

May 22, 2001

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Not often does the Animal Science Hall of Fame get a chance to honor four brothers who have all been instrumental in contributions to various phases of the swine industry throughout the state and nation. Such is the case this year with the induction of Gene, Don, Bill and Dick Isler.

Sons of Dorothy and the late John Isler, each of the brothers received his degree(s) from The Ohio State University. Gene received his B.S. in 1962, his M.S. in 1966, and his Ph.D. in 1969.

Don received his B.S. in 1964. Bill received his B.S. in 1968. Dick received his B.S. in 1969.

Since graduation, each brother has chosen his own unique niche in the swine industry. Bill and Don returned to the family farm and began to expand the swine, dairy and crop segments of the farm. Gene finished his animal breeding degree and began his extension work as Ohio's State Swine Specialist and supervisor of the Ohio Pork Improvement programs. He became a partner in Isler Genetics, the swine breeding part of the home operation. Dick briefly worked as a sales representative for Purina Mills and then became the Executive Vice-President of the Ohio Pork Producers Council in 1973.

Isler Genetics has always been at the forefront of using the latest in swine breeding tools for the improvement of hogs so that breeding stock customers produce genetically superior offspring in their operations. The Isler family built the first on-farm boar test station in Ohio offering daily gain, feed efficiency and scan information on each litter tested. They were also one of the pioneers of the Sow Productivity Index program and the on farm testing program called STAGES. These programs have made their genetics in great demand across the world.

During Gene's tenure at the University, he carried out many outreach programs in pork improvement across the state. Numerous farrowing and artificial insemination schools were held throughout the state. The boar test station was the second largest in the nation based on numbers tested, holding as many as eight sales per year. Many workshops were held for pork producers introducing them to the latest new technologies and how to strengthen their on farm genetic programs. Gene has traveled to many foreign countries helping establish sound swine production programs.

Dick has pursued the promotion of pork through the Ohio Pork Producers Council. He has worked closely with producers to raise a high quality product that the consumer demands. He has led the Ohio Pork Congress to become one of the largest and most successful in the country. In recent years, he has worked closely with the University in developing successful environmental programs and also the development of the Ohio Pork Industry Center. The Ohio Pork Council is recognized as one of the top commodity groups in the country due to Dick's leadership.

The Isler brothers have served on numerous local, state and national committees promoting the swine and other livestock industries. They are strong believers in environment and social awareness and being good neighbors. We believe the Isler brothers' contributions these past thirty plus years fulfill the tradition of excellence of the Animal Sciences Hall of Fame.

Gene and his wife, Karen, have a daughter, Vickie Potter, and a son, Dr. Brian Isler. Don and his wife, Cathy, have a son, Brad. Bill and his wife, Kathy, have a daughter, Amanda, and three sons, David, Scott, and Nathan. Dick and his wife, Linda, have three sons, Bruce, Brent, and Ben.
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ANIMAL SCIENCE HALL OF FAME

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THE SPONSORS ARE

The Animal Science Department and the Saddle and Sirloin Club. The portrait of the honored guest will hang in the Department hall of Fame in the Animal Science Building, 2029 Fyffe Road, The Ohio State University Campus.
ANIMAL SCIENCE
HALL OF FAME

HONORING
CHARLES E. CALHOUN
January 27, 1990

CLASS OF 1947
Ohio State Bestows First Woman Animal Sciences Honor

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State University’s Department of Animal Sciences has inducted the first woman into its Animal Sciences Hall of Fame.

Linda C. Martin, assistant dean of academic programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University, takes her place among livestock producers, allied industry representatives and other university personnel who have made significant contributions to the animal industry. Martin is an Ohio State alumnus with an undergraduate degree in animal sciences.

“The fact that Linda is the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame is an important event for us,” said James Kinder, chair of Ohio State's Department of Animal Sciences. “With 70 percent of our undergraduate students and 50 percent of our graduate students in the department being female, it's important that we have role models like Linda.”

Martin, a native of Maryland, holds a MS and PhD degrees in Animal Breeding and Genetics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Colorado State University, respectively. She spent 14 years teaching and advising at Kansas State University before taking a position at Oklahoma State University.

“Linda’s primary focus has been teaching and she has distinguished herself in that realm,” said Kinder.

Martin has received over 20 different college, regional and national awards for teaching excellence, and also brings to the table numerous leadership contributions to teaching including serving on advisory committees, coordinating faculty development and helping enhance teaching effectiveness.

Martin is president of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). She serves on the American Society of Animal Science Teaching/Undergraduate and Graduate Education Committee and on the national program planning committee for the 2006 National Academic Summit for Colleges of Agricultural, Life, and Related Sciences.

The Ohio State University Animal Science Hall of Fame award is presented to one person per year. A portrait of the inductee will hang in the Department of Animal Sciences building. Animal science faculty has been bestowing the honor since the 1950s.
Animal Sciences Honors New Hall of Fame Inductee

By Candace Pollock
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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- An individual recognized for his leadership in quality food products for one of Ohio's most popular family-style restaurants was inducted into Ohio State University's Department of Animal Sciences Hall of Fame.

Earl Beery, senior vice president of food products operations at Bob Evans Farms (which operates Bob Evans restaurants), joins the 61 other inductees who have been honored by their peers for their significant contributions to the animal industry. The induction took place May 9 on Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences campus. In his position, Beery oversees production, quality assurance, research and development, transportation, engineering, and employee safety programs.

"It is an honor to be in the Hall of Fame and be among those who are well-known throughout the industry for their great service and accomplishments," said Beery.

Beery grew up on a farm in Hocking County, Ohio, assisting his family in raising beef cattle. After serving in the Vietnam War, he pursued a career in the meat industry. In 1972, he graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science.

Soon after graduation, he began his employment with Bob Evans Farms as quality control manager at the Xenia, Ohio, sausage processing plant. He worked for several years developing the quality control program for all of the Bob Evans plants.

In 1982, he was promoted to vice president of production of several plants, including those in Xenia; Galva, Ill.; and Hillsdale, Mich. In 1986, he was promoted to senior vice president of all Bob Evans Farms processing plants and the distribution center in Springfield, Ohio.

Beery currently works out of the corporate office in Columbus, Ohio. He has served on many meat industry committees including the Ohio Meat Industry Board and the Mid-States Meat Association Board. He has been a member of the Ohio State University alumni and animal sciences committees over the past 35 years and currently serves as a member of the Industrial Development Committee in Gallia County, Ohio.

He attributes his success to the education and advice he received while attending Ohio State University and sees teamwork as one of the most important attributes of business growth. He offered some pointers to the listening audience.

"What makes people successful? Work for a great brand, company or name, and work hard for them. Be early, but most importantly be on time. Be consistent in the activities that you do. Be a leader. Be aggressive. And the biggest thing is always say thank you," said Beery. "If you do these things, you'll develop great people skills and good work habits, and will have years of success."

-more-
Beery and his wife, Susan have two daughters, Tricia and Mindy.
The Ohio State University Animal Sciences Hall of Fame award is presented once a year. A portrait of the inductee will hang in the Department of Animal Sciences building. The department has been bestowing the honor since the early 1950s.
Geneticist Inducted into Animal Science Hall of Fame

By Candace Pollock  
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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A livestock breeder and geneticist, whose work has furthered global economic development while supporting livestock conservation, has been inducted into this year's Ohio State University Animal Science Hall of Fame.

David Notter, professor of animal and poultry sciences at Virginia Tech, joins 62 other inductees who have been honored by their peers for their significant contributions to the animal industry. The induction took place May 21 on Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences campus. Notter received his Bachelor of Science degree in animal science from Ohio State University in 1972.

"There are only a few times where people have their homecoming experiences, and I consider this event to be one of them," said Notter, who grew up on a tobacco and beef cattle farm in Gallia County, Ohio. "So much of what we do is not about things, but about people, and the people at Ohio State University have a fond place in my heart."

Notter received his Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Nebraska. During that time, he worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Research Center. Two years later, he moved to Blacksburg, Va., and has been a faculty member at Virginia Tech ever since.

Notter has worked extensively in the development of breeding systems and genetic improvements for sheep and beef cattle. Much of his research is directed at understanding the genetic control of reproductive, health and fitness characteristics of livestock, with the aim of developing animals that are both trouble-free and more productive.

He has made contributions to the Beef Improvement Federation and the National Sheep Improvement Program, providing leadership for the genetic evaluation of sheep and meat goats. One of his achievements has been the development of a line of sheep with an extended breeding season, and is currently working to understand the genetic mechanisms governing resistance to internal parasites in sheep.

Notter's research has had international impact through a long-standing relationship with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. Notter's work with FAO and other international institutions in China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Brazil and Hungary has supported the need for both genetic resource development to meet current human needs and genetic resource conservation to ensure future access to unique livestock breeds.
"It has been said that farmers across the world have much in common," said Notter. "The struggle to reduce hunger and support rural development takes many different forms across the globe, but those of us who care for livestock share a common bond that ties us together and allows us to communicate, no matter where we may be."

Notter and his wife, Jan, have two daughters, Heather and Megan.

A portrait of Notter will hang in the Department of Animal Sciences building. The department has been bestowing the honor since the early 1950s.
Sciences Hall of Fame

The Department is proud to induct Elizabeth Harsh into the 2009 Animal Sciences’ Hall of Fame during the annual Hall of Fame and Student Recognition Ceremony. As an exceptionally well respected professional in the agricultural industry, Elizabeth Harsh demonstrates superior skills and has achieved success for her family, her community and for livestock producers in Ohio.

Harsh—who received her Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences in 1983—is the executive director for the Ohio Beef Council and the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association (OCA) where she is responsible for directing the programs and activities of the OCA and administering the beef check-off program. She is a valued lobbyist for agriculture and coordinates all the public policy efforts for the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association.

Her energy and enthusiasm for animal agriculture led her to be involved in many state and national organizations. Beginning at a time when leadership roles in agriculture where male-dominated, Harsh took on many leadership roles serving as an example to others who may follow in footsteps. From 1984 to 1989, she served as the executive secretary of the Ohio Angus Association; served as the beef superintendent at the Ohio State Fair from 1990 to 1992, and in 1998 she was the chairman of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association State Executive Officers. From 1998 to 1999 she was the chairman of the Ohio FFA Sponsors’ Board then from 1999 to 2000 she was the president of the Ohio Livestock Coalition. Currently, she serves as the president of the Ohio Agricultural Council.

Recognizing that our youth are a vital long-term resource to livestock production, Harsh is involved in many youth-oriented programs and freely gives her time to the Department. Not only does she serve as a valuable resource and guest lecturer in many of the Department’s classes, but she also provides internship and scholarship opportunities for the Department’s students. Harsh also works with many youth-oriented programs including the OCA BEST program, which promotes educating Ohio’s youth on beef industry issues, promotes family participation and rewards the successful accomplishments and hard work of junior beef producers.

Harsh is a valued partner in many Ohio State Extension activities and serves as a member of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Vice President’s Advisory Council. Her involvement in OSU Extension activities includes the Beef 509, Ohio Professional Beef Producer Program and the Ohio Beef Quality Assurance Program. In 2003, she was honored with the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ Distinguished Alumni Award.