



Honour Roll

Douglas (Buddy) Leachman

The Canadian Hereford Association congratulates Mr. Douglas (Buddy) Leachman, for his induction into the 2013 Honour Roll. The Big Gully operation officially began in 1968. In 1962, Buddy's parents, Lloyd and Pam, moved to the ranch's current location in North West Saskatchewan, about half an hour east of Lloydminster and 12 miles north of Maidstone, on Highway 21.

Initially, the operation was comprised of 100 head of commercial cattle and involved grain farming. Purebred Herefords were added in 1967 and the "Big Gully Farm" was registered under the Home Act Department in 1968. The Big Gully operation was and very much continues to be a family operation breeding 160 head of horned and polled females annually. Buddy was born May 25th, 1955 in Maidstone, Saskatchewan. He attended school in Maidstone, from 1961 to 1970, completing grades 1-9. He married Frances Oddan on November 5th, 1977. Frances attended school through grade 12 in both Marshall and Maidstone. Buddy and Frances had two boys, Lance and Tyler.

Lance received an Ag Diploma from Dodge City Community College, Dodge City, Kansas, USA in 2005. His B.Sc in Animal Science was completed at Kansas State University in 2007. From 2007 to 2010, Lance completed his M.Sc in Animal Breeding Genetics from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. Tyler received his Journeyman

Certificate as a Heavy Equipment Technician from Lakeland College, Vermilion, Alberta, in 2011. Both boys have been extremely successful in their chosen fields.

The Big Gully Hereford herd has been a leader and recognized over the years at shows across North America. Buddy won Grand Champion Bull at the NILE in Billings, Montana, in 1978. He has won numerous Grand and Reserve Champion banners at Canadian Western Agribition (CWA), Stockade Roundup and the Champion Run of Bulls, also at Agribition. In 2010, a major accomplishment was achieved when the Leachman Family won the coveted RBC Supreme Champion Bull over all breeds, at Agribition. In 2012, they won Grand Champion Horned Hereford Female honours at the World Hereford Conference as well as Nebraska Cattlemen's Class Supreme Champion Bull. Buddy was named Breeder of the Year in 2010 by the North West Saskatchewan Hereford Zone which also nominated him to the CHA Purebred Breeder Honour Roll in 2012.

"The length of time in the breed has been a struggle," says Buddy. "It's not an easy task to be successful." Mentors in Buddy's Hereford life were firstly his parents. He also recognizes George Ellis (Beartooth Ranch), Jonathon Fox (Justamere) and Herb Strandquist, herdsman for Justamere. Buddy worked as a fitter for Beartooth Ranch, Justamere, and Ponderosa. He also fitted for Don

Johnson at the Toronto Royal, CWA, Cow-Palace in San Francisco and Denver's National Western Stock Show (NWSS), on the Hill and in the Yards. He was one of the few to get off the train from Toronto's Royal Winter Fair to attend the very first CWA. Buddy has travelled extensively across Canada and the United States to attend cattle shows and visit breeders in their yards, viewing their herds. He was also one of the first pioneers in Canada to implement an Internet Sale to sell Hereford seedstock.

Buddy won a Gold Watch in 4-H Showmanship at the Lloydminster Regional 4-H Show. He judged numerous 4-H shows and summer fairs. He obtained his Class 1 license in order to haul his own cattle and grain with his semi. He admires all breeds and colours. His friendships are far reaching, from loggers, lawyers, construction, heavy equipment operators and cattlemen. He says, "I've drank out of paper bags and I've drank out of fine crystal". Buddy believes in old fashioned grazing management and not overgrazing because he says grass is a long term deposit. He learned how to use a PC later in life and is doing more business than ever before because of it and he is widening his friendships with cattle people worldwide. He has always demanded the most modern way of improving his herd utilizing AI, embryos, carcass and pregnancy ultrasound data, sexing and EPD's. Buddy always treats youth with the utmost respect, believing the future

to be in their hands. This is reflected in his support of youth in livestock and agriculture across Canada and the USA. He continuously has calls from youth of all ages from across North America informing him of their 4-H or Junior Projects, best heifers, steers, sheep, goats, pigs or rabbits.

Buddy, Frances, Lance and Tyler have all been 4-H members, mainly showing Hereford and Hereford cross cattle. Buddy was a director of the North West Saskatchewan Hereford Club for 10 to 12 years. Frances was a director and Treasurer of the Northwest Saskatchewan Hereford Ladies. Buddy also served two years as Director on the Lloydminster Exhibition and Stockade Roundup Boards. Presently, Lance is a Northwest Zone director and the Secretary/Treasurer. Buddy has participated in the Northwest Field Day since

its inception. He served four years on the Saskatchewan Hereford Association's provincial board and exhibited cattle in Lloydminster, Turtleford, Prince Albert, Regina summer fairs and both Denzil and Edam fall fairs.

Buddy is a lifetime member of the CHA since the age of 16 in 1971. Lance and Tyler were both CJHA members and Bonanza participants and now hold Young Gun memberships.

Lance manages the day to day operations of Big Gully Farms with the guidance of Buddy and Frances. When Lance is away from the farm attending cattle shows, sales or marketing the Big Gully product, Tyler is there to help look after the place. Buddy has imported bulls and females from the US as well as sold live cattle to approximately nine US States, Argentina and Inner Mongolia. He has sold semen

to approximately seven US states, South Africa, Australia and Uruguay. Buddy has and continues to enjoy team roping in Saskatchewan and Alberta, ski-dooing locally, fishing the northern lakes and BC's Queen Charlotte Islands and the mountains. Frances enjoyed horseback riding, curling, bowling, hockey and was a soccer mom. Both boys are active in quadding, ski-dooing and hockey, while Lance also enjoys the sport of soccer.

