

Cattle Production Veterinarian Hall of Fame Inductees Recognized

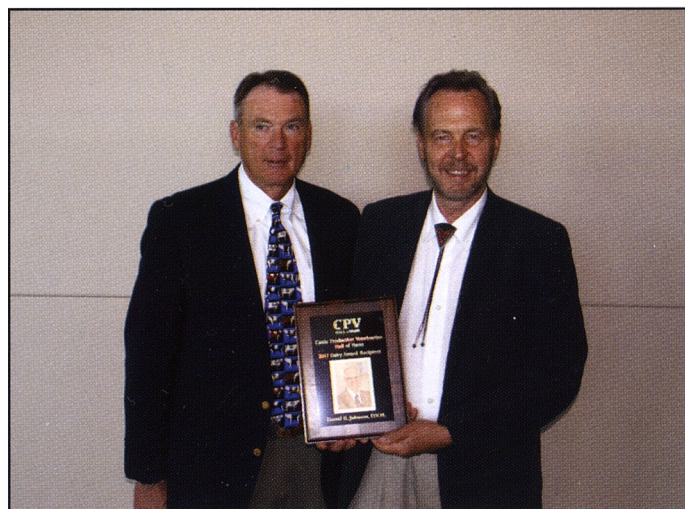
Friday, September 15, 2017
Omaha, Nebraska

Darrel E. Johnson, DVM Manawa, Wisconsin

Darrel E. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. He completed his pre-vet studies at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN and earned the DVM degree at the University of Minnesota in 1957. He entered private practice in the employ of the late Dr. Elvin K. Prather in Manawa, WI, where he became an owner and partner. The practice expanded into the adjacent community of Weyauwega, WI in 1960, and Dr. Johnson practiced in the area as senior member of a small group practice incorporated as Dairyland Animal Health, Inc. until retirement in 1993.

Dr. Johnson's activity in veterinary medicine began early in his career, serving the many small dairy farms in the upper Midwest. His practice was in the forefront of the development of production medicine concepts at this time, and was highly sought after for veterinary externships from students throughout the Midwest as a result. The WVMA (Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association) was advocating in support of the proposed School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Johnson was an active supporter of the school and served on Dean Bernard "Barney" Easterday's first Board of Visitors for a six-year term.

Among other honors, Dr. Johnson received the WVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award in 1968, Minnesota Veterinary Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus in 1979, and the AABP Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award in 1986.



Dr. Ken Nordlund (right) receiving the dairy award for Dr. Darrell Johnson from Dr. Kevin Hall, Merck Animal Health.

Rodney G. Oliphant, DVM Offerle, Kansas

Rodney G. Oliphant, DVM, was born in Spearville, Kansas in 1938. He was raised on his family farm in Offerle, KS. After high school he attended Kansas State University where he was a member of Blue Key Honor Society and Farmhouse. He earned the DVM from Kansas State University in 1963. Following his time of service in the military he practiced in Goodland, KS until his father took ill in 1970, and he then returned to Offerle to start and manage his own practice and ranching business consisting of a 1000 head commercial cow herd. He and his son started a registered Angus cattle herd, and in 1987 he was named the Beef Improvement Federation Commercial Producer of the Year.

Dr. Oliphant was owner of Oliphant Veterinary Hospital, a mixed animal practice, and he pursued a focus on feedlot health. He is known for his pioneering work in the area of preventive beef cattle medicine and spoke nationally on the issues. He was awarded the Merit Excellence in Preventive Medicine (Beef) Award in 1993.

Dr. Oliphant is also well known for his mentoring of young veterinarians, many of which went on to be leaders and found success due to their work ethic and quest for excellence in their personal and professional lives. Dr. Oliphant retired in 2012 and passed away in September of 2012. He will be remembered as a veterinarian that had a quest for knowledge, and inspiring others to improve themselves and the ones around them.



Debra Kay Abercrombie accepting the beef award for her late father, Dr. Rodney Oliphant, from Dr. Brent Meyer, Merck Animal Health.

The Cattle Production Veterinarian Hall of Fame awards are sponsored by Merck Animal Health, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Bovine Veterinarian, and OsbornBarr.