

## — Speaker Bios —



### **Dan Basse**

Dan Basse is president of AgResource Company, a domestic and international agricultural research firm located in Chicago. AgResource forecasts domestic and world agricultural price trends and provides information and research to farmers, elevators, soy and corn processors, wheat millers, food companies, trading companies, importers, exporters and meat packers. Dan is an economist that has been in the commodity business since 1979. Raised on a dairy and grain farm in Waukesha, Wis., he has a keen sense of production agriculture. Dan graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1979 with a master's in agricultural economics. In 1988, he founded AgResource Company to serve the needs of the U.S. and world agricultural community. He is often quoted on CNBC, in The Wall Street Journal and many other publications.



### **Brian Vander Ley, DVM, Ph.D.**

Brian Vander Ley, a South Dakota native, completed his undergraduate studies at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and went on to attend Iowa State University to earn both his DVM and Ph.D. While completing his post-DVM education, Brian also fulfilled an internship with the Iowa State University Food Animal Medicine and Surgery Service and served as an emergency food animal clinician.

After working for the University of Missouri as an ambulatory food animal clinician, Brian accepted a position as a veterinary epidemiologist at the University of Nebraska's Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in 2016. Still there today, his research efforts focus on investigating congestive heart failure in feedyard cattle and population-level disease surveillance tools.

Currently, Brian lives near Sutton, Neb., with his wife, Katie, and three children, Gerrit, Gavin and Johanna, along with a menagerie of creatures.



### **Dale Blasi, Ph.D.**

Born in Raton, N.M. and raised on a diversified farm and ranch outside of Trinidad, Colo., Dr. Dale Blasi journeyed to Colorado State University, where he received his master's in beef systems management in 1986. After completing his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition at the University of Nebraska in 1989, he joined the staff at Kansas State University, and in 2001, he was promoted to professor, with a 20 percent research and 80 percent extension appointment.

Dale is part of the K-State beef team, with his primary responsibility being the development, implementation and dissemination of information related to the beef stocker and backgrounding segment. To achieve this, Dale built, and has continually improved, a functional beef research facility that is devoted entirely to the nutritional and health management of post-weaned calves and evaluation of animal identification technologies.



### **Leon "Sam" Barringer, DVM**

From his service in the United States Air Force and Army Reserves to his extensive list of educational experiences, Sam Barringer seems to have done it all. Sam began his education at the University of Maryland, where he received his Bachelor's of Science in business management before heading onto the University of Illinois for a bachelor's in veterinary bioscience. After completing his undergraduate degrees, Sam moved on to the University of California - Davis to receive a DVM with a food animal track and a dairy veterinary production medicine certificate. While there, he also was the recipient of the John W. Kendrick Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine.

Currently, Sam works for Diamond V. Feedlot and Dairy Tech Services, but his previous experiences include manager of veterinary operations for Merck Animal Health, director of veterinary operations for Pfizer Animal Health, senior dairy veterinarian for Pfizer AHG and many others. He has received numerous honors and awards, both while in the military and the cattle community, spoken at multiple events, published in journal articles, and stays active in professional societies, such as the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.



### **John Gerber**

John Gerber, who now serves as the vice president of Cattle Procurement at Tyson Fresh Meats, began his career with IBP in 1982 as a scale house coordinator in Luverne, Minn. In 1985, his role changed to cattle buyer in eastern South Dakota before he joined the procurement team in the corporate office in 1998. At that time, John served as the director of procurement, leading him to his current role in 2006. He is known for his hard work in building and coaching an industry-leading staff of cattle buyers.

### **Kevin Hueser**

Kevin Hueser currently serves as the senior vice president of Beef Margin Management at Tyson Fresh Meats. In this role, he leads a team of cattle procurement, carcass merchandising, boxed beef pricing, and trim and ground beef pricing experts.

His career with IBP began in 1984 at the Dakota City facility. Since then, he has held numerous positions in operations, human resources, sales and marketing, beef pricing and margin management. Kevin's experiences also include playing a key role in developing the previously owned Lakeside Packers unit in Brooks, Alberta. He also has served as product council chairperson of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association executive committee, and he continues to be an active participant within the organization.

Kevin resides in Elk Point, S.D., with his wife, Michelle, and their three children.

## Speaker Bios



### **Nigel Gopie, Ph.D.**

Nigel Gopie is the global marketing leader for IBM Food Trust™, IBM Blockchain, where he receives recognition for intense focus on the client experience and solving problems with innovative, viable solutions. His modus operandi, “Test early, fail fast,” helps him continuously improve. Before joining IBM Blockchain, he was a digital and analytics associate partner with IBM Global Business Services. He empowered diverse teams to transform organizations by designing client-centric solutions using agile methods, advanced analytics and designed thinking.

Nigel resides in New York City, having previously lived in Toronto, Montréal and the Port of Spain. He has a Ph.D. in psychology and a bachelor’s of science with honors in neuroscience. His work has been featured in The New York Times, BBC, NPR, Yahoo News, Fox News, The Guardian, Global News, Daily Mail, The Daily Telegraph, Time and other international media outlets.



### **Paul Walz, DVM, Ph.D.**

Paul Walz received his DVM from Michigan State University in 1992. Following two years in a mixed animal practice in Corunna, Mich., he returned to Michigan State University for a residency in food animal medicine, surgery and production medicine. Paul completed his residency, received his master’s degree in 1997 and became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in large animal medicine. Paul continued his graduate studies at Michigan State University and received his Ph.D. in 2000.

After post-graduate training, he joined the faculty at Kansas State University in 2000 as an assistant professor in agricultural practices. Paul then, in 2004, joined the faculty at Auburn University as an assistant professor in food animal medicine in the departments of clinical sciences and pathobiology, and was promoted to associate professor and then to professor. He currently serves as the coordinator of animal health research, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University.



### **Jeff Heldt, Ph.D.**

Jeff Heldt was born and raised in Nebraska. After high school, Jeff went to the University of Wyoming, where he majored in animal science, and in 1992, he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He earned a Master of Science degree from South Dakota State University in 1995 and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Kansas State University in 1998.

Following college, Jeff has served in various Beef Technical Services roles in the livestock feed industry. He also has spent some time as a feedyard and ranch manager in Nebraska prior to his current position as the manager with Micronutrients USA LLC. In this role, Jeff leads the Beef Technical Services efforts for the North American ruminant team and beef research. Jeff also is active with his volunteerism in the beef industry, as a current board member and past president of the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Research and Education Foundation, a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen Scottsbluff Affiliate and a past co-chairman for the Cattlemen’s Ball of Nebraska.

Jeff currently lives in Scottsbluff, Neb., with his wife, Nicole, and their three children: James, Clara and Harrison.



### **Paul Dykstra**

As beef cattle specialist for the *Certified Angus Beef*® brand, Paul Dykstra works closely with ranchers and feedyard managers in the central and western U.S. to raise Angus cattle using best management practices to enhance profitability and produce quality beef. He provides data analysis and quality beef market information to help commercial cattlemen and feeders earn CAB premiums. Paul also connects beef community partners in retail and foodservice through educational experiences and oversees *Certified Angus Beef*® brand Natural on participating farms and ranches.

A native of Colorado, Paul grew up on a commercial cow calf ranch in western Colorado and later worked at a feedyard and crop farming. He then earned a degree in animal science from Colorado State University where he was on the livestock judging team. Paul worked as a feedyard manager for the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., before joining the brand's supply development team in 2002. He resides in Chappell, Neb., with his wife, Alisa, and their two children. He enjoys working with the kids on 4-H projects and with the family's cowherd, as well as hunting and fishing.



### **Dan Moser, Ph.D.**

Current president of Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and director of performance programs for the American Angus Association®, Dan Moser was raised on a small seedstock cattle operation in northeast Kansas. He earned his bachelor's degree in animal sciences from Kansas State University, and his master's and Ph.D. in beef cattle genetics from the University of Georgia. For 20 years as a faculty member at the University of Georgia, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University, he taught courses in animal management, genetics and animal breeding, conducted applied research, advised undergraduate and graduate students, and coordinated university seedstock cattle herds.

In his current role, he oversees genetic evaluation programs, genomic testing services, research initiatives, business activities and member education efforts for AGI and the association. He is a frequent speaker at beef industry events throughout the states and internationally. Dan has served the beef industry in a variety of leadership roles and is currently a director of the Beef Improvement Federation.



### **Rick Funston, Ph.D.**

Rick Funston is a professor and reproductive physiologist at the University of Nebraska. He received his bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University, his master's from Montana State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming. He then ventured to Colorado State University to complete post-doctorate work in reproduction and biotechnology.

Today, Rick divides his time between extension and research. His research on lighter heifer development is receiving national adoption; his research on fetal programming effects on postnatal calf performance, including carcass characteristics and reproduction, has received national and international recognition; and he is a team member of nationally recognized Beef Systems Research. In the extension capacity, he provides leadership and subject matter expertise for educational programs in cow-calf production management for the West Central District and statewide expertise in beef reproductive management programs.

## WHAT IS THE INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD?

The Feeding Quality Forum Industry Achievement award recognizes beef community leaders who have made a lasting mark on the industry with the common cause of helping its members produce better beef, pleasing consumers profitably and sustainably. Achievements can be through private enterprises and include outreach through service or industry leadership, or they can be primarily public service with little or no direct cattle feeding endeavors. This is the first year in which previous winners voted on the top achiever, making it a truly community- and leadership-focused honor.

## PREVIOUS WINNERS



**2017** Lee Borck  
Chairman  
Innovative Livestock Services



**2016** Larry Corah  
Vice President  
Certified Angus Beef LLC



**2015** James Herring  
President and CEO  
Friona Industries



**2014** Topper Thorpe  
30-Year CEO  
Cattle-Fax



**2013** David Bechtol  
DVM Palo Duro Consulting



**2012** Kenneth Eng  
Consulting Feedyard  
Nutritionist



**2011** Max Deets  
Manager  
Solomon Valley Feeders



**2010** Paul Engler  
Co-Founder, President  
and CEO  
Cactus Feeders

## 2018 FEEDING QUALITY FORUM INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

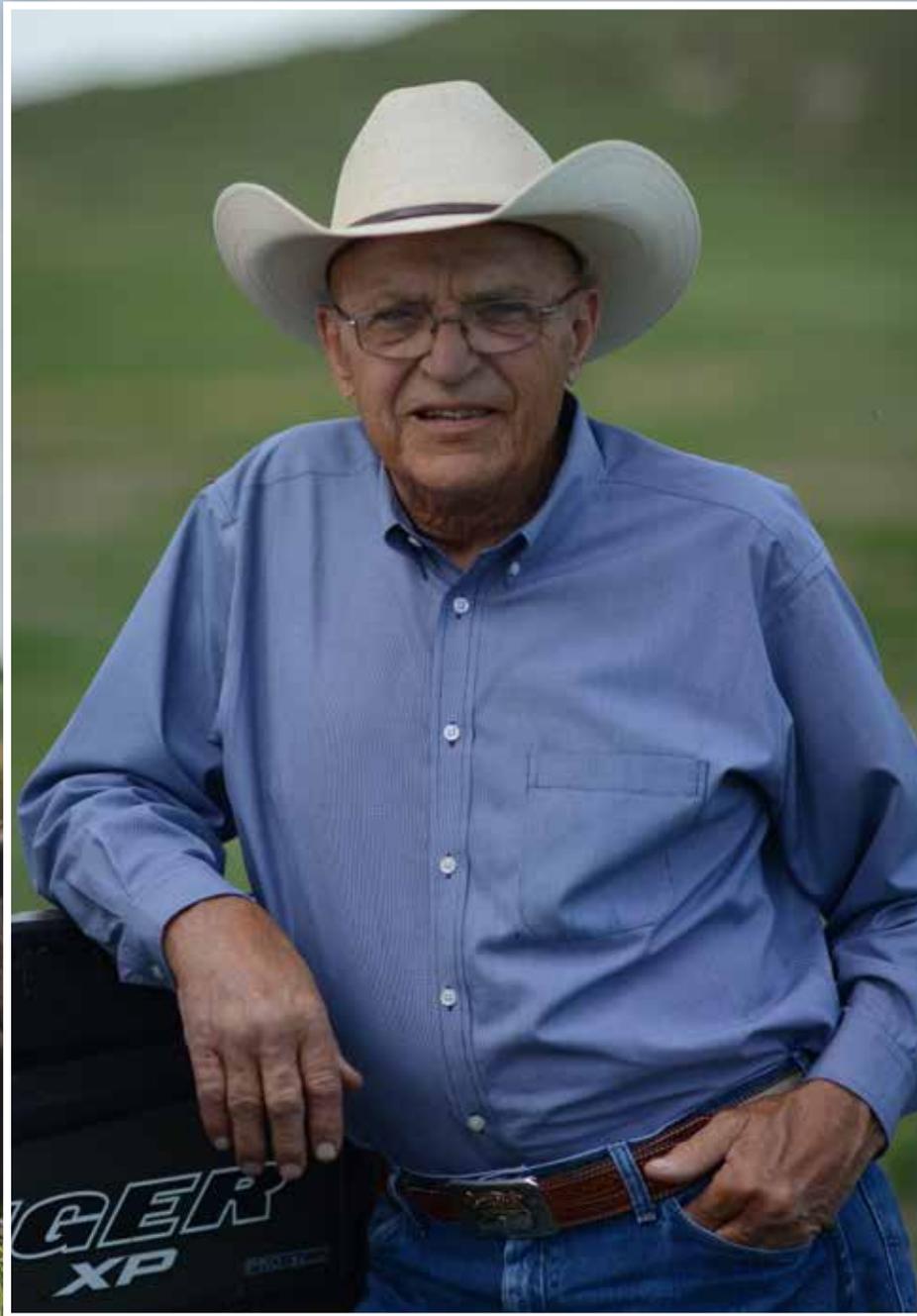
### Gerald Timmerman

A highly engaged leader in a variety of agricultural business ventures, Gerald Timmerman is best known for his role as president of Timmerman & Sons Feeding Co., where he's led the business since 1969. Along with his brothers, he operates the cattle feeding and cow-calf operation that has grown from their home base in Springfield, Neb., to encompass cattle production facilities in five states.

An early adopter of technology, Gerald has always been a champion of practical applications in the feeding industry. He remembers the days when feeding was done with 'just a scoop shovel and horses' and appreciates the efficiencies mechanization has provided. When the opportunity to market cattle on quality-based grids arose, Gerald had the vision to evolve his use of technology, genetic selection and feeding strategies in ways that benefit the beef consumer. It's his business-savvy mindset, humble attitude and focus on creating better beef that inspired previous Feeding Quality Forum Industry Achievement award winners to nominate him for the award.

When not with cattle, Gerald can be found serving as a board member of several privately held and civic organizations or spending time with family. Together with his wife of 54 years, Lynn Ann, the couple has five children and five grandchildren.

*Congratulations to this year's winner!*



**2018  
GERALD TIMMERMAN,  
PRESIDENT, TIMMERMAN & SONS FEEDING CO.**