



NEWS

For Immediate Release
January 19, 2010

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American Gelbvieh Association Honors Al and Mary Knapp

Al and Mary Knapp of Bonner Springs, Kan. were honored as the American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) 2010 Member of the Year at the association's annual convention on January 9.

The AGA honors members who through their work have brought credit to the Gelbvieh breed and their association. Al and Mary Knapp, owners and operators of Triple K Gelbvieh, are distinguished recipients of this award.

Triple K Gelbvieh is a family owned purebred Gelbvieh and Balancer® seedstock operation. They have been raising Gelbvieh cattle since 1996 after purchasing a purebred Gelbvieh bull for breeding some Angus based commercial heifers. When they saw what Gelbvieh added to the commercial cows and the hybrid vigor of the calves they were convinced.

At the same time, their son Nick was in 4-H and wanted a Gelbvieh heifer. After a couple of years they saw the maternal differences in the Gelbvieh cows and were convinced. By 1999 they converted to solely a purebred Gelbvieh seedstock operation.

The Knapps attend 8-10 shows each year including the American Gelbvieh Junior Association National Classic, the American Royal where they serve as Gelbvieh Superintendents, the Kansas State Fair, and the Kansas Livestock Association Kansas Beef Expo and have shown several champions.

Al and Mary are active members of the American Gelbvieh Association. Al and Mary both serve on the AGA Foundation committee, which Al co-chairs. Also, Al has been a member of the AGA Board of Directors and was recently elected as association president.

In addition, the Knapps have a strong commitment to support young people in the beef industry. On a local level, Mary was the Glenwood 4-H Leader for 8 years and Al was a beef leader for 9 years. Since 2001, Al and Mary have served as American Gelbvieh Junior Association (AGJA) advisors and work closely with, and support the AGJA Board of Directors.

"I always enjoy seeing Al and Mary at youth shows because of the fun they bring with them. It's nothing to see them hanging out at the pool with the kids at night or just cutting up and laughing with the kids," said Dana Stewart, AGA Director of Member Services.

The Knapps have helped mentor many families in the Gelbvieh breed including the Buffo family of Lansing, Kan. In a letter of support for the Knapps, Steve Buffo recalls the mentoring relationship that they have developed with his son Cole. Steve writes, "The Knapps have taken Cole to several shows and have instilled in Cole the passion, service, and faith of the Gelbvieh breed."

Their service stretches beyond Gelbvieh. They are members of the Kansas Livestock Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Leavenworth County Beef Improvement Association where Al served two years as president. They have also completed the MBA Certified Masters in Beef Advocacy program. In 2008, Triple K took another opportunity to serve while promoting Gelbvieh by hosting the North East KLA/Leavenworth County Beef Improvement Association tour.

-30-

Photo caption [AGA mem_yr 089.jpeg]: Kansas breeders, Al and Mary Knapp, were honored as the 2010 American Gelbvieh Association Members of the Year. Pictured from left to right are niece Emily Knapp, son Nick Knapp, Mary and Al Knapp, and Gelbvieh junior member Cole Buffo.