

## **Sutherland and Usinger Inducted into the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame; Collegiate Scholarships Awarded**

Members of the Wisconsin livestock and meat industries recently inducted Dan Sutherland and Fritz Usinger into the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame.

Dan Sutherland began his career in 1972 when he went to work for his family's business at the Milwaukee Stockyard. In 1982 he left to become the head of sow procurement for Johnsonville. During his 34-year career at Johnsonville, his roles included plant management, meat and value-added sales, meat purchasing, and rendering and hide sales. He also worked to open foreign markets on four continents. Sutherland served in many industry leadership roles including the Packers Processors Industry Council, National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, and was a long-time President of the Wisconsin Meat and Livestock Council.

Fritz Usinger began his career in the meat industry as a teenager, working for Fred Usinger, Inc, a multi-generational meat and sausage processing company in Milwaukee. He joined the business full-time after receiving a degree in Meat and Animal Science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1980. He was named President in 1988, making him the fourth generation of the Usinger family to serve in that role. The company has grown during his leadership to include a distribution center and modern manufacturing plant. The iconic Usinger's brand is known throughout the United States and is regarded for its tradition and quality.

Founded in 1993, the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the state's meat industry. The Hall of Fame program is coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Meat Science & Animal Biologics Discovery program, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, and the Wisconsin Livestock and Meat Council (WLMC.)

In addition, the Wisconsin Livestock and Meat Council awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to university students from campuses at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls. These are students who have demonstrated interests in animal science, particularly in the production and processing of beef, pork, lamb and veal.

Students recognized at the event were:

- UW-Madison – Grace Kling, junior in Animal & Veterinary Sciences
- UW-River Falls - Rachel Weyland, Kensey Adkins, Robby Hagerty, and Gabby Huitema. They are all juniors majoring in Animal Science.
- UW-Platteville – Gavin Esser, a senior; junior Lily Grillon; and Madison Hughes, a senior. They are all majoring in Animal Science.

Scholarship funds are raised through generous donations from organizations and companies involved in the industry. Those companies that donated to the scholarship fund were: American Foods Group, Darling Ingredients, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales, Johnsonville Sausage, Jones Dairy Farm, Kenosha Beef International, Milwaukee Stockyards, Sanimax, Stoneridge Market, Usinger's, Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, and the Wisconsin Lakeshore Sausage Association (consisting of Cher-Mak Sausage Company, Fred Usinger Inc., and Old Wisconsin Inc.)

The mission of the Wisconsin Livestock & Meat Council is to connect producers, processors, students and educators to encourage and support the industry's future leaders and recognize the leaders who were a vital part of the Wisconsin livestock and meat industry. Awarding scholarships and providing input to the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame are the Council's principal functions.

###

Photos:

Scholarships (left to right): Dr. Arquimides Reyes, UW-River Falls; Robby Hagerty, UW-River Falls; Grace Kling, UW-Madison; Rachel Weyland, UW-River Falls; Kensey Adkins, UW-River Falls; Gabby Huitema, UW-River Falls; Tammy Vaassen, Wisconsin Livestock & Meat Council; Jeff Swenson, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection.

Sutherland (left to right): Bob Neubauer, Dan Sutherland, Chris Salm, Kevin Ladwig

Usinger family (left to right): Sean Sample, Steve Becker, Emily Usinger Sample, Nicki Usinger, Fritz Usinger, Barbara Becker, Vincent De Sarthe, Heidi Maetzold, and Gabby De Sarthe.