



News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AL BCIA Announces 2007 Extension Agent of the Year Contributed By: Lindsay Graber, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Communications Intern

Birmingham, Ala. – The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) named Kent Stanford, northeast Alabama regional extension agent, the 2007 BCIA Extension Agent of the Year. Stanford was recognized during the BCIA annual meeting and awards program in Birmingham on Feb. 1.

Stanford's first experiences with extension are from childhood involvement in his county's 4-H program. Stanford said that he had a dedicated 4-H agent who encouraged him in the program. This spurred his interest in a career with extension.

Currently, Stanford works in Blount, Cullman, Marshall, and St. Clair counties as a regional Extension agent. He has taken leadership roles with the Master Cattlemen's training program and worked with a team of his fellow agents to give educational tours to cattle producers in his area. Stanford also collaborated with other agents to begin the Alabama Youth Livestock Judging Camp to help young people hone their evaluation skills.

Through his Extension programming, Stanford works extensively with BCIA. He provides hands-on training in cattle conformation and phenotypic evaluation at open house events and educational sessions. Stanford coordinates the North Alabama heifer sale and assists with the North Alabama Bull Evaluation Center. Stanford worked with twenty-eight BCIA members in Blount, Cullman, Marshall, and St. Clair counties during the 2006 year and 15 additional active members in the same counties during the 2007 year.

Stanford said that he enjoys working with BCIA because the people are "progressive people that are willing to listen." Stanford also said that when the BCIA people are motivated, he is motivated.

A 1994 graduate of Auburn University, Stanford has a degree in Animal Sciences. He managed a large commercial cattle and timber operation in Georgia after graduation. In 1995, Stanford took a position with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) in St. Clair County. Stanford was reassigned to a regional extension agent position in 2004. He currently remains in that region.

The Alabama BCIA is a non-profit organization seeking to promote, educate and facilitate the use of performance data, record keeping and marketing opportunities to improve the Alabama cattle industry. BCIA is composed of persons, firms, partnerships, and corporations in the State of Alabama who are engaged in the production and marketing of purebred and commercial beef cattle. Formed in 1964, BCIA cooperates with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) of Auburn University under a formal agreement and is guided under a 20 member board consisting of producers, industry leaders, research personnel and extension professionals.

For more information, please contact:
Michelle Elmore
Alabama BCIA
Extension Animal Scientist/Beef Cattle Improvement
(205) 646-0115
elmormf@auburn.edu



(l to r) Regional Extension Agent Kent Stanford & Tim Donaldson, Cullman County AL BCIA member