

Local Ranching Family Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2000 -- On May 10, the Laflins, a local ranching family, received national recognition for over 100 years of accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which are exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

The Laflin's roots go back to Parley Laflin, born in 1799 who began selling cattle on a large scale in the mid-1800s. Parley would regularly walk the 150 miles between his home in Rock Island County, Illinois, to Chicago, driving his cattle ahead of him to market. This was before Chicago had stockyards. By the 1900s the Laflin's operated with 500 cows and worked 40 horse and mule teams. Eugene Laflin, Parley's grandson, started the family's Angus breeding program in Nebraska in the 1900s and so began a new era of ranching for the Laflins. Today, the Laflin herd is recognized as one of three oldest seed stock nurseries in the world. Eugene's grandsons Bob and Lew relocated the family from Nebraska to Kansas in 1962 and continued the registered operation known as Laflin Ranch.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "The Laflins are one of only three families in the United States who have had continuous family involvement in the registered Angus business for 100 years. The Laflins have a long and storied record of service to this country and to American agriculture. We thank them for more than 100 years of service, commitment, and dedication."

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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