

Looking for new class of masters

PRAIRIE Farmer recently welcomed five Master Farmers from all corners of the state.

The new members accepted their awards during a luncheon March 4 at the Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center in Springfield. The 2009 Master Farmers are Doug and Tom Block, Pearl City; Randy Lambdin, Wolf Lake; Rick Nelson, Paxton; and Kent Schleich, Fairview.

With the awards program moved back to spring, Master Farmer applications will be due Sept. 1 for the 2010 class. Help keep this award among the most prestigious in agriculture by nominating a worthy candidate.

For a copy of the nomination form, visit www.PrairieFarmer.com. The Master Farmer section is accessible from the "More Prairie Farmer" heading. The form is available in Word format.

If you'd like us to mail you a copy of the nomination form, contact Associate Editor Josh Flint at 217-877-0552 or jflint@farmprogress.com.



NEW MEMBERS: Last month, five Master Farmers were added to the distinguished ranks. (From left) Rick Nelson, Randy Lambdin, Tom Block, Doug Block and Kent Schleich.

Auction helps Junior Angus Association

DURING February's Illinois Angus Association Banquet, the Illinois Junior Angus Association raised nearly \$21,000 by auctioning seed corn. The proceeds will help IJAA host next year's Eastern Regional, set for June 23-26, 2010.

Angus producer and Kruger District Sales Manager Luke Lemenager coordinated the auction, which included six seed packages that sold at live auction during the banquet. Lemenager, along with other dealers, donated the packages, which each consisted of 12 bags of seed. The proceeds from the auction generated \$20,760, and the buyers can take delivery of the seed for either the 2009 or 2010 planting season.

"In production agriculture, especially in Illinois, the seed industry is leading the way in the technology it provides growers and also in the dollars it commands from producers," Lemenager says. "The timing was ideal for the seed corn industry to continue to lead the pack in giving back to the agricultural youth in the state."

Monsanto, DuPont, Stone Seed, Kruger Seed, Cropland Genetics and AgriGold Hybrids donated the seed packages. In addition to the seed corn, other items including quilts, jewelry, spa packages, artwork and embryo transfer services sold that evening for an additional \$6,680, for a grand total of \$27,440 for the evening.

Source: Illinois Junior Angus Association



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