

Executive Vice President Article

March 2010

The urgency that is the Foundation.....

There are few things in this world that brings joy to all of us as much as giving to others! That has been the goal of the Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation from the beginning. Agriculture, and in particular the beef industry has always been willing to step up to the plate to help our own, especially youth. From the very start, the Foundation was established to help our youth and others in need.

The Cattle Drive for Disabled Children was and is a program to assist those with a financial need for special equipment from accidents derived from farm accidents. This and other programs have been established since those humble beginnings to aid young people. 161 young people with special needs have been awarded over \$143,000 to provide equipment that makes their daily lives better.

The Foundation and Missouri Cattlemen's Association enjoy a unique and great relationship that fits together like hand and glove. The Foundation was also established to build a permanent home for the cattle industry where the archives of Missouri's rich cattle history could be maintained. It is the home to not only the Foundation, but also MCA and the Missouri Beef Industry Council.

Today, the Foundation is in urgent need of financial assistance!

Looking back at the accomplishments to date of the Foundation, we all have something to be proud of. Since it's beginning, in addition to the special needs assistance, MCF has provided vital funding to 446 students to aid in college educations. They have come from 85 counties and represent \$448,500 in scholarships. This past year more than 240 applications were received asking for financial assistance. These scholarships have greatly helped those young people with agricultural backgrounds pursue their dreams!

Farm safety is a vital part of the Foundation's mission so that they can prevent our young people from injury during their growing years on the farm. The Foundation has provided farm safety education to more than 1,600 students. No other organization in Missouri provides this level of education or scholarship assistance to youth of the beef industry as the Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation does.

To continue a high level of support, the Foundation needs your help. It is critical to provide for a future for our youth and the beef industry. There are several ways to help:

1) Each MCA member could establish a gift of only \$9.67 per year. If each member were to contribute, a total of \$48,000 would be raised to sustain the Foundation for its yearly operations.

2) Counties could give monetary gifts to support the Foundation. Many counties have the ability to support the Foundation with a substantial donation.

3) Individuals could donate gifts. This may include cattle, land, machinery, jewelry, stocks, bonds, IRA's, etc. Please call the office for specific requirements before donating a gift of this kind.

4) Some individuals may have a farm to donate. A donation of this type will require consultation before action is taken. In the past donations of this type have been made to universities and philanthropic groups. For those who love agriculture and care about its future, this may be the perfect legacy to perpetuate a family's name and estate. Please seek a financial consultant to learn more how a donation can be beneficial to the donor and the recipient.

Please take the time to look into how you can contribute to a very worthy cause. Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation was established by cattlemen to help cattlemen and preserve a way of life we all love. Now is the time to give to such an important cause. If we can answer any questions, don't hesitate to call (573) 449-4923.