

Dale C. Blair – School 1961

Honorary Life Member 2015

Dale was born on July 3, 1940 on the family farm at Drake. He received his education at Bloomfield Elementary School and Lanigan Central High. In 1961, Dale received his Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan.

Dale married Janet Marshall on April 13, 1963. Their first winter was spent in Fort St. John where Dale worked on the rigs and Janet nursed. They returned to the family farm in 1964 as the fourth generation of "full-time farmers" partnering with his father, Sandy, and brother, Ron, and family in the mixed farming operation named Blair Farms. The brothers were the second generation to be involved in the family business after Sandy set up Blair's Fertilizer Company. Several years ago, they sold the fertilizer business to their respective sons and families and dissolved Blair Farms.

A new partnership was formed with son, Scott and family, Blair's West Land and Cattle Company. The farm today crops about 5,000 acres and maintains a herd of 300 cows. Blair's West received the Commercial Angus Breeder Award of the Year in 2000 and Commercial Simmental Breeder of the Year Award in 2011. Dale was recognized this year at the Commercial Sale at Agribition with a tribute for his contribution to the commercial cattle industry.

Dale was active in the agriculture industry and his community. He was on the founding committee of the Sask. Simmental Association. He served on its Board of Directors for many years and was President of the Association. He imported some of the first Simmental cattle from Switzerland and France. He was the "Simmental Barn Boss" at Agribition in the 1970's. Dale was also a Director on the Canadian Simmental Board. He served on Pound-Maker Adventures Board of Directors for 27 years acting as Chairman for many years. Locally, he served on many committees acting as President of the Drake & District Recreation Board, Drake Minor Hockey, Last Mountain Minor Hockey, and Long Lake Senior Hockey League. He was awarded the Citizen of the Year trophy in 1985 for Drake. Dale served on the Provincial Agriculture Review Board until his death in October this year. He was always interested in improving technologies with implement manufacturers.

Dale and Janet had four children, three sons and one daughter, nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Their sons have followed their father's footsteps and all attended Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. Today, they are all active in either farming or the fertilizer business. The grandchildren are following the family tradition respecting education and sports. Dale has left an exemplary history of agricultural innovation, respect for education, and community involvement.