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**BIF Award Program Applications Due**

MANHATTAN, Kansas — Deadlines for Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) award applications are approaching quickly. Each year BIF recognizes a Seedstock Producer of the Year and Commercial Producer of the Year.

The deadline for both awards is March 1. Applications are posted to the BeefImprovement.org website “Award Forms” page under the “Resource Center” tab. Each BIF member organization is allowed to make three nominations in each category. From the nominations received, five finalists will be selected for the Commercial and Seedstock Producer of the Year Awards. These five finalists will be notified and recognized at the BIF annual convention.

For more information about the BIF awards programs, contact BIF Executive Director Jane Parish at j.parish@msstate.edu or 662.566.8000.

BIF also offers two student-focused award programs. The annual Frank Baker/Larry Cundiff Beef Improvement Essay Contest for graduate students provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding student research and competitive writing in honor of Frank Baker and Larry Cundiff.

Each year, winning essays are selected and published in the annual *BIF Research Symposium and Annual Meeting Proceedings*. Each winning author will receive a $1,000 scholarship.
The Roy A. Wallace Memorial Scholarship was established to encourage young men and women interested in beef improvement to pursue those interests as Wallace did, with dedication and passion. Two $1,250 scholarships are awarded each year, one to an undergraduate and the other to a graduate student. Criteria for selection include a demonstrated commitment serving the beef cattle industry, a passion for the areas of beef breeding, genetics and reproduction, academic performance and personal character.

The Roy A. Wallace Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Memorial Fund was established by Select Sires to honor the life and career of Roy Wallace. Wallace, who worked for Select Sires for 40 years, served as vice president of beef programs and devoted his life to the improvement of beef cattle. He became involved with BIF in its infancy and was the only person to attend the first 40 BIF conventions. He loved what BIF stands for — bringing together purebred and commercial cattle breeders, academia and breed associations, all committed to improving beef cattle.

Information about the Frank Baker/Larry Cundiff Essay Contest and Roy A. Wallace Memorial Scholarship are posted to the BIF website “Award Forms” page under the “Resource Center” tab. For more information about either program, contact Megan Rolf, committee chairperson, at megrolf@ksu.edu.

All 2020 award winners will be recognized at the BIF Convention and Research Symposium will be June 9-12 in Kissimmee, Florida. For more information about BIF, visit Beefimprovement.org

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*The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) is an organization dedicated to coordinating all segments of the beef industry — from researchers and producers to retailers — in an effort to improve the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of beef production. The organization was initiated almost 70 years ago to encourage the use of objective measurements to evaluate beef cattle. Continuing the tradition, BIF is now the clearinghouse for developing standardized programs and methodologies for recording of performance data for all traits, from birth weights to carcass traits. Its three-leaf-clover logo symbolizes the link between industry, extension and research.*