

July 30, 2009

Mr. Homer Buell of Bassett, Nebraska Block and Bridle 2009 Honoree



2009 BLOCK & BRIDLE HONOREE OF THE YEAR

[Homer Buell](#)

Family: Wife: Darla Children: Chad, Tara

The University of Nebraska Block and Bridle Club honors Mr. Homer Buell as the 2009 Honoree. Homer is the fourth-generation co-owner of the Shovel Dot Ranch near Rose, Nebraska. He has been an advocate for agriculture and the cattle industry by serving in leadership roles in trade organizations as well as testifying on behalf of the University before the Unicameral. Homer has been a strong supporter of youth activities and has worked with the University for the benefit of our students and research programs.

The Shovel Dot Ranch Homer co-owns with his brother, Larry, was founded in 1883 by Homer's great grandfather Benjamin Franklin Buell. He was a cigar maker and school teacher from Michigan who passed through the Sandhills on his way to Washington State. After working as a bookkeeper for a logging company in Washington, he came back to the Sandhills and homesteaded. This was only the beginning, as the ranch has expanded with each generation to its present size of 25,000 acres.

Benjamin continued to operate the ranch until the 1920's when he passed on ownership to his son, Homer L. Buell. Homer L. passed on the ranch to his son Barney in the 1940s, who managed the ranch until he, in turn, passed it on to his sons, including our Honoree Homer, in the 1970s. Today, Homer and his brother, Larry, co-operate the Shovel Dot in a partnership, but they are looking to pass it on to their children and grandchildren.

The Shovel Dot Ranch is a 1,400 head cow/calf and yearling operation that uses a cross of Hereford and Angus cattle. Homer informed Block & Bridle members that he looks at his role as a cattle producer - not just a rancher, but a grass farmer. By carefully managing the grass resources on the Shovel Dot, cattle can graze nearly year around and, thereby, consume less harvested forage.

Homer graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1971 with a degree in Business Administration. He went to college originally looking to become a lawyer, but decided that he wanted to return home to the family ranch. He credits much of his success on the ranch to the principles he learned in business management.

Homer's involvement in trade organizations, as well as many other organizations, has been a great asset to agriculture. He has served in many leadership positions for Nebraska such as President of the Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Hereford Association. He has served at the national level in the American Hereford Association and as a member of the Board for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.