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Cattleman Honored

The Southwest Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association honored John Wheeler, Marionville at their November 12 annual meeting in Springfield with their commercial producer of the year award.

Wheeler was recognized for his involvement with the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer program. He has participated in the program since 2002 and sold his first heifers in their sale in 2003. Since then he's consigned 405 bred heifers to the sale. He is known for his black baldy, F1 heifers which he purchases as weaned calves from top commercial herds.

Wheeler uses all-natural service when it comes to breeding the heifers. The bulls are purchased through the BCIA's bull sales or from member breeders directly off the farm. He is a director on the Missouri Show-Me-Select board and a member of the University of Missouri Extension council in Lawrence county.

Also recognized as the seedstock producer of 2009 was the Pitts Angus Farm of Hermitage.

The Southwest Missouri BCIA was organized in 1972 to support educational efforts of the beef seedstock industry in the region. At that time, the main program involved the on-farm performance tested bulls sale. Since then other educational efforts such as the Show-Me-Select Heifer Program and the Missouri Steer Feedout have come along under the BCIA's umbrella.

To learn more about their efforts, go to: www.swmobicia.com