

*For Immediate Release*  
**Ayrshire Breeders' Association**

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**JIM AND SHARON TENTINGER PRESENTED WITH**  
**AYRSHIRE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ayrshire Breeders' Association presented its annual Distinguished Service Award to the late Jim Tentinger and his wife, Sharon, of Remsen, IA at the National Ayrshire Convention in Altoona, IA on June 23, 2017.

Jim Tentinger was elected to the Ayrshire Breeders' Association Board of Directors in 2008 and then served terms as director, moving up to Vice President, and President. Jim was elected to serve as a district and corporate board of the Midwest Dairy Association. He was a board member of the Iowa State Dairy Association, and a member of the Dairy Farmers Association. Jim encouraged Sharon to become more active with the dairy industry. She became involved on both state and national levels. Sharon has been very involved in the formation and development of the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Foundation and has served on the board and as treasurer. Jim and Sharon served as co-chairpersons for the 2003 and 2009 National Ayrshire Conventions. They also served on the 2016 World Ayrshire Conference planning committee. Jim strongly felt that if he grew and produced a product that was to be sold, then he needed to help promote that industry and product.

Their start in the Ayrshire fraternity began in 1976, when Jim took over the herd from his father, and by 1978 the herd was all registered Ayrshires. Ten-Ayr Dairy operated as a diversified operation as they farmed close to 2500 acres with family members. Jim believed this diversification was vital in order to survive the volatility in the commodity markets. He was quoted as saying, "We spread out risk in different markets. This helps us work our way through changing times. Grain could be up one year, while milk is down. Diversifying production is the one thing that will allow us to survive risk."

The Tentingers have been true stewards of the Ayrshire breed. They demonstrated this by their support of the state and national sales as both consigners and buyers. They believed in the potential of the Ayrshire cow and in their own role in making breed progress. In their local community, the Tentingers enjoyed giving farm tours to over 200 students each fall for over 21 years. They communicated to the public what it was like living on an Ayrshire dairy farm and the impact of agriculture.