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Joining former senator Bob Dole during his remarks at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center were, from left: Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey, Kansas State University president Kirk Schulz, Dole, and Ron Suppes, Dighton, Kansas Wheat Commission chairman.

Former senator Bob Dole visits Kansas Wheat Innovation Center

By Donna Sullivan, Editor
Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole paid a visit to the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center on May 13 as part of his journey to visit all 105 Kansas counties in appreciation for the support he was shown by Kansans throughout his political career.

"My only purpose is to let people know I appreciate what they did for me so that I could do something for Kansas," he remarked. "People say, 'You did this, or you did that,' and I would say, 'Well, that's what you paid me for.' You paid me to go back and work for Kansas." Dole served as the leading Senate Republican for ten years, only three of which saw the party in the majority.

"It was a great experience for me, which wouldn't have happened without you," he said. "I just want to thank you again for your support." He views his fellow Kansans as independent people possessing great common sense. "We probably disagreed on some of

the issues, I can't think of many."

"I knew that sometimes I couldn't get everything we wanted," he reflected, adding that compromise is not the bad word that some today consider it to be. "Ronald Reagan told me one day, we had a very tough bill and couldn't get the other side to give us what we wanted. And he said, 'Bob, get me 70% and I'll get the rest next year.' Reagan was a very pragmatic Republican president who understood that sometimes you work across the aisle."

Looking back on his years in the Senate, Dole is most proud of work he did in 1983 to rescue Social Security. "It was about to go broke and if we hadn't done something, the checks to seniors would have been less. There would have been a reduction because there wasn't enough money to pay the full amount." A commission was appointed, headed by Alan Greenspan, who later became chairman of the Federal Reserve. Dole was appointed to that bi-partisan commission and remembers the struggle that ensued. "We just couldn't seem to come together; it wasn't based on politics, we just couldn't work it out,"

he said. The Senate adjourned for the Christmas holidays with no progress made on the looming problem. "I remember coming back in January of 1983 and seeing Senator Moynihan on the Senate floor. We approached each other and almost at the same time said, 'We can't let this happen.'" Dole and the Democratic senator from New York pieced together a compromise plan and presented it to Greenspan. "He thought it would work and the long and short of it is that it passed the Congress," Dole said. "That was in '83 and Social Security has been intact. I think it will last another 15-20 years, then it's going to need fixed again. But I can say to the young people in the audience, it will be fixed. When you start paying Social Security, it's not going to be terminated. That's one program that is here to stay because it means a lot to our seniors and it means a lot to the economy and it's something we think is important."

Working with Senator Ted Kennedy to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act is another accomplishment that Dole is proud of, which also underscores his

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Laue Charolais adds color to their cattle



All Charolais colors are represented in Laue's pen of fall heifers, reds, blacks and the traditional whites. This is indicative of the total herd at Laue Charolais Ranch of Hanover, which is roughly one-third red one-third black and one-third black. They have 150 cows and sell 40 to 50 bulls per year.

By Melanie Musselman

What is black, white and red all over? For the Laue Charolais Ranch of Hanover, it's their cow herd. Yes, red and black Charolais along with the traditional white. Family tradition, honesty and integrity are common attributes of those in the purebred cattle business. But, for the Laues, innovation and risk are ingredients that have contributed to their success, also.

Lester and LeAnna Laue and son, Brant, operate their purebred cattle business in extreme northern Washington County in north central Kansas. Their ranch homestead sits atop a hill just east of town and is seven miles from the Kansas-Nebraska border.

Lester, 84, said his dream has always been to raise purebred cattle. However, his first purebred purchase wasn't a Charolais, but a Hereford. He bought a Hereford bull for \$600 back in 1959. It was a tragedy later that year which prompted him to change breeds.

"The Hereford bull fell through the ice in the Little Blue River and we lost him," remembered Lester. "We ended up buying a Charolais bull from Charley Litton, a Charolais breeder in Missouri. After the first group of calves was born, they quickly caught up in weight to the calves born from the Hereford bull. It was obvious the Charolais calves outperformed the Hereford calves and this is the direction I wanted to take our purebred operation."

According to Brant, their current cow herd is roughly one-third white, one-third red and one-third black. It has taken them almost 20 years to establish this unique breeding program. They have approximately 150 cows and sell 40 to 50 bulls



Laue Ranch Manager Spencer Crowther says this black Charolais cow is an example of how they've been able to breed to black in two generations. Her grandmother was tan, her mother was gray and she was born black.

per year. The Laues sell all their cattle and bulls by private treaty and pride themselves on customer service, performance and the calm disposition of their stock. They own and lease approximately 2,000 acres for their cow herd including pasture and hay ground. Of that, the majority is in Washington County, except for 400 acres of pasture in Jewell County

at the Judy Ranch.

The Laues established themselves as leading purebred Charolais breeders long before they implemented color into their breeding program. Their bull Beau Ivo, who was purchased at the 1st World Charolais Sale at the Calgary Stampede in Canada in 1967, set a world-wide record for yearling bull

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Lester (left) and LeAnna Laue, Spencer Crowther, Ranch Manager and Laue's son, Brant, own and operate Laue Charolais Ranch near Hanover. In the last 20 years, they have diversified their purebred breeding program to include red and black Charolais along with the traditional white.

Grass & Grain will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. This will result in a delay in the delivery of the paper.