



NEWS

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Montana Gelbvieh Promoter Inducted into Gelbvieh Hall of Fame

Dave Roen of the XZ Ranch near Stanford, Mont., would never consider himself an innovator, however he always approached things with an open and inquiring mind. That's how he found the Gelbvieh breed and became an active promoter of the breed in 1973. For his dedication and time in establishing the Gelbvieh breed in Montana and across the United States, Dave Roen was inducted into the American Gelbvieh Association Hall of Fame during the AGA National Convention in Denver, Colo.

Roen got his start with the Gelbvieh breed through an A.I. program on his commercial cowherd. After the first calf crop was weaned, Roen realized a 125-pound weaning weight increase. "The management and pasture were exactly the same," shared Roen. "The only difference was the Gelbvieh genetics."

Roen soon began to breed up from the halfblood Gelbvieh and developed a registered herd. He and his family exhibited the cattle throughout Montana and surrounding states to promote this new breed. Roen said the success in the show ring was nice, but the breed exposure and contact with commercial cattle producers was the main motivation to show the Gelbvieh cattle.

Roen was one of the founding members of the Montana Gelbvieh Association and served as president from 1979 to 1985 for the group. He was elected the American Gelbvieh Association Board of Directors twice, 1982-1987 and again 1990-1992. He also served as the AGA Secretary for two years. During his tenure on the AGA Board, the decision was made to computerize the registration system.

Dave's friendly personality made him a great promoter of the Gelbvieh breed. Fellow Montana Gelbvieh breeder, Jeanette Rankin commented in her recommendation letter, "Dave's love for Gelbvieh cattle is unprecedented and a light-hearted comment from him diffused many heated discussions in our Montana board meetings to keep us on track."

The XZ Ranch produced several influential Gelbvieh sires, like XZR Jaguar and XZR Stubby, a most-used Gelbvieh sire for several years in Canada. XZR Lady Madonna, the best known female from the program, had a significant influence on the XZ Ranch breeding program.

A change of focus by the XZ Ranch partners lead to a ranch and cowherd dispersal in 1997. However, 25 years of breed promotion and genetic improvement put the XZ Ranch and Dave Roen in the Gelbvieh history books.

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Photo caption:

Dave Roen was joined by his family during his induction into the American Gelbvieh Association Hall of Fame at the 2009 AGA National Convention in Denver. From left: Amy Fabey, Dave and Diana Roen, Casey Roen and Michelle Tow.