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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2013 …. Louisville, KY…. Officials of the Kentucky State Fair Board have announced that the 2013 Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery inductee is Dr. David Hawkins. For those involved in animal agriculture, this selection is a very high honor. It is bestowed by the Saddle and Sirloin award committee based on service to and impact on the livestock industry. The portrait gallery is the livestock industry’s hall of fame.

Dr. Hawkins began his teaching career at Michigan State University after earning his Ph.D. from that institution in 1969. In 1973 he was named the faculty coordinator of the MSU Beef Cattle Teaching Center. Under his leadership the success of the MSU purebred beef cattle herds has served to recruit many potential students and motivate them to become successful stockmen.

During his 40+ year career at MSU, he has been a teacher, livestock judging team coach, student mentor, purebred livestock show judge, and National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest superintendent. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Distinguished Teacher, Animal Industry Service, and Fellow Awards from the American Society of Animal Science. Today, Dr. Hawkins and his wife Kathleen live in Michigan where they maintain a noted Angus cattle herd.

During his career, Dr. Hawkins contributed significantly to the worldwide livestock industry. Under his leadership the MSU herd was selected for both type and performance, producing cattle that were excellent classroom models and highly sought after by the industry for their genetic excellence. He became one the most respected beef cattle show judges in the
U.S. and internationally. He officiated at national shows for 7 breeds of cattle in over 36 states and in Canada, Europe and Australia. He is the only person invited twice to judge National Angus Shows at both the North American International Livestock Expo and the National Western Stock Show. Because of his animal science expertise, he has presented seminars on beef cattle breeding, selection, and genetic improvement in North and South America, Australia and Europe.

The Saddle & Sirloin portrait presentation will take place in November at the 40th annual North American International Livestock Exposition. The expo, which is held annually at the Kentucky Exposition Center, is scheduled for November 9 through 22 in 2013. The Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery is curated by the Kentucky State Fair Board and is displayed throughout the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The collection includes nearly 350+ oil paintings and dates back to the turn of the last century.

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PHOTO NOTICE: A digital photo of Dr. David Hawkins is available for download on the North American International Livestock Exposition website (www.livestockexpo.org) on the Saddle and Sirloin tab.