



Harris Family Celebrates 60th Anniversary Operation Of Holton Livestock Exchange

To continue one business for six decades is a major achievement.

For that endeavor to remain in one family for that long is even a greater accomplishment.

That's the reason anniversaries are celebrated, and it was party time and recognition recently at the Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc.

Dan Harris had his cap with ear muffs pulled down, pencil and pad in hand, doing his every Tuesday duties checking in cattle for the regular weekly auction at the facility built and started by his dad 60 years ago just north of Highway K-16 on the east edge of Holton, Kansas.



Inside the pavilion though was a more festive occasion as hundreds of friends and customers were in the café taking advantage of the complimentary roast beef sandwich dinner

Not many sale barn operators personally help unload cattle as they arrive, then move to the auction box and merchandise livestock to the benefit of sellers, bidders and cattle in the ring.

Service from all angles is a strong attribute for the Holton Livestock Exchange's record of achievement that has been matched by only a few such establishments around the country.

"My dad W.O. "Wes" Harris helped build this facility in 1951, bought and managed it until health issues took him out of the business in the early '80s," Dan Harris recalled. "Then, Mom and I operated the auction until she passed away about nine years ago, and I've kept it going"

Growing up and working in every aspect of the sale barn business, Harris and his brother Larry attended auction school, graduating in 1975.

"I've been the auctioneer here since then," noted Harris, who also operates the Harris Auction Service in partnership with Larry, who's retired from Goodyear Tire Company.

They conduct farm, household and real estate auctions over a wide area, including consignment machinery sales each spring and fall at the sale barn.

Regular and special auctions of the Holton Livestock Exchange as well as sales conducted by Harris Auction Service are all advertised on AM 580 WIBW.

In addition to operating the livestock pavilion and auction service, Dan Harris has personal cattle grazing operations.

Contending he's a 'late bloomer' with sons in the sixth, fifth and second grades, Harris said, "The boys are showing an interest in the sale barn operations, and they do help out sometimes during the summer, and when they can.

"They will have the opportunity to become a part of the business if they have the desire. Of course, I hope that will happen, but it'll be up to them," Harris commented.

While 60 years' operation of the Holton Livestock Exchange by the Harris family is a notable achievement, the business could logically continue for several generations in the future.

A member and leader of the Livestock Marketing Association, headquartered in Kansas City, Harris talked to Mark Mackey, Bucyrus, LMA chief executive officer, and Roy Barta, North Platte, Neb., LMA region executive officer, before start of the 60th anniversary Holton Livestock Exchange celebration auction featuring cattle from a wide area.

94.5
COUNTRY

AM 580
WIBW
NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

Kansas
Radio
Networks

team
W

Frank Buchman
Marketing Consultant
Direct: 785 - 228 -7259
Cell: 785 - 499 - 3063
frank.buchman@morris.com

PO Box 1818
1210 SW Executive Dr.
Topeka, Ks 66615

Padre says:

*"Dignity comes
not from control,
but from understanding
who you
are and taking
your rightful place
in the world."*