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### **2010 National Dairy Shrine Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Awarded**

Maribel, WI. - The unique value of elite Holstein genetics was made evident to William (Bill) Ramsey of Paradise Valley Farms at a young age. With strong roots in the dairying, Ramsey has continued his family's philosophy of looking towards the future of their dairy operation, the Holstein breed and the dairy industry.

"Bill's influence as a breeder has made a significant impact across the world and will be experienced for years to come," says Roger L. Ripley, president and CEO of Accelerated Genetics.

For these and many additional accomplishments, National Dairy Shrine honors William E. Ramsey of Paradise Valley Farms Inc., Louisville, Ohio, as the 2010 Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder. Ramsey is the 38<sup>th</sup> award winner to receive the dairy industry's highest honor bestowed to a dairy cattle breeder. The formal presentation will take place Thursday, September 30 during the National Dairy Shrine awards banquet at World Dairy Expo.

Ramsey has a lifetime of experience with dairy cattle. He grew up deeply involved on his family's farm, Paradise Valley Farms, owned by his parents, Paul and Catherine, and attended Ohio State University with a major in dairy science.

"I first met Bill and his father, Paul, when I visited their farm in 1976... In visiting with Bill it was obvious that he had a long-term plan and philosophy regarding his breeding program," says Bernard M. Heisner, general manager of COBA/Select Sires. "...Their Paradise-R Registered Holstein herd was housed in free stalls and Bill expected the cows to perform at a high level under those conditions, breed back and have a long and productive life."

Today, Bill and his wife Debra along with their four children: Brenda L'Amoreaux, DVM; Jill Smith; Brian Ramsey and Michael Ramsey; are all involved in the daily operations at Paradise Valley Farms. In fact, four generations of the Ramsey family take care of the daily tasks on this family operation.

Ramsey's Paradise Valley Farms consists of 1,600 acres and is home to 939 Registered Holsteins including the 400-cow milking herd. Ninety-nine percent of those animals are homebred and carry the Paradise-R prefix. The herd has been on test for over 60 years and has a rolling herd average near 30,000 pounds of milk, over 1,000 pounds of fat and 875 pounds of protein. Paradise Valley Farms regularly classifies on Holstein Association USA's Limited Program, scoring all two year olds and additional optional cows. Since

1970, Paradise Valley Farms has bred 60 Excellents and over 400 Very Good cows with the Paradise-R prefix. The Paradise-R herd is also a negative Johnes herd that is certified through Ohio's Johnes Test negative status herd program.

“When speaking with Bill Ramsey, one quickly becomes aware that here is a man with a sense of history and a vision for the future,” says Richard G. Smith, manager of dairy sire selection for ABS Global. “He is a long-range thinker and a long term-player. His strategies are built on patience and his herd is built on longevity.”

When choosing sires for the Paradise-R herd, Ramsey screens pedigrees and selects sires that are better than +4.0 Productive Life, under 2.90 Somatic Cell Score and at least +2.00 for Type, Udder Composite and Feet and Leg Composite. He also looks for bulls that are +1,000 Milk and plus on Fat and Protein. Holding true to the passion for progress in the Holstein breed, Ramsey utilizes a sire from Select Sires' Program for Genetic Advancement (PGA) for every second service. This results in 22 percent of the Paradise-R herd being mated to young sires.

Some of the most influential cows of the Paradise-R herd include Paradise-R Bell Sears (EX-90), Paradise-R Tesk Sherie (VG-88) and Paradise-R AR Sherry (VG-88). Each of these cows has produced over 35,000M, 1,200F and 1,000P, and have had sons ranked high with semen sold worldwide. Since 2000, Ramsey has bred more than 236 cows with lifetime production over 100,000M, more than 30 with over 200,000M and at least five with over 300,000M lifetime. Over 31 Paradise-R cows have been declared Gold Medal Dam and more than 50 have been declared Dam of Merit.

“...When USDA started quantifying Productive Life (PL) in sire and cow evaluations, it is not surprising that several Paradise-R bulls surfaced to the top of the list,” adds Heisner.

The outstanding sires bred by Ramsey are a true testament to his breeding philosophy. 7HO3707 Paradise-R Cleitus MATHIE and 14HO1114 Paradise-R ROEBUCK are two of the most prominent and widely used sires bred by Ramsey at Paradise Valley Farms. Ramsey has bred over 115 plus-proven sires and more than 27 have entered Active A.I. service.

“It has been said that every time a dairyman buys a unit of semen, he is actually voting for the kind of genetics he believes in,” says Heisner. “With 7HO3707 MATHIE producing and selling 1,512,471 units in his lifetime at Select Sires; 14HO1114 ROEBUCK having the most breedings ever at Accelerated; and bulls like... Boliver still adding to their totals... if dairyman throughout the world could vote – Paradise-R and Bill Ramsey would receive millions of votes.”

In addition to his on-farm responsibilities, Ramsey has been an active member of a multitude of dairy committees including: Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, National Association of Breeders Board of Directors, Select Sires Board of Directors and Holstein Sire Committee, COBA/Select Sires Board of Directors, ABS Progeny Committee,

NOBA Young Sires Committee and Ohio Holstein Association Board of Directors. He has been a delegate for Milk Marketing Inc., National Holstein Association and Dairy Farmers of America. He has also been a 4-H advisor for more than 20 years and a member of Paradise United Church of Christ.

“Whether it be breeding top dairy cattle, determining dairy industry policies or finding a person you admire and trust ‘in the game of life’, Bill Ramsey is one of the first people I would choose to have on my team,” says Heisner.

Smith adds, “Clearly it’s time to celebrate the achievements of Bill Ramsey of Paradise Valley Farm and his contributions to genetic progress in the Holstein breed.”