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Tom Fanning Named 2017 Cattleman of the Year

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., July 24, 2017 – Last Saturday evening, Tom Fanning, May, Okla. was named Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association's (OCA) Cattleman of the Year. The award is the highest honor that the OCA bestows upon a member and was designed to recognize OCA members who have made significant contributions to the OCA and to the Oklahoma beef industry.

"This past year there were significant challenges within the Beef Council and in Northwest Oklahoma," said Weston Givens, OCA President. "Both of those events needed and required a leader with knowledge, integrity, commitment and a tremendous amount of stamina. Unbelievably, the leader for those two separate events was the same person – Tom Fanning."

Tom currently serves as chairman of the Oklahoma Beef Council. In this role, he has done a phenomenal job leading the organization through arguably its most difficult time. According to Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Rees, "In a difficult year at the Beef Council, Tom has stood tall to reassure producers and the public at large that steps were being taken to ensure the integrity of the beef checkoff. His character and leadership have made the most difficult challenge achievable."

Tom also just completed a term for the OCA as our Northwest District Vice President. On the eve of March 6th, in the most devastating wildfire in recent history, Tom immediately stepped up to lead. He offered and led Buffalo Feeders to be a clearinghouse for supplies which lead to thousands of tons of hay and fencing supplies distributed to affected producers.

According to Jeff Jaronek, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation Coordinator, "The only way organized relief efforts were even possible in the Northwest was because of Tom's leadership. There is no way to count the hours, phone calls and miles Tom spent leading the efforts."

Tom Fanning and his wife Michelle grew up in May, Oklahoma. Tom graduated from OSU with a degree in Agriculture Economics in 1987. He was a member of the OSU ROTC program and was commissioned as an officer into the United States Army. He retired from the Army as an Infantry Captain in 1992 and began his career in agriculture. In 2001, Tom and his family moved to northwest Oklahoma where he began to manage Buffalo Feeders. He and Michelle purchased their own cow/calf and stocker ranch where they have raised their family consisting of their very successful children Emily, Jake and Lane.

Positive leadership is a positive character trait of Tom Fanning. We could share many examples of his positive leadership on local, state and national organizations but perhaps this statement from his wife Michelle sums it up best, "It's pretty hard to have a bad day when the person that directs and leads your family is Tom Fanning!"

OCA is very appreciative of P & K Equipment, the sponsor of the Cattleman of the Year. OCA Convention is an annual event where several hundred cattle ranching families from around the state come together to create policy, listen to informative speakers, celebrate industry accomplishments and recognize individuals, like Tom Fanning, who contribute to the success of the Oklahoma Beef Industry.

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association is the trusted voice of the Oklahoma cattle industry and exists to support and defend the state and nation's beef cattle industry. The OCA officers, board of directors and membership encourages you to join us in our advocacy efforts to ensure less government intervention, lower taxes and a better bottom line. For more information about OCA membership or activities visit www.okcattlemen.org.

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