

## 2020 A.O Henuset Ambassador Award

### Mar Mac Farms – Blair & Lois McRae

In 2020 Mar Mac Farms celebrated 44 years in the Simmental business. The first Simmentals were purchased in 1976 from Bar 5 Simmentals, over the years many females were added to the programs from various Association sales across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In 1979, Mar Mac became Keystone Simmental Association members and have been selling females in it every year since. Blair and Lois managed the Keystone Konnection Sale from 1990 to 2016.

Mar Mac farm has sold bulls at the Douglas Test Station, Brandon Bull Sale, and by private treaty. In 1995, Mar Mac joined the Stockman's Bull Sale with Keywest Simmentals, Twenty Three Oaks Simmentals, and Elton Simmentals. In 1997, Blair and Lois joined with new sale partners M&J Farms from Russell and WEB Farms from Souris for the Prime Cut Bull Sale. In 2005, the sale moved to the farm for the Mar Mac and Guests Bull Sale.

In the past Mar Mac have exhibited at Ag Days, Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Ag-Ex, Edmonton's Farmfair and Canadian Western Agribition. Receiving many championship banners along the way. Blair and Lois have also judges at large number of shows including the Simmental show at Agribition. Blair and Lois were organizers of the Keystone Konnection All Breeds Bull Show at Ag-Ex 1995-2005 which ran for 10 years.

Mar Mac Farms has been heavily involved with the Simmental Associations over the years

- Blair was a founding member of Manitoba YCS and traveled to Calgary in 1980 for the first meeting.
- Both of Blair and Lois's children (Brett and Melissa) have been through the 4-H and YCS program and competed in the National and Provincial YCS events and were active members the junior boards.
- Blair was a director of the Manitoba Simmental Association for six years serving as president from 1992 to 1995. During his term Blair was chair of the Ag-Ex Committee, Bull Sale Committee, Distinguished Breeder Award Committee, and Newsletter Liaison.
- Lois held the office of secretary treasurer of the Manitoba Simmental Belles from 1989-1992.
- Lois was also a director of the Keystone Simmental Association from 1994-1999.
- Blair has just finished a 6 year term on the Canadian Simmental Association Board., where he served as Second Vice President of the CSA and played a big part in the YCSA program.
- Blair and Lois were on the organizing committee of the 2014 CSA Annual meetings at Elkhorn Ranch and will be part in the planning for the 2021 CSA AGM to be held in Portage.
- Blair and Lois initiated the Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup (an All Breeds Junior Livestock Weekend) held annually in Neepawa for the past 14 years. Blair and Lois have sat on the board of directors and Lois as Chairperson for 12 years and co chairperson for 2 years.

Currently Mar Mac Farms run around 270 breeding females of Simmental and Red and Black Angus Cattle, southwest of Brandon, Manitoba. And host their bull sale annual bull sale the first part of March annually selling Simmental, Black Angus and Red Angus bulls and commercial females. Look them up at [www.marmacfarms.net](http://www.marmacfarms.net)