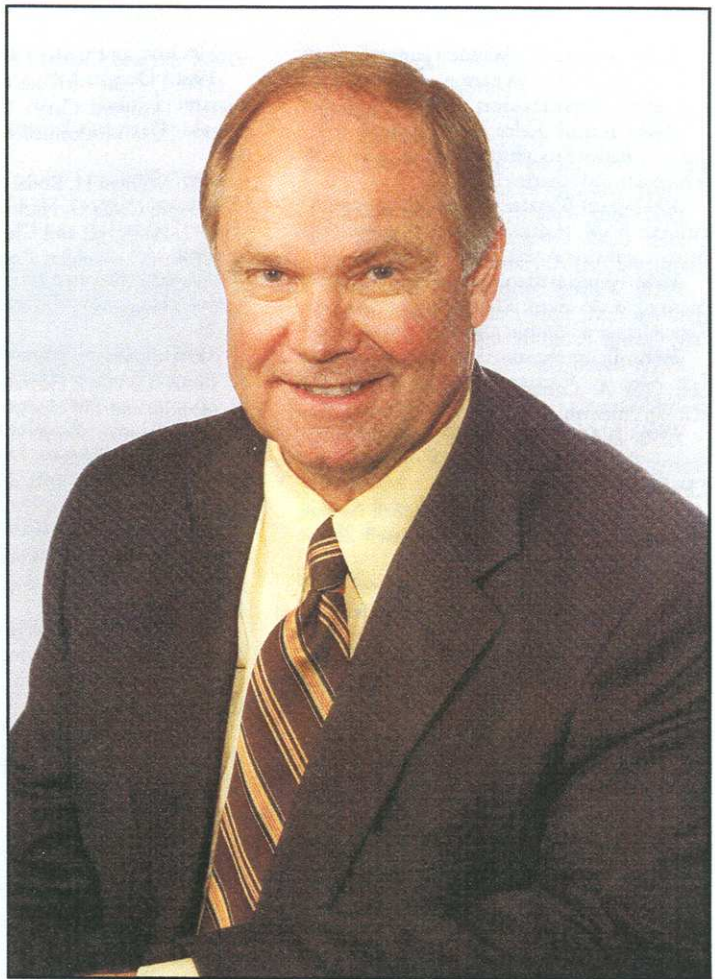


2007 builder of the breed

L.E. 'Les' Mathers III, MD
Leveldale Farms
Mason City, Illinois



Leveldale Farms' Shorthorn cattle herd was established in 1852 and they've been raising Shorthorns ever since. Today the operation is owned and operated by Dr. L.E. 'Les' Mathers, along with his sister, Laura, and Norman Bruce. The operation includes corn, soybeans and speciality crop production; seedstock genetics, including Shorthorn, Durham Red and Limousin; and antibiotic and hormone free, speciality custom beef. In breeding seedstock, Leveldale Farms has been dedicated to breeding highly fertile, easy calving, rapid growth cattle on moderate nutrition and low maintenance. Their goal is to breed, raise and sell cattle with traits which are functional in both the purebred and commercial industries and are attractive enough to adapt to the show ring.

Over the years, Leveldale Farms has been termed the 'headquarters for herd bulls'. The list of prominent sires used in the past and presently include Leveldale Basis, SR Red Riders Drive, RB Eagle 148, Ar Su Lu Vann, Ar Su Lu Master Plan, MF Pacer, MF Blueprint, Leveldale Javelin, JSF Real World, Peak View Moet, Leveldale Volcano, Leveldale Mr Right and Leveldale Grand Canyon.

Les' grandfather and father were both honored as Builders Of The Breed, making him the third generation to receive this honor. His family includes a son, Tom, and daughters, Katie and Lindsay. Les is a lifetime Shorthorn breeder and was the president of the Illinois Junior Shorthorn Association in 1965.

He has been a junior and open exhibitor at the Illinois State Fair for many decades. His love of showing cattle spans over 40 years as he has exhibited at regional and national shows. As an active member of the Illinois Shorthorn Association, he has served on various committees and led numerous activities. In addition, Les has served on the ASA commercial cattle committee. Leveldale Farms has been named the Illinois Beef Association Seedstock Producer of the Year.

Les is the Chief Medical Officer of Carle Clinic, but still find times to stay active with the beef industry. He is involved with the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. In addition, he is a board member of the Mason City National Bank, The Center for Outpatient Medicine (treasurer), Midwest Center for Sleep Medicine (president), Stratum Med (former chairman) and McLean County Chamber of Commerce (vice president). Les has also served as the past president of the Heartland Clinic and past member of the University of Illinois Foundation Board. He is also a member of the American College of Physician Executives, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the American Academy of Family Medicine.