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MEMORIAL HEIFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED SEPTEMBER 28

Lyles, Tennessee, July 18, 2019 – Martin Farms of Lyles, Tennessee has issued a call for entries for the Kenneth Ambrose Memorial Heifer Scholarship, an ongoing program founded by Neil and Christopher Martin to help youth kick start or add to a fledgling beef project. Founders Neil and Christopher Martin started their Heifer Starter Kit program in 2006, enlisting additional donors in 2012 when the program was renamed after their late friend and mentor, Kenneth Ambrose. Ambrose was a former University of Tennessee agricultural extension agent and a great enthusiast for the 4-H youth livestock program.

“Kenneth was directly responsible for a lot of kids’ involvement in 4-H, and he fueled their accomplishments by coaching them toward success,” says Christopher Martin. “Our goal is to recognize and remember Kenneth’s spirit and enthusiasm toward youth and agriculture and to encourage that same type of involvement and success.”

Since 2006, a total of \$59,125 has been awarded in scholarships and vouchers with Thirty-five youth receiving full or partial scholarships toward the purchase of a registered heifer. In addition, several more youth have been recognized as finalists, receiving sponsored vouchers toward the purchase of cattle. Beginning in 2012, additional heifers have been donated by Slate Farms & Cattle Co. of Vanleer, Water’s Edge Farm of Franklin, and Williams Brothers Simmental of Milan, MO, all guest consignors at Martin’s annual Open House at the Farm production sale where the scholarships will be awarded September 27th. Hadley and Camden Williams, owners of Williams Bros. Simmental, received scholarships in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and joined the Martins as a guest consignor and scholarship donor in 2017.

Scholarship finalists will be chosen based on a written application and a special project chosen by the applicant and related to the production or promotion of beef cattle. All finalists will be invited to Martin Farms for panel interviews, and winners are chosen based on composite scores.

Additional donors who have supported the initiative in the past include Farm Credit Mid-America, Mix 30 Liquid Feeds, Jane Herron State Farm, ABS Global; Barry Ellis and Accelerated Genetics; Genex Cooperative; Select Sires; Patricia McDougal AI Services; Cattlemen’s Choice Genetics; Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association; and Performance Feeds. A semen and embryo auction is planned prior to Martin’s Open House to raise funds to help finalists who are not chosen to receive a full scholarship purchase a heifer of their own.

Anyone interested in applying can download an application directly from the Martin Farms website at MartinFarmsBeef.com and click on the Scholarship tab. For further information, contact Chris Martin by email at seehimdesign@gmail.com or call or text 931-580-6821.

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