

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEMORIAL HEIFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED SEPTEMBER 25**

Lyles, Tennessee, September 16, 2020 – Martin Farms of Lyles, Tennessee has issued a Last 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 \$66,629 has been awarded in scholarships and vouchers with forty-two 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. They have contributed a \$1,500 scholarship to the program every year since.

Scholarship donors for 2020 include Martin Farms, Water’s Edge Farm, and Williams Brothers Simmental. In addition, Running Springs Cattle Company owned by Matt and Terri Van Slyke of Nolensville have graciously donated a registered, yearling SimAngus heifer raised in their program to benefit the scholarship alternates.

“Each year, we have several deserving candidates that don’t receive a full scholarship,” so we try to raise enough money to supplement whatever they might have toward purchasing a heifer of their own,” says Chris Martin, one of the program’s founders. “We divide the money equally between all the alternates who purchase an animal at our sale, and they receive a voucher for that amount, so Matt and Terri’s donation of a live animal to help that voucher fund will go a long way.”

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. This year, all finalists will be invited to Water’s Edge Farm, the site of a joint production sale for Martin Farms, Water’s

Edge Farm, and Running Springs Cattle Company, and winners are chosen based on composite scores after a panel interview with each finalist.

Since the program began in 2006, Farm Credit Mid-America, ABS Global, and Select Sires have donate annually in support of their own youth initiatives. After several years working closely with the Martins evaluating the candidates and scoring their applications, Farm Credit Mid-America has doubled their support for 2020, recognizing the impact this program can have on youth who get involved. ABS and Select Sires have renewed their support for 2020, and Tennessee Cattlemen's Association continues to provide valuable promotion as the exclusive media sponsor.

Anyone interested in applying can download an application directly from the Martin Farms website at [MartinFarmsBeef.com](http://MartinFarmsBeef.com) > click on the Scholarship tab. For further information, contact Chris Martin by email at [MartinFarmsBeef@gmail.com](mailto:MartinFarmsBeef@gmail.com) or call or text 931-580-6821.

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