



# News Release

*For immediate release*

## **Three Inductees to Join Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2009**

**Guelph, ON [May 29, 2009]** – Pioneering researcher Robb Gowe, renowned dairy breeder R. Peter Heffering and grain industry leader Paul Roy King join the ranks of Canada’s most influential individuals as the 2009 inductees into the prestigious Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. The formal induction ceremony will take place later this year at the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame awards banquet on Sunday, November 8, 2009 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario.

“These three inductees took risks and seized new opportunities to build, improve and differentiate Canadian agriculture both domestically and on the international stage,” says Mary Lou McCutcheon, president of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Association (CAHFA). “We are extremely fortunate in Canada to count Robb Gowe, R. Peter Heffering and Paul Roy King among the dedicated ambassadors for Canadian agriculture, and CAHFA is proud to be adding their names to the list of Canadians deserving this highest honour.”

As director of Agriculture Canada’s Animal Research Institute for more than 20 years, **Robb Gowe** led multidisciplinary research teams in the interests of advancing livestock breeding. With poultry breeding as his true passion, he introduced the value of a control strain of chicken for evaluating improvements in breeding lines in Canada and the world. He pioneered multi-trait selection in egg-type chickens, and demonstrated the value of cross-breeding and strain crossing to harness hybrid vigour in poultry, with applications to other farm animals. Born in Manitoba, Robb spent his professional career in Ontario after completing his undergraduate and doctoral degrees at the University of Guelph, Cornell University in New York state and post-doctoral studies at Edinburgh University in Scotland.

Although not raised on a farm, **R. Peter Heffering** showed an early interest in agriculture on his uncle’s farm and continued through his 4-H activities. After early years spent in the U.S., R. Peter established Hanover Hill Holsteins in Port Perry, Ontario in 1973, which bred the famous Hanoverhill Starbuck – the most influential bull in Canadian Holstein history with 60,000 registered daughters in Canada alone. Throughout his career, R. Peter represented and actively promoted Canadian agriculture and genetics in the show ring with multiple Premier Exhibitor and Premier Breeder honours at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. His travels on international trade missions and judging assignments furthered his ambassador activities for Canada and its prized Holstein genetics. And R. Peter mentored many young people from many different countries at Hanover Hill Holsteins.

When **Paul Roy King** joined his father’s modest seed business in Pain Court, Ontario in 1961, he began a three-decade career that grew the company into a diversified, Canadian-based international agri-business. Through his tenure in the King Group of Companies (commonly

known as King Grain), Paul served as executive vice-president, president and chairman of the board. His leadership was rooted in a commitment to research and development, leading to Canada's first stand-alone private crop breeding program. Paul King is a true Canadian agriculture success story, building his family's small Ontario-based seed business into a dominant player in both Canadian and international industries. Paul's progressive business principles and leadership initiatives – together with a drive for new ideas, opportunities and risks – were all accomplished to find new ways to help growers on their farm.

The Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Association honours and celebrates Canadians for outstanding contributions to the agriculture and food industry. Portraits are on display in the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Gallery located at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The CAHFA also publicizes the importance of inductee achievements to Canada. The CAHFA was organized in 1960 and is administered by 12 volunteer Board of Directors located across Canada. [www.cahfa.com](http://www.cahfa.com)

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