

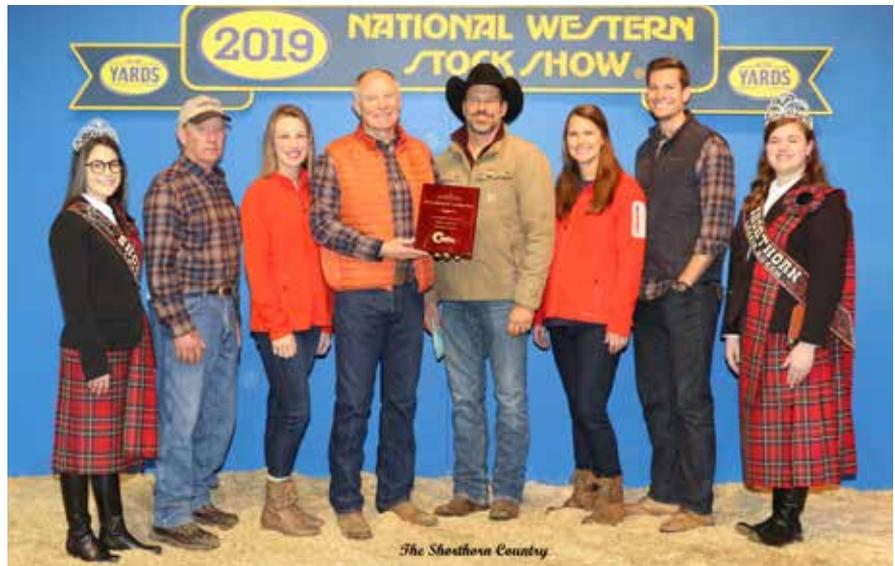
NWSS Show Honoree Dr. Les Mathers III Leveldale Farms

Dr. Les Mathers III graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Finance, as well as from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine with an M.D. He then completed his residency in Family Medicine at the university of Illinois as the Chief Resident. He taught and directed a family medicine residency program in Texas before returning to Illinois to start his full-time medical practice in Peoria. He was the fourth generation in his family to graduate from the University of Illinois. Over the years, he has served in multiple leadership roles in medicine, finance and agriculture. He is still active in healthcare education as he teaches and gives presentations to students all over the country.

Leveldale started by Les's great-great grandfather, in 1852. The name Leveldale came from the level ground where the farm began. Leveldale was known for having the "ideal Shorthorn breed" image in the 20s, 30s and 40s.

Les and his sister Laura own Leveldale Shorthorns in Mason City, IL. His family includes a son, Tom and his wife Kristin (they weren't able to make it today), and daughters, Katie and husband Paul Velting (in attendance) and Lindsay Mathers, whose daughter, Mary Ainsleigh Mathers, stayed at home. Laura and her husband John Coniff also raise cattle at their home in New Mexico.

The operation includes corn, soybeans and specialty crop production; seedstock genetics, including Shorthorn



and Durham Red; and antibiotic and hormone free, specialty 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 have sired many national champions including many of the animals shown in the pen show at Denver.

Mathers 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 50 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 almost all of the ASA committees. Les is the third generation in his family to receive the prestigious Builder of the Breed award in 2007 and the third generation to serve on the American Shorthorn Association Board of Directors, including a term as ASA President. Currently, he serves as a Director of the ASA Shorthorn Foundation Board. He has also been recognized as the Illinois Beef Association Seedstock Producer of the Year.

Congratulations to Dr. Les Mathers III on being selected as the 2019 National Western Stock Show honoree. 

