

## RHODE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME 2007 INDUCTEES

### **Aldo Panciera**

- The late Aldo Panciera was a lifelong dairy farmer in Westerly and one of the most influential cattle breeders of his generation. He began breeding cattle shortly after returning from World War II, and is known for the bull *Ivanhoe*, considered the most famous bull in the history of dairy farming in the United States. Holstein breeds now make up more than 98 percent of all dairy cows in this country, and more can be traced back to *Ivanhoe* than to any bull in the breed. Panciera won numerous awards over the years and was also instrumental in establishing the 4-H dairy clubs in Rhode Island. He donated animals to the Heifer Project International, and served as chairman of the state's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He also served as president of the Rhode Island Holstein Association, which he joined in 1943, and remained a member until his death in 1992.

### **Aaron Briggs**

- The late Aaron Briggs was a lifelong dairy farmer in Foster, who purchased the land raw and built his farm out of the rocky soils of northern Rhode Island. An accomplished baseball player, Briggs was also active in youth sports in his community. He served for many years on the RI Farm Bureau board of directors and County Committee for the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. Briggs devoted himself to furthering the dairy industry in Rhode Island, and was one of the Rhode Island representatives to the former Northeast Dairy Compact. He helped initiate the Rhode Island Dairy Farms' Cooperative, which led to *Rhody Fresh* Milk. Aaron Briggs passed away in 2006.

### **William Stamp, Jr.**

- A lifelong farmer who has grown sweet corn, pumpkins, greenhouse plants, and poultry, Stamp has been president of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau for over 33 years, the longest term in America. The Stamp family has farmed for many years and continues to do so in Cranston, Exeter and Richmond. William Stamp, Jr. has been an outspoken advocate of farmers' rights and has served on many legislative committees to form bills that are receptive to the continuation and enhancement of agriculture in Rhode Island. Stamp is active in his local church and has been past president of many organizations, including Farm Family Insurance, and the Rhode Island Poultry Association, and is also a former trustee of the Eastern States Exposition.

### **Ken Lagerquist**

- The current executive director of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), where he has served in that capacity for the past 16 years, Lagerquist has been instrumental in leading and helping to grow that organization, which represents a segment of agriculture (the green industry) that accounts for over two thirds of the farm income in Rhode Island. Lagerquist, a 1954 graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy and Horticulture, subsequently owned and operated a nursery and garden center in Seekonk, MA, for many years. Active in his industry, he has been past

president of the RI Arborist's Association, the RI Nurseryman's Association and the New England Nursery Association.

### **Winfield Tucker**

- Winfield Tucker purchased 250 acres in the Slocum area of North Kingstown in 1950, and eventually enlarged his holdings to include 1300 acres. He began his agriculture career by growing potatoes, and in 1968 was one of the first to experiment with turf, eventually having one of the largest turf farms in Rhode Island. Tucker, with a degree in aeronautical engineering, and experience as a pilot, used his engineering background to design and build farm machinery. He has been in the forefront of farming innovations in Rhode Island, including being the first to own a wheel row irrigation system. He is known throughout the East Coast for his production of potatoes and sod, and more recently has protected the bulk of the farm's productive land by selling development rights to the Town of North Kingstown and State of Rhode Island.

### **Dr. C. Richard Skogley**

- A professor of turfgrass science at the University of Rhode Island for approximately 40 years, the late Dr. Skogley taught and advised hundreds of students in the turfgrass management program throughout the years. URI's turfgrass research program, which originated in 1980, is recognized as the oldest and most prominent turfgrass research program in the country. He developed a successful turfgrass breeding program which led to the production of significant varieties which have been marketed throughout the world. During his career Dr. Skogley authored numerous articles in scientific and trade journals and was constantly requested as a speaker at professional trade conferences. Dr. Skogley passed away in 1997.

### **Rhode Island Dairy Farms Cooperative, Inc.**

- A cooperative of five Rhode Island dairy farmers formed in 2002, it led to the development of *Rhody Fresh* milk, a product of local dairy farms that has immeasurably raised the profile of, and public support toward, dairy farms in Rhode Island. *Rhody Fresh*, first on the market in July of 2003, is now carried in over 100 large and small outlets in Rhode Island. More than 350,000 pounds, or 10,000 cases, of milk are sold each month, which represents close to 75 percent of the milk capacity of the five farms. The cooperative, with Jim Hines as executive director, includes Tomaquag Valley Farm in Bradford, Meadowburg Farm in Richmond, Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, Cottrell Homestead in West Kingston and Dutra Farm in Jamestown.

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