



Dr. David Daley

Class of 2022

David Daley graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1975. He was a lifetime member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), a National Merit Scholar, Boys State representative, the Bank of America Outstanding Senior and a Top Ten scholar all four years.

In addition to his academic honors, Dave was very active in the Associated Student Body (ASB), serving as ASB Vice-president, Future Farmers America (FFA) president and superior region FFA Vice-President and president. Honors were also in abundance as he won public speaking and parliamentary procedure regional and state awards and livestock judging team state and national awards. He was also involved in numerous FFA and ASB community projects.

Following graduation from LPHS, Dave attended Chico State University (CSU) earning his BS degree, cum laude in 1979, and then to Colorado State University earning his MS degree in 1982, and his PhD with honors in Animal Science in 1984. Accolades continued as he was named outstanding senior in the College of Agriculture at CSU, national honors on the Livestock Judging Team there and coached one of the most successful Livestock Judging Teams in history at Colorado State.

Dave is a 5th generation Butte County Cattleman with ranches on private and public land in Butte and Plumas Counties. His university career started in 1984, serving as Assistant Professor at Fresno State. Six years later, he became a Professor in Animal Science at CSUC, followed by serving as Associate Dean and interim Dean in the College of Agriculture.

From 2019 to 2022, Dave served as chair of the California Cattle Council and also currently serves as Chair of the California Public Lands Council and the Federal Lands committee of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He also served as President of the California Cattlemen's Association, 2018-2020. He is currently professor emeritus, College of Agriculture at CSUC and Director of the University Farm.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dave has been honored, widely published and given presentations on agriculture, livestock, food production and ranching, both nationally and internationally. In 2009, he was nationally recognized with the Continuing Service Award from the Beef Improvement Federation, in 2012, named Member of the Year by the Butte County farm Bureau, and in 2021, the Chamber of Commerce, California Livestock Man of the Year. He was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from Research and Sponsored programs at CSUC.

As busy as Dave was with his career, he found time to contribute to his community serving on the FFA Advisory Board at his alma mater, Las Plumas High School, and filling the roles of President, Secretary and Director for Butte County Cattlemen. He continues to represent cattle producers in Sacramento and Washington DC on Resource issues.

Following the Bear Fire of 2020, Dave authored the most widely read article ever published in the Oroville Mercury Register-Chico Enterprise Record. The Daley family came to the area east of Oroville in 1850 and has been involved with cattle, education and the community to this day. The family has taken cattle above Feather Falls for over 130 years. Dave rode on the last cow drive through the bottom of Lake Oroville across the Enterprise Bridge in 1964 at age six.

Andree' Early, LPHS teacher, writes in her letter of support for Dave, *“Dr. Daley is hands down, the best educator that I personally had the pleasure of learning from during my time in the College of Agriculture. Hundreds of students have been inspired by his expertise in animal science, but that is not what I most remember. Most were taught so much more. Many that I have talked to are thankful to have also learned his passion for the beef industry, his honesty, his loyalty and his work ethic that they use in their daily lives.”*

Myron Openshaw, OHS alumnus and OUHSDS Hall of Fame Member writes, *“Dave is a tireless worker and has had far reaching impacts on everything he touches. His reputation is incredible and he is a credit to our community and school.”*

All three of Dave's children are directly or indirectly involved in the cattle business. Dave's home ranch is in south Butte County, with operations in Butte, Plumas and Glenn counties.