



Myron Openshaw Class of 2013

Myron Openshaw was born and raised in Oroville as a third generation rancher in the area. He graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1956 with a GPA of 3.3. He played on the C & D basketball teams and ran track all four years. He was also active in Future Farmers of America (FFA), the 4H Club, the YMCA, and the Auto Club.

During his high school years, he worked in the family owned meat market in Oroville. Following his graduation from OHS, he entered the actual “cattle raising” phase of the business during the summer months while attending the University of California at Davis (UCD) where he earned his two year certificate in agriculture.

Myron then returned to Oroville to resume what became a lifelong and storied career in cattle ranching that began in the family owned slaughterhouse when he was age ten. Throughout his career, he always worked and supported the University of California Extension efforts in Butte County to advance and improve the production of agricultural commodities, especially livestock, his primary interest.

In 1992, California State University, Chico (CSUC) considered eliminating its School of Agriculture. Myron was one of the area’s key agriculture leaders to generate local and regional support through the Superior Agriculture Organization. Through his leadership, the program was saved and in 2003 he was honored by this organization and elected to the CSUC Hall of Honor. This award recognizes those people who have significantly impacted the direction of the agriculture programs at CSUC.

Mike Thompson, California State Senator, 2nd District wrote in a letter to Myron, *“Your efforts to save the school of Agriculture at Chico State in 1992 and your ongoing involvement with the program there is but one example of your commitment to the future of California’s agriculture industry.”*

The family owned cow-calf operation consists mainly of cross bred Hereford cows bred to bulls for a rotational cross. They run on approximately 4,000 acres north of Oroville in the winter and in Plumas County in the summer.

Myron’s involvement in local, county, state, and national groups has given him the opportunity to give the public “eye-opening” information about the livestock industry. His many years of service to agriculture and the livestock industry are extraordinary.

Myron’s personal involvement in the agriculture industry is extensive and ongoing. In the livestock industry, he has served as Past President of the Butte Cattlemen’s Association, the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA), State Director of the CCA, and member of the State Board of Food and Agriculture.

At the national level he is past Chairman of the Cow-Calf Council and the National Ag Policy Committee. He has served as a board member of the Meat Export Federation and testified on behalf of the livestock industry in Washington D.C. He also served as vice-chairman of the National Cattlemen’s Public Relations Committee and the Beef Board Planning Committee.

Myron currently is a member of the CCA Board of Directors and a committee member for building, farm policy, finance, general resolutions, CCA convention and the nominating committee.

His numerous citations for exemplary service to agriculture include Butte County Cattleman of the Year and California State Cattleman of the Year.

Myron's community service in the Oroville is extensive and includes serving multiple terms on the Boards of the Oroville Hospital, the Golden Feather School District, and the Thermalito Little League. He also coached Little League baseball, and held membership in Rotary International, the Masonic Lodge, and the Shrine Club. Among other credits, he is a twenty-four gallon blood donor.

Current activities include a partnership in Look Ahead Veterinary Hospital, Butte County Farm Bureau Director, and President of Superior Ag at CSUC.

Myron resides with his wife Sharon on the family G&M Ranch, which covers 3,500 acres just north of Oroville. They have two children and five grandchildren.