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California Poultry Federation honors industry members and supporters at 2019 Annual Conference Banquet

September 30, 2019 Modesto, CA - - The California Poultry Federation (CPF) 2019 Annual Conference, attended by industry leaders, decision makers and affiliates, honored industry members and supporters at their recent meeting September 19 and 20 in Monterey, California. The 2019 Conference and Board Meeting was held at the Monterey Plaza Hotel and enjoyed by all attendees who heard from a UC Davis greenhouse gas expert, national industry representatives, a federal food safety administrator and one of California's prominent political analysts.

Each year, the Modesto-based trade association presents **The Golden Rooster Award** to the industry's most outstanding member or supporter; **The Allied Member of the Year** award; and **The Pioneer Award** which honors an industry pioneer and their longevity in the poultry business.

The **Golden Rooster Award** is the California poultry industry's highest honor. It is meant for an individual--one who has made major contributions to the industry and is an inspiration for all to admire. This year, the CPF Awards Committee unanimously voted to award this coveted distinction to David Pitman, Pitman Family Farms. David was honored for his long service on the CPF board of directors, and for his many contributions to the California industry.

David is a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of the poultry industry, its members and the Federation. He has traveled countless times to Sacramento and Washington, DC promoting California issues as well as state and national legislation. He has seen firsthand the importance of participating at the state and national levels and has served as a shining example of what is good about California poultry families and companies.

As a third-generation farmer, David has over 20 years of experience in the agricultural industry with a notable concentration in animal well-being and environmental conservation. Pitman Family Farms is in the Central Valley of California and raises free range poultry without the use of any antibiotics. With high quality and nutrition being a focus of the family operation, David has implemented certified organic, Global Animal Partnership, and Non-GMO Project Verified programs.

The **Pioneer Award** honors a man, woman and/or company in "recognition of their outstanding contributions and dedication to California's dynamic poultry industry." This year, CPF honored Dr. Mark Bland as the 2018 recipient of the cherished "Pioneer Award."

Mark is one of the premier veterinarians in the United States and serves West Coast poultry and egg producers with distinction. Dr. Bland earned his BS and MS in Poultry Science at Oregon State University in 1981 & 1983 respectively and his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University in 1987. Dr. Bland worked and completed his Residency in Poultry Medicine at the University of California at Davis. Since 1998, Dr. Bland has been working as a Poultry Veterinary Consultant with Cutler Associates International.

Dr. Bland is licensed in California, Washington, Oregon and Utah as well as British Columbia, Canada, providing poultry health, veterinary and management services to a number of broiler, egg layer, turkey, duck, breeders of all four major species of poultry, and squab producing companies.

Allied Member of the Year award is meant for a person for their exceptional service and outstanding contributions to the poultry industry. Allied members help sustain the industry by contributing at meetings and poultry events; their contributions go directly to the promotion and improvement of the poultry industry in the Golden State. Michael Hogan of Boehringer Ingelheim was selected as the 2019 Allied Member of the Year.

The CPF, headquartered in Modesto, is the trade association for California's meat bird industry, representing chicken, turkey, duck, squab and game bird producers and processors.

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Editor's note: Pictures following



Golden Rooster Award: (from left) Hillari and David Pitman; Pitman Family Farms, Assemblyman Jim Patterson, 23rd District; Tom Bower, Foster Farms and CPF Board Chairman



Pioneer Award: (from left) Bill Mattos, President California Poultry Federation; Dr. Mark Bland, Cutler and Associates International; Tom Bower, Foster Farms and CPF Board Chairman



Allied Person of the Year Award: (from left) Bill Mattos, President California Poultry Federation; Mike Hogan, Boehringer Ingelheim; Tom Bower, Foster Farms and CPF Board Chairman



Special Honor Award: (from left) Dr. Lyle Johnston, Petaluma Poultry; Matt Junkel, Petaluma Poultry and CPF Board Secretary-Treasurer; Bill Mattos, President California Poultry Federation;