

Mr. Ray Kuehl
2012 Outstanding Alumnus

Mr. Ray Kuehl is a 1952 graduate of Beaver Dam High School and has been a prominent figure in the dairy industry for 60 years. He has been a leader for dairy producers in Dodge County, the State of Wisconsin, and around the world. After graduating from high school, Ray worked on his family dairy farm and attended UW-Madison for a year while farming. In 1970, he went to work for the U.S. Holstein-Friesian Cattle Breeder's Association in Vermont as a cattle classifier, field representative, and an international marketer of dairy cows. He returned to Wisconsin in 1979 to start his own dairy cattle consulting business. This led him to become a partner of American Genetics, where he served as a farm manager and marketed cow embryos around the world. Due to an agriculture related medical condition, Ray had to make a career change so he began selling real estate, eventually beginning his own business. He is also started his own auctioneer business.

Mr. Kuehl was instrumental in the creation of the World Dairy Expo, which is held annually in Madison, WI. When it was announced that the U.S. National Dairy Cattle Show would be discontinued, Ray and a few other cattle breeders developed a plan to hold the show in Wisconsin. The Expo is now the largest dairy industry exposition in the nation. Mr. Kuehl brought state-wide focus on Dodge County's dairy industry when he chaired the "Alice in Dairyland" competition, held in Beaver Dam in 1964. He was appointed by Governor Thompson to the World Dairy Center Authority, which found the sites for the new State Department of Agriculture and the World Dairy Center buildings in Madison.

Mr. Kuehl served on numerous local and state dairy and farming organizations and has received many awards and recognitions. He has also helped thousands of dairy farmers become successful dairy animal producers. Ray is very dedicated to the youth in the dairy cattle industry and has been instrumental in raising money to promote Agriculture to schools. He also willingly gives of his time and returns to Beaver Dam High School to encourage, inspire, and challenge young FFA members to set their goals high and respect others.