

Tyler Dawley of Big Bluff Ranch, tapped for Ag Leadership Program – Posted 01-12-08
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Red Bluff rancher tapped for agriculture leadership program
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SACRAMENTO

Tyler Dawley, a Red Bluff community leader in agriculture, has been selected to participate in the California Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP), one of the premier agricultural leadership opportunities in the United States. His class, the 38th selected in the program's history, was recently inaugurated in Petaluma.

CALP is an intensive two-year fellowship that focuses on more effective leadership through enlightenment and cultural exposure. It has been in operation since 1969 and has more than 1,000 alumni, including such influential leaders as Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura, State Senators Mike Machado and Abel Maldonado, U.S. Representatives Devin Nunes and George Radanovich, Department of Pesticide Regulation Director Mary-Ann Warmerdam and former Secretary of State Bill Jones.

"I have been hoping to get into this program for some years now," said Dawley. "I relish the opportunity to meet new people in new locations. When you are out of your comfort zone, you are free to explore and learn without fear. Ag Leadership provides such opportunities and I am thankful that I was selected for Class 38."

Dawley, a rancher from western Tehama County, is manager of Big Bluff Ranch.

Since 1980, the ranch has been managed with the health of the land at the forefront. The cattle were bred to fit the landscape and not need any outside supplementation. Dawley has introduced a flock of Katahdin hair sheep to the ranch for range management considerations

as well as the superior flavor of the meat. Big Bluff Ranch products are all directly marketed, with the majority of the grassfed meat sold to consumers at local farmers markets. Aside from work, Dawley is vice president of both the Northern California Lamb Producers and the Shasta Cascade Slow Food Convivium. He is a graduate of Claremont McKenna College.

As a member of Class 38, Dawley will be exposed to a variety of issues and activities unique to CALP. Those include visits to San Quentin State Prison in San Rafael and intercity youth programs in East Los Angeles, as well as trips across the United States and to developing nations. The participants' interaction with non-agricultural environments follows CALP's belief that effective leaders must have a true understanding of the world around them.