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**Merial and Dairy Quality Center Honor Taylor with
Veterinarian of the Year Award**

Omaha, NE – September 9, 2009 – Larry Taylor, DVM was honored as the 2009 Dairy Quality Center’s Veterinarian of the Year at the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) annual meeting held September 10 through 12, 2009 in Omaha, NE.

Merial, a world-leading animal health company, Duluth, Ga., and the Dairy Quality Center, Stratford, Iowa, co-sponsor this annual award, which honors veterinarians who help dairy producers implement quality management practices on their operation.

“Merial is proud to co-sponsor this award honoring veterinarians as part of our continued commitment to supporting the DQC and its leaders within the program,” says Dr. Tom Van Dyke, Manager of Merial Veterinary Services. “Dr. Larry Taylor is a leader who is dedicated to helping Virginia dairy producers strengthen production practices in an effort to produce the highest quality milk possible.”

Keith Carlson, executive director, DQC, says Dr. Taylor, of Wytheville, Va., was chosen because of his commitment and allegiance to his clients to achieve excellence in animal health. He is widely respected for his efforts to ensure consumers of responsible management practices.”

“He promotes quality assurance and assists in improving and guiding dairies to be their very best in every way,” comments Colette Johnston of the DQC. One client states, “This is not just a job to them, (Taylors), it is a PASSION!”

Larry T. Taylor received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee and received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 1974.

Dr. Taylor was born at home in Middlesboro, Kentucky the fourth child of Dr. Kelly Darrell, a chiropractor and Dorothy Taylor, a school teacher. He married Sheryl Lyn in August of 1972, recently celebrating 37 years of marriage.

In 1974 they settled in Wythe County to remodel an old store for their first practice. In 1979 they built their current clinic.

The Taylors have eight children and fifteen grandchildren with another due in October. When Dr. Taylor is not working he enjoys fishing, spending time with his grandchildren and traveling. In his 35 years of rural large animal practice he has made over 100,000 individual farm calls and traveled over 2,000,000 miles making calls on surrounding counties in beautiful southwestern Virginia.

Dr. Taylor serves clients’ sheep, swine, goats, horses, camels, antelope, lions, etc., but his favorites are horses and the dairy cow. A client states, “I have never seen Dr. Larry Taylor without a smile on his face. I asked him how he could always be so happy even with the long hours that he puts in, his response was, “Because I love what I do!”