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## **Sam Dolcini Named 2017 Outstanding Rancher**

*Marin rancher recognized for preserving land, paving only opportunity, inspiring Ag leaders*

SANTA ROSA, CA – May 26, 2017 – The Sonoma County Fair Board and members of the local ranching industry have selected Sam Dolcini of Hicks Valley as the 2017 Outstanding North Bay Rancher and the recipient of the J.W. Jamison Perpetual Trophy. “Steward of the Land” is a title well-deserved for Dolcini. With agrarian roots in Marin County dating back to the 1850s, you could say it’s in his DNA. From lessons on his family’s ranch...to the one-room school house he attended... to Boy Scouts, Sam learned a core message: To make the world better for those who come next.

“In Scouts, we were taught to leave every campsite as good as we found it, better when possible, and nothing but our footprints when we left,” says Dolcini, “and that’s still my philosophy.”

As a fifth generation rancher, Sam’s footprints reflect his family’s love for the land. He put himself through college, earning a degree in Agricultural Business and joining Sonoma-Marín Young Farmers and Ranchers—which he says was the ‘gateway’ to his career.

“I see myself as part of a community helping the world to go ‘round,” says Dolcini. “We are connected as caretakers, privileged to make a living off the land and obligated to preserve the opportunity for the next generation... That’s why this award is so deeply gratifying. There is no greater honor than to be recognized by your peers.”

In addition to his family’s beef operation, Sam works as an agricultural recruiter and is a tireless advocate for all things agriculture. He represents Ag interests on the Marin County Farm Bureau, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Young Farmers and Ranchers and the State Farm Bureau.



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When asked what he's most proud of, Sam cites a fence he built under deadline (and the bet he won), working to preserve land so families can stay on their ranches, helping to start youth Ag scholarships and inspiring people about agriculture.

The Sonoma County Fair is proud to present the Outstanding North Bay Rancher award to Sam Dolcini. The Fair celebrated the honor during its annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 23 at the Fairgrounds and received the J.W. Jamison Perpetual Trophy. He will also be recognized on Farmer's Day at the Fair, Sunday, August 6 in Chris Beck Arena.

Every day is a holiday during "Holidaze at the Sonoma County Fair!" Get ready to celebrate from August 3 – August 13. You won't want to miss this year's FREE Community Concert Series, the thrill of live horse racing, excitement of an ALL NEW giant carnival, nostalgia of "Holidays in Bloom" themed flower show, live entertainment, incredible food, fun contests, new games and more. For details, visit [SonomaCountyFair.com](http://SonomaCountyFair.com) or call (707) 545-4200. Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter to keep up with the fun. See you at the Fair!

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