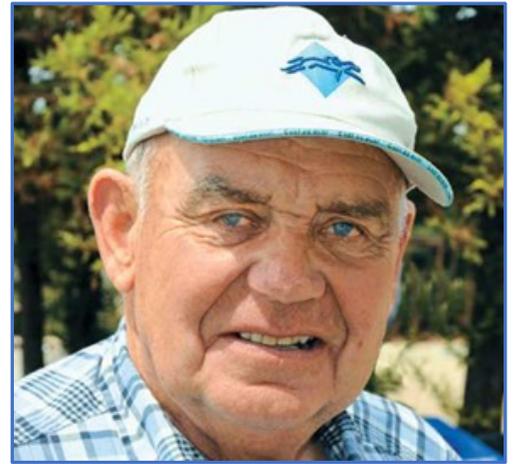


In Memory of Joe Daehling

Longtime Elk Grove Real Estate Broker, Wine Grape Farmer, Rancher, Nurseryman, and Thoroughbred horse breeder Joe Daehling, died on Nov. 28, 2019 at the age of 82.



The German-born Daehling immigrated to the United States in 1960. He originally settled in the Dakotas and worked on a Dairy Farm. After working and saving money he purchased a car and set out for sunny California. Joe initially worked farm jobs for a few years in the areas south of Sacramento, and later in the mid 1960s, he worked in the service department at Frank Cate Ford in Elk Grove.

In 1973, Joe and his wife June purchased a 400-acre ranch on Grant Line Road in Elk Grove, originally raising cattle and farming row crops. There, Joe and June raised their two daughters, Joanna and Julia. In the early 1980s, the Daehlings began boarding horses, and soon the horses replaced the cattle. Joe parlayed boarding horses into a thriving thoroughbred breeding and training facility. His horse facility typically manages 200 to 400 horses, and has produced numerous top racehorses over the last 40 years. Joe soon phased out row crops in favor of his Big Oak Nursery and wine grape vineyards. Big Oak Nursery, an expansive landscape plant nursery on Grant Line Road, is patronized by landscapers and homeowners from the greater Sacramento area and beyond, in search of beautiful, healthy, robust plants. Likewise, Joe's wine grapes are sought after by wineries because of the Daehling Ranch reputation of producing top-quality grapes. Upon a visit to Joe's ranch, you would likely hear Joe speaking perfect Spanish, in which he was fluent, along with English and his native German.

In his spare time, Joe earned a degree in financial planning from UC Davis, and in the early 1980s, he studied real estate and obtained his real estate license. Joe hung his real estate license at Steele Realty & Investment Company, working with Broker Raymond Steele as a broker associate for over 35 years until Ray's retirement in 2016. Joe then moved his real estate career to GAME Realty, where he remained active in real estate until his death.



Joe Daehling was a superb person, Realtor, mentor, and friend to all he encountered. Joe helped countless agents, buyers, and sellers realize their real estate dreams. He is greatly missed and fondly remembered. Rest in Peace, Joe.

A Celebration of Life will be held at [St. Peter's Lutheran Church](#), Elk Grove on January 17th at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Elk Grove Historical Society or the Strauss Festival of Elk Grove.