



# Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for members** of our Angus family. *Compiled by Linda Robbins.*

## IN THE NEWS

**Larry Slager**, Polo, Ill., and Slager Angus have been recognized as a Historic Angus Herd by the American Angus Association. Slager purchased his first registered-Angus heifer when he was 10 years old. The year was 1960, and thanks to a \$270 loan from the bank, he brought home Eiltonier Erica 215 from Eiltonier Angus in Tipton, Iowa. That was the official start to his registered-Angus herd, which is still in operation nearly 55 years later.

Before investing in his first Angus heifer, Larry had a Hereford steer. Then, he says, he “saw the light.” The first calf out of Eiltonier Erica 215 sired the grand champion steer at a county 4-H competition. Through 4-H and FFA, he showed cattle extensively at county and state fairs during the 1960s.

Larry met his wife, Deborah, in the cattle barn at the Wisconsin State Fair. They

married in 1974, and she officially became a partner in the Slager Angus herd. That same year, they exhibited the first-place bull at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, which was known as the nation’s premier livestock event for many years.

In 1975, the couple expanded their herd by purchasing 13 heifers from Circle L Ranch in Hugoton, Kan. The family’s current herd, which has been closed for 30 years, still traces back to two of those early females.

Their genetic selections have been working. Slager Angus bred the high-gaining bull at the 2012 Wisconsin Bull Test at 5.85 pounds per day.

Larry and Deborah continue to manage the herd of 17 registered-Angus cows at their farm in northern Illinois.

The Historic Angus Herd award is presented to Angus breeders or immediate

families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

## IN PASSING

**Paul Kunkel**, Bedford, Ky., died Jan. 30 at his home with his family by his side. Paul was born in Covington, Ky., Feb. 1, 1947, to Robert and Catherine (Broghammer) Kunkel. He and his five siblings were raised on a farm in northern Kentucky, and he graduated from Simon Kenton High School. Paul went on to graduate from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor’s degree in animal science and from the University of Missouri with a master’s degree in animal nutrition. He served his country in the Kentucky National Guard.

Paul and Nancy McLafferty were married in 1970 just before Paul began his master’s

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## Michigan Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 8, Jackson

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► Officers and directors of the Michigan Angus Ass’n include (seated, from left) **Merle Boehmer**, Williamston, chairman of the board; **Ken Geuns**, Bath, president; **Grace Boehmer**, Olivet, secretary; **Lisa Bohlen**, Pleasant Ridge, treasurer; **Bob Zellmer**, Nashville, vice president; (standing, from left) **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet; **Chris Pranger**, Corunna, Ind.; **Daniel Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Monte Bordner**, Sturgis; **Kevin Beckington**, Ann Arbor; **Chuck Preston**, Prescott; **Nancy Thelen** and **Steven Thelen**, Southeast Michigan Angus Ass’n representative, both of Saline; and **Scott Foster**, Niles.



► **Nancy Thelen** (right), Saline, receives the Adult Appreciation Award from Jaycie Brown.

► **Right:** The Michigan Angus Ass’n Auxiliary officers and chairwomen are (seated, from left) **Lois Foster**, Niles, co-historian; **Kris Boehmer**, Charlotte, president; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, vice president and Miss Michigan Angus chairperson; **Sharon Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, secretary-treasurer; (standing, back row, from left) **Laura Pillars**, Martin, co-historian; **Nancy Thelen**, Saline, awards chairperson; and **Janel Horrocks-Boehmer**, Williamston, scholarship chairperson.



► **David and Kathleen Hawkins**, Mason, receive the Michigan Angus Ass’n Heritage award from Merle Boehmer (right).

█ Kentucky Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 6, Louisville



▶ Kentucky Angus Ass'n officers and directors include (seated, front row, from left) **Matthew Jackson**, Campbellsburg, director; **Jamie Marksbury**, Buffalo, director; **Timothy Jeffries**, Cammer, vice president; **James Coffey**, Hustonville, president; **Anne Stewart-Clark**, Frankfort, secretary-treasurer; **Ricky Cunningham**, Dexter, director; **Joe Goggin**, Danville, director; (standing, back row, from left) **Randy Smoot**, Campbellsville; **Jason Crowe**, Irvine; **Tom McGinnis**, Shelbyville; **Gil Ray Cowles**, Rockfield; **William Jasper**, Nicholasville; **Henry Smith**, Russell Springs; and **Carl Nunn**, Upton.



▶ **Joe Myers** (right), Myers Angus Farm, Harrodsburg, receives the Performance Breeder of the Year award from Joe Goggin, Kentucky Angus Ass'n director.



▶ **Left: The Cowles family**, Rockfield, received the Family of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Maggie Jasper, presenting the award; and Corbin, Catherine, Caroline, Mary, Diane, Gil Ray and Gil Cowles.



▶ **Chuck Grove** (right), Forest, Va., receives the Distinguished Service Award from Charles "Bud" Smith Jr., Kentucky Angus Ass'n director.



▶ **Voyager Angus**, Buffalo, won reserve grand champion female at the Kentucky Sweepstakes. Pictured are (from left) Jamie, Jacob and Ellee Marksbury, and Rooter Gray.



**Wisconsin Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Feb. 21, Wisconsin Dells**

►**Right:** Wisconsin Angus Ass'n officers and directors include (seated, front row, from left) **Justin Diefenbach**, Mineral Point, president; **Jeff Berget**, Gratiot, vice president; **Ardel Quam**, Lodi, secretary-treasurer; **Leslie Mindemann**, Sullivan, Auxiliary president; (standing, back row, from left) **Courtney Jentz**, Fenimore; **Sue Finley**, Lancaster; **Christopher Thorson**, Rudolph; **Bart Mitchell**, Wauzeka; **Cody Quam**, Lodi; **Brian Nodolf**, Livingston; **Jennifer Kilpatrick**, Tomah; **Glenn Davis**, Cuba City; and **Mark Schmidt**, Bloomington.



►Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary officers are (from left) **Valerie Gaffney**, Barneveld, secretary-treasurer; **Leslie Mindemann**, Sullivan, president; and **Rebecca Henderson**, East Troy, vice president.



►**Andy Mindemann** (left), Oconomowoc; **Dennis Schlimgen** (center), Blue Mounds; and **Dusty Henningfeld** (right), Wauwatosa, receive retiring board member awards from the Wisconsin Angus Ass'n.



►**Kim and Jim Hawthorne**, Westby, receive the Advisor of the Year award from the Wisconsin Jr. Angus Ass'n.

work in Missouri. When they returned to Kentucky, Paul and Nancy settled in Bedford, where they raised their son and daughter on their farm.

Paul loved working with beef cattle, while Nancy worked with Quarter Horses, and the

two taught their children the value of hard work and the importance of caring for one another. Paul loved being with his children and grandchildren, and his family was a true source of pride for him.

After a short tenure working for the

Kentucky Artificial Breeders Association (KABA)-Select Sires as a beef specialist and sales representative, Paul began work with Select Sires Inc. in Plain City, Ohio in 1974. He served as a beef specialist and was in charge of marketing and public relations in the beef department. Paul and the late Roy Wallace worked tirelessly to improve beef genetics across the United States. Early in his tenure at Select Sires, Paul had the opportunity to work with the first European imports to the United States. These breeds would forever change the U.S. beef industry.

Paul left the Select Sires main office in 1991 to become general manager of KABA, where he served until KABA and Cache Valley Select Sires merged in 2012 to create Select Sires MidAmerica. Upon the merger, he served as assistant manager pending his upcoming retirement in 2015. Paul strived to manage KABA in a way that was beneficial to the membership, as well as employees.

His hard work and personality helped mold the KABA board of directors into a cohesive, trusting group who worked well together. Paul's commission-based salary structure for his employees rewarded performance and helped control expenses.

In addition, in Missouri, the KABA sales staff was expanded from one representative and a distributor to a staff of five employees with defined territories.

Paul's passion for the beef industry led him to implement a full-service beef synchronization program at KABA, making it possible for thousands of beef animals to be serviced artificially each year. To further extend artificial insemination (AI) and synchronization, Paul worked with the University of Missouri to establish an internship program where students were trained in AI and then sent to Kentucky, Missouri and many western states to work with large herd synchronization programs.

In addition, Paul had a great passion for his family and helping others. While serving as a Little League coach for his grandchildren, Paul took an interest in improving the Trimble County Little League. He made sure that every child had the opportunity to play; providing gloves, bats and cleats to those in need. He served as president of the Trimble County Youth Baseball League from 2009 to 2013 and helped transform the youth baseball league into a sanctioned little league.

In addition to his wife, Paul is survived by son Brian; daughter Anne; brothers Robert and Richard; sisters Kathleen, Jane and Gloria; and three grandchildren.

**David Waldrip**, 75, Raymondville, Texas, formerly of Grandview, Texas, died March 7.

He was born Jan. 5, 1940, in Cleburne, Texas, to Samuel and Julia (Cosgrove) Waldrip. David graduated from Cleburne High School in 1958. During and after high school he worked for the Safeway Grocery Store and Mrs. Baird's Bakery. In 1964, David opened his first grocery store in Milford, Texas. Jan. 1, 1970, marks the date that David purchased Carter's Grocery Store in Grandview, where he founded David's Supermarkets Inc. in 1977. After David retired as CEO and chairman in 2005, his children and longtime Grandview employees continued to operate the regional supermarket chain until its sale to Brookshire Brothers of Lufkin, Texas, in April 2014.

David's Angus Ranch in Grandview was a member of the American Angus Association from 1991 to 2003. The ranch was successful in the showring, with champions in numerous Roll of Victory (ROV) shows, including the reserve senior heifer calf champion at the 1994 National Western Stock Show. David was known by many prominent Angus breeders across the nation due to his show participation and attendance at many production sales. David's Angus Ranch, Hallman Farms of Cleburne, Texas, and Roden Angus Farm of Grandview founded Performance Angus Breeders, Grandview, Texas, to market females and bulls at annual production sales. The final female sale for the group occurred in May 2001.

David is survived by a loving family and many friends.

**INDUSTRY EXTRAS**

**Gloria Basse**, vice president U.S. pork business at Zoetis; **Lani Jordan**, director of corporate communications for CHS; and **Kay Kuenker**, vice president Dow AgroSciences government affairs, public affairs and sustainability, will join the 17-member advisory board for two-year terms with the Women in Agribusiness National Advisory Board.

**Kevin Kramp** has been named executive assistant to Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Board Member Jeffery Hall. His duties include advising Hall on policy issues affecting FCA, the Farm Credit System and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corp.

**Joe Dedrickson**, Merial Veterinary Professional Services, received a Special Recognition Award at the Annual Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) in April. The award is given to individuals who offer longtime leadership and service and assist the WVC in specifically defined areas that benefit the membership and contribute to the success of the organization.

Dedrickson earned the honor by moderating cow-calf and stocker-feedlot sessions at the conference nearly every year since 1992. In addition, he has chaired three sessions on cattle parasitology and several

**Alabama Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, April 17, Cullman**

► **Right:** Alabama Angus Ass'n officers and directors include (seated, from left) **Scott Bonds**, Guntersville, immediate past president; **Chris Wisener**, Arab, treasurer; **Jennifer Lee**, Daviston, second vice president; **Tim West**, Centre, first vice president; **George Richburg**, Auburn, president; **Mike McGuire**, Waverly, executive secretary; (standing, from left) **Richard Dyar**, Crossville; **Cobie Rutherford**, Hanceville; **Randy Crowell**, Elrod; **J.B. Turner Jr.**, Harvest; **Rob Adams**, Union Springs; **Dale Parris**, Albertville; **Roland Starnes**, Hayneville; **Michael Rorex**, Bridgeport; and **Tandy West**, Centre.



► **Left:** Alabama Angus Women's Ass'n officers are (standing, from left) **Meghan Hill Rutherford**, Holly Pond; treasurer; **Melody Barton**, Dutton, vice president; and **June Wood**, Holly Pond, president.



► **Right:** **Scott Bonds** (left), Guntersville, receives the Outgoing President recognition award from **George Richburg**, newly elected Alabama Angus Ass'n president.

## ▶ NEWSMAKERS

luncheons covering the cattle products available from Merial, a regular sponsor at the industry conference. He was one of five recipients this year.

**Jena Swanson** has been hired by Filament Marketing LLC as a senior marketing manager. Swanson will be working with the company's client management team to assist with the development and implementation of strategic communications plans and initiatives.

**Alltech** and **Ridley Inc.** announced in April that they have entered into a plan of arrangement agreement under which Alltech will acquire 100% of the outstanding stock of Ridley.

Ridley manufactures and markets a full range of animal nutrition solutions, including formulated complete feeds, premixes, feed supplements, block supplements, animal health products and feed ingredients. Ridley's products are sold to producers by direct sales or through

distributor and dealer channels.

The combined company will have a presence in more than 128 countries and 4,200 employees worldwide. The transaction is subject to approval by Ridley shareholders, regulatory review and other customary closing conditions.



**Editor's Note:** *This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your newsmaker, email [lrobbins@angusjournal.com](mailto:lrobbins@angusjournal.com) or call 816-383-5245.*