

Angus Heritage Runs Deep

Over the past 130 years, the Angus breed has established itself as an industry leader for quality and advancement. This reputation was built by innovators and visionaries who possess drive and wise decision-making skills to better the breed and the industry.

by Kate Ryan, American Angus Association

Each year, the American Angus Association celebrates those innovators and visionaries by selecting individuals for induction into the Angus Heritage Foundation.

On Nov. 6 during the 2018 Angus Convention in Columbus, Ohio, five Angus industry leaders were added to this prestigious group.

The new inductees for 2018

included: Keith Arntzen, Montana; Evelyn Edmunds, South Carolina; Mark Gardiner, Kansas; Donna Holmes, Missouri; and Lowell Minert, posthumously, Nebraska.

Keith Arntzen

Keith is a third-generation rancher from Hilger, Mont. After attending college and serving in the Army Reserves, he took over management of the Angus herd his parents started in the mid-1950s.

He married Kristine Butcher in 1974, and together, they have three children: Karrie, Kimberly and Kevin, who is a partner working full-time on the ranch.

Since their first bull sale in 1977, Keith and his brother Doug have expanded the operation and now sell



Pictured are (from left) Kallie Knott, 2018 Miss American Angus; Keith Arntzen; and Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO.

more than 200 bulls in their April production sale.

Keith became a lifetime member of the American Angus Association at age 12 and has since contributed a great deal to the Angus business. He served as a director and president of the Central Montana Angus Association, served two terms on the board of the Montana Angus Association, and served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors from 1997 to 2003. Keith also has given back to his community by serving on many local and state boards.

Evelyn G. Edmunds

In 1968, Evelyn G. Edmunds and her husband, John, obtained 15 head of Angus cattle and began raising the business breed in Clover, S.C. Evelyn also joined the American Angus Association that year, as well as the South Carolina Angus Association where she served as a director, secretary and voting delegate. She was instrumental in the formation and organization of the South Carolina Junior Angus Association in 1968 and served as an advisor for 19 years.

When John passed away in 1978, she assumed sole management of



Pictured are (from left) Walter Shealy, accepting on Evelyn's behalf; Kallie Knott, 2018 Miss American Angus; and Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO.

Circle E Farm and became active in cattle and farm groups during a time

when only men served in such organizations.

She quickly gained the respect of her male peers and was the first woman to hold leadership positions in the South Carolina Cattleman's Association as well as the South Carolina Farm Bureau.

It is hard to find an Angus breeder in South Carolina who has not been influenced in some way by Evelyn Edmunds over the years. At the age of 89, Evelyn continues to serve on many county and state organizations today.

Mark Gardiner

Mark is the president of Gardiner Angus Ranch, Inc., a family-owned, generational beef operation located in Ashland, Kan. Under Mark's direction, the ranch has grown an embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) program that performs more than 3,500 transfers a year, making it one of the largest AI/ET beef operations in the world.

Gardiner is a founding board member and stockholder of U.S. Premium Beef, former Board member of the American Angus



Pictured are (from left) Mark and Eva Gardiner; Kallie Knott, 2018 Miss American Angus; and Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO.

Association, former chairman of the NCBA Seedstock Council and former president of the Kansas Angus Association. He is also active in the

Beef Improvement Federation (BIF).

Mark is continuing the Gardiner family legacy of community involvement, both at home and nationally. Under Mark's guidance in 2012, the Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship and Lecture Series was created and endowed at Kansas State University. To date, 22 undergraduate students have received scholarships.

Mark and his wife, Eva, have three sons, Cole, Ransom and Quanah, who represent the fifth generation of the Gardiner family ranching in Clark County, Kansas.

Donna Holmes

Donna grew up on a farm in northwest Missouri. She later moved to Saint Joseph where she was employed by the American Angus Association from January 1958 until her retirement 43 years later in 2001.

Donna started in the membership department and went on to the checking department where she eventually became supervisor. Donna spoke with breeders by phone or correspondence and worked closely with regional managers to



Pictured are (from left) Richard Wilson, accepting on Donna's behalf; Kallie Knott, 2018 Miss American Angus; and Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO.

process registration certificates needed for show purposes.

She was later promoted to administrative assistant to the director of member services. She handled blood typing, parentage verification, breeder disputes, hiring of office employees, in addition to overseeing both the building and ground maintenance.

Working with Angus breeders made Donna's employment very pleasant, and she still misses and thinks of all the breeders and colleagues she worked with over the years. She has now been retired for 17 years and spends her time with her husband, Don, of 61 years.

Lowell Minert

Lowell (1940-2016) was a lifelong Angus breeder who purchased his first Angus heifer for his 4-H project. He and his wife Carrol started their Angus operation in 1964 near Dunning, Neb., where they owned and operated Minert/Simonson Angus Ranch.

Lowell took an active leadership role in the beef industry, serving on the board of directors and as chairman of the Purebred Council of the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association. He served two terms as president



Pictured are (from left) JW and Cindy Simonson, Lowell's son-in-law and daughter; Kallie Knott, 2018 Miss American Angus; Carrol Minert, Lowell's wife, accepting the award; and Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO.

of the Nebraska Angus Association, two terms on the American Angus

Association board of directors and was president of the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) board.

Lowell was a people person who enjoyed supporting young people in their endeavors and sharing his passion for Angus cattle with people across the country and the world. His ranch has hosted Angus and cattlemen tours and groups from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, England, Spain, Japan and China.

Lowell's passion, integrity, honesty and genuine love of the Angus breed left a valuable reputation in the cattle industry and as an individual.

[AJ]