

Andrew Starr Elected President of American Angus Association

Andrew Starr, a registered Angus breeder from Sunbright, Tenn., is the new president of the 24,000 member American Angus Association.

Starr, who served six years as a member of the board of directors of the American Angus Association and a seventh last year as vice president, was elected by a unanimous vote of the 229 delegates attending the 108th Annual Meeting November 18 in Louisville. Elected vice president was Keith Stevenson from Hobson, Mont.

Also elected at the meeting were five men to serve on the American Angus Association's 15-member Board of Directors. Serving their first term are William Borrer, Gerber, Calif.; John Hamilton, Belgrade, Mont.; and R.J. "Bob" Hillier, Garden City, Kan. Reelected to their second three-year terms were Ralph Bridges, Lexington, Ga.; and Glen Swanson, Durrant, Iowa.

Andy Starr operates Star Dust Farm and has been in the registered Angus business for more than 30 years. He attended the University of Tennessee and served in the U.S. Army before starting his registered Angus herd. In addition to leadership roles at the American Angus Association, he is past president of the Tennessee Angus Association and East Tennessee Angus Association.

Starr, his wife, Kathy, and their family operate a 200-cow registered Angus herd. All of their children have been junior members of the American Angus Association.

Vice president Keith Stevenson was born into a ranch family and has been raising Angus cattle in Montana since 1947. Stevenson is a graduate of Montana State University where he earned degrees in agricultural production and agricultural education. He took over management of Stevenson Angus Ranch after the death of his father in 1975.

Stevenson has served six years on the Association's Board of Directors. He has been actively involved in performance work, and he and his brother and their families market more than 600 bulls a year. He and his wife, Roberta, have four sons, Darrell, Mike, Bob and Billy Jake.

William "Bill" Borrer operates Tehama Angus Ranch near Gerber, Calif., along with his wife, Sandy, and their sons, Chester, Kevin and his wife Linda, and Aaron. The 1,300-acre operation includes 325 registered Angus cows and 135 acres of almonds.

Borrer has long been involved in per-

gus in 1944. Today he and his family run a 1,200-acre operation that includes more than 400 head of registered cows, some 650 commercial cows and a sizable turkey operation.

Bridges and his wife, Margaret, have six children, and all of them and their families work in the family operation.



New officers of the American Angus Association are (l to r): Andrew Starr, president, Sunbright, Tenn.; Keith Stevenson, vice president, Hobson, Mont.; and the five directors elected to serve on the 15member Board of Directors: John Hamilton, Belgrade, Mont.; Bob Hillier, Garden City, Kan.; Glen Swanson, Dumnt, Iowa; William Borrer, Gerber, Calif.; and Ralph Bridges, Lexington, Ga.

formance testing of beef cattle. He enrolled his herd in California's performance program in 1944. He owned one of the first reference sires used by the American Angus Association in the National Sire Evaluation Program. He is a past president of the Beef Improvement Federation and was named Seedstock Producer of the Year in 1983 by that organization.

Ralph Bridges, Lexington, Ga., was elected to his second three-year term on the Board of Directors. He started farming as a sharecropper after graduating from high school and bought his first An-

Bridges is past president of the Georgia Angus Association and helped organize Georgia's first Angus forage bull test. He is vice president of the Georgia Cattle-men's Association and was named GCA's 1991 Seedstock Breeder of the Year.

John Hamilton, the new Angus director from Belgrade, Mont., operates Cedar Hills Angus Ranch. He began ranching after graduating from high school then later earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural production from Montana State University. He purchased his first Angus in 1961 for a FFA project and today runs a 240-



These three supporters of the Angus industry were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation during the 108th Annual Banquet. The inductees are (l to r): Henry Gardiner, Ashland, Kan.; Jeanette Stevenson, Hobson, Mont.; and Dean Hurlbut, St. Joseph, Mo. The Angus Heritage Foundation recognizes outstanding individuals for their contributions, support and dedication to Angus cattle and the industry.

cow registered Angus herd.

Hamilton has served on the board of directors and as president of both the Montana Beef Performance Association and the South Montana Angus Association, and served two terms on the board of the Montana Angus Association. He and his wife, Vicki have a son Tim and daughter Robbi; all are involved in the Angus operation.

R.J. "Bob" Hillier, is a partner in H&H Angus, Stillwater, Okla., with his father J.C. Hillier. He is also president of Bartlett Cattle Co., Canyon, Texas, and lives in Garden City, Ran. Born in Stillwater, he earned his bachelor's degree at

Oklahoma State University and his master's and doctorate degrees from Purdue University.

Hillier bought his first Angus as a 4-H club member. He and his father started the family Angus operation in 1972 with 10 heifers. He presently serves on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Angus Association and the Certified Angus Beef Program. Bob and his wife, Lynda, have two children, Susan and Brian.

Glen Swanson, Durant, Iowa, was elected to his second three-year term on the board of directors. Last year he served on the public relations and planning and industry committees.

He bought his first Angus cattle when he was 10 years old. Two years later in 1948 his father dispersed his dairy herd and they went into the Angus business. He helped organize the Iowa Junior Angus Association in 1957 and served as its first vice president.

Swanson and his son-in-law farm 1,200 acres that includes a 150-cow registered Angus herd. He has been president of both the Iowa Beef Breeds Council and the Iowa Angus Association. Glen and his wife, Judy, have three daughters. All three were involved in state and national junior Angus activities.



John Barton, Columbia, Mo., right, was presented an Angus bull model for his years of dedication and service to the Angus breed and Angus breeders. John will retire as regional manager of the American Angus Association March 1. He currently serves breeders in the states of Iowa and Missouri. Association president Andrew Starr presents the award.



R&J Ranch, Briggs, Texas, was named the 1990-1991 Roll of Victory Angus Breeder of the Year. Pictured during the awards presentation are (l to r): Ken Conway, R&J manager; Association president Andrew Starr; and R&J owners Jackie and Ray Plumb.



Grubbs MacKenzie was named the 1990-91 Roll of Victory Sire of the Year. Association president Andrew Starr, left, presents the award to owners Robert Reavis, LaMonte, Mo., center, and Dale Grubbs, Hillsboro, Ind., right.



FFF Diablo Suzie was named the 1990-1991 Roll of Victory Show Heifer of the Year. Association president Andrew Starr, far left, presents the award to Suzie's owners (l to r): Dennis Lopez, Byron, Calif.; Lori Franklin, La Salle, Colo.; and Jerry Forsythe, Marshall, Ill.



PF Hamilton 9H24 was named the 1990-1991 Roll of Victory Show Bull of the Year. Association president Andrew Starr, far left, presents the award to the bull's owners (l to r): Larry Weaver, Spencer, Ind.; Jerry Forsythe, Marshall, Ill.; and Dawn Henley, Oakdale Calif.

Board of Directors' Agenda

Beef Industry Should Keep Marbling's Influence

Beef grading changes that would reduce the importance of marbling or dilute the USDA Choice grade are strongly opposed by the American Angus Association, says Andrew Starr, newly elected president.

The Association's Board of Directors at their quarterly meeting November 17 in Louisville, adopted a resolution calling for no grading changes that would lower the marbling requirements for the USDA Choice grade, or that would reduce or eliminate marbling as a factor in USDA beef grading. They specifically oppose changes that would incorporate all or most of the current USDA Select grade into the USDA Choice grade, Starr said.

Instead the Angus Board calls for improved research and cattle breeding techniques that will produce more animals with the genetic ability to efficiently produce carcasses that meet the various beef grade standards. They called upon feedlot operators to finish animals to their most efficient USDA grade and then allow packer buyers, retailers and consumers to dictate through market demand the kind and quality of beef animals that farmers and ranchers should produce.

The National Consumer Beef Study shows that there are separate and distinct markets for USDA Select and USDA Choice beef, Starr pointed out. "It is foolish for the beef industry to ignore this important market research, just because there are too many cattle today that cannot be efficiently fed to the USDA Choice grade, or that can't make the grade no matter how long they stay in the feedlot," Starr said.

Furthermore, the resolution reiterates that noted meats specialists and U.S. researchers assure the beef industry that USDA beef grading works and shouldn't be changed. The resolution points out that research done by Texas A&M University shows that 19 percent of the USDA Select grade is unacceptable to the consuming public. "The beef industry cannot expect to grow and prosper by introducing into the USDA Choice grade a product that is unacceptable to 19 percent of the consuming public," the resolution reads.

In answer to claims that specifications for the USDA Choice grade cause cattle to be fed until they get too fat, the Angus resolution explains, "The overproduction of fat in the U.S. beef industry is the result of attempting to feed cattle to the USDA Choice grade that do not have the genetics to marble at an early age without putting on too much fat."

In response to the argument that consumers today prefer cattle that grade USDA Select rather than Choice, the resolution points out that the demand for Choice is consistently stronger than for Select in the open market. "The price spread between Select and Choice has actually increased over the past 10 years. Consumer preference for the flavor and palatability of Choice is the reason for the price spread, not the USDA stamp that is rolled on the carcass," the Angus Association president said.

"We are firmly convinced that Angus cattle would maintain their position in the beef cattle industry regardless of what is done or not done with the USDA beef grades," said Starr "However, we are just as firmly convinced that to lower the quality of the USDA Choice grade, or to make any move that would dilute the value of marbling in determining beef quality would send the wrong signal to beef producers. It would also result in increased consumer dissatisfaction with beef and thus would in the long run reduce demand for our product."