

NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Megan Silveira, associate editor

Within this "Newsmakers" column we share important news and accomplishments of our members, including state association activities, birth and marriage announcements, and news of Angus members' passing.

In Passing



Roger J. Eckstein, 84, died Sept. 9, 2023, at his home in Seymour, Ind. He was born Dec. 6, 1938, in Sheldon, Ill., the son of

Bernard and Dorothy (Stimpson) Eckstein.

Eckstein graduated from Illinois State University in Bloomington, where he was active in the Blackfriars Fraternity, and he served his country in the United States Army.

He worked for State Farm Insurance as well as being a teacher for several years at Morehead State, where he taught agriculture, and he taught middle school math and science in Ohio.

Most of his life, though, he worked as a contractor, farmer and raised Angus cattle. He established Pear Lane Angus in 1964 and was presented with the Indiana Angus Association's Historic Angus Herd Award in 2020. He was a proud member of the Southern Indiana Angus Association and past editor of the *Indiana Angus News*. Eckstein was a man of integrity and he prided himself on being trustworthy and honest. He was an avid Indiana University basketball fan.

Eckstein is survived by his children, Angela and Eric (Kelly); five grandchildren; and close friends.



Jon Phillip Cox, 78, lifelong Whitman County registered Angus cattle rancher and wheat farmer, died

Nov. 24, 2023.

Cox was born Feb. 7, 1945, in Colfax, Wa., the son of Dallas and Lena (Lust) Cox and the younger brother of Sandra Filan and Durand Cox.

Jon grew up in Colfax, where he was a standout high school athlete. After graduation, he followed his friend, Frank Garrett, to Cal Poly. They both had hopes of walking on for the football team. After realizing most college football players were taller than 5 feet, 10 inches, Cox transferred to Washington State University and joined his much-loved first cousins.

Cox returned to his fourth-generation ranch in Hay.

Much to his mother's chagrin and his daughter's delight, Cox was an animal lover. He loved each and every dog on the farm, whether it was a cow dog or a lap dog. But his favorite animals were his Angus cows. He was a natural cattleman.

With some prodding by Garrett, Cox started his registered Angus herd in 1963 at only 18 years old. He established Pioneer Angus Ranch, with a registered black Angus cattle

herd. He grew this herd while serving in various capacities with the Washington and Western States Angus Association. The friendships he made within the cattle business were cherished, especially his more than 60-year friendship with Gary Kendall. Many of those friends attended his yearly bull sales, along with the final 2013 dispersion cattle sale. This was when Cox sold most of the cattle to breeders all over the United States.

One of his other loves was flying airplanes. There was always an airplane at Pioneer Angus Ranch, as he had his own airstrip.

Cox was a man of many talents. He also was an accomplished trap shooter. He was a talented golfer who could beat most people, even well after his Parkinson's diagnosis.

Cox's family is his legacy. After dating for an extended period of time, he and Shirley joined their families together on Jan. 20, 1990. This family has been the cornerstone for nearly 40 years. He and Shirley enjoyed traveling. He enjoyed playing cards, boating, jet skiing and enjoying the company of his family.

Cox is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Katie (Len), Jason (Audra), Michelle and Melissa (Loren); 15 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many well-loved cousins, nieces and nephews.

In Recognition

The American Angus Association honors Richard M. Dyar with a Historic Angus Herd Award. The Association's Historic Angus Herd Award recognizes breeders and immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Dyar established his farm in 1973 in Crossville, Ala., under the name C&D Farms in honor of his then father-in-law George Croft, who helped him get started. Dyar's first three registered Angus cows originated from the Auburn University Experiment Station System.


"As a member of the Auburn University livestock judging team, I was exposed to several breeds of cattle," Dyar says. "I was impressed with the Angus breed and what it had to offer."

In 1976 Dyar assisted professor Robert Scarth's daughter in purchasing a show heifer from the Dent Bass herd. Dyar later purchased that heifer himself, and she became the founding female for his Bass Blackbird cow family. He purchased a Black Bull Cattle Company female in 1977, under the recommendation of his mentor in the Angus business, Dave Pingrey. She became the founding female for the farm's Enchantress cow line.

Since the early years, Dyar has been enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program and has used in-herd ratios as a guiding force when selecting replacements and making culling decisions.

Dyar was also a founding member of the Northeast Alabama Performance Breeders' Annual Bull Sale, and he has consigned bulls for most of its 26-year history. He is a strong supporter of the North Alabama Bull Test Station, where he has been a consignor for many years.

Dyar has won many awards over the years, including Alabama Family of the Year in 1990 and Progressive Breeder of the Year in 2008. He also received the Richard Deese Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Award and the Spirit of Alabama Award. He produced two class winners at the National Junior Angus Show and received the certificate for top consignments at several Alabama Angus Association fall and spring sales.

Dyar served as president of the Alabama Angus Association in 2021, the Alabama BCIA in 2007 and Alabama Purebred Breeders' Council in 2000. He also worked as a regional manager for the American Angus Association for 36 years and served on its Board of Directors for two terms. Dyar continues to manage his herd of 65 Angus cows and 30 yearling heifers for replacement and sale. 

BoPat Farms

29th Annual Bulls & More Sale March 2, 2024 12:30 p.m. • Bradford, TN



BoPat Cavalry 342

Sire: T/D Cavalry 761 • MGS: VAR Discovery 2240



BoPat MVP 2111

Sire: B/R MVP 5247 • MGS: B/R Comrade 410

Featuring these maternal siblings



BoPat Deborah 0101

Sire: Basin Payweight 1682 • MGS: B/R Comrade 410
Sells bred to T/D Double Vision 9714.

**Selling - 50 Angus Bulls
35 Registered Angus Females**

140 Milan Hwy
Bradford, TN 38316
Larry Patterson • 731-420-2697
Peyton Pruett • 731-988-8470
e-mail: bopat@tennesseetel.net