

NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Julie Mais, 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



John L. Schurr, 79, of Farnam, Neb., died Jan. 4.

John was born Dec. 21, 1940, to John and Estella Schurr in Farnam where he grew up on the family farm. John graduated from Farnam High School in 1958, then attended the University of Nebraska and Colorado State University until the death of his dad in 1960 brought him back to work on the farm. In 1961 he started raising purebred Angus cattle and farming with his brother, Jerry, then in 1983 they added a purebred Charolais herd to the ranch.

On April 4, 1965, John married Kay Schultheiss in North Platte. The couple lived west of Farnam and had three sons, all who became part of the Schurrtop Angus and Charolais Ranch, which has been a farming, cattle-feeding and purebred operation going on four generations. John was proud that each son earned national recognition on livestock judging teams.

John had a great love for cattle and over the years served on numerous committees in the Angus and Charolais breeds. He served two terms on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, was on the Certified Angus Beef LLC Board, a member of the Angus Foundation, past director of the

Nebraska Angus Association and director of Farm Credit Services.

Schurrtop has been recognized in competitions including the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver where he exhibited his cattle for 50 consecutive years, the Great Western Beef Expo and Beef Empire Days in Kansas where they won the coveted Brookover Award. John had been recognized with numerous awards over the years, and was selected as Nebraska Angus Association 2010 Producer of the Year. He had a true passion for cattle feeding and believed in letting the merits of his cattle do the talking.

Along with his work, John was also active in the Farnam community where he served on various

2019 South Dakota Angus Association Annual Meeting & Banquet



Shally Rogen, Rogen Angus, Brandon, S.D., won the Breeder of the Year award. Pictured (from left) are Joshua Mohnen, South Dakota Angus Association president; Shally Rogen; Dick Rogen; and Jon Bussmus, South Dakota Angus Association director.



Elected to serve on the 2020 South Dakota Angus Association board of directors are (from left) Jon Bussmus, Mitchell, director; Lee Kopriva, Raymond, director; Joshua Mohnen, White Lake, president; Christina Mogck, Olivet, secretary-treasurer; Blake Eisenbeisz, Bowdle, director; and Troy Thomas, Harrold, director.

boards for school, church and the Gothenburg Hospital Foundation. He was a 4-H club leader for 35 years and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Gothenburg. He was also a member of the Cattlemen's Beef Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, and the Colorado Livestock Association. He will be remembered for his work across the beef industry.

John is survived by his wife, Kay, of Farnam; sons Marty and Ryan (Kari); and four grandchildren.

In Recognition

Meier Recognized as Missouri Cattleman of the Year

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) recognized a Jackson, Mo. cattle producer as the

2019 Cattleman of the Year at its annual convention in Columbia, Mo., on Jan. 11, 2020. Butch Meier was presented the award for his efforts as chairman of the association's executive committee and officer team.

"He actually served as chairman of the executive committee for two consecutive years because his service was needed," said MCA Region 3 Vice President Charlie Beshler, who was one of two people to nominate Meier. "Butch didn't hesitate to continue serving as a leader for the association, despite the time constraints associated with volunteering. He has served unselfishly and the recognition was well-deserved."

Meier operates Butch's Angus, which began in 1956 when his parents



purchased a registered Angus heifer for his 4-H project. The farm is family-owned and operated by Meier, his wife, Eileen, and sons Brian and Greg. His grandchildren represent the sixth generation on the farm that is home to more than 200 Angus cows. The operation hosts an annual production sale every November.

2019 Minnesota Angus Association Annual Meeting & Banquet



Mitteness Family Angus, Benson, Minn., won the Breeder of the Year award. Pictured (from left) are Karen, Ryan, Randy and Mark Mitteness.



Elected to serve on the 2020 Minnesota Angus Association board of directors are (from left) John Nesler, La Crescent, director; Neil Johnson, Pipestone, director; Angela Ford, Lake Wilson, executive director; Morgan Porter, Jacobson, director; Steve Ludwig, Richmond, director; Glenn Johnson, Pipestone, vice president; and Bruce Waugh, Goodhue, president.

2020 Florida Angus Association Annual Meeting & Banquet



Elected to serve on the 2020 Florida Angus Association board of directors are (standing, from left) Ed Dean, Candler, director; Sam Cone, Ocala, director; Thomas Bryant, Fort White, treasurer; Ken Stewart, Marianna, vice president; Graham Hall, Brooksville, president; Richie Longanecker, Lithia, director; Zoila Hernandez, Wellington, secretary; Albert Austrino, Dade City, director; and Dale Locke, Lakeland, director.

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