

# Newsmakers

## ■ IN THE NEWS

The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) elected leaders for the year on Feb. 9 at its annual meeting in Billings, Mont. Directors renewing three-year terms included **Ken Monson**, Absarokee, Mont., and **Scott Spickard**, Billings, Mont.

Also, many long-time NILE members were honored for their years of membership. Among the honorees for memberships of 31 or more years were **Alpine Livestock**, Luther, Mont., and **Beartooth International**, Columbus, Mont. **Mydland Angus Ranch**, Joliet, Mont., was honored in the 30-year category, and **Keefer Ranches**, Roundup, Mont., for 25 years. **Leachman Angus Ranch**, Bozeman, Mont., was honored for five years of membership.

**Eve and Rick Maxwell**, Ponder, Texas, were honored recently by the Texas Junior Angus Association with the 2000 Heyser Award for outstanding service.



**The Little Apple Brewing Co. Restaurant**, Manhattan, Kan., recently was voted Manhattan's "Best Steak House" in a

ballot contest conducted by the *Manhattan Mercury* newspaper.

Intervet, Millsboro, Del., recently announced that **Jeff Baxter** has been hired as a marketing manager for the company's cattle biologicals focused on the beef industry. Baxter will manage the brand positioning and marketing communications on a number of vaccine product lines. A native of east central Kansas, Baxter grew up on a purebred Angus operation.

The Ozark Empire Fair Board of Directors recently elected **Larry Ellison** of Fair Grove, Mo., to fill a vacancy on the board. He and his family own and operate Harmony Hills Angus Farm.

## ■ ANGUS ARRIVALS

**Scott and Jennifer Svoboda**, Sargent, Neb., announce the Oct. 29 birth of their son, **Weston Richard**. He weighed 7 lb., 7 oz. Jennifer is secretary of the Nebraska Angus Association.

**Steve and Melanie Lund** of Lund's B Bar Angus Ranch, Wibaux, Mont., announce the Jan. 25 birth of their third child, **Hope Cerise**. She weighed 6 lb., 8 oz., and was 19½ in. long. Brothers Bob and Cooper

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## Reel benefit scheduled for May 26

Les Reel held true to his words, "Don't worry; it will be all right," after by-pass surgery in April 2000. The owner of Reel Livestock Center, Congerville, Ill., is once again soothing the worries of the many friends he has developed in the industry.

Dec. 16, Reel suffered an aorta dissection. After eight hours of surgery, he was placed in intensive care at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Ill. He suffered a slight stroke on the right side and lost his left leg above the knee due to excessive swelling. He will need extensive rehabilitation to learn to walk again, but at press time he was scheduled to be headed home to Congerville.

Friends have organized a May 26 benefit for Reel at the Livestock Center in Congerville. The day's activities begin at 11 a.m. and will include a magic show, an Elvis impersonator, a petting zoo, a raffle, a pork-chop and ribeye dinner and a benefit auction (sale-item donations are being accepted). For a schedule of activities with the latest updates, visit [www.lesreelbenefit.org](http://www.lesreelbenefit.org) on the Internet.

Reel got his start in the cattle business in 1948, purchasing two \$350 Angus heifers with the help of his uncle, Carl Eglin. By 1957 he had progressed to exhibiting the reserve champion Angus steer at the International in Chicago. He won the International grand champion steer twice.

Reel's first job was with the Harvey Harter herd at Carlock, Ill., where he says he learned the reward that could be attained from breeding great Angus cattle.

Reel always has loved cattle and the people involved with them. Feeling there was a need for a clean, well-managed facility to market the animals, he dreamed of providing a competitive marketplace in which farm families could sell their products. In 1965 he created, not a sale barn, but a Livestock Center. He surrounded himself with some of the best farmers and farm families in the area to help him manage the facility.

In 1974 Reel and his brother John built a sale barn north of Congerville. The facility was intended for their own sales, but so many people liked the "Northtown Unit" and the fitting service offered that they wanted to use it for their own calf sales, dispersals and production sales, as well as other breed sales and events.

To arrange to donate a sale item, contact Jami Watkins at (309) 359-5107. For other information, contact event chairperson Jan Araujo at (309) 448-5201. Monetary donations can be mailed to Les Reel Medical Fund, PO Box 143, Congerville, IL 61729.

welcomed her home. Grandparents are Ethel Lund, Wibaux, Mont., and Vernon and Lola Emery, Ekalaka, Mont. Great-grandparents are Lena Swingle, Bozeman, Mont., and Gladys Knoedler, Loveland, Colo.

**Cory and Suzanne Nichols**, Willow Park, Texas, wish to announce the Feb. 7 birth of their son, **Brock Everett**. He weighed 9 lb., 1 oz., and was 21½ in. long. Grandparents are Tom and Swaney Nichols of Nichols Angus, Tracy, Iowa, and Tom and Helen Stewman of Stewman Ranch, Maryneal, Texas.

#### ■ IN PASSING

**Paul Pippert**, 75, of Overland Park, Kan., passed away Sept. 14. He was born July 3, 1925, in Talbert, Calif. He grew up in Mason City, Iowa, and attended Mason City Junior College and Tarkio Presbyterian College, Tarkio, Mo. He married Wava Withers on Jan. 21, 1951.

He started his broadcasting career in Watertown, S.D., at KWAT. He was an Army veteran. After serving his country, he resumed his radio career in Mason City. Later, he moved to Shenandoah, Iowa, and worked at radio station KMA. He then moved to the Kansas City area in 1954 and started with KCMO, where he was employed for 25 years and served as farm director.

He continued his broadcasting career at KFRM in Wichita, Kan., then moved to

WIBW in Topeka, Kan., where he worked for 10 years, retiring in 1990.

Former president of the MO-KAN chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) and of the Livestock Booster Club, he served on the executive committee of the Kansas City FFA Advisory Council. He also was a member of the Agri Business Advisory Council of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of directors of the Agricultural Hall of Fame and on the board of governors of the American Royal Association.

In addition to his leadership positions, Pippert was honored with various awards throughout his career, including an Oscar in Agricultural Radio in 1978.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years; a daughter, Paulette Cott, and son-in-law, Greg, Winston Salem, N.C.; two grandsons; two brothers, Wesley, Washington, D.C., and Harold, Mason City, Iowa; and 19 nieces and nephews.

**Joseph James Huckfeldt**, 66, of Gering, Neb., passed away Jan. 23, 2001, at Saint Luke's Hospital, Denver, Colo. He was born in Hastings, Neb. on March 23, 1934, to Joseph and Gerda (Hansen) Huckfeldt.

At an early age, he moved to the family farm in Gordon, Neb. He graduated from Gordon High School in 1951 and received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska. He also served as a captain in the U.S. Army.

On Aug. 4, 1956, he married Nancy Stanley in Lincoln, Neb. They moved to Scottsbluff, Neb., where he was employed as the Scotts Bluff County Extension agent. He later became associated with the Gering

National Bank, where he worked for 28 years, serving as president and chairman of the board. He also owned and operated Huckfeldt Farms and Huckfeldt Cattle Co., where he was involved in the promotion of registered Angus and Shorthorn cattle.

He was a member of the Gering First United Methodist Church and the commanding officer of the Army Reserve unit in Scottsbluff. He served as the director of the Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City branch, director of the Lockwood Corp., director of the Citizens National Bank in Torrington, Wyo., director and chairman of the board of Frontier Bank in Denver, Colo., and director of the United Telephone Co.

He was president of the Gering Industrial Foundation and was a Nebraska highway commissioner. He served on the Regional West Medical Center Hospital board of directors, was a member of the Wyobraska Council Boy Scouts of America, University of Nebraska College of Agriculture Advisory Board, president of the Scottsbluff-Gering United Way and a member of the Nebraska Diplomats.

He is survived by his wife; daughters and sons-in-law Rochelle and Donald Erickson of Omaha, and Melissa and Brian Noonan of Lincoln; sons and daughters-in-law Thomas and Sara Huckfeldt of Ogallala, and Joseph "Chip" and Della Huckfeldt of Gordon; sisters Mary Lou Eisenreich and Shirley Pratt, both of Yuba City, Calif., and Gloria Mills and Karen Prusia, both of Gordon; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

#### ■ ALSO IN THE NEWS

Allflex USA, Dallas, Texas, recently announced the addition of **Scott Holt** as its northwest regional manager. Based in Nampa, Idaho, Holt will serve Allflex distributors and customers throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

On Feb. 8, **Accelerated Genetics**, Baraboo, Wis., and **Select Sires**, Plain City, Ohio, announced the signing of a letter of intent to purchase **World-Wide Sires Inc.**, of Visalia, Calif. The final transaction is set to take place this summer and will result in a 50-50 ownership between Accelerated Genetics and Select Sires.

After the purchase is complete, World-Wide will continue to operate as a stand-alone organization led by John Schouten, who is currently vice president of marketing. The drafted agreement calls for business as usual, but it will enable the organization to work even more closely with its suppliers to meet the diverse needs of its international clients.

The *Angus Journal* has received a request from an international agricultural student. **Sébastien Poncelet**, 19, of France is seeking an eight-week summer placement on an American farm or ranch as part of his course work. His goal is to increase his knowledge of agriculture and to improve his English-speaking skills.

Poncelet comes from a farming background and is familiar with farm chores. He would like to do farm work in exchange for food and accommodations. Interested persons should contact Lance Ziesch at the *Angus Journal* for more information.

■ **Kansas Angus Association Annual Banquet  
Jan. 19, Hutchinson**



Leading the Kansas Angus Association are (seated, from left) **Gary Johnson**, Dwight, past president; **Barb Downey**, Wamego, vice president; **Damon New**, Leavenworth, president; **Fred Holder Jr.**, Milton, treasurer; **Sharon Lindell**, Leonardville, secretary and field representative; and **Cecil McCurry**, Mount Hope, American Angus Association director. Directors include (standing, from left) **Noel Zahn**, Burdett; **Randy Mills**, Florence; **Dan Larson**, Sharon Springs; **Gene Barrett**, Grantville; **Tom Swearngin**, Lawrence; **Todd Kohart**, Meade; **Randel McCabe**, Elk City; **Dennis Huck**, Larned; and **Michael Molitor**, Zenda.



Kansas Angus Auxiliary officers include (seated, from left) **Sandra McCurry**, Mount Hope, treasurer; **Anne Lampe**, Scott City, president; **Nancy Rezac**, Saint Marys, secretary; (standing, from left) **Janet Beene**, Fort Scott, reporter; and **Christy Crenshaw**, Manhattan, vice president.



**Frank and Janet Lyons**, Manhattan, were recognized as the 2000 Kansas Angus Association Honorary Member. The award is dedicated to those who have made significant contributions toward the improvement of Angus cattle and the livestock industry in Kansas.

