

Newsmakers

by Terry Cotton, general manager

■ IN THE NEWS

Life member **Robert Pontious** of Lancaster, Ohio, was elected treasurer of the 2000 Ohio Beef Council Operating Committee. Serving with him will be Wayne Carlin, Stryker, chairman; and Gene Rowe, New Paris, vice chairman.

Scott Rittenhouse recently accepted a position as director of field activities for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) and the Ohio Beef Council. He will be responsible for providing service to OCA's nearly 70 county affiliates, coordinating OCA membership-recruitment efforts, and serving as an ambassador for the beef checkoff. He will serve as a sales representative for the *Ohio Cattleman* magazine.

■ ANGUS ARRIVALS

Troy & Lorna Marshall of Marshall Cattle Co., Burlington, Colo., announce the birth of their daughter, Wynn Grace, born Jan. 31. She weighed 6 lb., 13 oz. and was 18.5 in. long. She was welcomed home by her big brothers, Wyatt and Justis. Lorna is manager of sire acquisition for ABS Global.

■ IN PASSING

Robert R. Johnson, 72, North Henderson, Ill., died Feb. 18 in Peoria, Ill. The son of George and Ella Swanson

Johnson, he was born May 25, 1927, on the family farm near North Henderson. He married Beverly VanFleet on Oct. 16, 1948, in Alexis, Ill.

He attended Alexis schools, graduating from Alexis High School in 1945, and served in the Navy for two years during World War II. He farmed his entire life, raising purebred Angus cattle.

He coached Junior Sheriff League softball in North Henderson and was a member of Saint Theresa's Catholic Church in Alexis; the Mercer County Farm Bureau; and the American, Illinois and LaMoine Valley Angus associations.

Dick Rehn provides the following eulogy excerpts.



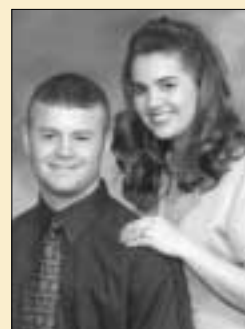
Robert Johnson

developed that lasted over 35 years. Shortly after that, Bob got into the purebred Angus business.

"In 1971 he bought two bulls — Revolution and Marshall Pride — from Erdmann Angus Ranch in South Dakota.

"Our family met the Johnsons in the mid-'60s when Bob and Robbie bought a 4-H calf from my father. The calf did well that year, but more important, a friendship

Jennifer Hotchkiss and Daniel Shike announce their engagement. Hotchkiss interned with the *Angus Journal* in the summer of 1999 and has contributed to the *Journal's* editorial



Daniel Shike & Jennifer Hotchkiss

package on a freelance basis since then.

Hotchkiss will graduate in May 2000 from K-State with a double major in animal sciences and industry and agricultural journalism.

She will pursue a career in agricultural communications. Shike will graduate in May 2000 from K-State with a degree in animal sciences and industry. He plans to attend graduate school and obtain a master's degree in ruminant nutrition or reproductive physiology.

A July 29 wedding is planned.

Parents of the couple are Jim & Sandi Hotchkiss of West Chester, Iowa, and Daryl & Jane Shike of Alexis, Ill.

They were controversial bulls, rather tall and long as type was changing, but that really started Bob Jon Farms on the road to success. Among these successes were champion bull at the Illinois Futurity; three very successful production sales held on the farm, including the sale of one heifer for \$17,000; champion steers at the Illinois State Fair; several sale toppers at local sales. . . .

"But with all this success, Bob remained basically a farmer who just happened to breed and enjoy Angus cattle. I attended many sales and shows with Bob over the years and saw a lot of good cattle, a lot of big Western hats, expensive boots, and frilly jackets. Bob stuck to the basic 'free' seedcorn cap. . . .

"It has been said that one's life is over when you start living in the past and not looking to the future. Believe me, Bob's life was not over one month ago when he was out at the Denver stock show. On our last day out there, Saturday morning at 7, I was walking across the lobby to breakfast when our paths crossed. Bob was headed out the door for the first shuttle bus to the stock show. The cattle show didn't start for three hours, but he wanted to get out there and keep looking for that next bull he might buy. He was still looking to the future. Bob lived life to the end — something we all hope we and our loved ones can do."



Circle A Ranch, Iberia, Mo., recently donated a 38-head herd of registered Angus females to Subiaco Abbey-Academy, Subiaco, Ark. The herd will enable the institution to complete its transition from a commercial cow-calf operation to a registered Angus herd. Circle A Ranch donates cattle to learning institutions each year.