NEWSMAKERS



Compiled by Shauna Rose Hermel, editor

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

In the news

Monroe County, Ga., cattleman **James Vaughn** has been named the 2018 Georgia Farmer of the Year.

Under his leadership, Vaughn Farms has grown from a 500-acre cattle farm to a 5,590-acre diversified operation. Working as a team, Vaughn and his wife, sons and daughter grow Bermuda grass hay for the local and wholesale market, raise cattle for the specialized beef market, sell bred heifers and registered bulls, grow 4,000 acres of timber, and train cutting horses.

Vaughn also provides legal assistance in farm-related areas as a partner in the law firm of Vaughn, Wright and Boyer LLP.

After graduating from college, law school and practicing law in Savannah, Ga., Vaughn returned to

Monroe County to take over the farm his father established in the 1950s with a small herd of registered Angus



Jerry Vaughn (center right) of Vaughn Farms, Monroe County, was named the 2018 Georgia Farmer of the Year.

cattle. Today, Vaughn Farms has 425 cow-calf pairs; 50 are registered and the others are purebred commercial Angus.

The farm is a large-scale operation focused on intensive management, sustainability and profitability.

"In the 35 years I have been active on the farm as an adult, I have achieved an important goal of

maintaining a farm business where my family can work and maintain the lifestyle we enjoy," said Vaughn. "Together, we are reaching another goal: producing high-quality beef, hay and horses along with commodity timber products. More importantly, we are producing these commodities in an efficient and sustainable

manner in the hope and expectation that future generations of our family can live and work on the farm and meet the lifestyle and production goals they choose."

In passing

in 1950. After high school, Jerry worked with his parents on the farm before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in 1952. He was stationed at Gary Air Force Base in San Marcos, Texas, where he worked as a helicopter mechanic during the Korean Conflict. On Aug. 31, 1956, he was united in marriage to Bonnie

McCormick at San Marcos, Texas. After being honorably discharged from the USAF in 1956, Jerry and Bonnie moved to rural Groton where they began their own farming operation while also working with Jerry's parents on the farm. Jerry continued farming for the next 54 years before retiring and moving to

Jerroll "Jerry" Erdmann, 85, formerly of Groton, S.D., died March 7 at Manor Health Services in Aberdeen, S.D.

Jerry was born on May 13, 1932, in Groton, the son of Gilbert and Estella (Craig) Erdmann. He was raised on the family farm near Groton and graduated from Groton High School Aberdeen in 2010. Jerry had a love for the farm, including his registered Angus cattle herd, which he continued to expand and improve during his farming and ranching career. Jerry was always passionate about completing required farm work meticulously and efficiently. He loved to see the bounty of good crops and quality cattle that resulted from his hard work and dedication to the farm.

For many years Jerry served on area boards including the Henry Township Board; Brown County Co-op in Aberdeen; Brown County Livestock Improvement Association, which he also served as president; and the Ferney Farmers Elevator in Groton. He was a member of American Legion Post No. 39 in Groton for the past 61 years and also was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Groton for the past 57 years, serving as Master of the Lodge in 1967 and again in 1971. He was a life member of the American Angus Association since he began ranching in 1954. Jerry was a lifelong member of Presbyterian churches in Groton, San Marcos (where he met Bonnie), and in Aberdeen. He was an ordained elder and deacon of the Presbyterian Church.

Jerry had countless friends and acquaintances. He was always very social with a great sense of humor. It seemed, regardless of where he traveled, he would greet someone he had met previously. In later years he loved to travel, and during the past 22 years he and Bonnie spent the winters in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Jerry was a selfless man and always more interested in others than himself. He will be missed by so many.

Grateful for having shared Jerry's life are his wife, Bonnie; daughter Peri; sons Michael and Darrin; eight grandchildren; four greatgrandchildren; sister Annette; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

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Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 9, Oklahoma City



Jeff Mafi (left), Coyle, receives the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Mr. Angus Award. Also pictured are Gretchen Mafi and Mark Johnson, presenting the award.



Paul and Avis Woodward, Ochelata, were inducted into the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Hall of Fame.



Patrick Howe, Howe Ranch, Sulphur, received the Commercial Producer Award. Pictured are (from left) Jeff Penz, Oklahoma Angus Ass'n, presenting; and Patrick and Amy Howe.

Editor's Note: Photos by David Gazda, American Angus Association.

Georgia

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Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 3, Athens



Officers and directors of the Georgia Angus Ass'n (GAA) are (seated, from left) Phil Page, Jefferson; Carolyn Gazda, Athens; Todd Alford, Bowman, vice president; Andrew McPeake, Arnoldsville, president; Christy Page, Jefferson, executive secretary; Smitty Lamb, Tifton; (standing, back row) Clay Williams, Bishop; Douglas Williams, Milan; Mike McCravy, Bowdon; Wilkes Barnett, Washington; Alan Bridges, Lexington; Fred Gretsch, Crawford; and Cole Elrod, Talmo.

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Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet continued



The GAA posthumously inducted John Jarrell, Butler, into the Georgia Angus Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Angus industry in Georgia and across the country. Family accepting the award are (from left) Keith, Anna Beth and Jennifer Carpenter; Nina Jarrell, John's wife; and John Will, Hadley, Kim and Jay Jarrell.



Douglas Williams (left), Milan, receives the past president's recognition plaque from Andrew McPeake, Arnoldsville, 2018 GAA president.



The GAA inducted David Gazda, Athens, into the Georgia Angus Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Angus industry in Georgia and across the country. Pictured are (from left) Zeb and Katie Duvall; and David and Carolyn Gazda.



Smitty Lamb, Tifton, was named GAA Member of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Beau Brinson, SuzAnne, Smitty and Tatum Lamb.

Editor's Note: Photos by David Gazda, American Angus Association.

South Carolina Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 16, Clemson



Charles Cox Jr., Cox Angus, Pelzer, S.C., was inducted into the South Carolina Angus Ass'n Hall of Fame. Pictured are (from left) Faye and Charles Cox; and Walter Shealy, presenting the award.



Neil and Gwen McPhail, Tokeena Angus Farms, Seneca, S.C., were honored with the 47th Annual Carolina Angus Futurity dedication. Pictured are (from left) Daniel holding Augustus, Paige, Watson, Gwen, Neil and Megan McPhail.

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Officers and directors of the South Carolina Angus Ass'n are (from left) Kevin Renwick, Iva; Danny Winchester, Six Mile; Nancy Blumer, Chesnee; Lynn Shealy, Chapin, president; Dixon Shealy, Newberry, vice president; Sharon Furr, Blackstock, secretary; Mike Johnson, Kinards, treasurer; and Jody Watt, Iva.