

A Wonderful Way of Life

Celebrating the life of former American Angus Association Board of Directors President Bud Smith.

by Megan Silveira, assistant editor

“I look at the Angus business as a way of making a living, but also as a way of raising my family. I can’t imagine a better atmosphere than raising cattle and giving children the responsibility of caring for them.”

The words, once spoken aloud with passion and meaning, have long since passed. They do, however, remain forever etched in history, as Charles B. “Bud” Smith Jr.’s statement showcasing his love for this

business was captured 21 years ago in an *Angus Journal* article.

May 17, 2021, the Angus and agriculture industries lost one of their most passionate members when Bud passed away.

Beautiful beginnings

Bud was born at home in Russell Springs to the late Charles Bascum and Afteel Meece Smith Oct. 24, 1947. The entirety of the Smith family was no stranger to the work associated with the life of an agriculturist. Bud’s history in the industry and Kentucky farmland stems all the way back to 1810, when the first Smiths settled in the area.

A love for Angus cattle and the agricultural lifestyle was passed

down from family member to family member at Smithland Farm, with Bud being the third of six



generations to walk the ground of the Kentucky operation.

Bud’s father, uncle and grandfather started in the registered Angus business in 1940, when they purchased their first registered bull and a handful of heifers.

Bud continued to be involved in the Business Breed, owning his first Angus heifer at the age of 3 and expanding his herd throughout his lifetime.

Still, life as a cattleman was not enough for the driven farmer. From corn and soybeans, even to tobacco, Bud never backed away from the opportunity to dip his toes into a new sector of the agricultural industry.

Overcoming obstacles

Through the loss of a home and a tragic accident taking the life of several family members, including his first wife, Donna Gosser Smith, Bud’s life was not free of tragedy. In these dark times of trouble, however, Bud found that his faith and his

family helped him persevere.

After meeting and marrying Pam Pennington, Bud dove back into the world of Angus livestock. Together, the pair served as advisors for the Kentucky Junior Angus Association (KJAA) for more than 20 years. Bud’s service went a step further when he spent four years as an advisor for the National Junior Angus Board (NJOB).

It was his time with juniors that led Bud to serving on the American Angus Association Board of Directors in 1992. His term stretched to 1999, where he filled the roles of director, treasurer, vice president and president.

With a passion for talking with other producers and a dedication to the improvement of the Angus animal, Bud had a lasting influence on both the breed and faces of the American Angus Association.

Bud is survived by his wife, Pam; children, Henry, Angela, Carla and Kacie; sisters, Charlene Harris and Behorah Popplewell; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and step-son-in-law. He leaves behind an emphasis on the Lord and love, for both the work we do and for each other.

“Production agriculture is often a simple life, but there is no better atmosphere in which to raise a family and to see nature in action, with God giving the green grass, clean water and Angus cattle,” he said nearly 20 years ago. “It’s a wonderful way of life.” **AJ**