



# New Directors and Officers

*The 2022-23 group of beef producers were named as directors and officers for BIF.*

*Compiled by Megan Silveira, assistant editor*

As more than 300 individuals attended the Beef Improvement Federation's (BIF) 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium and Convention in Las Cruces, N.M., in June, the directors and officers for the 2022-23 term were announced.

Joe Epperly, Albion, Neb., was introduced as president during the Friday awards luncheon. Kevin Schultz, Haviland, Kan., was named as the new vice president.

Directors reelected to serve on the BIF board were Epperly and Gordon Hodges, Hamptonville, N.C. Ken Odde, Pollock, S.D., was elected as an at-large director. Jackie Atkins, was reelected as a breed association

representative, and Megan Slater, was elected to her first term as a breed representative.

## Epperly named BIF president

Epperly is a third-generation Angus breeder raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Their herd still occupies the same ground under the name ADR Cattle Co. LLC.

Most of Epperly's childhood was spent exhibiting livestock, helping on the farm and working at the family's livestock market. He was active in 4-H, FFA and state and national Angus organizations. He also wore the green coat of the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB).

After graduating from Virginia Tech with an animal science degree, he served in several roles in the beef industry. In fall 2017, he accepted the position of director of genetics and sales at Wagonhammer Ranches in Albion, Neb. He works with 700 head of Angus cattle, 100 head of Charolais cattle and 1,700 head of commercial females. His role also includes working with the operation's 5,000-head feedlot. They feed cattle for programs such as *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB).

Beyond his role at Wagonhammer Ranches, Epperly serves on multiple boards, including the Nebraska Angus Association.

# Recognizing the Rezacs

*Rezac Land & Livestock named BIF Commercial Producer of the Year.*

*Compiled by Megan Silveira, assistant editor*

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) presented Rezac Land & Livestock the BIF Commercial Producer of the Year Award June 2 during the group's annual research symposium in Las Cruces, N.M. This national award is presented annually to a producer to recognize their dedication to improving the beef industry at the commercial level.

Rezac Land & Livestock, founded

by Don and Barbara Rezac, is a diversified ranch located on the northern edge of the Kansas Flint Hills. In 1986, their son Jay and his wife, Stacy, and Jay's older brother, Lance, and his wife, Debra, formed a partnership.

Since that time, the operation has grown substantially, and today includes six partners — Jay and Lance; Jay's sons, Russell and

Matthew; and Lance's children, Nicole and Garrett. Jay; Russell and his wife, Tiffany; and Matthew and his wife, Alexa, manage the cattle and rangeland near Onaga, Kan. Jay's daughter, Jayme, and her husband, Corey Lundberg, live on the Olsburg, Kan., division, where Corey manages the cow herd and a starting lot.

The cattle operation consists of 900 Angus- and Simmental-bred



spring-calving cows. Once the calves are weaned, they are either sold or shipped to a commercial feedyard or finished in the family-owned feedyard.

The cows graze year-round on native grass, stalks and cover crops. By following a strict grazing management plan, the Rezacs can maintain their cows with limited supplementation, while also keeping their natural resources in excellent condition.

In addition to their cow herd, they purchase about 5,500 calves each year for their stocker and backgrounding



Russell (pictured from left), Jay and Matthew Rezac are half of the partnership that makes up Rezac Land & Livestock.

operations. Calves are bought from Missouri to North and South Dakota. The majority are sold as feeder cattle, with the remaining retained

for finishing in the family's feedyard.

A clear set of goals and a dedication to the management practices needed to meet those goals have made Rezac Land & Livestock a truly progressive commercial cow-calf business. Rezac Land & Livestock was nominated for this award by the Kansas Livestock Association. **AJ**

*Editor's note: For comprehensive coverage of the event, visit [www.BIFconference.com](http://www.BIFconference.com). For more information about BIF, visit [www.beefimprovement.org](http://www.beefimprovement.org).*

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