

# NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Megan Silveira, assistant editor

*Within this “Newsmakers” column we share important news and accomplishments of our members, including state association activities, birth and marriage announcements, and news of Angus members’ passing.*

## In Passing



**Walter H. McPhail, II**, 82, Seneca, S.C., died, May 31.

Born Aug. 5, 1939, in Oconee County, S.C., he was the son of the late W.H. McPhail and Addie Prater McPhail.

Walt was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a 1962 graduate of Clemson University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in animal science and was on the livestock judging team. He was an agriculture chemical salesman with Union Carbide prior to becoming a partner with his brothers at Tokeena Angus Farm. In 1990 he returned to agriculture chemical sales, working until his death.

Walt’s passions were his children and grandchildren, agriculture, Angus cattle, bluegrass music and Clemson football. His family and friends knew him as a master storyteller and a connoisseur of effective euphemisms. He had a charismatic and gregarious personality, and was very quick-witted and opinionated.

He is survived by his children, Beth (Lanier), Jeff (Gin) and Luke; four grandchildren; brother, Neil; and sisters, Hazel and Elaine. Others left to cherish his memory include Leca Chastain Morehead, Chris McPhail and Brantley Morehead.



**Martha M. Smith**, 101, died May 28.

Martha was born May 2, 1921, to the late Charles and Camilla (Yaussy) Kocher. She was a 1939 graduate of Holmes-Liberty High School and was the last remaining member of her graduating class. May 17, 1942, she married Warren E. Smith.

Martha was a hardworking, loving wife and mother who enjoyed giving her time to others. She and Warren were longtime farmers and Angus cattle breeders. They received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Angus Association and the Distinguished Award from the Crawford County Cattlemen’s Association.

Martha had an incredibly strong personal relationship with Jesus. Martha was one of the founding persons in the forming of Calvary Baptist Church and Wayside Chapel.

Martha is survived by seven children, Richard (Marjorie), Kathleen (Hugh M.), Earl (Joan), Jane (Mike), Roger (Susan), Glenn (Molly), and Carol (Gary); 37 grandchildren and spouses; 52 great-grandchildren and spouses; 10 great-great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Mary.

## In Recognition Honorary State FFA State Degree

The Missouri FFA Association named Eddie Sydenstricker, Mexico, an Honorary State FFA Degree recipient at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention. Sydenstricker is the owner and chairman of the board of Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners, which owns 27 John Deere dealerships throughout Missouri and Illinois. He also is the owner of Sydenstricker Genetics — a purebred Angus seedstock operation among the top 100 seedstock operations in the United States.

Sydenstricker began his FFA journey as a member of the Paris FFA Chapter in 1953. During his time in FFA, Sydenstricker served as a chapter president, vice president and sentinel. He later went on to serve as the state secretary and received his American FFA Degree.

Today, Sydenstricker is an FFA supporter through sponsorships and youth assistance at county fairs. He has also helped Missouri FFA Association events, by lending equipment and cattle for agricultural mechanics and livestock career development events.

Sydenstricker said he enjoys giving FFA members tours of the dealership and farm.

## Historic Angus Herd

Jenning's Creek Angus has been home to Angus cattle for more than 50 years and is recognized as a Historic Angus Herd.

Clyde J. Holland established Jenning's Creek Angus in 1959 in Ridgeway, Va., with the purchase of six registered Angus heifers.

Holland purchased these yearling heifers from William Craig, Spencer, Va., and all were sired by Prince Blackcap 30E. He then purchased a registered bull, DHK Pride 2121, from Dillard Farm, Spencer, Va. For the next 20 years Holland maintained a purebred herd with these first heifers and bull as foundation stock.

When the family first got into the

cattle business in the late 1950s, they primarily raised Hereford-based cattle. Dwarfism in the Hereford breed influenced Holland to switch to Angus.

"Over the years our Angus cattle have proven to be good natured, good milkers, and good mothers and their calves bring top prices at market," Holland says. "The main reason, in addition to those factors for choosing Angus, is for their easy calving ability. Working off the farm, it is necessary for us to be able to depend on cattle who can calve on their own with minimal or no assistance, and there's nothing like an Angus to do the job."

Holland now owns his cattle in partnership with his son, Darryl, who

purchased some registered Angus heifers after graduating from Virginia Tech in 1981.

In the beginning the herd was primarily commercial focused, with the purebred and registered females as base. However, in 2000, with the dissolving of Virginia Tech's Angus Research Herd, a new Angus cow was purchased from that sale who proved to be an exceptional animal. With renewed interest in registered stock, Darryl purchased two more cows from the Hokie Harvest Sale, and now most of Jenning's Creek Angus trace their roots back to these three Virginia Tech cows, and Clyde's few remaining old blood lines.

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## Louisiana Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting, May 13, Shreveport



Angus producers were elected to serve on the Louisiana Angus Ass'n board of directors. Pictured (front row from left) are Lee Robbins; Enyart Mitchell, Coushatta; Robert Burford, president; Brady Mabile, Brusly; David Billingsley, Keithville, vice president; Mark LeJeune (back row from left), Elton; Drew Hall, Ethel; Kurt LeBeouf, Deridder; Warren Bryan, Ruston; Dale Schexnayder, Port Allen, treasurer; and Kevin Windham.

*Continued on page 136*



Kevin Windham (center), Windham Farms, Jena, received the 2022 high-selling bull over 20 months award. Also pictured, presenting, are Jacey LeJeune (left), Miss Louisiana Angus, and Camryn Greene, Louisiana princess.



Lee Robbins (center), Grand Bayou Farms, Ruston, received the 2021 high-selling bred heifer award. Also pictured presenting are Jacey LeJeune (left) and Camryn Greene.



Robert Burford, (center) Dixie Farms, Gloster, was named Breeder of the Year. Also pictured presenting are Jacey LeJeune (left) and Camryn Greene.

### Atlantic National Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, May 28, Timonium, Md.



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Allison Davis (right), Shelbyville, Tenn., won premier breeder and premier junior breeder. Also pictured is Mary Wood, Miss American Angus, presenting.

### Alabama Angus Ass'n Junior Preview Show and Field Day, June 4, Union Springs



The Gilmore family, Gizmo Angus, Molino, Fla., was presented with the Progressive Breeder of the Year award. Pictured (from left) are Jacob, Debbie, Ella and Ronnie Gilmore; and Craig Bryson, Alabama Angus Ass'n president, presenting.



Rusty and Debbie Graydon, JH Graydon Farm, Montgomery, received the Family of the Year award. Pictured (from left) are Craig Bryson, presenting, and Debbie and Rusty.

### Southwestern Wisconsin Angus Classic Show, May 29, Lancaster



The 2022 Southwestern Wisconsin Angus Classic Show was dedicated to Keri Retallick, Glen Haven. Pictured (from left) are Jordan Riley, Kelli Retallick-Riley, Keri and Kevin Retallick, Keela Trennepohl holding Kort Trennepohl, Maroska Trennepohl and Kelsi Retallick.



Abby Meier, Glen Haven, was awarded the Roger Kreul Memorial Award.

