

Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for members** of our Angus family

Beef Improvement Federation news and award winners

Richard McClung, manager of Wehrmann Angus Ranch, New Market, Va., was elected the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) president for 2002-2003. **S.R. Evans Jr.**, Greenwood, Miss., was elected vice president. **Bill Bowman**, director of performance programs for the American Angus Association; and **Frank Felton**, Maryville, Mo., were elected to BIF's board of directors.



Richard McClung

Circle A Ranch, Iberia, Mo., was named Seedstock Producer of the Year. The ranch is home to 700 registered Angus and Red Angus females. They also manage approximately 6,500 commercial cows and heifers that are distributed among their four locations — Iberia, Stockton and Huntsville, Mo., and Lineville, Iowa.

Dave Gust Sr. started the ranch with two goals in mind — to produce the best possible genetics in the industry and to provide service to customers in the best way possible.

A few things that Circle A Ranch has done to improve herd genetics include contributing more than 4,000 carcass records to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) from their designed progeny-testing program; forming the Angus Sire Alliance; constructing a feed efficiency research center; and computing within-herd expected

progeny differences (EPDs) twice each year from the commercial operations.

To better serve customers, Circle A has held seedstock female sales for the past eight years and bull sales for 10 years. They also host four feeder-calf sales each year.

Griffith Seedstock, WaKeeney, Kan., owned by John, Terry and Connie Griffith, was named Commercial Producer of the Year. The family has been raising beef cattle since 1878 in northwest Kansas.

Through detailed recordkeeping and stringent culling, the Griffiths have developed an efficient, performance-based commercial cow herd.

The Griffiths calve about 250 Angus and high-percentage commercial Red Angus cows. Artificial insemination (AI) is used on all cows and heifers.

A Pioneer Award was presented to **Martin** and **Mary Jorgensen**, Ideal, S.D. The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle.

The Jorgensens are pioneers in the development of innovative management practices and the implementation of new technologies. They were among the first to use integrated resource management (IRM) techniques, and Martin served as the first chairman of the National IRM Coordinating Committee.

Production and performance records also have provided the foundation for the development of their seedstock and commercial herd. Martin has been involved with BIF since it began in 1968, and served as its president from 1976 to 1978.

S.R. Evans Jr., Greenwood, Miss., received a Continuing Service Award from BIF for his contributions to the beef industry.

The Evans ranch consists of about 5,000 acres of rolling hills and fertile creek bottoms. The land is fenced in 20- to 30-acre plots to facilitate his intensive grazing

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► **Circle A Ranch**, Iberia, Mo., is the 2002 BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. The Dave Gust family accepted the honor at the 2002 BIF Annual Meeting and Research Symposium in Omaha, Neb.



► John (left, holding Kinsey) and Terry (center) Griffith, **Griffith Seedstock**, WaKeeney, Kan., accept the 2002 BIF Commercial Producer of the Year Award from Connee Quinn, the outgoing BIF president.



► **S.R. Evans Jr.** (left), Greenwood, Miss., receives the Continuing Service Award from 2001 BIF President Connee Quinn.



► From left, **Martin** and **Mary Jorgensen**, Ideal, S.D., receive the Pioneer Award from Connee Quinn.

program. Evans's cow herd consists of 500 brood cows, mostly purebred Angus.

His breeding program uses extensive embryo transfer (ET) and AI techniques. The program concentrates on improving the end product. The farm takes ultrasound readings from every calf and they use EPDs extensively in their selection process.

Evans's cattle have performed well, gaining nearly 5 pounds (lb.) per day in the feedlot and grading 95%-100% low-Choice or above. About 45% qualify for the *Certified Angus Beef®* (CAB®) brand.

A Continuing Service Award was also presented to **Galen Fink**, Manhattan, Kan., a former BIF president.

Fink was raised on a small farm in southeast Kansas. He knew early on that he would have to create his own farm if he wanted to stay in the beef industry. In 1977, Fink and his wife, Lori, owned one Angus cow, but his goal was to create and raise quality beef genetics. Today, Fink Beef Genetics is known worldwide as a source of outstanding Angus, Charolais and F₁ genetics.

Service to the industry is also important to Fink. He has participated in many industry organizations, including BIF, for several years.

Angus nominees for Seedstock Producer of the Year

Holly Hill Farm, Mount Sidney, Va. is owned by the Dwight Houff family. They raise 130 registered Angus cows, with an additional 70 commercial cows that are maintained as ET recipients.

For the past 25 years, **Jan and Frank Lyons** have run an Angus seedstock enterprise in the Flint Hills of Kansas. Lyons Ranch, headquartered near Manhattan, Kan., expanded to three locations after their daughters expressed an interest in returning to ranching. They have approximately 500 registered females and commercial ET recipients.

Rishel Angus, North Platte, Neb., is a family-owned purebred Angus operation that has been in business since 1966. Bill and Barb Rishel's focus has been on the acceptance of the end product by the consumer, and their commitment is to identify and improve carcass merit. Their herd consists of 280 Angus cows and 100 Angus heifers.

Located 25 miles west of Laramie, Wyo., **Shamrock Angus** operates a 3,000-acre base ranch and leases another 15,000 acres of hay and pasture. Because the elevation reaches



► **Lyons Angus Ranch**, Manhattan, Kan., is recognized as a nominee for BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. From left, Karl and Amy Langvardt and Jan Lyons accept the honor from Connee Quinn.



► **Rishel Angus**, North Platte, Neb., is recognized as a nominee for BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. From left, Connee Quinn presents the honor to Bill and Barb Rishel.



► **Stewart Angus**, Greensburg, Ind., is recognized as a nominee for BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. Dave Smith (left) accepts the honor from Connee Quinn.



► **Voyles Farms Inc.**, Martinsville, Ind., is recognized as a nominee for BIF Commercial Producer of the Year. Norman Voyles (left) accepts the honor from Connee Quinn.



► **Amana Farms Beef Division**, Amana, Iowa, is recognized as a nominee for BIF Commercial Producer of the Year. John McGrath (left) accepts the honor from Connee Quinn.



► **Torbert Farms**, Opelika, Ala., is recognized as a nominee for BIF Commercial Producer of the Year. From left, Joe and Christine Navarre accept the honor from Connee Quinn.



► **White Farms**, Estherville, Iowa, is recognized as a nominee for BIF Commercial Producer of the Year. From left, Craig and Margaret White accept the honor from Connee Quinn.

8,500 feet (ft.), Gary and Gloria Parker, owners, have developed a 650-cow herd that can perform at this elevation. They raise and sell bulls to the high-country commercial cattlemen.

Stewart Angus, Greensburg, Ind., was formed as a division of Stewart Seeds Inc. to utilize the offal from the seed business. They now have 160 registered Angus cows and are striving to produce registered Angus seedstock that will improve the quality and consistency of the nation's beef supply.

Angus nominees for Commercial Producer of the Year

Alpine Farms, Natural Bridge Station, Va., is a commercial cow-calf operation that runs 210 cow-calf pairs on 600 acres of open pasture. The cattle have been used as a

cooperator herd for both university research and an AI stud, and the farm uses estrous synchronization for AI and ET programs.

The Amana Colonies were established in Iowa in 1855. The **Amana Farms Beef Division** includes a herd of 2,200 Gelbvieh/Angus crossbred cows that are bred to Charolais bulls and maintained on the farm's 6,000 acres.

Indian Knoll Cattle Co., Taylorsville, Ill., is a family-owned and -operated cow-calf operation. Kevin and Penny Bliler, owners, are third-generation beef seedstock producers. High-quality Red and black Angus bulls are used to produce replacement heifers. The focus of the herd targets the commercial female market in Illinois.

The fifth generation of **Shovel Dot Ranch**, Rose, Neb., is currently working the ranch, which was established in 1883 by the Buell family. The cows they use are Angus, Herefords or crosses thereof. Charolais bulls are used as terminal crosses on some of the cows.

Torbert Farms, Opelika, Ala., consists of 6,000 acres supporting cattle, timber, cotton and wild game hunting. Their cow-calf operation consists of 233 Angus-based cows, an ET recipient program for local purebred herds, and a heifer development and steer backgrounding station for local commercial herds. Angus or Simmental bulls purchased from Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) members are used as natural-service or clean-up sires.

Located near Estherville, Iowa, **White Farms** is a 225-head commercial herd of Angus-crossed cows and a 400-head feedlot. The cow herd produces terminal crosses of Angus-Charolais or Angus-Simmental for the feedlot. Replacement heifers are primarily Angus-based.

Six generations of the Voyles family have farmed the land around Martinsville, Ind. **Voyles Farms Inc.** has a commercial cow-calf herd of about 105 females. A three-breed rotational-cross system, consisting of Angus, Simmental and Limousin bulls, is used. All replacement females are raised, and all steers or other females are either fed by the Voyles

family or sent to the Indiana Beef Evaluation and Economics Feed Program.

IN THE NEWS

Two members of the American Angus Association were honored as regional winners for their exceptional environmental stewardship during the 2002 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Reno, Nev., July 16-20. They, along with five other ranches, will vie for the 2003 Environmental Stewardship Award, given by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) at its annual conference.

Brad Z Ranch, Guthrie Center, Iowa, owned by Jim and Mary Bradford, consists of 400 registered Angus and 100 head of Gelbvieh cattle. They manage 1,000 acres, which are primarily in hay and pasture. Corn production takes place on 80 acres, which supplies the family feedlot. An additional 600 acres of pasture and cornstalks is leased for winter grazing.

Brad Z Ranch makes use of solar electric fences in its rotational grazing system. The ranch is divided into paddocks, and ponds and streams are fenced off from livestock traffic, with water systems developed to keep cattle away from fragile areas. A windmill is used to decrease the need for electricity to pump fresh water to cattle.

Armstrong Farms, Saxonburg, Pa., owned by John and Kathy Allen, is a centennial farm established in 1816. The farm focus is a cow-calf operation consisting of purebred Angus and Shorthorn cattle.

Quality grass and legumes support the

2002 Indiana Junior Angus Preview Show, June 14, Lebanon



► **Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Peek, Winchester**, were awarded the Sherbahn Memorial Award.

400 mother cows, which are rotationally grazed for maximum efficiency.

The farm is involved in a research study to monitor wind velocity with the possibility of utilizing windmills to collect, store and generate electricity. The farm helped reintroduce the native barn owl by conducting two on-farm releases. They have developed a wetland area to support waterfowl nesting and migrations.

Genetic Solutions Ltd., an Australia-based livestock genomic company opened its first U.S. office in Denver, Colo., in July. Genetic Solutions offers a variety of DNA-based identification and diagnostic systems to all facets of the cattle industry around the world. A few of their products and services include SureTRAK®, which tracks retail meat cuts back to the original source; GeneSTAR® marbling, a diagnostic test for gene selection; and SireTRACE®, a parentage test to match individual calves to their specific sire.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis., announced that **Rick Pinkerman**, Bethany, Mo., is the new area director of marketing. His region is comprised of the following states: Missouri, Arkansas, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and parts of Iowa and Minnesota.

Accelerated Genetics also announced the promotion of **Dave Calvert**, Mineral Point, Wis., to area director of marketing for southwestern and south-central Wisconsin. He is responsible for developing and managing the marketing activities in that area. Previously, Calvert worked as an AI technician and area sales manager for Accelerated Genetics.

Amy Wissner is the new domestic marketing coordinator for ABS Global, De Forest, Wis. Wissner is working with the sales management team to serve prospective and current customers.



The Nebraska Angus Tour will make its way through parts of southwest Nebraska Sept. 20-21. The tour will be headquartered in McCook, Neb., at the Holiday Inn Express.

Buses will leave the hotel at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 20. Stops on Friday will include the Nebraska Bull Service, northwest of McCook; Black Rose Angus, Culbertson; Mill Bar Angus, Hayes Center; Martin Angus, Lamar; Windmill Ranch, Haigler; and Wilson Brothers, northeast of Parks.

Saturday's tour, also leaving at 8 a.m., will make stops at Ely Angus, McCook; Decatur County Feedyard, Oberlin, Kan.; and KJ River Ranch, Indianola.

The registration fee, due by Sept. 10, is \$35 per person. For more information, contact Jennifer Svoboda at (308) 628-4379 or Jim Ely at (308) 345-6686. You can also logon to www.nebraskaangus.org.

The Montana Angus Tour will make its way through a few of central Montana's finest Angus operations Sept. 25-27. The tour will be headquartered in Lewistown, Mont., at the Yogo Inn.

The tour will start with a game of golf at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 25. The evening will be spent at Brad Poser's ranch.

Buses will leave the Yogo Inn at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 26. Tour stops include Ahlgren Angus Ranch, Grass Range; Heart K Ranch LLC, Lewistown; Arntzen Angus Ranch, Hilger; Hilltop Angus Ranch, Lewistown; and Edwards Angus Ranch, Denton.

Buses will again leave the Yogo Inn at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 27. Tour stops include Bairds Angus Ranch, Judith Gap; Stevenson Diamond Dot, Hobson; Stevenson Angus Ranch, Hobson; R&S Angus, Utica; and Basin Angus Ranch, Hobson.

Registration cost for the tour is \$75. Those who register before Sept. 6 will be entered in a drawing to win a cruise to the Bahamas. For more information, contact Cathy Dvorak at (406) 538-3865 or logon to www.mtangus.org, where the registration form can be downloaded and printed.