

Angus Foundation Honors Three Couples

Cottons, Damerons and VanderSloots recognized at the National Junior Angus Show.

by Chloé Fowler, Angus Communications

In 1985, the first Honorary Angus Foundation Inductees were recognized for their support of young members. Seven inductees were chosen that first year by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), and since then, a maximum of three inductees are selected to be recognized. The first seven recognized were Lyle Haring, Iowa; Robert Hicks, Kentucky; George Becker, North Dakota; Robert Snyder, Arkansas; Ed Stout, Missouri; and Percy and Margaret Upton, Nebraska. This year, three couples were chosen and recognized for their dedication

to the organization's mission of supporting education, youth and research benefiting the Angus breed.

"The Angus Foundation acknowledges three exemplary couples for their continued support of the foundation and the breed," says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. "We are proud to present Terry and Sarah Cotton, Gary and Sharon Dameron, and Frank and Belinda VanderSloot with the prestigious Honorary Angus Foundation Inductee award."

Terry and Sarah Cotton

Terry and Sarah Cotton are known by Angus breeders nationwide. Terry's career with Angus began in 1979. He served the breed for 38 years in his roles as regional manager and general manager of Angus Productions Inc. Spending countless hours and miles on the road attending Angus sales has made him a recognizable face within the Angus breed.

Terry helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars at Angus Foundation events hosted by Summitcrest Farms, Vintage Angus Ranch, Express Ranches, Spruce Mountain Ranch, Decades of Excellence's Angus Finals Las Vegas Sale, and the Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event. He also took bids for the first Angus Foundation Heifer Package selling at the 1980 National Western Stock Show in Denver.

"Terry's famous style and flare for working the ring and taking bids is fun to watch," Jenkins says. He has an

uncanny ability to read an audience, knows just how to encourage bidders and has finely honed his skill. Terry's unequalled enthusiasm for his trade and profession is contagious. He's truly one of a kind."

Gary and Sharon Dameron

Gary and Sharon Dameron of Dameron Angus Farms, Lexington, Ill., are longtime Angus breeders and supporters of Angus youth. Dameron Angus was started by Gary and the late Linda Dameron. For the past four decades, the Angus industry has been an important part of the Dameron Family. Gary served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors and was Board president in 1989.

All four of the Dameron children, (Christy, Jay, Jeff and Julie) were actively involved in the NJAA with three of them serving on the board of directors. They all continue to advocate and support Angus youth.

The Dameron program has

grown to 200 registered Angus cows, focusing on raising Angus genetics successfully competing at local, regional and national shows including the American Angus Association's Roll of Victory program. Dameron Angus Farms has produced three national champion bulls, 16 grand or reserve champions at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and more than 28 grand or reserve champions at the Illinois State Fair.

The Damerons have contributed to the Angus Foundation in many ways. Their gifts of confirmed heifer pregnancies, purchases of silent auction items and other gifts have made a difference in the lives of Angus youth and helped advance the Angus breed.

"Gary and Sharon's dedication to the Angus breed, commitment to providing opportunities for Angus youth through their family's support, financially and otherwise, to the National Junior Angus Show each year, and their lifelong involvement

in raising outstanding Angus cattle epitomizes this award,” Jenkins says.

Frank and Belinda VanderSloot

Frank and Belinda VanderSloot of Riverbend Ranch in Idaho Falls, Idaho, are longtime supporters of the Angus Foundation. They donated the featured 2017 Angus Foundation Heifer, Riverbend Rita R125, which sold for \$135,000. Lifetime Giving Angus Builder donors, the VanderSloots’ philanthropic charitable gifts to the Angus Foundation over the years have provided Angus youth scholarships,

leadership training, registered Angus and commercial producer education, and innovative beef cattle research for the advancement of the Angus breed and beef cattle industry.

“Frank and Belinda, through their charitable giving to the Angus Foundation, have helped make a positive impact on the lives of countless Angus youth and producers, both registered and commercial, across the country who’ve benefited from our organization’s programs,” Jenkins says.

Riverbend Ranch is a leading source for registered Angus seedstock genetics across the nation. The ranch

has operations in six states including Idaho, California, Utah, Montana, Texas and Wyoming, ranking in the nation’s top 20 purebred and commercial cattle programs. Riverbend Ranch was also recognized by Certified Angus Beef LLC in 2016, earning the Commitment to Excellence Award. 🏆



Pictured are (from left) Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president; Corbin Cowles, National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) Foundation director; Terry and Sarah Cotton, recipients; Maddi Butler, NJAB chairperson; James Coffey, Angus Foundation chairman; and Rod Schoenbine, Angus Foundation director of development.



Pictured are (from left) Jenkins; Cowles; Gary and Sharon Dameron, recipients; Butler; Coffey; and Rod Schoenbine.



Pictured are (from left) Jenkins; Cowles; Frank and Belinda VanderSloot, recipients; Butler; Coffey; and Schoenbine.