

Meet Your CANDIDATES

Five positions on the American Angus Association Board of Directors must be filled when the delegates meet Monday, Nov. 13 in Louisville, Ky. Those elected will serve a three-year term. At press time, five Association members had announced their candidacy; three are incumbents running for a second term. The candidates' biographical sketches are presented here.



Paul Hill

PAUL HILL

Bidwell, Ohio

The Ohio Angus Association has endorsed unanimously Paul Hill as a candidate for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Hill was born and raised on a peanut and livestock farm in northwest Florida where his nephew John still lives and raises Angus cattle. He was an active 4-H and FFA member. His early introduction into the Angus

industry began in 1966 at the American Herdsman Institute near Kansas City, where he studied under Jack Phillips and Gail Long.

In 1968, Hill volunteered for the draft and took basic training and combat engineering training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He served 1½ tours in Vietnam as a demolition specialist. He was a squad leader when he finished his duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Army accommodation medal for leadership and interest in his fellow soldiers. After discharge Hill returned to the American Herdsman Institute.

In April 1971, he went to Briarhill Angus Farm in Union Springs, Ala., joining Kenneth Haines and James Hicks. He was a herdsman there until Haines retired and continued to work with Briarhill until its dispersal in 1981. While there he was chosen Herdsman of the Year at the 1973 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

Hill married Lynn Swanson in 1971. They have two children — Sarah Lynn and Neenah Kay — both of whom were active in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Sarah served as Foundation chairman on the NJAA Board of Directors and was the 1992 Miss American Angus. Neenah, at age 10, was the youngest junior to win the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). In her 11th NJAS, she showed the grand champion cow-calf pair.

The Hills have lived in Ohio for 10 years where Paul is president of Champion Hill Inc., a partnership with Marshall Reynolds. Champion Hill consists of 250 Angus cows and 750 commercial cows that are used as recipients in their embryo transfer (ET) program.

Hill knows that cattle don't have to look good to perform well, but he chooses to breed performance cattle that have eye appeal. The ultimate trait he looks for in his females is good udder quality. They have two female sales a year. In October, they sell cow-calf pairs and January-May heifer calves. The April sale includes cow-calf pairs and May-November heifers. The bulls are marketed privately, in consignment sales and in a partnership with two Western breeders.

Champion Hill is the owner of many bulls in artificial insemination (AI) studs and has carcass tested a number of its bulls. Presently they are working with a 900-head commercial herd to test young sires for carcass traits and performance. Ultrasound also is being used to evaluate carcass traits of yearling bulls.

Hill is proud of the assistance he has given young people in realizing their dreams with Angus cattle. Four of his herdsman have become managers and top breeders in major operations. He and Reynolds believe youth are the most important asset to the Angus breed and the Association. He always is looking to educate juniors and to help them fulfill their dreams. As a part of this, Champion Hill has had interns from New Zealand, Illinois, Florida and Ohio.

As an Angus breeder, Hill always has felt a responsibility to be an active participant on a variety of levels. In his first years in Ohio, he served as president of his county cattlemen's association and was instrumental in starting the Gallia County Jackpot Steer and Heifer Show that now includes more than 150 entries.

He has served on the Angus boards in Alabama, Virginia and Ohio. He is well-known through his participation in Angus events for more than 30 years and his involvement with various cattlemen's associations. He has served on the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity board of directors for 22 years. In 1987 Hill was selected All-American Manager of the Year, and in 1997 he was chosen Master Breeder of the Year.

He was one of the founding fathers of the Atlantic National 14 years ago and has been the chief fundraiser of the Merit Award Fund for college scholarships for 11 years. Since its inception, more than 80 young people have received scholarships from the fund. For this and many other reasons, the Atlantic National Show was dedicated to the Hill family in 1997.

In 1992, he played a large part in raising funds for the NJAS. He also was involved in fundraising for the 2000 Eastern Regional. By

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helping junior Angus breeders, Hill says he is repaying those who helped him in his early years.

He has judged county shows in many states, numerous state fairs, the American Royal in Kansas City and the national Angus show at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. He also has judged the Brazilian National Angus Show in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and the Canadian Royal in Toronto, Canada. He has judged showmanship on all levels, including the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 1998.

He has dedicated his adult life to Angus cattle and Angus people and he would like to say "thank you" to all who have influenced his career. While Hill says he and his wife have had a lot of good things come their way in their 29 years together, they are most proud of their two daughters. Sarah is a pediatrician in Indianapolis, Ind., and Neenah is an accountant for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Dallas, Texas.

Hill has great confidence in the leadership of the current Board of Directors and the staff of the American Angus Association. He would appreciate the opportunity to use his experience in serving with them.



David Smith

DAVID SMITH

Greensburg, Ind.

The Indiana Angus Association board of directors has endorsed unanimously David Smith for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Smith is a native of Ohio where many of his early days were spent on his grandfather's farm with 4-H beef projects. In 1963 he acquired his first Angus heifer, and after convincing his father to purchase a small farm,

he began what became a career in the Angus business. After Smith joined the Association in 1966, his family became active in both the Ohio Angus Association and the Eastern Ohio Angus Association.

Smith graduated from Ohio State University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. While at Ohio State he was a member of the Saddle and Sirloin Club, showing Angus heifers in the Little International and culminating that experience as the overall champion showman his senior year. In that same year he was on the livestock-judging team and the spring quarter meats-judging team.

After graduation Smith accepted a position as herdsman at Sayre Farms near Phelps, N.Y. In 1973 he moved to Stewart Seeds Angus in Greensburg, Ind., where he now serves as herd manager. Shortly after Smith's arrival, the herd was enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program with performance data being entered back to 1962.

With 160 producing cows, the herd may be best described as a balanced-trait, working herd backed by a myriad of performance records, all kept on the Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) and available for inspection by any prospective customer.

Pelvic measurements have been taken for 12 years, and sale bulls have been ultrasounded for six years. For the past two years, both

bulls and heifers have been ultrasounded, which totals more than 100 head/year.

Promoting the slogan of "Bulls 'R' Us," Smith has been responsible for selling 60-70 bulls each year, mostly to commercial breeders in southeast Indiana. Most sales are private treaty, but cattle are consigned to sales in Ohio and Indiana.

While the Stewart herd has been Smith's main concern, he also has been involved in many other aspects of the beef industry. He is a member of the Indiana Angus Association, where he has been a director and progressed through the executive offices to serve as president in 1991. Currently he is in his sixth year as treasurer of that organization. He also has been both an officer and a director of the Southeast Indiana Angus Association.

As part of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association, Smith has served on various committees and has twice been co-chairman of the annual convention. In 1997 he was honored as the outstanding cattleman by that organization. Additionally, he is a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

Presently, Smith is a director and past president of the Indiana Beef Evaluation Program, the governing body of the Indiana bull test. He also serves on the Indiana State Board of Animal Health Bovine Advisory Committee and serves as a director of the Indiana Forage Council.

In 1993 Smith was invited to participate in a brainstorming session concerning upgrades of the Angus software. As an avid proponent of computerized records, he has had the privilege of being a beta tester for various versions of AIMS to evaluate them before they are released to the general membership. The Stewart herd was one of the first in the nation to use the Association's computer software in 1986, although Smith had been keeping records on the computer since 1982.

Smith and his wife, Karen, have two daughters. Soni Adams is a certified benefits analyst at Best Access Systems in Indianapolis. She and her husband, Anthony, expect their first child in December. Joy is majoring in communications at Indiana/Purdue University in Indianapolis. Both were active junior Angus members and have completed 10 years in 4-H. As a family, they have been active members of their local church, where Dave has served as an officer, board member, Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

As a lifetime proponent of Angus, Smith says, "Our breed leads in all aspects of the beef industry, and if elected to the Board of Directors, I will do all I can to keep it there."



Keith Arntzen

KEITH ARNTZEN

Hilger, Mont.

The Montana Angus Association board of directors has endorsed Keith Arntzen as a candidate for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Arntzen and his wife, Kristine, along with his brother, Doug, and his wife, Gayle, own and operate a 16,500-acre farm and ranch near Hilger, Mont.

The Arntzens have three children: Karrie, 23; Kimberly, 16; and Kevin, 15. All have been members of the NJAA and 4-H. The Arntzens are 4-H leaders, and Keith also served as the 4-H beef superintendent at the Central Montana Fair.

He is the third generation to operate the ranch in central Montana. In the early 1940s, Arntzen's grandfather purchased the first 700 acres, which is the ranch headquarters and home to Arntzen and his wife. During the '50s and '60s, his father and mother, Kenneth and Sherry Arntzen, continued to improve and to increase the size of the ranch. They purchased their first registered Angus cattle in 1953.

After two years at Northern Montana College and six months of training in the U.S. Army Reserves, Arntzen returned to operate the Arntzen Angus Ranch in 1970. Five years later he was joined by his brother. Together they have gradually increased the size of the ranch. They now manage 300 head of registered Angus cows, 300 commercial cows and 4,000 acres of farmland.

Performance records always have been important at Arntzen Angus Ranch. He started in 1970 with the Montana Beef Performance Association and soon enrolled in the AHIR program.

Arntzen always has put a lot of emphasis on performance and expected progeny differences (EPDs) when selecting cattle and determining the direction of the herd. For the last several years, Arntzen Angus Ranch has been working aggressively on obtaining carcass EPDs.

Arntzen has been active in both the Central Montana Angus Association and the Montana Angus Association. He served eight years as secretary-treasurer and served as vice president and president of the Central Montana Angus Association. He served six years on the Montana Angus Association board during the mid-1980s.

Arntzen Angus Ranch has been marketing its cattle through a spring production sale since 1977. Their focus has been to produce cattle that will work for the commercial producer. He believes that if this is done successfully he also will raise cattle that can be an asset to registered herds. A popular bull, AAR New Trend, resulted from their breeding program.

Arntzen has served on a variety of boards. He serves on the church board where he was president for four years. He served six years on the local school board, where he was both vice chairman and chairman. He served nine years as a director of the Central Montana Community Hotel Association, one of the largest businesses in Lewistown, Mont. He also completed two terms as director of the Fergus County Farm Bureau. In 1995 Arntzen was appointed to the state hail insurance board by Gov. Marc Racicot.

"As a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors, I offer a lifetime of experience in the Angus business. Angus cattle and farming have been my only business for the last 30 years. During the last three years, I have served on the Activities Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Industry Relations Committee, the Long Range and Administrative Committee and the Breed Improvement Committee," Arntzen says.

"I would like to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association for another term. I believe that the incorporation of the centralized ultrasound processing will be one of the best tools we have for improving the quality of Angus cattle. Also, our involvement with DNA testing could have tremendous potential in the future.

"I feel we cannot be complacent, but we must keep working to improve this great breed of cattle and keep Angus No. 1."



Minnie Lou Bradley

MINNIE LOU BRADLEY

Memphis, Texas

The Texas Angus Association has endorsed Minnie Lou Ottinger Bradley as a candidate for a second term on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Bradley was raised on a wheat and stock farm in west-central Oklahoma. Her 4-H Angus herd financed her through Oklahoma State University (OSU), where she

majoring in animal science and minored in agricultural journalism. She was a member of the livestock-judging team and was high individual beef cattle judge at the American Royal and high overall judge at the International in Chicago.

Upon graduation, she became assistant executive secretary of the Texas Angus Association and remained in that position until her marriage to Bill Bradley in 1955. They moved to a ranch in Childress County, Texas, where she remains today. She manages approximately 300 registered Angus cows. She has been producing "ranch-raised bulls for ranchers" since 1957.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, the Bradleys exhibited cattle at the major shows throughout the Southwest and at national shows across the nation, as did their children, Monte and Mary Lou.

The Bradleys started performance testing before the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program was introduced and were charter members of Performance Registry International. The ranch has been on AHIR since its inception and has used the Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) program for two years.

Bradley has been general manager of the cattle operation for the past 13 years and is active on committees with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA); is a member of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA), the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), and the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF). The Bradley Ranch registered cow herd is the only purebred cattle operation in Texas on standardized performance analysis (SPA).

She is a pioneer in the branded beef business and value-based marketing. In 1986 she and her family built and opened a USDA-inspected processing plant in Childress, Texas. Some 14 years later, their plant is merchandising beef across the nation. Working with ranchers in 18 states, the company has continued growth to the point that another facility was built in 1999. Under the leadership of her daughter, Mary Lou, the plant exclusively processes cattle for Bradley's All Natural Premium Beef. The beef for the program is provided by retained owners and fed in one approved Texas feedlot.

Retained owners are paid using a value-based marketing system. The Bradleys have been instrumental in providing producers with feedlot and carcass data necessary to significantly improve their returns. Proper genetic selection and top management rewards the rancher with premiums and information. They have worked closely with the American Angus Association in reporting carcass data for Angus breeders. Today, Bradley's All Natural Beef is sold in retail

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establishments and is recognized for its quality and consistency from coast to coast.

The Bradley 3 Ranch is well-known in Texas agricultural colleges. They have hosted Texas Christian University (TCU) ranch trainees for approximately 40 years, as well as students from four other agricultural colleges.

Ultrasound studies and training of technicians have been occurring at the Bradley Ranch since 1986. The ranch hosted a training session for technicians in the early years of ultrasound, and Texas Tech University had two students use the Bradley 3 Ranch for work on their graduate studies. Since 1995 the ranch has been using DNA to determine the sires of their calves; they may well have more markers on their Angus cattle than any other herd in the United States.

Bradley's time is divided between ranching activities and speaking engagements. She is a spokeswoman for the beef industry and is a frequent guest speaker at cattlemen's colleges, breed associations and livestock organizations. Three years on the Association Board, plus previous experience on another national board and in local and civic organizations, enable Bradley to understand the workings of the American Angus Association.

Bradley says she's a candidate who represents the cattle producers of today and tomorrow. "I understand the importance of ranchers' knowing and learning about all systems of the beef industry and how they can take the knowledge and turn it into a profit.

"Being involved in every facet of the industry lets me think a little differently than most other breeders. I believe I understand breeders' current concerns and those they will have in the future. The American Angus Association and its breeders cannot rest on its laurels."



Abbie Nelson

ABBIE NELSON

Wilton, Calif.

The California Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association boards of directors have endorsed unanimously Abbie Nelson as the West's candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Nelson and her husband, Mark, own Five Star Land and Livestock in Wilton, Calif. They have four children: Andra, Adam,

Katie and Ryan. Nelson is a fourth-generation Angus breeder who is proud of her Angus heritage.

Her great-grandfather, Thomas Ryan, was one of the first to import Angus cattle to the United States from Scotland. Her grandfather, Earl Ryan, and great-uncle, Charles Escher, bred and owned several International champions in both the carload and showing. They are both inductees of the Angus Heritage Foundation.

Charles and Catherine Ryan, Nelson's parents, were prominent Angus breeders in California. They promoted Angus cattle throughout the West and served as presidents of the Pacific Coast Angus Association (now the Western States Angus Association) and

of the Pacific Coast Angus Auxiliary. Catherine also was a founding member of the California Angus Association.

Nelson not only has been involved with Angus cattle her entire life, but she has made it her family's lifestyle. The family has shown cattle in 4-H and FFA. The California Junior Angus Association and the NJAA program have been an important part of the family. They have competed in the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) five times, with Ryan winning the bred-and-owned champion heifer this year and Andra winning the national showmanship contest in 1990.

Five Star has competed in numerous local, state and national shows. Nelson was instrumental in pioneering the performance bull show at the California State Fair. The event has grown from being a part of the Angus show day to being "Cattlemen's Day" for the past five years, with the participation of California beef producers. She is proud to be the recipient of the California State Fair's Track of the Golden Bear Award presented for agricultural progress.

Nelson is a two-term past president of the California Angus Association, current board member of the California Beef Improvement Association, and a past director of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). She currently chairs the Quality Assurance Program for CCA. She is chairman of the performance bull show at the California State Fair and is active on the advisory committee for the 2001 NJAS.

Five Star hosts two successful production sales a year. The Signature Collection Female Sale is conducted each June, and the Heritage Bull Sale, in late September. "We have the opportunity to market our females with other reputable Angus breeders at our ranch. We appreciate showcasing our cattle and working with our customers," Nelson says.

The same holds true of the Heritage Bull Sale. This sale is innovative in that it features the Five Star Angus bulls and also Orvis Cattle Co.'s reputable Hereford bulls. Nelson is proud of her relationship with commercial cow-calf customers. "It is our responsibility to use the genetics available to keep our bull customers on the top end of the markets."

Five Star has had several bulls enrolled in the Sire Evaluation Program. They use the Association's Centralized Ultrasound Processing laboratory to evaluate both bulls and females. Nelson is responsible for the hands-on, day-to-day management of the herd and makes the breeding and marketing decisions. She feels that this experience makes her a true representative of Angus breeders on the Board.

Making a contribution during her first term on the Angus Board was important to Nelson. She has served on the Industry Relations, Public Relations, Long Range Planning and Activities committees. "Certainly the Angus breed is the leader of the beef industry, and we must work hard to keep it that way," she says.

