



Newsmakers

► Personal **achievements** and **losses** in our Angus family

► IN THE NEWS

Angus breeders **Rob Brown** and **Galen Fink** were named as two of the three regional winners of the 2002 Intervet/National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) Vision Award, which is presented by the NCF and sponsored by Intervet.

The award recognizes beef industry leaders who take innovative steps to make their operations more profitable and efficient. Nominees for the 2002 award were evaluated primarily on the basis of their effective use of available production technology; effect on the cost of production; ingenuity in implementation; successful and innovative marketing; benefit and effect on the beef industry; and optimum resource management.



Rob Brown



Galen Fink

Rob Brown, Throckmorton, Texas, was a key contributor to the development of the Ranchers Renaissance cooperative. With Brown's vision, Ranchers Renaissance was created by uniting each segment in the beef value chain with a focus on meeting consumers' expectations while raising the profitability of the beef system. The cooperative is committed to creating a superior market within the beef industry that will provide exceptional return by aligning the producers and suppliers in producing a consistent, high-quality product the consumer will demand.

Brown is from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Division IV, which includes Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Galen Fink, Manhattan, Kan., created Fink Beef Genetics. The business operates entirely with rented land, purchased feeds and essentially no outside labor. The operation has used artificial insemination (AI) exclusively since 1977 and implants more than 1,000 embryos each year. Furthermore, in 1992 the Finks developed the Little Apple Brewing Co. Restaurant in Manhattan, Kan. The experience has provided insight into the beef industry from conception to consumption.

Fink represents NCBA Division VII, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

The awards will be presented at the Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Denver, Colo., Feb. 6-9, 2002. Also at

the convention, the three regional winners will compete for an overall national award.



Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis., and Select Sires Inc., Plain City, Ohio, have joined forces to purchase the assets of World-Wide Sires Inc. The renamed company, **World Wide Sires Ltd.**, will operate as a stand-alone entity and will continue to provide beef and dairy producers worldwide with access to high-quality North American genetics through a professional distribution network.

World Wide Sires Ltd. is a 50-50 venture. It will be governed by four officers and a six-person board of directors. The office of president will be shared by (from left) Roger Ripley, Accelerated Genetics CEO, and Dave Thorbahn, Select Sires general manager. Also pictured is John Schouten (right), former vice president of marketing for World-Wide Sires, who is now the organization's CEO.

Harlan Ritchie, a distinguished professor of animal science at Michigan State University (MSU), was honored with the Livestock Publications Council (LPC) Headliner Award at the 2001 Agricultural Publications Summit (APS) in Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 1-4.

The award recognizes a person outside the livestock-publishing field for actions that have produced a positive change in livestock production and marketing.

Ritchie has taught at MSU for the last 37 years. In that time, he has been involved in teaching and research in swine and beef cattle improvement, beef cattle efficiency, beef cattle dystocia, and vertically coordinated beef production and marketing systems. In addition, Ritchie is also a monthly contributor to the "Angus Advisor" column in the *Angus Journal*.

Allflex USA, Dallas, Texas, recently named **Steve Batty** as its western regional manager. Based in Visalia, Calif., Batty will serve Allflex distributors and customers throughout California, Arizona and Nevada.

'Cattle drive' rounds up cows, heifers for UI Cummings Center

As cattle producers throughout Idaho round up their livestock this fall, they are selecting donor cows and heifers for a model working cow-calf ranch at the new University of Idaho (UI) Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center near Moscow.

Not only will the donated females be key to the integrated research in Western

cow-calf production systems that will be conducted at the Salmon-area center, but the cows and heifers also are essential to UI's eventual ownership of the 924-acre ranch.

The Auen Foundation donated use of the former Hot Springs Ranch to the university last fall. In 2004 — after UI has met performance objectives for management,

research and education — the foundation will begin transferring ownership to the university. Among those objectives is building a herd of 350-400 cows, 100 of which must be donated by the public.

"The university is committed to making this ranch a model research unit," says Dick Battaglia, the center's superintendent

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► **Beef Improvement Federation Convention, San Antonio, Texas**

► The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) named **Oak Bowery Farms**, Opelika, Ala., as its top purebred producer for 2001 at the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Convention. Pictured are owner Tom Lovell (right) and BIF President Galen Fink.



► **Georgia Angus Ass'n Field Day, June 30, Twin Hills Farm, Covington**

► Winners of the day's stockman's contest include (from left) **Jeff Gooden**, Crocker, Mo., second, adult division; **Will Cabe**, Carnesville, Ga., first, junior division; and **Ann Bell**, Good Hope, Ga., first, adult division.



Most recently, Batty served as manager of Crown Angus in Sanger, Calif.

► **INDUSTRY EXTRAS**

Forrest Roberts, U.S. beef marketing manager for Pharmacia Animal Health, was elected chairman of the NCBA Allied Industry Council.

As the council chairman, Roberts also will serve on the NCBA board of directors and the NCBA executive committee.

The International Stockmen's Educational Foundation (ISEF), Houston, Texas, recently named five influential members of the agricultural industry to its board of directors.

New board members include **Marshall Copithorne**, president of CL Ranches Inc., Calgary, Alberta, Canada; **John Josserand**, president of AzTx Cattle Co., Hereford, Texas; **Russell Laird**, director of agricultural relations, Philip Morris Management Corp., Washington, D.C.; **Norm Luba**, executive director of the North

American Equine Ranching Information Council, Louisville, Ky.; and **John Sykes**, assistant general manager of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

ABS Global, DeForest, Wis., has named **Sandi Baylor-Schmidt** as manager of human relations and development. In her new position, she will concentrate on the development of ABS employees from skills and careers to recruitment, training, performance management, compensation and retention.

Allflex USA, Dallas, Texas, announced the appointment of **Kip Kernodle** as company president, effective Sept. 4. Kernodle succeeds David Warren, who has been named CEO of eMerge Interactive, a major alliance partner of Allflex in the growing electronic livestock management marketplace.

In related news, Kernodle announced the appointment of **Glenn Fischer** as senior vice president of sales and marketing.

and head of the UI Department of Animal and Veterinary Science. "In Idaho, it takes about 250 to 300 cows to have an economically viable unit for a single family. It takes about 400 cows for researchers to compare reproductive, nutritional and health-management regimes."

In September 2000, UI transferred 66 crossbred cows from the Moscow campus, all of which have since calved. Another shipment — 18 bred commercial heifers and three cleanup bulls — arrived from Moscow in April. The university also leases 27 cows that were on the ranch before management changed hands.

Battaglia expects research and Extension efforts at the Cummings Center to include beef genetics, selection, reproduction, cow-calf nutrition, grazing management, forage production systems, irrigation management and alternative forage crops.

"It's a great cause," says Sara Braasch, executive vice president of the Idaho Cattle Association. "Once the herd is fully stocked, the ranch will be able to do some

very practical, hands-on research that will benefit producers everywhere. We hope that ranchers in all parts of Idaho will be part of this exciting project."

At Nelson Angus in Salmon, Steve and Janna Herbst donated a bred heifer this spring because they "want to improve the quality of beef that America eats and ... are interested in supporting universities that are conducting research and development toward that goal," Steve Herbst says. "This center is in line with those efforts."

Their contribution already has doubled: The donated cow dropped a healthy, vigorous calf three days after she arrived at the Cummings Center.

Jerry Gray, northwest regional manager for Grand Laboratories in Nampa, will donate the value of a heifer to the "cattle drive" this fall.

"It's just awesome that we have a university involved in a project like this," Gray says. "We're willing and able and would like to partner with the university in researching new and existing animal health problems. Everything that

universities and private companies can do to help the agricultural industry become more productive and profitable makes everybody a winner."

A 12-member producer advisory board, whose formation was stipulated by the Auen Foundation, has been in place since UI assumed operation of the ranch and is already meeting quarterly. Board member Laurie Lickley of Jerome believes that contributing heifers to the Cummings Center will help involve producers in the center's decision-making process and will enhance their ability to benefit directly and indirectly from the center's work.

"Active giving by the producers is absolutely key to our success," Battaglia says. "It will bring up our numbers quickly and enable us to start making a research impact right away — and it will also confirm producers' interest in and commitment to what we are doing."



Editor's note: *The University of Idaho provided this story.*