

Seven Candidates Vie for Board Seats

Five will be elected by delegates at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky.

Every year, candidates vie for five seats on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association. As of Aug. 15, seven members of the Association have announced their intentions to run for the Board. Those elected on Monday, Nov. 18, at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky., will each serve a three-year term.

At press time, the following people had announced their candidacies; one is an incumbent. Their biographical sketches are presented in alphabetical order.

Leo J. Baker

The South Dakota Angus Association board of directors and the Black Hills Angus Association unanimously endorse Leo J. Baker for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Leo grew up on a diversified farm in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and has lived



Leo J. Baker

on Bakers LeMar Angus Ranch, Saint Onge, S.D., for the last 25 years. Leo, wife Marilyn, son Mike, daughter-in-law Sandra and granddaughter Elizabeth are partners in this family-owned and -operated business. The breeding of Angus cattle is their only business.

Leo has been raising registered Angus cattle since 1952. The herd was started with the purchase of 13 heifers. It now numbers 350 cows and 80 replacement heifers.

He attended a rural elementary school and graduated from high school in Ada, Minn. He participated in 4-H and was later an adult leader. He was an active member of the state rural youth program in Minnesota and a member of the Community for Education committee in the Belle Fourche, S.D., school system.

Leo served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was stationed in the South Pacific. Returning from service, he attended North Dakota State University (NDSU), majoring in animal science and agricultural economics.

He spent 16 years working with the Seventh Intermediate Credit Service Bank as a loan officer, still maintaining his farm and livestock interests. He has served on cooperative boards, was chairman of the local Agriculture Stabilization Committee (ASC) for 12 years and has received several community service awards in past years, including the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Award for the 1997 Agribusinessman of the Year.

Leo is a member of the American Angus Association, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, South Dakota Angus Association and the Black Hills Angus Association.

The Bakers are members and active participants of the United Methodist Church in Belle Fourche.

Artificial insemination (AI) is used in the LeMar herd, which has been enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program for several years. The Bakers' ranch holds its annual performance production sale each year in April. They sell 125 bulls and 80 heifers. Pelvic and scrotal measurements are taken to evaluate these traits in their herd. Ultrasound has been used since its inception. Herd bulls are

carcass tested with comparative commercial herds. Several bulls have been leased to AI studs.

The Bakers have hosted several visitors from foreign countries and were hosts, at their ranch, to the 1993 World Angus Forum.

As a member of the Board of Directors the past three years, Leo has served on the Breed Improvement Committee, Commercial and Industry Relations Committee, Activities Committee, and Public Relations Committee. He would like to continue serving on the Board and is committed to serving its membership and keeping the Angus breed of cattle in the forefront of the beef industry. He would appreciate your support.

Gregg Preuit Blythe

Gregg Blythe was born in a small farming community in north Alabama and grew up



Gregg Preuit Blythe

on the family farm. His involvement with the cattle community began in the daily operation of the farm. His interest was stimulated further by an energetic 4-H club leader who encouraged Gregg to take on a livestock project, which sparked his interest in livestock production.

His family's farm consisted of row crops, a commercial cow-calf operation and a small feedlot operation. Working with his father in the feeding operation, Gregg met many successful cattlemen. This enabled him to believe that although he lived in a

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small farming community, there was a larger world out there in the livestock industry.

After graduating from high school, Gregg attended the University of Alabama, where he received a bachelor's degree in education. Shortly after graduation he joined the U.S. Army Security Agency. Gregg served one tour in Vietnam with the Military Advisory Command as a first lieutenant and was awarded the Bronze Star. Upon completing the tour of duty, Gregg went back to his hometown to teach and coach for two years.

Soon after this, it became possible for Gregg to return to his roots on the family farm. He married Jean Horton and joined Jean's father (his mentor), Ed Horton, in his farming and Angus cattle operation. Ed, a longtime Angus breeder, is a past president of the American Angus Association.

This year Macedon Farms celebrated its 77th year of continuous operation with its biennial production sale. The farm consists of more than 2,500 acres with 1,500 acres of cotton and 120 acres of corn.

About one-third of the crops are irrigated. The cattle operation consists of 250 purebred Angus cows with another smaller herd of commercial cows that are used as recipients for the embryo program. In addition to the production sales, bulls are merchandised at local and state Angus association sales, as well as through private treaty, with most sales going to repeat customers.

Gregg is a member of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Decatur, Ala. He served two terms on the vestry, the governing body of the church. He also completed a three-year program of religious study, education for ministry, through Sewanee, the University of the South. Gregg has enjoyed teaching young people's Sunday school classes for about 15 years.

He is now married to Lile McLaughlin Blythe, who is also a partner in the farming operation. They have four girls, Allison, Anna, Amelia and Susan. The girls have participated either by showing cattle or offering advice on environmental issues.

Gregg has been active in local and state organizations. He has been president of Limestone County Cattlemen's Association and is still serving on its board of directors. He is presently vice president of the Limestone County Farmers Cooperative. Gregg is a past president of the Alabama Angus Association. He served on the board of directors and the Financial Committee. He also was on the Alabama Committee on John's Disease.

In 1993, the Blythe family, along with the

Horton family, was chosen as "Alabama Angus Farm Family of the Year." In 1998 Gregg served as president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, one of the largest and most active in the nation. He still serves on the board of directors. While serving as president, he was selected as "Personality of the Year." Gregg is a past director of the Alabama Agricultural Conservation Committee and is also a member of the Southeastern Livestock Exposition.

In 1996 Gregg was appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) and is now serving a second three-year term. He is a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and has served on the Youth Education and Information Subcommittee, the Advertising Committee, the Science and Technology Committee, and the Agricultural Policy Committee. Gregg has been a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Meeting for many years.

For more than 25 years, Angus cattle and farming have provided Gregg with many rewarding experiences and the opportunity to meet many interesting and inspiring people.

William D. Davis

The Montana Angus Association and its board of directors have endorsed William (Bill) D. Davis, Sidney, Mont., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Bill grew up at Belgrade, Mont., buying his first Angus heifer from his dad, Dale Davis, in 1955. He was a member of local 4-



William D. Davis

H and FFA chapters in the Belgrade area. Bill graduated from Belgrade High School and has a bachelor of science degree from Montana State University (MSU) in ag

business. Bill was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and the MSU rodeo team. Bill purchased Rollin' Rock Angus from his dad in 1977, continuing the Rollin' Rock tradition of raising top performance cattle. Bill and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Sidney, Mont., in 1993 and manage approximately 550 head of registered cows on roughly 25,000 owned and leased acres.

Rollin' Rock Angus is a member of Performance Breeders LLC, selling 500

yearling bulls in April, and has a joint female sale with Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch (GDAR) in October. Both sales are located in Sidney.

Bill is a past director of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, a past member of the MSU College of Agriculture Development Board, current and past director of the Montana Angus Association, current director of the Eastern Montana Angus Association, past director and president of the Montana Beef Performance Association, and past director and president of the South Montana Angus Association.

He was a member of the Steering Committee for Farmland Supreme Beef Alliance. Bill served on the board of directors for the Valley Bank of Belgrade, is a past director for the Northern Rodeo Association and the Belgrade Area Jaycees, and past advisor for Belgrade International Order of Job's Daughters.

Registered Angus cattle and the Angus beef business have been the sole means of livelihood for his entire life.

The Rollin' Rock program is based on a within-herd, total-performance selection, using an optimum balance of economically important traits. Bill's ability to work with people, to look at all issues with an open mind, and desire to continue to improve the registered Angus business make him an excellent candidate for the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Bob Laflin

The Kansas Angus Association unanimously endorses Bob Laflin, Olsburg, Kan., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Bob has been deeply involved in state and national Angus activities. He served as chairman and chief fund-raiser for the first National Junior Heifer Show held in Wichita, Kan. He also served as chairman and chief fund-raiser for the Kansas Angus Association's (KAA) 100-Year Celebration held in Hutchinson, Kan., which celebrated 100 years of Angus cattle in Kansas and in the United States. Bob and his wife, Barbara, were junior Angus association advisors for several years. Throughout the years, Bob has hosted KAA field days. He is a past member of the KAA Lifetime Member Selection Committee. He has always been willing to lend a helping hand to the KAA when called upon.

Because of Bob's involvement in Angus cattle across the nation, many Angus breeders throughout the country have

encouraged Bob to run for the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Through 102 years, five generations and two states, the Laflin family has worked to “turn the West black.” The family has marketed more than 16,000 registered Angus bulls through the years. Angus heritage is deeply woven into the Laflin fabric. Bob’s election would make him the first third-generation registered Angus breeder to serve on the Board of Directors in the history of the American Angus Association.

Bob graduated from the University of Nebraska, and a short time later was called to serve his country. After his military career, he returned home “to raise kids and cows.”

He married Barbara Arendt and carried on the Angus heritage. All four of their children were very active in the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Robert II finished second in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest and now judges major livestock shows. Karen won the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Des Moines, Iowa. Sharee (now Sharee Sankey) was the Kansas Angus queen and won honorable mention



Bob Laflin

in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. Guy also won honorable mention in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest and was very active in his position on the Board of Directors of the NJAA.

Today Bob’s grandchildren are the fifth generation of Laflins in the Angus industry. They have served as officers of the KJAA. Cody is a past president, and Jeana currently serves as president. Cody won first in the 1998 National Angus Scholarship contest. He recently was acclaimed in the *Angus Journal* for his judging accomplishments at Oklahoma State University. The four grandchildren, Cody and Jeana Sankey and Josh and Clinton Laflin, have all participated consistently in National Junior Angus shows.

On Nov. 15, 1999, L.E. Laflin (Bob’s father) was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation by the American Angus Association. On May 10, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

recognized the Bob Laflin family with a lifetime Achievement Award. On Aug. 19, 2000, the family celebrated its 100th anniversary in the Angus business, with nearly 1,000 guests from 35 states and British Columbia gathering at the farm to celebrate Angus history and the breed’s future.

Bob has been a hands-on, ranch-oriented breeder, with many firsts to his credit. He was the first breeder in Kansas to own and feature a Certified Meat Sire. He was the first breeder in Kansas to place his bulls on feed tests in the 1960s, when Oklahoma State University and Performance Registry International (PRI) began their feed conversion program. He was then the first breeder in Kansas to hold a performance-tested bull sale. It has been held continually for 36 years at the Olsburg, Kan., ranch. Bob’s herd has been on a strong performance, carcass and EPD program. Consequently, his bulls have been in great demand in the cow country of the West, South and Southwest, along with having a strong local trade.

It’s Bob’s Angus heritage that is the passion behind his desire to serve on the Board of the American Angus Association. While he says it would be a personal honor to be the third generation in the Laflin family to serve on the board, it would be an even greater honor to be selected because of the confidence the membership has in his abilities to lead and contribute.

When the American Angus Association established the Charter in the state of Illinois in 1883, the forefathers said that one of the main purposes of this Association was purification of the breed. “In selecting your next Board of Director members in 2002, the issue is clear,” Bob says. “Do you believe in Angus cattle or not?”

Bob says he will protect the lifeline the registered Angus bull market brings to the Association membership. “Do not sell the future of the Angus breed in the boardroom of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo., to a few who wish to pin the label on any bovine that walks.”

Bob is an Angus man who believes in the future of the registered Angus breed and promises to be accessible to you not only at election time, but throughout the year.

Robert ‘Bob’ Schlutz

The Iowa Angus Association unanimously supports the candidacy of Bob Schlutz to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Bob purchased his first Angus heifer in 1948 as a 4-H project and developed his herd until his graduation from high school. At that time Bob and his parents formed a family partnership known as D.E. Schlutz & Son. The growing herd was later named Da-Es-Ro, a name comprised of the first two letters of the partners’ names.

Bob and Marillyn, his wife of 48 years, are the first of four generations of Schlutzes who have taken active roles in the operation. With the help of grandson Eric Schlutz and his young family, Bob and Marillyn still share in the management and day-to-day operations of the 130-cow herd.

Da-Es-Ro hosts an annual female production sale in December while their best performing bulls are marketed at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), the Iowa Beef Expo, local association sales and through private treaty.

Currently, Da-Es-Ro sells semen from three bulls to Australia, and two bulls from their program are leased to AI studs. The Schlutzes use ultrasound, AI and embryo transfer (ET) technology to improve the genetics in their herd. They also use AHIR and the resulting EPDs to measure their success. After more than 50 years in the Angus business, Da-Es-Ro Angus Farms was recently recognized as a Historic Angus Herd by the American Angus Association.

Bob is not a newcomer to Angus leadership roles. Traveling to various beef promotions and as chairman of the Iowa Beef Breeds’ Council in the 1970s, an idea was spawned about creating a branded beef product. Bob wrote about this concept in an article for the *Angus Journal*. Though he does not take credit for the result, Bob’s enthusiasm for the project landed him a seven-year stint on the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Board during the formative years of CAB. Within Iowa, Bob has served as president of the Eastern Iowa Angus Association and Southeastern Iowa Angus Association.



Robert “Bob” Schlutz

Bob has shared his vast experience and “get-the-job-done” enthusiasm in a number of volunteer roles. At the pleasure of Governor Robert Ray and, later, Governor

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Terry Brandstad, Bob served eight years on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Environmental Protection Commission, six of those years as chairman. He has also worked with the Value-Added Products Committee the last six years for the state of Iowa.

One of his most challenging and rewarding roles, however, is the 11 years (two of which he served as president) that Bob has invested in the Iowa State Fair Board. With the help of an aggressive group of colleagues, a \$50 million renovation of the Iowa State Fairgrounds is nearly completed — funded mostly by a grassroots effort born in the boardroom.

Other organizations that Bob has served include: Alliant Energy, Federal Land Bank, Mid-America Bank, Iowa Foundation of Agricultural Advancement, Colonial Manor Rest Home, Colonel's Kids Daycare and as former president of the Iowa Restaurant Association.

Many of our nation's greatest leaders were outstanding businessmen. Such is the case with Bob. Starting in 1968 he ventured beyond the confines of the farm and purchased and began to manage a chain of franchised restaurants. His knowledge of the retail meat industry and entrepreneurial skills built the organization to an enviable level. Today, Bob's son Kevin owns the business — KFC of Iowa — allowing him and Marilyn the chance to pursue their personal interests, and their love for Angus cattle, which will always be first and foremost in their hearts.

Bob draws on a lifetime of experience in Angus production, Angus leadership roles, business administration and working with people for a common goal. That experience will assist him in making the tough decisions that lie ahead. His familiarity with the restaurant business puts him particularly in tune with the customers' whims.

Bob says, "Although we must maintain or improve on our current level of production efficiency, our future lies in consumer satisfaction. I believe that the American Angus Association should remain on its current course of identifying and reporting the genetics that will serve that purpose, both on a purebred and commercial level."

John L. Schurr

The Nebraska Angus Association board of directors unanimously endorses John L. Schurr, Farnam, Neb., as a candidate for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

John started in the purebred Angus business in 1962 with his brother, Jerry. The Schurrtop Angus and Charolais operation has progressed to two production sales per year, currently marketing more than 350 Angus and Charolais bulls per year, along with private treaty transactions. Their seedstock operation was listed in the NCBA's annual report as one of the 25 largest seedstock operations.

The Schurrs strive to provide commercial bull customers with high-performance, muscular and quality carcass bulls, with extra maternal traits. A large percentage of their bull customers feed or retain ownership of their home-raised cattle. The Schurrs believe they have an obligation to provide the genetics that will keep their customers in a position of profitability from calving to the finished product.

The Schurrs also feed cattle and purchase feeder cattle sired by their bulls from their customers. They prefer to feed cattle that have the extra edge in gain, efficiency and carcass quality. They market the majority on a value-based grid.

Schurrtop has been performance testing and using AHIR since its beginning. They started carcass testing their cattle when the USDA began carcass evaluation with the advent of ear tags in 1972. After the creation



John L. Schurr

of the CAB Program, they began using CAB for their carcass evaluation. They are currently cooperating in a program of evaluating actual carcass

tenderness and are having several sires evaluated for tenderness. Schurrtop is a member of Angus America and was named its 2001 Seedstock Producer of the Year. They raised and fed the pen of cattle that had the highest premium over the market, and they had the highest average per head premium on all cattle marketed through Angus America in 2001. Angus America had 125,913 head of cattle marketed last year on its exclusive value-based pricing matrix with Excel Corp.

Carcass testing has been a focus of the Schurrs for years. This year at the 2002 Beef Empire Days in Garden City, Kan., Schurrtop won the Brookover Award for the champion entry over all. The winner, a

Schurrtop purebred Angus heifer, was in competition with steers and heifers from some of the largest, most progressive cattlemen and feedyards in the Midwest.

Schurrtop Angus has been exhibiting "in the yards" at the NWSS in Denver for years and is the second-longest consecutive exhibitor at the show.

John grew up in Farnam, Neb., on his family's farm, attended the University of Nebraska and Colorado State University (CSU), returned home and started raising purebred Angus. John and his wife, Kay, have three sons, Marty, Wayne and Ryan, who are all part of the operation. Marty and Ryan graduated from CSU and Wayne from Central Missouri State University (CMSU). All three are members of the American Angus Association and are raising purebred Angus and Charolais, as well as feeding cattle and managing the family-owned Schurr Ranch-77 Feedyard and farming operation.

John has served as director for Farm Credit Services, has been a board member of his church and local school board, is a past director of the Nebraska Angus Association, and was a 4-H club leader for 35 years. Several of his 4-H club members achieved high awards in livestock judging at the state and national levels. He is a member of the NCBA, Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA), and is a Gothenburg Hospital Foundation board member.

"We have an obligation to our bull customers to provide profitable, maintenance-free genetics, and we need to have a strong breed association to provide accurate pedigree and performance programs to help us in our evaluation," John says. "The purebred Angus females are the most important part of breed production in the world. Any tools we can use to improve the Angus cow's performance, feed efficiency and productivity should be used. The American Angus Association, made up of member breeders, should promote any programs that will help evaluate the function of the Angus female."

"I have said many times over the years the American Angus Association has consistently obtained outstanding Board members and has retained an excellent, knowledgeable and friendly staff, elevating them to the enviable position of the No. 1 breed association in America. It would be a privilege to serve on the Association Board in hopes of maintaining the high standards established since its beginning."

Quintin Smith

The Tennessee Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Quintin Smith as a candidate for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Quintin's father, Ray Smith, and his uncle Dan started a registered Angus herd in the late 1940s and first joined the American Angus Association in 1952. The first of four sons, Quintin was raised on a tobacco and cattle farm and showed his first Angus heifer in 1968. He became active in the Tennessee Junior Angus Association (TJAA), serving as director, first and second vice president, and then as president for two years.

Quintin was also active in the NJAA, attending the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) several years and competing in the 1975 NJAA showmanship competition in Omaha, Neb.

Quintin was very involved with 4-H for nine years and served in every office. He received the high individual award in livestock judging in 1970 and competed with the Tennessee 4-H judging team in



Quintin Smith

Chicago, Ill., at the National 4-H Contest. Quintin was involved with Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving as president, and participated in livestock judging and parliamentary procedure contests.

In 1976, Quintin graduated from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) with a bachelor's degree in both animal science and plant and soil science. While at MTSU, he was a member of the livestock judging team and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, and was president of the Block and Bridle Club. He received the High Individual Award for the livestock judging team and also was inducted into the Block and Bridle Hall of Fame. Quintin met his wife, Vicki Walker, at MTSU, and they married in the spring of 1975.

Upon graduation, Quintin and Vicki returned to the family farm. They slowly began expanding the cow herd from 50 registered cows to its present-day size of 250 registered cows and 50 recipient cows. They rented more land and, with partner Charles Bell, started Horn Spring Angus Farms in 1982. They enrolled in the AHIR program to

help improve the cow herd and began using ET and AI to expand the genetic base. Since then they have had three successful production sales and have shown cattle at various shows across the country.

Quintin and Vicki have four daughters: Jamie, 25; Sonya, 23; Robbie, 21; and Callie, 12. The girls have been very active in 4-H, the TJAA, and the NJAA. All four have shown at the NJAS, and the three oldest have competed in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, public speaking, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*[®] Cook-Off and various other activities at the NJAS. Sonya served as Chairman of the NJAA Board of Directors in 2000-2001, and Callie received the Silver Pitcher Award at this year's NJAS in Milwaukee.

In addition to the farm and family, Quintin has also played a major role in his community and industry organizations. He is a member of Bethel Church of Christ, the Ward Agriculture Center Committee and the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperation nominating committee. He has served as a commissioner for Wilson County, as director of the Wilson County Heart Fund, and as director and vice president of the Wilson County Farm Bureau.

Most of Quintin's civic involvement has been through the Lebanon Jaycees. He has held every office except secretary and served as the president of the organization in 1986. In 1985 he was the program manager for the Tennessee Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer and received the O.B. Locklear Award for Program Manager of the Year. He has served as the chairman of the Distinguished Service Award Banquet for more than 10 years and the Christmas Underprivileged Shopping

Spree for more than five years. He has played major roles in the Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon and in the Charity Classic Horse Show. Quintin also helped raise money for the War Memorial Monument the Jaycees erected at the Wilson County Courthouse.

Quintin has been an active member of the Tennessee Angus Association since 1976, serving as director, vice president, and president. He currently serves as a director. He is also a lifetime member of the American Angus Association and a charter member of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, presently serving on the executive board. He is on the Tennessee Beef Agribition Board and currently serves as vice president.

Quintin and his family have hosted several workshops at their farm for various 4-H, FFA and college livestock judging groups from across Tennessee and Kentucky. He has also hosted state legislature visits to help inform political leaders about the importance of agriculture.

Quintin has dedicated his life to his family, Angus people and Angus cattle. The Angus business has been the principal income for him and his family. He is proud to be a part of the American Angus Association and has great confidence in the leadership that has been displayed through its staff and current Board. Quintin has stated, "The opportunity to serve on the national Board of Directors presents a chance for me to give back some of what I have learned and gained from my experiences. I would appreciate the chance to serve the Angus family."

