

# Seven Announce Candidacies

*Seven members seek Board positions in November*

*Compiled by Julie Mais, editor*

Seven members have declared their intention to run for a position on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November.

Jim Brinkley, Missouri; Steve Stratford, Kansas; and Tim Todd, Montana, are each seeking election to their first three-year term.

Seeking re-election to their second terms are James S. Coffey, Kentucky; Chuck Grove, Virginia; Mike McCravy, Georgia; and Mick Varilek, South Dakota.

The delegates listed beginning on page 196 will elect

five directors, a president and chairman of the Board, and a vice president and vice chairman of the Board, as well as vote on any bylaw amendments that may be presented at the Association's 135th Annual Convention of Delegates.

The meeting will convene at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 5, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, during the Angus Convention. See the Convention program packaged with this issue for a full schedule of the activities.

Biographical sketches provided by the candidates follow.

## Jim Brinkley, Missouri

Missouri Angus breeders overwhelmingly support and endorse Jim Brinkley of Milan, Mo., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Jim currently serves as President of the Missouri Angus Association.



Jim Brinkley

Jim was born and raised in the green hills of northern Missouri near the city of Milan on his family's farming operation. He graduated high school from Milan in 1979 when he began a joint feeder-cattle venture with his future father-in-law, Hugh Morehead. In 1980, Jim married Hugh's daughter Sherry, making Milan their lifelong family home.

Jim grew up working at his father's Ford/Case/New Holland machinery dealership in Milan. Shortly after their daughter, Crystal, was born in 1984,

Jim and Sherry purchased 50 head of commercial cows, which quickly grew to more than 200 head. That same year, Jim and Sherry purchased their first farm of 220 acres.

Today, the Brinkley family's diversified farming operation has grown to more than 1,300 acres and 400 registered Angus cows. In 1987, their son, Justin, was born. Today Crystal and Justin work with their father in the multi-generation family farming operation.

In 1989, Jim attended the Missouri Auction School in Kansas City, Mo., following in the footsteps of his father-in-law who was an auctioneer and nationally known partner of the Kansas City Stockyards. After graduation from auction school, Jim sold at various locations in northern Missouri, including the Green City Livestock Auction and the Milan Livestock Auction, in addition to many local estate and public auctions in the area.

Through the years, Jim has worked as an order buyer at numerous Missouri Livestock Markets and represented and purchased many feeder cattle in the Green Hills of Missouri. As the Brinkley Angus Ranch herd has grown, Jim's time has

been focused on marketing feeder cattle for those who purchase bulls from his breeding program.

The Brinkley family's evolution into the seedstock industry began in 1992 with the purchase of 30 Charolais cows and the sale of a few Charolais bulls. After observing the growth and expansion of the influence of Angus across the beef industry, Jim became a member of the American Angus Association on March 29, 1995.

During their transitional year of 1995, Jim and Sherry sold their Charolais herd and purchased 60 head of Summitcrest Angus cows from the family of the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand pioneer Fred Johnson. Having used Summitcrest Angus bulls on his commercial cow herd and working closely with the sales of both feeder and finished cattle, Jim recognized Summitcrest as a unique and valuable source of carcass genetics before they were commonly available in the Angus breed. That forward thinking established a strong foundation for Brinkley Angus Ranch (BAR).

In 2000, Jim and Sherry were drawn back to Summitcrest and purchased an entire age group of

mature foundation females that had stood the test of time. After this purchase, there was no turning back for Jim. Since that time, he has steadily enhanced the genetics of his registered Angus herd through artificial insemination (AI) and the use of both conventional embryo transfer (ET) and *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) work.

With the assistance of good friend Mark Rohr of Lazy H Ranch, Jim and Sherry hosted their first Angus bull sale on March 22, 2003, at Green City Livestock Auction, Green City, Mo., selling 20 Angus bulls. By 2018, that sale had grown to 100 bulls per year at auction and numerous more sold by private treaty. The annual Brinkley Angus Ranch bull sale has become one of the top events of the spring sale season in Missouri.

With Jim's background in both livestock marketing and commercial beef production, he is dedicated to helping customers maximize their return on investment in BAR genetics. Each spring, Jim helps his customers synchronize and AI their commercial replacement heifers.

In the fall of 2013, Jim was the cornerstone of founding a first-of-its-kind bred heifer sale at Green City Livestock Market. The sale featured bred heifers that met minimum criteria for the GeneMax genomic testing results, and they were sorted and sold in groups based upon that cutting-edge data.

Jim has hosted Brinkley Angus-influence feeder-calf sales and often places customer cattle into feeding programs where their calves are rewarded for the added value bred into the bulls that sired the calves. Some of the top commercial cattlemen in the green hills rely upon Jim to provide them with the genetics they need to be profitable. His customers who retain ownership or feed their own cattle have enjoyed exceptional returns from their

investment in BAR genetics.

The Brinkley family farming operation includes more than 1,000 acres of soybeans and corn. Jim and Sherry have three grandchildren 6 years of age and younger.

In addition to serving as president of the Missouri Angus Association, Jim serves on the University of Missouri (UM) Thompson Farms advisory board and is a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Milan, Mo.

Angus breeders from Missouri ask for support of Jim Brinkley, their chosen candidate to become a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

### **James S. Coffey, Kentucky**

The Kentucky Angus Association (KAA) unanimously endorses James S. Coffey, Hustonville, Ky., as a candidate for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.



James Coffey

James is a fifth-generation Angus breeder who was raised on the family's Angus cattle and tobacco operation, Branch View Angus, just south of Hustonville and the Kentucky bluegrass region. James has spent his entire life working alongside his father and grandfather, helping with the cattle operation and previously the tobacco operation.

He showed cattle at county fairs and the Kentucky State Fair throughout his 4-H and FFA career. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in

accounting, James worked for Coopers and Lybrand, Louisville, Ky., a Big Six accounting firm.

With a desire to be closer to the farm, he joined Kerbaugh and Rodes, CPAs, Danville, Ky., and finished his CPA certification. In 1993 he purchased Pitman Creek Wholesale (PCW), a sporting goods distribution company.

While expanding PCW, James set out to grow the family Angus operation. Branch View Angus was started by his grandfather selling bulls to commercial cattlemen. James introduced AI, ET, Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program and genetic testing to the herd. AHIR became a cornerstone of the operation, and there has been vast improvement in the performance of the cattle. Since 2011 the family has hosted the largest annual Angus sale in Kentucky and one of the largest sales in the east.

The family feeds its own and customer-purchased steers in Kansas, with the harvest data helping guide breeding decisions. The family was one of the early Association members to use AngusSource® and has also sold calves in the Kentucky CPH-45 feeder-calf sales.

Branch View Angus has been recognized by the Association as a Historic Herd and by the KAA as Performance Breeder of the Year.

During his time on the American Angus Association Board of Directors James has served on the Board and as chairman of the Angus Foundation and on the Board of Angus Productions Inc. (API). He has also served as chairman of Industry Relations and on the Finance and Planning Committee and Special Building Committee.

James has held numerous leadership positions within the industry. He represented the

*Continued on page 188*

Association on the 2010 Young Cattlemen's Conference Tour and has served as a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for many years. He served two director terms and as president for both the Central Kentucky Angus Association and KAA. While on the KAA board, James chaired the Kentucky Angus sweepstakes and promotion committees. He also served on the PBK Bank Advisory Board. James is currently a member of Lincoln County Cattleman's Association, Kentucky Cattleman's Association, Central Kentucky Angus Association and Kentucky Angus Association.

James and his wife, LuAnn, have a son, David Reid, who is the sixth generation to grow up on the farm. James also has two sons, Addison and Bennett.

James has great admiration for the leaders who moved the Angus breed and the Association to the forefront of the world beef industry.

"It has been humbling to serve as a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors," James states. "The decisions made by past Boards have placed our membership and the Association where it is today. Decisions made by the Board are taken extremely seriously, with all members' best interest in mind. It has been an honor to be part of this decision-making process representing the Association membership. If re-elected I will continue to support initiatives that will keep the American Angus Association as the largest and best breed organization in the world."

### **Chuck Grove, Virginia**

Chuck Grove is a native Virginian who has devoted his entire life to the Angus breed and Angus breeders. The son of Doris and Whitney Grove, he and his sister, Glenna, were raised

on the family's registered Angus farm in Forest, Va.

Chuck has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1973. His father, grandfather and two uncles were also life members of the Association and his uncle Conrad Grove served two terms on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. He and his wife, Ruth, of 44 years have two children, Jake and Rachel, and three grandchildren. Jake is a lifetime Association member, and Rachel is married to an Angus breeder.



Chuck Grove

As a Virginia Junior Angus Association member, Chuck was active in junior Angus activities at the regional, state and national level. He was a contestant in the 1970 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Lexington, Ky. His 4-H club played a major role in Chuck's teenage years. He was a member of the state livestock judging team that represented Virginia at the International Livestock Show in Chicago in 1969 and won another trip to Chicago in 1970 to National 4-H Club Congress as the state beef project winner.

Chuck is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science. In college he worked at the university beef barn four years, was on the livestock judging team as a junior, assistant coach as a senior, member of Block & Bridle club and a charter member of the university's Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity chapter. He was the

champion showman of the Little International as a junior and served as the show manager the following year. He was selected as the outstanding senior Block & Bridle club member.

On Jan. 1, 1975, he became a regional manager for the American Angus Association, serving the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. During his 39-year tenure he also covered Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and Ohio. Some highlights of his career include being the National Western Bull Sale manager for 25 years, assisting with the early development of the CAB program, overseeing six National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS) and three Eastern Regional junior shows, and managing the National Angus Tour in Kentucky.

He has worked Angus sales and events in 38 states and Canada. Chuck served as the regional manager representative to the American Angus Association Board of Directors for nine years. He participated in all of the long-range planning sessions conducted by the Board. He was the first Association staff advisor selected by the first National Junior Angus Board (JNAB); and in 2012 the NJAS was dedicated to Chuck. He was inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation in 2004.

In the early 1980s, while still having Virginia as part of his territory, Chuck and Ruth moved back to the family farm to give their children the opportunity to be raised with an agricultural background and so that he could work with his own Angus cattle. Jake and Rachel were involved in 4-H and junior Angus activities and exhibited Angus heifers, steers and lambs at the county and state level.

Today the farm maintains 100 registered Angus cows. Almost every female retained in the herd is AI-sired. All bulls are AI-sired and

sold as yearlings, primarily to commercial cattlemen. All cattle are marketed by private treaty or consignment sales. The cornerstones of the program are AHIR, AI and genomic testing.

Chuck is seeking a second term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. He has served on the Finance & Planning, Breed Improvement and Industry Relations committees, and as chair of the Events & Education committee and vice chair of the Member & Affiliate Services committee. He has also served on the API and Angus Foundation boards.

Chuck and his family's entire livelihood has come from Angus cattle. He has a passion for the membership, the breed, the Association and genetic improvement. He is uniquely qualified for a second term on the Board. Chuck has a thorough knowledge of the Association and subsidiaries, knows and has worked with Angus breeders nationwide, and manages and markets his own Angus cattle. He has respect for the heritage and tradition of the Angus breed and is looking forward to the future. He would welcome any calls or questions regarding the past, present, but most importantly the future of our Association.

### **Mike McCravy, Georgia**

Unanimously endorsed by the Georgia Angus Association, Mike McCravy of Bowdon, Ga., is seeking re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Honored to serve the membership for the past three years, Mike has served on the Breed Improvement, Activities, and Finance & Planning committees. He is currently chairman of the Member Services Committee, serves on the API Board, and represents the Association on the National Cattlemen's Beef

Association (NCBA) Cattle Health and Well-being Committee.

After being involved with his family farm his entire life, Mike and his wife, Christy, established MM Cattle Co. with 40 cows and a dream in 1999. Today's operation consists of 165 registered Angus females and a commercial cow herd situated in west-central Georgia.



Mike McCravy

In addition to the cow herd, Mike owns and operates a small custom hay business. Christy works as an insurance agent with the Georgia Farm Bureau.

The McCravys and a neighboring cattleman host an annual bull and commercial replacement female sale in November each year. They host the Georgia Angus Association (GAA) female sale in March at their sale facility. For several years they hosted an online heifer sale widely recognized for offering competitive junior livestock projects to youth throughout the southeast.

Mike has dedicated his life to the Angus breed and the beef cattle industry. Raised on his family's farm, his passion for the Angus breed began early in life with the purchase of an Angus show heifer project. It continued through his junior career, culminating with Mike assuming management of his family's cattle operation. In 1980 he became a life member of the American Angus Association.

Mike has provided solid leadership in his home state, serving as president, vice president and director

of the GAA, as well as being elected by fellow breeders as a voting delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for many years. Mike has served as an advisor for the Georgia Junior Angus Association (GJAA) and was a committee co-chair for both the 1997 and 2009 NJAS hosted in Perry, Ga.

In recognition of their contributions to the Angus breed, Mike and Christy were honored to receive the Member of the Year Award from the GAA in 2015.

In addition to his Angus involvement, Mike has contributed to the betterment of the beef industry on a local, state and national level. Mike served the Georgia Cattlemen's Association and its 5,000-plus members in multiple leadership roles for several years, including as president in 2008. He was co-chairman of the Georgia Beef Expo Angus sale and the Angus representative on the Georgia Beef Breeds Council for 15 years. A charter member of NCBA, Mike has served on several committees through the years. In 2004, he was chosen to represent Georgia on NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC).

Active on the local level, Mike has held leadership roles in several organizations, including the Carroll County Cattlemen's Association, Young Farmers Groups and Farm Bureau. In 2002, he retired after 25 years with the Douglas County Georgia Fire Department.

Mike believes the primary role of the American Angus Association is to provide the programs, services and technological tools essential to the long-term success of its members and users of Angus genetics, thereby strengthening the breed's position as the dominant genetic supplier in the beef industry. He is committed to prioritizing the continued growth and development of all the

*Continued on page 190*



Association's entities, protecting our valuable data base, and maintaining the integrity of the breed. He will continue to be a strong supporter and advocate of both the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and Future Angus Stockmen programs as effective means of developing young leaders and retaining them in the Angus breed and beef industry.

Mike's many years of service in leadership positions and his hands-on involvement in multiple organizations have given him valuable experience and a business perspective required to be a productive member of the Association's Board of Directors.

As one whose livelihood depends on Angus cattle, Mike has an independent, progressive and deep-seated passion for the breed and would very much appreciate your consideration and support as a candidate for the American Angus Association's Board of Directors.

### Steve Stratford, *Kansas*

Steve Stratford of Pratt, Kan., proudly declares his candidacy for the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association. Steve was raised on a diverse family farm including a stocker/feeder, commercial cow-calf and Grade A dairy operation. He is a fifth-generation farmer/rancher in the state of Kansas.

Steve's family has always been focused on the community by supporting the local schools, FFA and 4-H programs. Currently, Steve serves on the Pratt County fair board with his term ending in November. For more than 25 years the Stratfords have supported and assisted youth with their projects.

Steve resides in Pratt with Saige, who is employed by Barton County FSA, and his three children. His oldest daughter, Taylor, is an honor roll student attending Fort Hays State University majoring in ag

communications. JR, his oldest son, is a sophomore at Skyline High School and is one of the top youth bull riders in the nation. Steve's youngest son, Chase, is in fourth grade at Skyline Elementary and is in training to be a ranch manager or a bull rider like his older brother.



Steve Stratford

The journey into the larger sector of the commercial beef business started at just 14 years of age for Steve, with his employment at Pratt Livestock. This is one of the largest livestock markets in the Midwest, selling upward of 170,000 head a year, and it is the source of Steve's passion to market cattle and pursue an order-buying career. What started with Steve buying cattle for the neighbors has grown to him placing thousands of feeder cattle to farmers and cattlemen across the Midwest.

Steve prides himself in striving to have an order for any animal that comes through the ring. He personally feeds cattle in commercial feedyards and evaluates performance and carcass traits by procuring cattle to every major packer and grid across the nation.

Stratford Angus was established in 2004 when Steve purchased eight heifers from Poland Angus Ranch in Kansas. Two years later the ranch was increased with the purchase of 10 heifers from Sunny Valley Farm in Illinois. From those beginnings Stratford Angus has grown to market 300 bulls a year by private treaty and at their annual production sale in February at Pratt Livestock.

As a testament to the breed, one of the foundation heifers purchased 14 years ago is still a productive member of the Stratford Angus donor pen at the age of 15. Her daughter Queen Lass 504, who Steve believes is the best Angus cow he has ever worked with, remains a high-level donor on the ranch to this day.

Steve's focus within the beef industry is the commercial cattleman, large or small, who ultimately keeps all breeders of registered Angus cattle in the beef business. Steve requests your support for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors as he wishes to serve the membership in its entirety and to improve the value and market potential of Angus cattle.

### Tim Todd, *Montana*

The Montana Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Tim Todd as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

The Todd family established Green Mountain Angus in the early 1970s in the Black Hills of South Dakota near Spearfish, at the base of Green Mountain. With the herd expanding, in 1981 the operation was moved to Montana near Ryegate. The cow herd grew from the original 100 head in South Dakota to 250 cows that the Ryegate Ranch would maintain. With the retirement of Gale and Edythe Todd in 1991, Tim and his wife, Kris, took over the day-to-day management of the operation.

Tim and Kris met while Tim was attending school at Northwestern Vo-Tech where he graduated with a degree in ag technology. They were married in 1981 and have two children — Melana and Travis. Melana is a registered nurse at Saint Vincent's in Billings, Mont. Melana and her husband, Jeremy, have three children: Ryder, 4, Beckam, 2, and Teagen, 1. Travis is currently serving in the Army and he and his wife are

stationed in Gulfport, Miss.

Tim has been an active member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, as well as the Montana Angus Association. He has served on several boards, including two terms on the Montana Stockgrowers board. He has served on his local stockgrowers board and was president of the Wheatland County Stockgrowers from 2002 to 2003. He received the coveted Wheatland County Stockman of the Year award in 2005.



Tim Todd

Tim has served on the Midland Empire Angus Association board and was president from 2014 to 2016. Tim has served two terms on the Montana Angus Association board, leading the organization as president for the past two years.

Tim's lifelong passion is Angus cattle. It's been said that if there is not an Angus cow at the end of the trail, he is not interested in taking that route. Angus cattle are the bread and butter at Green Mountain Angus Ranch; it is Todd's only source of income and they are proud to take an active part in the greater Angus community.

Under Tim's management, Green Mountain Angus Ranch (GMAR) has become one of the largest seedstock operations in the country, marketing more than 350 bulls a year through the fall production sale and a spring private-treaty sale. He is a believer in utilizing tools made available through the American Angus Association. All GMAR bulls are

given genomic tests through Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) to capitalize upon the wealth of data available. Customer satisfaction is key to the Todds' customer base, and 90% of Green Mountain bulls are sold to repeat customers, a fact in which they take great pride.

Tim and Kris have always been enthusiastic supporters of youth in agriculture. They were among the first ranches to donate a live animal to the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Merit Heifer Program. Through this unique program, donated heifers are entrusted to select youth applicants. These youth care for the heifer for one year, earning ownership of the animal upon completion of the program criteria.

The Todds' have a 20-year history of active philanthropy. For each of those years, the ranch has donated the proceeds of a bred heifer auctioned during their fall production sale. The money raised has gone to a variety of charitable causes, including the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings, Mont.; and Reach Inc. in Bozeman, Mont.

Tim feels that his experience and background as a breeder, coupled with the knowledge and insight gained through working with numerous livestock associations, has equipped him with a lot to offer as a potential board member. Serving the Montana Stockgrowers enabled Tim to work with some of the best commercial outfits in the world, as well as governmental and political entities affecting the beef industry.

He would be honored to serve the American Angus Association membership and would appreciate your support this November.

### **Mick Varilek, South Dakota**

The South Dakota Angus Association (SDAA), the Black Hills Angus Association (BHAA) and the

Southeast South Dakota Angus Association are proud to endorse Mick Varilek as a candidate for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors, where he has been honored to serve for the past three years.

During this time, he served on the boards of CAB and AGI, as well as serving on the Breed Improvement, Activities and Industry Relations committees. The experience Mick received while serving has broadened his vision for the future of this great breed and the diversity of the membership's needs. He feels privileged to serve with such a great Board and staff that continues to build on the integrity of registered Angus cattle.



Mick Varilek

Mick is a lifelong Angus breeder and rancher from southern South Dakota. In 1952 Mick's father, Elvern, hosted their first Varilek Angus Bull Sale, and this past February Mick and his family hosted Varilek's 66th Annual Angus Bull Sale.

As a youth, Mick was active in 4-H, FFA and junior Angus activities in both showing cattle and judging on the state and national level. While attending South Dakota State University (SDSU), he was involved with Block & Bridle, Alpha Gamma Rho, Rodeo Club and a successful livestock judging team. Throughout the years, he has judged numerous county fairs, livestock shows, youth activities and the SDSU Little International.

*Continued on page 192*

Seven Announce Candidacies *continued from page 191*

Mick met his wife, Lynn, while at SDSU. After graduation, they returned to the family ranch.

The ranch is located on the Missouri River at Geddes, S.D. It currently consists of 4,000 acres of native pasture and 1,000 acres of grass hay, irrigated alfalfa and crop land. The ranch maintains 500 registered Angus females that have been selected with the aid of genomic testing, AHIR, ultrasound, ET, AI and visual appraisal. Mick and his family have always been committed to raising top-quality Angus cattle that are functional on the ranch.

Mick and Lynn have raised three children. They are pleased to be joined by their son Ross and his wife, Kelly, and their four children on the ranch. Ross and Kelly are both SDSU graduates. Their son Scott, an SDSU graduate, and his wife, Laci, and three children are in Sioux Center, Iowa. Scott is a commodity broker and Laci is a registered nurse. Their daughter Kellee, a graduate of the University of Sioux Falls (USF), is employed by Innovative Systems and lives in

Stickney, S.D., with husband, Matt, and their three children.

Mick and his family have all been active in the United Methodist Church their entire lives, where he has been board chairman and lay leader for many years.

He has served as a director of the SDAA for many years and was president twice. He has been a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for several years. He was also one of the original board members for the South Central Cattlemen's Association. He also served on the local school board as well as the township board.

Mick's hobbies are ranch-related, as he has been an active contestant for the past 28 years in the South Dakota Rodeo Association (SDRA), which he also served as a director. He competes on a national level in American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), United States Team Penning Association and Ranch Sorting National Championships in team penning and ranch sorting.

His family has always had a great passion for Angus cattle as Angus has

always been the backbone of his family and its sole source of income.

Their annual Angus bull sale is hosted in February. Through the sale, they will sell about 175 registered Angus bulls and 30 registered females to commercial and seedstock producers. Varilek Angus has hosted many tours and international visitors and looks forward to helping improve Angus genetics.

Through the years his family has witnessed many changes in the cattle industry with more to come. He feels cattlemen must stay proactive to meet the challenges ahead and be open-minded in their decisions. Mick has always stressed a good work ethic with his family and with his competitive nature. His philosophy is: If you are going to do something, do it well.

If re-elected, Mick will continue to bring a commonsense approach to the Board with a good working relationship within the Association.

"I would be honored to serve the members and would appreciate your support for election to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association," Mick says. 

