

by Allen Moczygemba  
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## Celebrate the past, advance the future

*Late summer became a celebration of the past while, at the same time, embracing the future.*

About a year ago, Jim Powell of Powell Farms in Limestone, Tenn., invited me to attend the 100th anniversary of the East Tennessee Angus Association scheduled for late summer of 2018. Jim is a persuasive man and the last weekend of August found me in Knoxville speaking to the members of their association.

The East Tennessee Angus Association has a storied history, and in many cases their history is linked to the history of the American Angus Association. In the middle of the 20th century, a number of East Tennessee Angus breeders served as a pipeline of Angus genetics for the Eastern seaboard. Of those breeders, three of the more prominent were Allendale Farms owned by businessman Harvey Brooks and managed by George M. Wheeler, who owned Hickory Cove Farm.

In 1954, Allendale Farms and Mr. Wheeler joined forces with the Keefauver Brothers to purchase Moles Hill Eileenmere 78 from Moles Hill Farm in Connecticut. The sire's progeny catapulted the East Tennessee group into the national spotlight as a result of their show ring winnings in addition to their above average sales.

### Great cattle and more

It wasn't just great cattle that came from east Tennessee. The regional Association formed a strong partnership with the University of

Tennessee that continues to this day. In addition, there were a number of individuals who played a prominent role in the American Angus Association's history.



Andy Starr was elected to the Association's Board of Directors in 1984 and later served as chairman in 1992. Likewise, Stanley Watts was elected to the Board in 1994.

Finally, and perhaps most noteworthy of all, John Crouch from the community of Boones Creek served as the Association's Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer from 2002–2008. In total, John worked for the Association for more than 30 years and left his legacy as the Director of Performance Programs for more than 20 years at the end of the 20th century. John served as the Master of Ceremony that evening in Knoxville as we celebrated the past while looking ahead to the future.

Speaking of the future, the following weekend found my wife, Venetta, and I in east Texas at Lance Fenton's Lazy F Ranch. Lance hosted his inaugural production sale that

first Saturday in September and it was noteworthy in the Association's history as a confirmed pregnancy with genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs) was offered for sale for the first time.

Purchased by High Roller Angus for \$11,500, this technology is in its infancy and will certainly evolve in the years to come. Genotyping embryos allows breeders to identify potentially exceptional animals for some traits much earlier than ever possible previously.

When calves resulting from genotyped embryos are born, they will have to be re-genotyped from the calf's tissue, blood or hair to enter our genetic evaluation. EPDs on resulting calves will be similar to those generated on the embryos, but not exactly the same as we get slightly lower marker read rates on samples from embryos.

While we don't expect embryo genotyping to become routine any time soon, it is just another example of how the Angus business continues to change and evolve. So, while it's honorable to celebrate the past, it's important that we keep advancing into the future.

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