

# NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Lindsay King, assistant editor

*Within this “Newsmakers” column we share important news and accomplishments of our members, including state association activities, birth and marriage announcements, and news of Angus members’ passing.*

## In passing



**William Earl “Billy” Jasper**, 74, Nicholasville, Ky., passed away Aug. 26, 2019.

Born to Woodrow and Marie Jasper on Jan. 18, 1945, Billy leaves behind his eighth-grade crush, Brenda Parks Jasper, with whom he shared 54 years of marriage.

His bright smile and contagious demeanor were on display as he walked the aisles of every cattle show in the state, supported dozens of Investment in Youth Livestock Sales in central Kentucky, and stood ringside beaming with pride watching his grandchildren show cattle.

Being a “Pa” was the job he took most seriously in life. He taught, loved, advised, and most importantly, spoiled them with everything he had.

With a natural talent for picking quality cattle and ability to feed one to perfection, he made a name for himself in the cattle business. His yellow notepads at the kitchen table revealed the intricacies of his thinking. Cattle weights, market prices, ration ratios, and breeding decisions could be seen hastily written around the margins.

Beside these notes would lay his well-worn address book, busting with business cards and scratched notes,

held together by a stretched rubber band and electrical tape down the seam; a physical representation of many friends met along the way.

Billy was known for his ability to meet a stranger and walk away with a friendship. He relished in welcoming new people into the cattle show family. Without hesitation, he would greet them as they set up their stall, and usually come away with a drink and snack from their cooler. You knew you were his friend if you were fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of his practical jokes and quick wit. In his presence, there was no lack of laughter.

His great love was Brenda Jasper. Where you saw one, you almost always saw the other. There was always laughter, sarcasm, and a quick smile shared between the two in times of joy. Their love was steadfast even in the darkest moments. Determination in facing life’s challenges was strengthened by commitment to supporting one another. When his ability to communicate or respond was compromised, he knew when her hand was in his.

Billy Jasper was surely created from the toughest material God had available. He outlived every challenge that statistically should have ended his life, and did so with what appeared to be ease. His love for his family and those he considered

family ran deep in his veins. His life was lived with a stubborn drive to survive and succeed whenever possible. That bright smile, a witty comeback, and big hug will be missed by those who loved him most.

## Angus Arrival



**Adam and Julie Conover**, Holden, Mo., announce the birth of their daughter Lillie Ann on Sept. 4.

She weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Adam serves Missouri and Iowa as a regional manager for the American Angus Association and Julie is a long-time Angus member who now works for the Missouri Angus Association.

## In recognition

### Historic Angus Herd

Lazy JB Angus was established in 1969 in Louisville, Colo., after Richard Biella received his first Angus heifer, “Black Diamond,” as a Christmas gift from his parents, Frank and Elizabeth. She became the foundation of the commercial operation that would eventually become a registered Angus herd.

In the beginning, many of their Angus females were purchased

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from Ken Caryl, Littleton, Colo., and Forest Toyne and Cy Winkler, Sedgwick, Colo. In 1998 the operation relocated to its current location in Montrose, Colo., where it continues to grow in number and quality. Today, their main focus is on the production and sale of superior seedstock cattle.

Lazy JB Angus has been home to Angus cattle for more than 50 years, and for that they were recognized as a Historic Angus Herd by the American Angus Association.

Over the years, Lazy JB Angus has shown many champion animals. The heifer Lazy JB Queen Latifah 925 and bull Lazy JB Top Shelf 9000 made history during the 2010 Northern International Livestock Expo (NAILE) where they captured the grand champion bull and heifer awards. In 2009, Richard received the Colorado Angus Association Breeder of the Year Award, and in 2010, Jeff and Kathi were honored as Herdsmen of the Year at the Western National Angus Futurity.

Lazy JB Angus was also honored with the 2001 and 2015 Colorado Angus Association Promoter of the Year awards.

The farm currently consists of 225 females and is managed by Richard's daughter and son-in-law Kathi and Jeff Creamer, along with their children, Brandon and Britney. Richard and his wife Elaine still live on the ranch.

## Environmental Stewardship Award

The Cundall Ranch in Glendo, Wyo., has been selected as one of seven regional winners of the Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP). The award,

announced during the 2019 Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting on July 30, 2019, recognizes the operation's outstanding stewardship and conservation efforts. This year's regional winners will compete for the national award, which will be announced during the Annual Cattle Industry Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in February 2020.

The Cundall Ranch was originally established in 1917. Some of the ranch, including the original headquarters, was flooded when the Glendo Dam was built in 1957. The current headquarters is now located 14 miles northeast of Glendo on Cottonwood Creek. The ranch also has a significant amount of history associated with it; the Oregon Trail threads its way near the ranch headquarters and includes several marked gravesites along the trail.

"The ranch has been existent in the Cundall family for 102 years. We're the fourth generation," says Larry Cundall. "The ranch is approximately 8,000 deeded acres with 12,000 leased acres."

With a lifetime of experience on the ranch, Cundall has become an expert at monitoring the range to always keep improving. Every decision he makes is to improve the cattle, the grass and the soil.

For instance, to keep their grass in good condition, Cundall and his wife, Ruthie, use rotational grazing, crossfencing and improved water lines. To supplement their grass, the Cundalls use center pivot irrigation to produce hay for winter feeding. Cundall worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to put in 18 different solar pumps and more than nine miles of water lines for easy accessibility to

water for cattle and wildlife.

"Cattle are now grazing areas that they weren't able to access before due to distance to water," says Sydney Burek, USDA-NRCS District conservationist.

Whether installing living snow fences, using genetic selection to reduce the size of his cows to better fit his resources or experimenting with biochar to get more carbon in the soil, Cundall is continually looking for ways to do things better. And he is always willing to share his knowledge with others.

"Larry's a great spokesman. He's talked and given speeches in Washington, D.C. and even in Guam," says Grant Stumbough, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). "All over the western United States he's given presentations on good range management and wildlife habitat management."

The management of Cundall Ranch has resulted in a sustainable family operation. The Cundalls have built a legacy of exceptional care for their cattle and their land.

"I'm proud that our family has been here over a hundred years. I think that's something to be proud of," Cundall says. "We've got more cattle than ever and the grass is looking better than it ever has. I'm also proud of that."

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## Lifetime Achievement Award – North Central Indiana Angus Association



Jerry Cassady was recently honored with the lifetime achievement award from the West Central Indiana Angus Association. Pictured (from left) are Kevin Newman, West Central Indiana Angus Association president, presenting; and Jerry Cassady, American Angus Association, recipient.

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## 2019 Pennsylvania Angus Breeders' Show, July 6, Huntingdon



Lydia Brown, Mill Creek, right, won premier exhibitor. Also pictured is Scott Brown, left.



David Bell and Kaitlin Bell, both of Nottingham, won the Pennsylvania Special Award.



Daniel Rohrbaugh, Seven Valleys, center, won the Golden Pitchfork Award. Presented by Dale Rains, left, and Brenda Rains, right.



Chad Cash, York, right, received the Conrad Grove Memorial Award. Presented by Nancy Livingston, left.



Justin Werner, Hanover, won high individual in the overall cattle judging contest.