

# Vying for a Seat

*Ten members announce candidacies for American Angus Association Board of Directors.*

*Compiled by Shauna Hermel, Angus Beef Bulletin*

Ten members declared their candidacies for the American Angus Association Board of Directors by the deadline for publication in the October *Angus Journal*. Seeking a second three-year term on the board is Philip Howell, Indiana. Seeking a first term are Mark Ahearn, Texas; Kimeric DeLashmutt, Oregon; Joe Epperly, Nebraska; Smitty Lamb, Georgia; Charles Mogck, South Dakota; Carole Silveira, California; Darrell Stevenson, Montana; Jerry Theis, Kansas; and Jim Werner, Iowa.

The delegates listed beginning on page 152 will elect five directors; a president and chairman of the Board; and a vice president and vice chairman of the Board during the Association's 137th Annual Convention of Delegates, which will convene at 10 a.m. Central Monday, Nov. 9, at the Kansas City Convention Center.

Biographical sketches provided by the candidates follow.

## Mark Ahearn, Texas



The board of directors of the Texas Angus Association (TAA) strongly endorses Mark Ahearn of Wills Point,

Texas, for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Mark grew up on a small family farm, where his parents raised

commercial cattle and a few horses. Family trouble and the untimely death of his father meant they lost the farm. Mark's mother moved the family to town, where she raised five children on her own. Mark was active in 4-H and had the vision he would return to agriculture production.

Mark started a career in law enforcement spanning 35 years. He was hired by the Dallas Police Department in the mid-1980s and started as a street cop. He spent the last 15 years of his career as a homicide detective. Mark was recognized by the City of Dallas and the State of Texas for handling some of the most difficult investigations and conducting them with utmost integrity. Retired for four years, he now dedicates his life full-time to managing his cow herd.

Mark met his wife, Cindy, on the job, and they have been married 32 years. They both quickly realized they wanted to get back to a ranching lifestyle. They purchased land in East Texas in the mid-1990s, established Turner Meadow Ranch and started raising Angus cattle. Mark studied pedigrees and learned the business from the ground up. They started purchasing a few cows and used artificial insemination (AI), embryo transfer (ET) and Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) to grow the herd to about 200 females.

Mark has been a long-time TAA member. He was a member of the

East Texas Angus Association and served as its president. Later, he was elected to the Texas Angus Association Board, which he served 16 years. He was elected president in 2013 and again in 2019.

In addition to helping create numerous educational programs and sale events, he was responsible for creating and writing the policy for the Raymond Moore Endowment Scholarship Fund that has grown substantially and benefits children in the Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA). He was also involved in creating a performance-tested bull sale and feed efficiency test for Texas. Mark currently sits on the board of ORlgen Beef Inc., Huntley, Mont.

Mark and Cindy were involved in the TJAA and served as junior advisors. Their daughter, Megan, was raised in the TJAA. She was named Miss Texas Angus and later served on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) as Foundation Director.

While Mark was serving on the Texas board, Cindy was elected to the American Angus Auxiliary to represent Region 2. She served for five years and was moved up to the Executive Committee. She served as president in 2019.

Mark has served as a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for more than 20 years. He has developed long-term relationships with Angus people from all over the country.

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Some of these friendships turned into business partnerships that have enhanced their Angus herd. Mark has produced and purchased bulls that have become nationally recognized AI sires.

When you enter Mark and Cindy's home, you will have no doubt what their priorities are: faith, family and friends. Their home is decorated with symbols of patriotism and their love of the Angus cow.

Mark strongly believes in giving back to the organization that helped him and his family so much. He believes his business experience and sitting on numerous beef industry boards will serve the Association well. If elected, Mark pledges to bring a commonsense approach to solving the problems of the Association. He pledges the utmost integrity and honesty in conducting the business of the Association, and he will hold the interests of the membership in the highest regard.

## Kimeric DeLashmutt, Oregon



With the support and encouragement of numerous members nationwide, Kimeric

DeLashmutt of

Redmond, Ore., has declared his candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Kimeric is a lifetime cattleman of five generations and a second-generation purebred breeder. He was born and raised in Oregon, resided in Kansas while studying at Kansas State University (K-State) and lived in Missouri for several years, all the while raising elite genetics in the cattle business. Kimeric returned to the Northwest to begin his present

Angus business, K Bar D, in the high desert of central Oregon, where he and his wife, Camille, reside today.

Passion and persistence have been the driving forces in Kimeric's lifetime journey in the cattle business. Kimeric's mother, Agnes, continued to play an integral role in their operation until her passing last November. She has been greatly missed at K Bar D.

A family-owned and -operated Simmental program during the late 1970s through the early 1990s, their program established prominence producing dark red homozygous polled genetics, which influenced the breed for years to come. As the beef cattle industry underwent dramatic change, Kimeric made the decision to begin with Angus, the Business Breed, and K Bar D was founded.

K Bar D purchased its first seedstock from Whitestone, Krebs and Quirk Land & Cattle. The operation quickly grew and currently produces bulls, show heifers, embryos and genetic packages at both the commercial and purebred level.

As their tagline "Building Better Beef" proclaims, K Bar D genetics bridge the gap between the ring and the rail with an exceptional phenotype and a balanced data package, driven by cow power and intense sire selection. These genetics have proven fruitful with multiple champions at the Roll of Victory (ROV) level, including champion sale bull at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) and multiple division champions over the years.

K Bar D has been recognized as Oregon Angus Breeder of the Year and is consistently ranked as a top breeder with the Association.

Kimeric has served two terms on the boards of both the Western

States Angus Association and the Oregon Angus Association, for which he served two terms as president. He was instrumental in developing the Western Supreme Angus Sale, now the Cascade Spectacular sale, futurity and jackpot event.

K Bar D hosts its own production sale each fall in late September at their Redmond ranch and online.

Kimeric and his stock can be found throughout the year and country exhibiting cattle in various ROV shows and consignment bull events. He enjoys judging and continually provides support to the Angus Foundation, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the Oregon Junior Angus Association, as well as local 4-H and FFA programs.

Kimeric will bring strong ideas, transparency and an open, logical mind to the table of the American Angus Association Board of Directors. He plans to create greater communication, camaraderie and confidence within the membership. He feels his vast experience as a cattleman, leader and dedicated advocate to the Angus breed will best be served acting on behalf of this Association. It would be an honor for Kimeric to serve the organization.

## Joe Epperly, Nebraska



Joe is a third-generation Angus breeder raised in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The

Epperlys' Angus herd, ADR Cattle Co. LLC, still occupies the same ground. He spent most of his youth exhibiting livestock, helping on the family farm and working at the family's livestock market.

Growing up, he was active in 4-H and FFA, along with state and national Angus organizations. He was president of his 4-H club and FFA chapter and served as vice president of Virginia FFA. Joe spent many years on the board of the Virginia Junior Angus Association, and held the offices of treasurer, vice president and president before joining the NJAB.

He attended Virginia Tech with the intention of becoming a civil engineer. Three years and an internship later, he followed his heart back to animal science, graduating with a bachelor's degree. While at Virginia Tech, Joe worked as a herdsman at the research farm for Bill Beal. He served as a teaching assistant and was on the judging team. Following college, Joe moved north to Murcielago Farms in Scottsville, Va., to work as a herdsman. During this time, he was approached by Bob Hough at the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) and offered their commercial marketing director position. It was a decision that would change the course of his life. Joe moved to their headquarters in Denver, but his position soon evolved into more responsibilities.

Joe quickly worked his way up to assistant executive director. This position afforded him the opportunity to monitor day-to-day performance inquiries and travel to speak on both commercial marketing and performance measures. He gained oversight to member services, association activities and performance programs. Joe also served as interim activities director and advisor to the North American Limousin Junior Association Board.

Among his many accomplishments in this position, Joe was instrumental

in moving Limousin to SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) parentage, launching blended genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs), joining International Genetic Solutions (IGS) multi-breed evaluation, handling DNA in-house, changing registry systems, and moving to single-step evaluation with BOLT.

While at NALF, Joe served on the advisory board for the USDA Project for the Improvement of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle, the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Board of Directors, and the International Limousin Council Executive Board. He spoke to groups in more than 30 states and four foreign countries during his time there.

In fall 2017, Joe accepted the position as director of genetics and sales at Wagonhammer Ranches in Albion, Neb. Wagonhammer is a 100-year-old operation in the Nebraska Sandhills owned by the Wolf family. Joe oversees and implements the genetic selection for the three ranches encompassing 700 head of Angus, 100 head of of Charolais and 1,700 head of commercial cows. He also works with the team at their 5,000-head feedlot, where they feed their own and customer cattle for programs such as *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>).

Joe markets around 250 Wagonhammer Total Performance bulls annually through their production sale in March and through private-treaty sales. The operation uses AI extensively in both its registered and commercial programs. Joe has expanded the ET and *in-vitro* fertilization (IVF) programs, implanting more than 100 embryos annually.

Wagonhammer sells commercial

and registered bred heifers annually through private-treaty sales, along with a select group of show heifer prospects and registered cows. They are involved as a seedstock partner in both Top Dollar Angus and Superior Progressive Genetics working for their commercial customers.

Joe continues to serve on multiple boards, including the Boone County 4-H Council, Nebraska Angus Association (NAA) and BIF. He would be honored to serve the Angus membership and would appreciate your support. NAA members request your support for Joe as their chosen candidate for the American Angus Association Board.

## Philip Howell, Indiana



The Indiana Angus Association (IAA) board endorses the candidacy of Philip A. "Doc" Howell for the

Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Phil, the son of Warren and Marjorie (Wright) Howell, was born in Muncie, Ind., in 1949. He attended Purdue University and graduated with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1973.

After graduation, Phil worked in mixed animal practices in Cedar Grove, Wis., and Silver Lake, Ind. To be nearer family, he purchased a practice in Winchester, Ind., in June 1979. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association; Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, where he completed two terms on the board; American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP); and the Indiana Bovine Interest Group.

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In 1973 he married Judith Diane Siewert. Judy is a registered nurse (retired) and a past president of the Indiana Angus Auxiliary. She has served as the Auxiliary representative to the IAA board. Since retiring, she works in a local food pantry, with Kids Hope and in the veterinary clinic.

Phil and Judy have been blessed with three children, all Purdue graduates. Emily Howell Reynolds is a medical technologist. She lives in Owensboro, Ky., and works as a clinical informatics specialist. She and her husband, David, have two children.

Andy is an ag science teacher. He and daughter, Allie, live near Marengo, Ind. Allie, 13, is an Angus show ring veteran, exhibiting at four National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS). Andy has served as president of the Southern Indiana Angus Association and was on the board of the IAA.

Brian, who served on the NJAB in 2001-2003, is the 4-H and youth extension educator in Tipton County, Ind. Brian has been active in the Indiana Junior Angus Association and has served as an advisor. He and son, Sam, live in Tipton, Ind.

Phil has served as a member and president of the county extension board and council and the Randolph County Beef Producers. He has been a member of the Agricultural Outreach Board of St. Vincent Randolph Hospital and the Randolph County Board of Health. He and Judy are members of Countryside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Winchester, Ind., where Phil has served as an elder for more than 20 years and as a Sunday School teacher for junior high boys.

In 1961, Phil purchased his first Angus heifer from Don Watkins of Beaver Ridge Farm, Middletown,

Ind. Phil has served as president of the Indiana Junior Angus Association (1969), IAA (2005) and the Southeastern Indiana Angus Association (2009). Since 2005, he has served on the IAA board. He has served as chairman of the communications committee as the *Indiana Angus News* has evolved from a half-size black-and-white publication to a full-size, full-color magazine. Email blasts and digital editions of the *News* have evolved during his term.

Since 2005, he has also been a voting delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention of Delegates. In 2006 he was chairman of the NJAS Daily Volunteers Committee, and he served as the veterinary service coordinator when the NJAS returned to Indianapolis in 2014.

Phil and Andy currently own 50 cows, the majority being registered Angus. They have used AI extensively, as well as ET, ultrasound and genomic evaluation. Performance testing has been used since the mid-1960s.

They have hosted several open house/private-treaty sales at the Winchester farm, and they have consigned cattle to several sales, including the Southern Indiana Angus Association, Ohio Showcase, Sherman Angus (Doug Sherman), and the Green Valley (Dennis Garwood) Bull Sale in Nebraska.

During his first term on the American Angus Association Board, Phil served on the board of Angus Productions Inc. (API) for one year and on the board of Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) for two years. He served as chairman of the Data Force Subcommittee. He was vice chairman of the Industry Relations Committee.

If elected to a second term, he

would pursue his original goal, which was the discovery and multiplication of superior Angus genetic material from small or large herds. He would work to increase the value of the Angus registration paper. Working to increase the effects of the American Angus Association within the beef and agriculture industries would be a goal using the long-range plan that has been developed by the current Board. He would encourage the work of the Angus Foundation in funding scholarships and education. He feels the Angus Media mission of telling “the Angus story” to consumers and other agricultural producers should continue to grow using innovation and continued excellence in print, audio and visual applications.

## Smitty Lamb, Georgia



The Georgia Angus Association (GAA) unanimously endorses Smitty Lamb as a candidate for the

Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Smitty was raised on a small row-crop farm in East Georgia and discovered his passion for Angus cattle at an early age. He exhibited cattle and horses during his youth and spent summers and holidays working for Wynder Smith, Smith Angus and Charles Smith, CES Polled Herefords, during high school and as an undergraduate in college.

Smitty attended the University of Georgia (UGA) and earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1990. While an undergraduate, Smitty was a member of the livestock, meats and horse judging teams. He also served as president of the UGA Block



& Bridle Club, chairman of the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo, and was named Outstanding Block & Bridle Senior in 1990.

Smitty completed a master's degree in meats and muscle biology from UGA in 1993. As a graduate student, he served as a teaching assistant and coached the 1991 UGA Meats Team. In 1992, the undergraduate animal science students selected him as outstanding graduate assistant of the year. His graduate research focused on growth and composition using implants in stocker and finishing cattle, as well as enzymatic tenderness research in beef cattle.

Smitty began his career as a county agent working with 4-H youth and livestock programs for the UGA Cooperative Extension Service in Tift County in 1993. In 1996, he was hired by the Georgia Department of Education as an area livestock teacher. His responsibilities included supporting agriculture education teachers and coordinating livestock-related educational events for youth and adults.

In 1998, Smitty accepted a job as an assistant cotton merchant. In addition to raising Angus cattle, he remains in the cotton industry today, merchandising cotton for a large commodity trading company.

Smitty's lifelong dream was to become a registered Angus seedstock producer. In 1997, he, along with his cousin Clint Smith and their families, purchased three Angus females and Ogeechee Angus Farm was born. Ogeechee Angus has utilized extensive ET and AI, resulting in one of the most reliable sources of Angus genetics in the Southeast. Since 2017, Ogeechee Angus has marketed more than 100 registered Angus bulls annually. This past spring, Ogeechee

Angus hosted their 13th annual Angus Female Southern Synergy Sale at the farm in Wadley. Ogeechee will host their inaugural Georgia Open Fall Female sale in October.

Constantly keeping the needs of commercial customers in mind, Ogeechee Angus has adopted a disciplined breeding approach, applying intense selection pressure for multiple traits of economic importance. Its breeding philosophy relies on a balance of reproductive and structural soundness, calving ease, rapid early growth and end-product merit, quantified by the most current genetic information. Smitty believes that the Angus cow's unmatched maternal ability and the breed's superior marbling have added more value to the industry domestically and around the globe than any other breed in the history of beef production.

Smitty has served in various leadership roles as a longtime member of the GAA, including terms as president and vice president, chairman of the Southern National Angus Show committee, and co-committee chair at the 2009 NJAS. The Lambs were awarded the 2017 GAA Member of the Year in recognition for their service to the Georgia Angus Association. Smitty has also served as a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for many years.

Smitty and his wife, SuzAnne, are the very proud parents of two children. Tatum Wilson (Brice) is in the final year of her physical therapy doctoral program. Their son, Beau, will graduate this fall with a degree in civil engineering from UGA.

The Lambs are members of Tifton First United Methodist Church, where Smitty has served in various

leadership roles through the years.

Smitty is honored to be an Angus breeder, and proud that he has raised his family in and around agriculture and fellow beef producers. It is his belief that the American Angus Association, first and foremost, is a member services organization with the overarching challenge to ensure Angus cattle remain the dominant breed in the beef cattle industry.

If elected, he will draw on his passion for Angus cattle; his scientific, educational and research background; real-world production agriculture; and his daily involvement with ag economics and markets to serve the membership of the American Angus Association.

## Charles Mogck, South Dakota



Charles Mogck is a third-generation Angus breeder in South Dakota. His grandfather, Adolph Mogck, was the first

person to have Angus cattle in the area. He joined the American Angus Association in 1945 as Mogck Angus. Charles's dad, Duane, later joined the Angus Association under the membership of Mogck & Sons Angus, which Charles continues.

As a child, Charles was in love with Angus cattle and attended every sale and show he could go to with his dad. With his dad's help, he slowly increased his herd and started to show in 4-H and also in state, regional and national Angus junior shows. They enrolled in the AHIR® program and made sure the herd stayed a performance herd. Bulls were sold privately until 1984, when they had their first production sale.

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In 1982 Charles started college at South Dakota State University (SDSU). He graduated with a double major in animal science and ag business. In college, he was on the livestock judging team, was a member of Block & Bridle and served as beef superintendent of SDSU's Little International.

After college, his first job was as a loan officer for the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). After six months with FmHA, he was offered a job closer to home with First State Bank. He worked at this bank for 11 years, working his way up from a loan officer to assistant vice president (AVP) and branch manager. He loved the bank and the customers he worked with, but as his family grew and the workload on the farm grew, he decided to go back to the thing he loved most — raising Angus cattle.

Charles's family includes his wife of 33 years, LeAndra, and his three children, Christina, Chase and Ty. All three children and his wife are very active on the farm. His children have participated in NJAA activities at both state and national levels. His children have been active in many NJAS's and have been in numerous cook-offs, judging and fitting contests, along with showing heifers and steers and numerous top-10 finishes in national carcass contests.

Currently, Christy, 25, works at a bull stud (Custom Genetic Solutions). Chase, 22, will be a senior at SDSU majoring in ag science. Ty, 19, will be a freshman ag science major at SDSU. All three children plan to keep raising Angus cattle at Mogck & Sons.

Charles has been very active in his community and is currently on the Custom Genetic Solutions board, the Scotland Community Church board and the local township board. He's a past Scotland Hospital Board

member. Charles is active in the Southeast South Dakota Angus Association and the South Dakota Angus Association, serving several years in leadership positions. He was an advisor for the South Dakota Junior Angus Association (SDJAA) for multiple years.

Today, Mogck & Sons Angus breeds 400 registered Angus females and markets 120 bulls and 50 females annually. They farm 2,000 acres of corn, beans and wheat with an additional 2,500 acres of pasture and hay ground. Mogck & Sons buys feeder cattle from their bull customers to feed out at multiple custom feedlots, which allows them to collect data on customer calves. Mogck & Sons' herd actively uses American Angus Association programs, including MaternalPlus® and AHIR. They record ultrasound, carcass and genomic information on all of their cattle.

Charles realizes there are going to be some major challenges in the future. He is ready to take on these challenges for the betterment of the Association and its membership.

### Carole Silveira, California



A member of the American Angus Association since 1974, Carole Silveira has been active in Angus at state, regional and national levels. She has served as a delegate to the National Angus Convention and is rooted in the family's Angus seedstock and farming operations, known as Silveira Bros., based near Firebaugh, Calif.

She plays a key role in planning and assisting with annual bull and female sales hosted each fall at the ranch, and is in charge of the office

at the ranch. She has also helped out with online sales hosted by Silveira Bros. throughout the past decade.

With decades of experience in farming and ranching, Silveira Bros. is no stranger to the ups and downs of the economy and how it can affect the bottom line.

Silveira's volunteer efforts have affected many who have benefited from her hard work and dedication to the breed.

She served on the fundraising committee for the 2010 NJAS, hosted in part by California and convened in Denver, Colo. She is a member of the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA), for which she served two terms as the treasurer and helped organize the 2010 Beef Cattle Improvement Conference hosted in Sacramento, Calif. She served as a director of the California Angus Association, for which she helped with fundraising activities for juniors and the state association.

As a member of the California Cattlemen's Association and California Rangeland Trust, Silveira served on committees helping these non-profit organizations with their annual fundraising events.

For 25 years she was a small business owner in Fresno, Calif. During that time she also worked as a real-estate and travel agent.

She has many ties to the Angus breed and has traveled to all corners of the United States and beyond for shows, sales and events.

Her son Rick Blanchard was chairman of the NJAB, and she enjoyed traveling and showing during his junior years.

Today, she follows her grandson, Garrett Blanchard, and many juniors who have purchased and shown Silveira-bred cattle.

"Our family has merchandised

cattle to quite a few other countries, and understand the importance of each animal that we merchandise,” Silveira says. “I feel the investment for the future to enhance our Angus cattle is such an important part of the existence of our programs that all of us as Angus breeders have worked so hard to further over the years.”

Angus and the good people associated with Angus are her passion, and she enjoys every minute of the Angus business.

“Our family has been through major changes in the breed — some great, some challenging, and a lot of peaks and valleys, but I have always had a map of producing quality cattle that would work in anyone’s herd, and customer service has always been No. 1 with our family,” says Silveira. “We go above and beyond to stand behind the quality and service of cattle that we merchandise to other folks that invest in our program.”

Silveira asks for your support in the upcoming convention as a nominee for the American Angus Association Board of Directors, which, in her words, “is the best member-driven organization in the world.”

## Darrell Stevenson, Montana



The Montana Angus Association proudly supports Darrell Stevenson as a candidate to the American Angus Association

Board of Directors.

Darrell has a strong Angus legacy. His grandparents, Jamie and Jeanette, were charter members of the Montana Angus Association (1951) and Montana Angus Auxiliary (1960). Jeanette was an active leader for both the Montana (president,

1962-1964) and American Angus auxiliaries (president, 1978-1979). She also edited the *Montana Angus News* (1967-1982).

Darrell’s father, Keith, was nominated for and participated in the first National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Lexington, Ky., in 1967. Keith served on the Board of Directors for both the Montana Angus Association (president, 1983-1984) and the American Angus Association (president, 1992-1993). Jeanette, Keith and Darrell’s uncle Wayne were honored with induction into the American Angus Association Heritage Foundation.

Darrell grew up exhibiting Angus cattle. He was actively involved with 4-H, FFA and the Montana Junior Angus Association. His growing Angus herd was selected as Montana’s top 4-H beef project (1987). He served as a state FFA Officer (1988-1989). He attended Montana State University (MSU) and was selected Outstanding Junior Man, elected vice president of Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) and served as Noble Ruler for Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity (1991-1992). He then transferred to and graduated from Oklahoma State University (1994).

After college, Darrell returned to the home ranch in Hobson to pursue his dream of raising Angus cattle. He met his wife, Sara, while exporting heifers to Japan in the late 1980s. She was tail-bleeding, and he was filling the alley. Their first date was a bull sale before marrying in 1995.

Sara served as the Montana Angus Auxiliary president (2011-2018) and has assisted with several Angus Foundation events. They have two children: CJ is a senior in the Honors

College at MSU and has received the Gold Award with NJAA. Claire is attending Cal Poly, competing on their equestrian team, and has achieved Bronze and Silver Awards with NJAA.

In 2019, Darrell and Sara expanded from Hobson onto a new unit in White Sulphur Springs to establish a later-calving herd. Although separated by a mountain range, Darrell continues to breed and market genetics with Stevenson Angus Ranch.

Darrell is a proud founding member of ORlgen, an industry-leading bull collection and marketing center. He has served on that board of directors since 2001. He is currently serving on the Montana Angus Association board of directors.

He was witness to the first Montana Angus Tour in 1974 and assisted with hosting five more tours, as well as a National Angus Tour (1993). He has participated in four World Angus Forums and attended several international Angus events, including Palermo (Argentina), Beef Bull Week (New Zealand), Highland Stock Show (Scotland), Calgary Stampede (Canada), Golden Autumn (Russia) and Ag Expo (Kazakhstan). He was honored to judge the National Western Pen and Carload Show and the Angus Bull Sale Show at the NWSS in Denver.

In 2010, Darrell created a partnership with two Russian businessmen to form an international beef venture between the two countries. Despite the monumental challenge, they succeeded. The project was a pioneering marvel for vertical integration and establishing an Angus beef industry in Russia.

He also introduced bovine IVF and established Russia’s first producing

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lab (2013). In 2017, Darrell had an opportunity to sell his shares in the company. Today, the vision of Stevenson Sputnik continues as the second-largest beef complex in Europe. Due to this live-cattle export experience, Darrell has overseen continuing shipments to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

A genuine Angus advocate and innovative leader, Darrell Stevenson welcomes the opportunity to serve the membership and is grateful for your consideration.

## Jerry Theis, Kansas



Jerry Theis, a devoted second-generation Angus breeder and lifetime member of the American Angus Association

from Leavenworth, Kan., has declared his candidacy for the American Angus Board of Directors.

Jerry's parents, Edmund and Alice, started their registered Angus herd in 1952. The original farm, which is located in the Salt Creek Valley area of Leavenworth County, was purchased in the month of April, thus Edmund chose the name April Valley Farms. It is a diversified family operation consisting of Angus cattle, as well as row crop and swine production. A true family operation, April Valley Farms has been operated by Edmund, Alice and three of their sons, including Jerry.

Cattle are marketed through their annual spring production sale, as well as by private treaty, with the main emphasis to produce high-quality Angus bulls for commercial beef cattlemen. April Valley Farms

was recognized as a Historic Angus Herd in 2019.

While growing up, Jerry was very active in the daily operations of the farm, but always had a special interest in the Angus herd. He was involved with 4-H and youth livestock shows as an exhibitor of Angus cattle and swine. He graduated as a doctor of veterinary medicine from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991. After graduation, he returned home to the local veterinary clinic in order to stay active in the family operation. In addition to a mixed-animal practice, Jerry is involved with the activities of the family operation. He has told many people he considers himself an Angus breeder with a DVM.

Jerry's board candidacy is endorsed by the Kansas Angus Association (KAA). He has been very active in the KAA, serving two terms on the board and serving as president in 2010. He served on the American Angus Association Credentials Committee for 10 years and has been a voting delegate at the annual convention for many years. He attended the American Angus Association Beef Leaders Institute (BLI).

He and his wife, Tonya, are currently in their second term serving as Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) advisors. Together, they have been community leaders of the Happy Hollow 4-H Club for 18 years and actively involved in the Leavenworth County 4-H Events Council for numerous years. Jerry was on the Leavenworth County Extension Council for four years and served as president for three of those years. He currently is actively involved

with the Leavenworth County Livestock Committee and has served on the Leavenworth County Beef Improvement Association Board of Directors. He and his family are members of Saint Joseph Catholic Church.

Jerry and Tonya have four children: Cody, 27; Michael, 27; Megan, 24; and Kelsey, 16. All of them have been involved in the NJAA, the KJAA, FFA and 4-H. They have exhibited cattle at every NJAS since Cody was 9 years old, and have been involved in numerous NJAA contests and NJAA activities, including the LEAD (Leaders Engaged in Angus Development) and the Raising the Bar conferences.

If elected, Jerry will always keep the best interest of the American Angus Association membership a top priority. He will be accessible to the membership, with an open ear and an open mind. He feels membership input is very valuable, regardless of herd size. He is an independent thinker who will take every decision seriously and will work to make informed decisions. He welcomes the opportunity to meet everyone and answer any questions. Jerry greatly appreciates your support and welcomes the opportunity to serve the members of the Association.

## Jim Werner, Iowa



With the urging and unanimous support of the Iowa Angus Association board, Jim Werner has announced his

candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.



Jim was born and raised in Ringgold County, Iowa, the No. 1 cow-calf county (28,000 head of mother cows) in the state. He graduated from high school and started farming with his dad, who fed cattle and managed grass calves.

When Jim was 22, a blind date set the course of his life. On his first visit to his future wife, Ann's, home farm, he saw something that really got his attention. Her father had a herd of 150 of the best registered Angus cows he had ever seen. When his future wife saw Jim's dad's beautiful rolling hills, grass and trees, it was love at first sight.

Today, 44 years later, Jim and Ann have grown her herd of 15 cows to a breeding herd of 800 registered Angus females, half calving in the spring and half in the fall. They market 150 registered Angus bulls by private treaty each year, and have led the state of Iowa in Angus registrations the past four years.

Ann's dad started the herd in 1928, and he began participating in AHIR® in the mid-1960s. Jim began collecting carcass ultrasound data in 1999. The herd has been enrolled in MaternalPlus since 2016 and also utilizes genomics testing.

Werner Family Angus Inc. has been a pioneer in individualized feed efficiency testing for the past 12 years. All yearling bulls and replacement females are tested in large contemporary groups. This data is submitted to the Association.

Since feed costs are the largest expense in the production of cattle, Jim says feed efficiency is of extreme importance to the cattle industry.

Jim has many years of leadership experience. When he was 18 years

old, he helped establish the Ringgold County Cattlemen's Association. He has been president of this organization several times and continues as a board member.

For six years Jim served on the Iowa Cattlemen's Association Board. He was elected to the Iowa Angus Association Board and currently serves as vice president. He has been a delegate to the American Angus Association Convention for the past 10 years. Jim is a past president of the Iowa Southern Angus Association. He served as secretary-treasurer and managed its registered Angus consignment sale in the 1980s.


Examples of awards Jim has received include the Iowa Seedstock Producer of the Year, Iowa Master Farmer, Iowa Environmental Stewardship and the Governor's Award of Valor for lifesaving. Jim has been a speaker on numerous industry educational panels and conferences, discussing management practices unique to his operation.

The Werners frequently host tour groups at the ranch. Visitors have included youth of all ages, college groups, extension tours and groups from foreign countries. They were a stop on the National Angus

Tour in 1997. Junior programs and activities are an important part of the Association. The Werners sponsor and support the juniors at local, state and national levels. Incidentally, Ann showed and won a class at the first NJAS in 1969.

Jim is a current member of the local Walk to Emmaus board. He has hosted and conducted Cowboy Church services over the years and is active as a lay speaker. He enjoys sharing his love for the Lord.

In addition to his leadership roles, he enjoys cooking and serving smoked *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) prime rib for numerous organizations. For 12 years, he cooked around 5,000 pounds of CAB loins each year (he has since retired from this endeavor).

The cattle industry and his passion for the Angus breed have been the focus of Jim's entire life. To give back to the breed that has given him and his family so much, Jim would be honored to serve the membership on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association. 

## Convention highlights



The Association made the difficult decision to reformat this year's Annual Convention to protect the health and safety of its members while conducting the official business of the Association within a streamlined event, Nov. 8-9.

The Candidate Forum will be convened from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 8. State caucuses are scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. The 137th Annual Convention of Delegates will begin at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9. Arrangements are being made for live-streaming of much of the program.

To register or for more information, visit: <http://www.angusconvention.com/>.