

Vying for a Seat

Eight members announce candidacies for American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Compiled by Julie Mais, editor

Eight 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 Jim Brinkley, Milan, Mo. Seeking a first term are Paul Bennett, Red House, Va.; John Dickinson, Sacramento, Calif.; Greg McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan.; Henry Smith, Russell Springs, Ky.; Dru Uden, Franklin, Neb.; Mike Wendel, LaMoure, N.D.; and Loran Wilson, Orleans, Ind.

The delegates listed beginning on page 130 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 138th Annual Convention of Delegates, which will convene at 10 a.m. Central Monday, Nov. 8, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Biographical sketches provided by the candidates follow.

Paul Bennett, Virginia



With the encouragement and support of numerous fellow members, Paul Bennett of Knoll Crest Farm (KCF) in Red House, Va., has

declared his candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Bennett and his wife, Tracy, have been married for 37 years and have

two children, Scott and Sarah. Tracy enjoyed a career in Victim Advocacy in Campbell County, Va., prior to becoming a full-time mother and volunteer. Scott serves as director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, D.C., where he is actively engaged in federal agricultural policy development. Sarah Grigg serves as Finished Goods Order Distribution Coordinator for Moore and Giles, a specialty leather products company and son-in-law, Matt Grigg, is a portfolio manager with Poe and Cronk Real Estate Group.

Knoll Crest Farm, Inc. is now a fourth-generation seedstock operation, with Bennett's grandfather, Paul D. Bennett, establishing a registered Hereford cow herd in 1944. Father, James Bennett, became full-time manager at age 17 and is credited with numerous innovations in beef cattle genetic evaluation. He served as president of both the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) and American Polled Hereford Association. Today, Knoll Crest is operated by the team of brothers Jim, Brian and Paul, along with Paul's nephew, Dalton.

A lifetime cattleman, Bennett was active in his high school FFA and was first-runner-up in the National Prepared Public Speaking contest with his speech, "Beef, An

Unsure Situation." Graduating from Virginia Tech (VT) with a degree in animal science, he was active in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and was a member of Gary Minish's last livestock judging team at VT.

He has served as a board member of the Virginia Angus Association, president of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, president of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association, board member of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, board member and Secretary of Southside Electric Cooperative, and president of the BIF.

He received the BIF Continuing Service Award and was a 2020 recipient of BIF's Pioneer Award. Bennett has officiated numerous livestock judging contests, including the National Collegiate, FFA and 4-H contests. He has served as a judge of the Angus and Hereford Pen and Carload shows at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS).

The Bennett family of KCF was honored to donate the 2020 Angus Foundation heifer. KCF Miss Y75 G730 sold to 44 Farms for \$65,000. Continued support of Angus youth programs will be a top priority of the Bennett family.

The Knoll Crest cow herd produced 39 Pathfinder® dams in 2021, the most of any herd east of the Mississippi River. The focal point of the KCF breeding program

is to generate 400 high-quality, balanced bulls annually to supply the commercial beef industry. Customer service is a pinnacle priority, and much time is spent dealing with customer success opportunities and issues. The Knoll Crest brand has placed more than 100 sires in major artificial insemination (AI) studs.

If elected, Bennett will be honored to share his enthusiasm, experience and understanding of the Angus breed and industry. He pledges to be highly engaged, a forward thinker, transparent and unbiased as a board member who carefully considers the needs of all American Angus Association members.

Jim Brinkley, Missouri



Jim Brinkley, Milan, Mo., has been honored to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors for the past three years. During

this time, he has served on the Finance & Planning, Commercial Programs, Communications & PR, and Member & Affiliate Services committees. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Commercial Programs committee. He has also served on the boards of the Angus Foundation, Angus Genetics, Inc. (AGI), and as the Association's representative on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) live cattle marketing policy committee.

The Missouri Angus Association unanimously supports and endorses Brinkley for his second term for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Brinkley 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, Brinkley married Hugh's daughter, Sherry, making Milan their lifelong family home.

Brinkley grew up working at his father's Ford/Case/New Holland machinery dealership in Milan. Shortly after their daughter, Crystal, was born in 1984, Brinkley and his wife purchased 50 head of commercial cows, which quickly grew to more than 200 head. That same year, they 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 multigeneration family farming operation.

In 1989, Brinkley 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, Brinkley 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, his time has been focused on marketing feeder

cattle for those who purchase bulls from his 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, Brinkley became a member of the American Angus Association March 29, 1995.

During their transitional year of 1995, the family 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, Brinkley 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, the family was 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 Brinkley. Since that time, he has steadily enhanced the genetics of his registered Angus herd through AI and the use of both conventional embryo transfer (ET) and *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) work.

Brinkley and Sherry hosted their first Angus bull sale 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

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treaty. The annual BAR bull sale has become one of the top events of the spring sale season in Missouri.

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

In the fall of 2013, Brinkley 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.

Brinkley 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 Brinkley to provide them with the genetics needed 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. Brinkley has three grandchildren 9 years of age and younger.

In addition to serving as past president of the Missouri Angus Association, Brinkley serves on First Missouri Bank Board of Directors and the University of Missouri Thompson Farms advisory board and is a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Milan, Mo.

Jim is honored to serve the diverse

membership of the Association and would be humbled to be re-elected to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

John Dickinson, California



The California Angus Association (CAA) and Western States Angus Association (WSAA) unanimously endorse John

Dickinson,

Sacramento, Calif., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Dickinson and his brother are fifth-generation Angus breeders where he grew up in Congerville, Ill. His great-great-grandfather, Senator Simon E. Lantz, first brought registered Angus cattle to their farm in the Mackinaw Dells in 1896. Senator Lantz served as President of the American Angus Association in 1941, and Angus cattle continue to run in those same pastures today.

Dickinson grew up involved in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), attending his first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in 1991. Like many others, the NJAS became their family vacation, and Dickinson took advantage of all the programs including team sales, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, and the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, where he represented the state of Illinois. He earned the Bessler Memorial Trophy for outstanding junior member of the Illinois Junior Angus Association.

In 1995, Dickinson was elected to the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) and served as chairman the following year. He enjoyed his time on the NJAB, and his group

was responsible for establishing the first "state-held" Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences that have eventually developed into the current Raising the Bar program.

Dickinson attended the University of Illinois and graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science. On campus he was involved in many activities including serving as a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Hoof-N-Horn Club, College of Agriculture Student Senate, and the livestock judging team. He also worked with the Angus and Simmental seedstock herds at the university beef farms.

Upon graduation, Dickinson was hired by Richard Spader to serve as a regional manager for the American Angus Association covering the states of California, Nevada and Arizona. At 21 years old, he was the youngest regional manager to ever be hired by the Association.

Dickinson traveled for the Association for 10 years and enjoyed working with registered and commercial producers to promote the breed and expand its influence in the Western United States.

During his tenure, Dickinson coordinated the 2002 National Angus Conference and Tour in California and hosted one of the first Angus Boot Camp seminars at Cal Poly State University in 2006. He performed some of the first age-and-source audits for the AngusSource® program at its process verified program (PVP) inception in 2005, and worked closely with Western Video Market and Superior Livestock Auction to track AngusSource calf prices for marketing and publicity, a strategy still used today. He also served as sale manager for the

National Western Angus Bull Sale in Denver, Colo.

In the spring of 2007, Dickinson left the Association and formed Parnell Dickinson, Inc. (PDI) with his two partners. PDI is a full-service marketing firm that works in all facets of promotion, management, and cattle trade; both seedstock and commercial. Dickinson works 85 auctions annually throughout the United States with a strong concentration in the West. The company also offers specialized consulting services, where he works closely with three to four seedstock firms representing more than 900 registered Angus females.

Dickinson handles a broad cross section of marketing and management responsibilities including advertising, selection, data evaluation and mating decisions. In addition, PDI calves out 50-60 registered and commercial cows of their own per year.

Dickinson is a life member of the American Angus Association. He served two terms as president of the CAA and has represented California as a voting delegate at the Annual Meeting every year of his eligibility.

In 2007 Dickinson was the youngest recipient of the CAA Hall of Fame Award. In 2009 he was selected to the inaugural class of the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) program, and in 2018 he was selected by the Angus Foundation to represent the breed at the NCBA Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC).

On a local level, Dickinson has been an active member of the CAA and participated in the first California Beef Cattle Improvement Association's (CBCIA) "Your Beef's at Steak" program.

Dickinson has spent his entire life

working with Angus cattle. The first registered heifer calf given to him at 9 years old created a passion that not only turned into a profession, but a livelihood. He is a direct product of the NJAA and understands the importance of supporting that program to the fullest and developing our next generation of Angus breeders. Dickinson and his wife, Katie, welcomed their son, Silas, to the world this past July and already have him signed up with an NJAA membership.

Dickinson feels the diversity in the Angus breed is one of its strongest attributes. From growing up in the Midwest to his last 23 years on the West Coast to his sale season travel through the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains, he understands different environments and markets require different Angus cattle. It's not a one-size-fits-all system, and the beauty of Angus genetics is how well the breed fits across those unique landscapes.

With his background and experience, Dickinson has a keen knowledge of Association programs and services and has been involved firsthand with their development and evolution. Above all of this, he realizes the Association is a member-driven, service-based organization. He looks to receive any and all member input and greatly appreciates your consideration for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Greg McCurry, Kansas



The Kansas Angus Association unanimously endorses Greg McCurry as a candidate for the

American Angus Association Board of Directors.

McCurry was born in Anchorage, Alaska, where his father, Cecil McCurry, was stationed in the Army. He was raised in south central Kansas, where he grew up working for the family cattle operation as a third-generation Angus breeder.

His grandfather, Walter McCurry, purchased his first Angus cattle in 1928 from brother-in-law, Johnson Workman. Workman's Angus herd started in 1913 with cattle from George Grant who imported the first Angus Cattle to Victoria, Kan.

McCurry and his wife, Pamela, moved to the original McCurry homeplace in Kansas, where they have lived for 44 years. They work alongside Brad, Geoff and Barry McCurry as partners in McCurry Bros. Angus.

The operation is a diversified ranching and farming outfit near Sedgwick, Kan. They manage 500 Angus cows in addition to farming corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and cotton. McCurry Bros. markets 150 Angus bulls private treaty each year, and sells many females as well.

The ranch has hosted many sales, shows and events over the years because of their passion and dedication to the Angus breed. The 2012 National Angus Tour and Conference kicked off at their ranch, and the McCurrys were also the host family for the NJAS in Wichita, Kan., in 1993. Most recently the ranch was selected in 2019 as part of the 40-year anniversary of the CAB Brand the Barn campaign.

McCurry and Pam have two children, Jesse and Gina, and have been blessed with eight grandchildren. Jesse and Gina both graduated from Kansas State

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University and were involved in 4-H, FFA, the Kansas Junior Angus Association and the NJAA. As youth exhibitors, Jesse won the American Royal heifer show and Gina won a division at the NWSS.

As fourth-generation Angus families, both Jesse and Gina and their spouses are raising Angus cattle and teaching their children about the breed. The family's fifth generation has now entered the Angus show scene with Jackson and Anna McCurry both competing in Grand Island, Neb., in the 2021 NJAS as well as many local and state Angus shows.

McCurry has served on many committees and boards including the Kansas Angus Association as past president, Kansas FSA Board of Directors as both a member and chairman, and Reins of Hope Riding Academy as chairman.

McCurry's wife, parents and two brothers have been involved in the family's dedication to the Angus breed as well. His parents, Cecil and Sandra, were inducted into the American Angus Association Heritage Foundation in 2015. Cecil served two terms on the Association Board of Directors, and Sandra was named Distinguished Woman of the Angus Auxiliary. Brad McCurry was selected as Herdsman of the Year in 2002 at the NWSS. All this is possible because Geoff keeps things running on the farm and ranch. Pam McCurry is the past president of the Kansas Angus Auxiliary and was Ways and Means Chairperson for many years.

McCurry and his wife were involved as community leaders for the Mt. Hope 4-H club and advisors for the Haven FFA.

With the support of his wife, McCurry has been asked to judge cattle in more than 40 states which

has enabled them the opportunity to make lifelong friends with cattle breeders around the country.

Most recently he judged the owned heifers at the 2021 NJAS in Grand Island, Neb.

He has always remained focused on evaluating cow herds and calf crops to make breeding decisions on structure, phenotype and genomic information. As a passionate Angus cattle breeder, McCurry appreciates the maternal ability of the Angus cow and the breed's ability to increase marbling. These pillars, along with the tools the Association can provide breeders, will continuously increase value in our products.

McCurry is extremely proud to be an Angus breeder and to be part of the greatest breed association in the world. He will keep the best interests of the membership at the top of the priority list, and would be honored to serve the organization that has given his family so much.

Henry "Bryan" Smith, Kentucky



The Kentucky Angus Association (KAA) unanimously endorses Henry Smith of Russell Springs, Ky., as a candidate for the

American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Smith is a fourth-generation Angus breeder who grew up on a diversified family farming operation located in south central Kentucky. The farming operation consisted of a registered Angus herd, burley tobacco, corn, soybeans, and wheat for feed and cash market.

Smith was active in 4-H, FFA, the Kentucky Junior Angus Association

and the NJAA, exhibiting Angus cattle. He was vice president of his local FFA Chapter and represented the state of Kentucky in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, in which he placed second. He graduated from Russell County High School and furthered his education in agriculture and animal science at Western Kentucky University.

Smith purchased his own farmland at the age of 18 and began growing his own Angus herd. For 27 years he has successfully operated Smithland Angus Farm with his late father, Charles "Bud" Smith. Together they recently hosted their 25th annual bull and female sale, offering both registered and commercial breeders an opportunity to enhance their Angus genetics.

Smith currently owns and manages 210 registered Angus cows and a small commercial herd for recipis. He has improved their Angus herd through the use of Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and the utilization of AI, ET, ultrasound and genomic information.

Smith has taken a leadership role in several local, regional and state organizations. He has served on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) board, on the County Agricultural Improvement Program (CAIP) board, and as a past president of Russell County Cattlemen's Association for several years.

Smith has served as past president of the KAA and is currently serving on the board as vice president. He is a current board member and past president of Central Kentucky Angus Association, and he served on the NJAA Executive Committee in 2019. Smith was selected by the Angus Foundation to be the 2019 YCC recipient. He remains an active

member of the NCBA. Since 1996, Henry has been selected as a voting delegate at the American Angus Association Annual Meeting.

Smith has been recognized by the KAA as Performance Breeder and Herdsman of the Year. He serves on the board of directors for Kentucky Farm Bureau, First Bancorp, Inc. and First National Bank of Russell Springs, Ky. With his involvement in small and large organizations, Henry understands the struggles of the small and large farm operations along with the budgeting and financial constraints.

In 1997 Henry married his wife, Melissa. They are the proud parents of two children, Bryanna and Blane. He and his family are active in showing their Angus cattle on a local, state and national level with emphasis placed on leadership opportunities like LEAD, agricultural development and serving.

He spends countless hours making an impression, teaching values of the family farm, hard work and dedication to instill the love and passion of agriculture and the Angus breed into his children. Although Smith has a strong love for the Angus breed, the main priority for his family is God.

“If you keep God first, then everything else will follow,” he says.

Smith believes in the power of the Angus cow to continue to be the foundation of the beef industry for both the producer and consumer worldwide. Committed to the advancement of this great breed, he strongly believes in giving back to the organization that has been so important to him and his family for five generations.

Smith has spent his entire life, hands-on, raising and promoting Angus cattle along with serving

agricultural organizations. Smith is patient, willing to listen and has a common sense approach in his thinking. He will always keep the membership’s (large and small) best interest in mind, all while striving to be very informed before making decisions. He says it would be a great honor to serve the Angus membership on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, and humbly asks for your support.

Dru Uden, Nebraska



Dru Uden is a third-generation cattle breeder from Franklin, Neb. He was raised on TC Ranch, which is

nestled in the verdant Republican River Valley of south-central Nebraska.

TC Ranch was started in the 1940s by his grandfather, with 20 head of registered Angus, focusing on continuous improvement in genetics. Since taking the helm of the ranch after the passing of his father, Vance, Uden has been striving to produce top-quality purebred Angus cattle for his customers.

Uden grew up showing in 4-H, FFA and the NJAA. He and his family traveled widely with show heifers, and he showed at numerous state fairs throughout his childhood.

Uden attended college at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., where he was active in livestock judging and rodeo team. Uden did an internship at Beartooth Ranches in the mountains of Montana and gained a wealth of knowledge on not only herd management, but the rigors of ranching from a business perspective. During his time in Montana, Uden served on the NJAB from 1996-1998

and was elected vice president while serving his second term in 1998.

From 2009-2013, Uden was on the Nebraska Angus Association board of directors and was president in 2014. He served on the board of directors of the Franklin Country Club from 2000-2008 and the board of the Franklin State Bank from 2010-2019. Along with being a dedicated family man, he is a lifetime member of the American Angus Association and was Nebraska Producer of the Year.

He and his family live and work on the ranch and are active in the community and school system, supporting hometown sports teams and organizations. His wife, Rochelle, is an active member of the ranch and guides the younger children, Waylon, Ruby and Harrison, as they grow up with a love of ranching and horsemanship. Hannah and Tavin have grown up in NJAA and are involved in the day-to-day operations of the ranch.

Uden stays current with the latest technology while simultaneously keeping his focus on tried-and-true methods that consistently work for herd improvement. He has judged many shows including the national show hosted in Mexico, North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE), NWSS and National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, along with numerous state and county fairs.

Focusing on performance and growth traits along with keeping quality replacement heifers, Uden has built a versatile program around ET. His love for the breed includes all facets of the industry from producing outstanding bull crops and marketing registered females to showing cattle. TC Ranch hosted their 47th annual bull sale in February.

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Uden enjoys traveling the country delivering bulls and visiting ranches, so he can listen to what cattlemen want from breeders and apply that to his program to give back to the breed that has made his life so fulfilling.

In 2012 Uden had the opportunity to send genetics outside the country to be a small part in the genetic base of the rapidly growing Angus herds of Russia. The exporting of more than 200 head of heifers and 70 bulls was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. TC Ranch was honored to be a part of it.

If elected to the board, Uden will bring years of experience from serving on numerous boards with the level-headedness needed to think through any situation, and come to the best conclusion to advance the American Angus Association and help maintain its position at the forefront of the beef industry.

Mike Wendel, North Dakota



The North Dakota Angus Association board of directors unanimously endorses Mike Wendel of LaMoure, N.D., for the

American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Wendel is a third-generation beef producer. He grew up on the family farm raising cattle and crops. Wendel had the privilege of working with his retired grandfather on the farm for more than 20 years. He was introduced to Angus cattle in 1982 by his neighbor Walt Haberman of Atomic Angus.

Wendel grew up with 11 siblings who were all active in 4-H or FFA. He showed cattle on a county, state and national level. He represented his

home state of North Dakota at the national level for showmanship.

Wendel was part of the livestock judging team that often consisted of numerous family members and was coached by his father, Dennis. This team competed nationally.

After high school, Wendel worked on the Cloverdale Farms cattle ranch in northern Virginia for two years before returning home to pursue a middle school teaching degree in math and science. Missing the open prairies and agriculture, he returned home to the family farm to continue a long family tradition.

Wendel farmed and ranched for a few years with his father before Dennis purchased a local feed plant. This left Wendel with full-time responsibilities of their corn, soybean, wheat, alfalfa, livestock, and custom seeding and harvesting operations. While custom seeding in Oakes, N.D., Mike met his wife, Shari, who farmed with her family.

After marrying in 2002, the couple formed Wendel Livestock. The partnership joined Shari's farm in Oakes and Wendel's farm in LaMoure, where their family currently resides. The couple mainly raised commercial cows along with registered cows.

After combining operations, they expanded their registered herd by purchasing more registered cows, and implanting embryos in most of their commercial cows. They also continue a legacy of finishing cattle. One of the many tools they use in decision-making is expected progeny differences (EPDs) to evaluate carcass merit, because they purchase a lot of their customers' cattle back.

Wendel's two boys, David and Derek, as well as his and Shari's three children, Reed, Rose and

Ryder, have all been active in 4-H or FFA showing livestock. Reed, Rose and Ryder have had the pleasure of successfully judging together on the same livestock judging team. Reed is pursuing an animal science degree at North Dakota State University (NDSU) this fall. In addition to being active in 4-H and FFA, the kids are also active in the North Dakota Junior Angus Association (NDJAA).

Wendel Livestock has grown to a 250-head registered herd and has hosted annual production sales since 2004. In 2011, Dennis sold his feed plant business to Wendel and his brother, Shane. Under their leadership, the feed plant is still thriving today.

Wendel has served on the North Dakota Angus Association board for 11 years, serving as president from 2016 to 2017. While he was on the board, the association started a feed-out program with NDSU Carrington Research Center. Wendel has served as chairman since its inception 10 years ago. Shari is currently an advisor to the NDJAA.

Wendel serves on the Grand Rapids church council and Pearl Lake township board. He helped form the LaMoure FFA alumni chapter, where he serves on the land committee.

Through 10 years of service as a national delegate and extensive involvement in the breed, Wendel has developed relationships with Angus producers all over the country. He has enjoyed his time and friendships formed with people throughout his career in the Angus business. If elected, he will bring his calm, commonsense approach to the Board of Directors. Wendel will value the voice of the Association's membership, and represent them with his full attention and respect.

Loran Wilson, Indiana



The Indiana Angus Association (IAA) unanimously endorses Loran B. Wilson for the American Angus Association Board of

Directors.

Raising Angus cattle nearly all his life, Wilson is a lifelong resident of Orleans in south-central Indiana, a prime area for beef cattle production. The Wilson farm consists of 820 acres, with approximately 420 acres of row crops and the balance in hay and pasture.

Wilson's father began with a dairy operation, but health issues dictated a shift to beef cattle. He focused on the commercial market and repeatedly saw how Angus were outselling his Hereford cattle. Wilson was 4 years old when his dad sold the Herefords and purchased a herd of Angus cattle in 1958.

He grew up actively involved in the operation, as well as in 4-H and FFA. Following graduation from the Purdue Winter Course in 1973, having majored in animal science, he became a full-time partner in the business and became the sole owner and operator upon his father's death in 1997.

Wilson married his wife, Kathy, in 1980 and they have three daughters, Kristi, Kara and Katelyn. The girls were active members in both the Indiana Junior Angus Association (IJAA) and NJAA, enjoying both the leadership contests and the show ring. Two are now active in the beef industry with Katelyn joining the family operation.

Regularly producing top-quality carcass cattle is the priority at Wilson Angus. The current operation

consists of cow-calf pairs and a 300-head capacity finishing feedlot, where Wilson feeds his own cattle and does some custom feeding for others. Consistently producing carcasses that grade high-Choice and Prime is always the goal.


Wilson enjoyed a 13-year relationship with Dawson Baker Packing, a *Certified Angus Beef* (CAB) packer in Louisville, Ky., that provided carcass data and the premiums associated with certified cattle. When the nearby plant closed, the emphasis shifted to more freezer beef. Though more labor intensive, the freezer beef business allows for personal interaction with consumers, who appreciate a product that surpasses their highest expectations. The primary focus has always been producing quality cattle that are functional on the hoof and hang a superior carcass.

To give back to the industry, the Wilson family has hosted beef-related events and forums on their farm for the local chamber of commerce and state politicians. Wilson has been a leader in the county cattlemen's association, county 4-H beef committee, Soil and Water Conservation District and his church. He enjoys helping coach area livestock judging teams and working with youth in the show ring everywhere he judges.

He is a past president of the Southern Indiana Angus Association and serves as the chairman of its consignment sale committee. The Wilsons have been adult advisors to the IJAA and were the adult co-chairs of the 2014 NJAS.

Loran is a past president of the IAA and currently serves as a director; is a past president of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA); and has traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the beef industry at the NCBA Legislative Conference.

He has received the Outstanding Cattleman award from IBCA and works in many capacities at their annual Hoosier Beef Congress. Having attended Professional Ringmen's Institute, Wilson enjoys working cattle sales, but having potential buyers trust his judgment to influence their purchasing decisions means the most.

Wilson believes when challenges arise, clear and level-headed thinking is required to consider potential outcomes and side effects. Issues should be addressed with an open mind and a calm demeanor without rushing to judgement. A lifelong Angus breeder, Wilson pledges to serve the American Angus Association membership with respect and integrity. 

Convention highlights



The Candidate Forum will be convened at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6. State caucuses are scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. The 138th Annual Convention of Delegates will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8.

Arrangements are being made for live-streaming of much of the program.

To register or for more information, visit: www.angusconvention.com.



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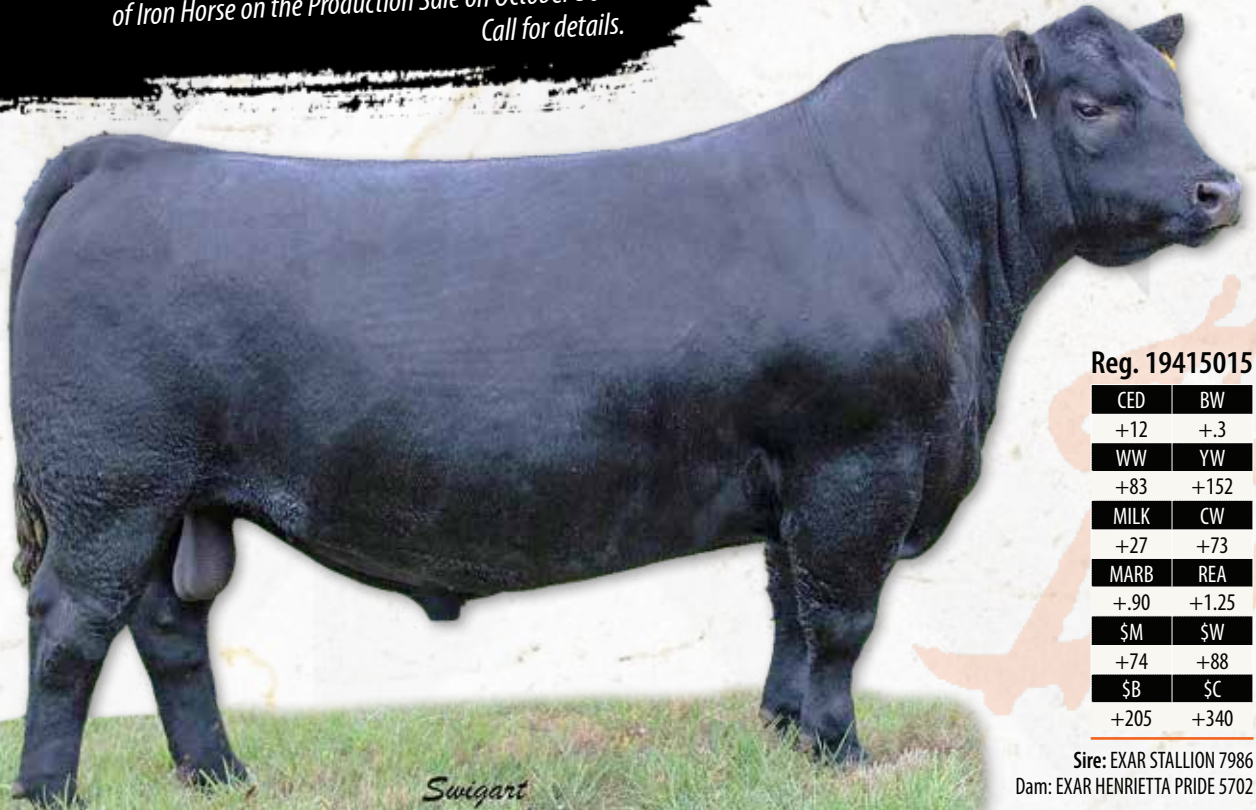
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Dam: EXAR HENRIETTA PRIDE 5702

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