

Five Seek Board Positions

Members announce candidacies for American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Compiled by Julie Mais, editor

Five 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 term are Mark Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas; Smitty Lamb, Wadley, Ga.; Charles Mogck, Olivet, S.D.; Darrell Stevenson, Hobson, Mont.; and Jerry Theis, Leavenworth, Kan.

The delegates listed beginning on page 170 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 140th Annual Convention of Delegates, which will convene at 8 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) Monday, Nov. 6, in Orlando, Fla.

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 reelection to 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 seven 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 35 years. They have two children, a son, Brad, and daughter, Megan. They also have three granddaughters.

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 Texas

Angus Association (TAA) member. He was a member of the East Texas Angus Association and served as its president. Later, he was elected to the TAA 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. Additionally, Mark sits on the board of directors at Origen Beef, Huntley, Mont.

Mark has served as a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention for more than 25 years. He has developed long-term relationships with Angus people from all over the country. 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 says it has been an extreme

honor and a privilege to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors these last three years. He has served on several committees and entity boards including Certified Angus Beef, Angus Foundation, Member and Affiliate Services, Finance and Planning, Communications and Public Relations, Activities Committee and the NCBA Committee. Mark has strong desire to continue to serve the membership and give back to the organization that helped him and his family so much.

If reelected, Mark pledges to continue 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.

Smitty Lamb, Georgia



Smitty Lamb, current member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors, earnestly

announces his candidacy to seek a second term on the Board.

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's career has been anchored in agriculture, starting with the UGA Cooperative Extension Service as a county Extension agent; working with the Georgia Department of Education as an area livestock teacher; and currently as a cotton merchant, 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 16th-annual Angus Female Southern Synergy Sale at the farm in Wadley.

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 says he is honored to have served a term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, and values all of the friendships made and interactions with many members of the Association from across the country. During his first term, Smitty served on the following committees: Breed Improvement, Commercial Programs, Events and Education, Finance and Planning, Research Priorities, and the Executive Committee. Positions of committee leadership include terms as vice chair of Events and Education and chairman of Breed Improvement. Smitty also served two terms on the Board of Angus Productions Inc. (API). He is currently a member of the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Board of Directors and is chairman of the Board of Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI).

Smitty and his wife, SuzAnne, are blessed with a growing family. The Lamb family includes Tatum, Brice, Braxton and Enon Wilson; and Beau, Madi and Iley Grace Lamb. 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 blessed to have raised his family in and around agriculture and fellow cattle 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.

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If reelected, Smitty 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 and 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 and his family continue today.

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.

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 36 years, LeAndra, and his children, Christina (Logan), Chase and Ty. His children have participated in NJAA activities at both state and national levels. His children have been active in many National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS) and have been in numerous Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef Cook-offs, judging and fitting contests, along with showing heifers and steers and numerous top-10 finishes in the national carcass contests.

Christy graduated from SDSU with a major in animal science and is currently employed at Custom Genetic Solutions. She and her husband, Logan, welcomed their first child in August. Logan works full-time at the ranch.

Chase also graduated from SDSU with an ag science degree, and Ty is a senior majoring in ag science at SDSU. Chase also works full-time at Mogck & Sons, and Ty's plans are to come back to the ranch full-time after graduation.

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 130 bulls and 50 females annually. They farm 2,500 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 customers' calves.

Mogck & Sons' herd actively uses American Angus Association programs, including MaternalPlus® and AHIR. They record ultrasound, carcass and genomic information along with weights and measurements to keep their herd a top performance herd.

Charles thanks the American Angus Association members for allowing him to serve on the Board the last three years. He has gained a better understanding about our Association and the diverse needs of our membership. He says he was blessed being the board chaplain the past two years, and being chairman of the Beef Improvement Committee, along with being on the AGI Board, CAB Board and Commercial Programs Committee. With the past three years of experience, he believes he will be able to serve the membership better.

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.

Darrell Stevenson, Montana



The Montana Angus Association unanimously supports Darrell Stevenson as a candidate for

reelection to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

In his first term, Darrell says he was honored to serve on both the AGI and API Boards. In addition, he served on Breed Improvement and Commercial Programs Committees as well as chairman for the Communications and PR Committee. He also recently attended the World Angus Secretariat. He is currently serving on the Montana 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, 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 graduated from the Honors Program at MSU and is now serving with Special Operation Forces in the US Army. Claire recently graduated from Cal Poly and is now continuing in the Graduate Animal Science Program at the University of Georgia. Both kids achieved the Gold Award with NJAA.

Darrell is a proud founding member of Origen, an industry-leading bull collection and marketing center. He has served on that board of directors since 2001.

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 *in vitro*

fertilization (IVF) and established Russia's first producing lab (2013). In 2017 Darrell had an opportunity to divest in that 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 shipments to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In addition, Darrell has participated in four World Angus Forums and attended additional Angus events in New Zealand, Argentina and Canada.

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

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., is seeking a second term on 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,

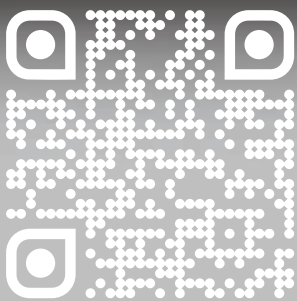
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as well as row crop and swine production. Cattle are marketed through their annual spring production sale as well as by private treaty, with the main emphasis to produce high-quality Angus bulls for commercial beef cattlemen. April Valley Farms was recognized as a historic Angus herd in 2019.

While growing up, Jerry was 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 with a doctorate 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, he is involved every day 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 unanimously endorsed by the Kansas Angus Association. He has been active in the Kansas Angus Association, 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.

He and his wife, Tonya, just completed their second term serving as Kansas Junior Angus Association advisors. Tonya is the current treasurer for the American Angus Auxiliary. 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 served on the Leavenworth County Extension Council for four years and as president for three of those years. He 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 the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

In his first term, he has served as chairman of the Events and Education Committee, vice chairman of the Member Services Committee, a member of the Communications Committee and on the AGI and API boards.

Jerry and Tonya have four children: Cody, Michael, Megan and Kelsey. All of them have been involved in the NJAA, the Kansas Junior Angus Association, 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 LEAD and Raising the Bar. Kelsey is the current Miss American Angus.

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 continue to serve the members of the American Angus Association. **AJ**