

Angus Heritage Foundation Recognizes Individuals for Significant Contributions

by *Shelia Stannard*

The American Angus Association Board of Directors has selected six Angus enthusiasts and leaders, who have all made significant contributions to the Angus breed, for induction into the Angus Heritage Foundation. The Heritage Foundation identifies and honors those people who have dedicated their time and efforts to the improvement and advancement of the Angus breed.

A special recognition of the inductees will be during the American Angus Association's Annual Banquet, Nov. 12, in Louisville, Ky.

The 2001 inductees include Conrad Grove, Downingtown, Pa.; Ben Houston, Platteville, Colo.; William "Bill" Roche, Galt, Calif.; and Wayne "Doc" Smith, Winigan, Mo. Richard L. Spader, formerly of Rosendale, Mo., and Wayland Crouch, formerly of Johnson City, Tenn., will be inducted posthumously.

Each inductee or his family will receive a framed Angus Heritage Foundation certificate, and his name will be engraved on a permanent Heritage Foundation plaque in the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo. Photos and brief biographies will be included in the 2001 edition of the *Angus Heritage Foundation* booklet that lists inductees from the Heritage Foundation's beginning in 1983.

Short biographies of the inductees follow.

Conrad Grove has been breeding registered Angus cattle for more than 55 years in Pennsylvania and Virginia. He bought his first Angus cattle in 1946. From 1959 to 1987, when the herd was dispersed, Conrad managed the Devereux Soleil operation, which consisted of 300 purebred cows, a 450-head feedlot, a federally inspected harvesting facility and a bull testing system that tested 60 bulls each year.

Conrad served six years on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, and was president of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and the Pennsylvania Angus Association. In 1973 he was honored as the Pennsylvania Cattleman of the Year.

He judged and exhibited cattle at many of the eastern shows and served three terms as chairman of the Eastern National Livestock Exposition. He also held several leadership roles in his local community.

Ben Houston established Aristocrat Angus at Longmont, Colo., in 1965. Three years later, at the International Livestock Exposition, he exhibited Nobleman, who was grand champion bull and set a size trend for Angus bulls. As part of his operation, he established a 2,500-head test feedlot, and successfully exhibited cattle in the National Western Pen Carcass Show and the Great Western Beef Expo.

Ben is past president and a lifetime member of the Colorado Cattle Feeders. He serves as chairman of the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), having served for 25 years as its president or a member of the executive committee.

Bill Roche, Galt, Calif., dedicated 32 years of service to the American Angus Association, serving as the West Coast field representative, from 1954 to 1986. During his tenure with the Association, he was instrumental in organizing the Western States Angus Association. He also traveled internationally to represent the Association and the Angus breed.

Bill graduated from Iowa State University in 1941 and started his Angus herd in Iowa before moving west. He maintained his herd until his retirement in 1999. His wife, Joyce, and their children also were involved with the Angus herd. Today he leases his land, but Angus cattle still graze his pastures.

Wayne "Doc" Smith, DVM, Winigan, Mo., became involved in the Angus business in 1947 when he bought his first heifer as part of an FFA project. In 1979 he was named fieldman of the Missouri Angus Association, and he still is active in the position today.

Doc is a strong supporter of junior programs. During the last 22 years, many junior Angus members in Missouri have become known as "Doc's Kids." Doc was inducted into the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Honorary Angus Foundation.

Doc and his wife, Evelyn, established the Lazy S Bar Angus Ranch when they married in 1952. He is a lifetime member of the American Angus Association and the American and Missouri veterinary medical associations.

Wayland Crouch was an Angus producer, promoter and educator for 40 years near Jonesborough, Tenn. He began his career in the cattle business in 1947 and purchased his first Angus in 1951. He and his operation, Wayland Crouch and Sons, bred and successfully exhibited cattle at major shows, both regionally and nationally.

In addition to exhibiting cattle, Wayland conducted field days and



Conrad Grove



Ben Houston



William "Bill" Roche

youth seminars at the farm, concentrating on Angus 4-H and FFA projects. Wayland also served as sales manager for the East Tennessee Angus Association for more than 20 years. He continually encouraged and promoted small breeders' involvement in the Angus industry.

Wayland was a leader in his community as well, serving as chairman of his local school and church boards. He was married to the former Mabel Dyer and had two sons, John, Saint Joseph, Mo., and Charles, Jonesborough, Tenn. Wayland passed away in 1991.

Richard L. Spader devoted his career to the American Angus Association until his sudden death, Oct. 13, 2001. His career with the American Angus Association began in 1969 as the assistant

director of public relations. In 1973 he was appointed the assistant director of performance programs and in 1976 was chosen to head up the department as its director. Under his direction the Association issued its first *Sire Evaluation Report* and *Pathfinder Report* and initiated the use of estimated breeding values (EBVs) by Angus breeders. In 1981, Dick was named executive vice president.

He served two three-year terms on the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board of directors, and served on the boards of the Beef Industry Council of the National Live Stock & Meat Board and the National Pedigreed Livestock Council. He was a member and past president of the U.S. Beef Breeds Council.

Dick is survived by his wife, Sheri, and three children, Jared, Brett and Alyssa. He was passionate about his Angus cattle, Quarter Horses and blue heeler dogs.



Wayne "Doc" Smith



Wayland Crouch



Richard L. Spader