

# Four Join the Elite

The Angus Heritage Foundation recognizes four individuals for their significant contributions to the Angus breed.

by *Shelia Stannard*

The American Angus Association Board of Directors has selected four Angus leaders for induction into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Each year, a select group of individuals who have made significant contributions by dedicating their time and efforts to the improvement and advancement of the Angus breed are inducted into the Heritage Foundation.

A special recognition of the inductees was scheduled to be held during the American Angus Association Annual Banquet Nov. 18 in Louisville, Ky.

The 2002 inductees include Lyle Haring, De Witt, Iowa; Dave McMahon, Fort Smith, Ark.; and Ray Woodward, Miles City, Mont. W.J. "Wib" Harrer, formerly of Helena, Mont., 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 that is displayed in the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo. Photos and brief biographies will be included in the 2003 edition of the Angus Heritage Foundation booklet that lists inductees from the Heritage Foundation's beginning in 1983.

Brief biographies of the inductees follow.

## Lyle Haring

Lyle Haring, affectionately known as "Mr. Angus" throughout Iowa, has devoted much of his life to the livestock industry, the Angus breed and the youth involved in the Angus breed.

The De Witt, Iowa, native started his career as the Clinton County 4-H youth assistant. Later, he traveled as a field representative for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. When the opportunity came along in 1953, he joined the American Angus Association's staff as a field representative. He traveled the Midwest for more than 30 years representing the Association and the Angus breed.



Lyle Haring

While working for the Association, Haring, along with Ed Stout, helped develop the first two state junior Angus associations, in Missouri and Iowa. In 1985, Haring was an initial inductee to the Honorary Angus Foundation, which annually recognizes those who have contributed to junior Angus programs.

Although he retired from the American Angus Association in 1984, Haring maintains his interest in junior Angus activities.

## David McMahon Sr.

David McMahon is a family man who believes strongly in junior Angus programs and the benefits that the young people who participate in them receive. Dave and his wife, Mary Ann, started their Angus herd near Lavaca, Ark., in 1956. Since that time, their herd has expanded, and in 1975 Belle Point Ranch was established as a family business.

Dave is a strong supporter of the Angus Foundation and the youth activities supported by the Angus Foundation. Two of Dave's children served on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors, and today many of his grandchildren participate in junior Angus programs at the state and national levels.

Dave served a three-year term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors in the 1980s. He and his family have been wholesale distributors for Anheuser-Busch Inc. for 55 years.



Ray Woodward

U.S. Range and Research Station at Miles

City, Mont., both before and after he worked for the American Breeders Service (ABS).

During his time at ABS, Woodward's influence helped make performance testing a standard procedure for beef cattle producers. Although he worked directly with approximately 25 different beef breeds, Woodward worked with more Angus bulls than any other breed. He found that Angus was a superior breed to work with when improvements were wanted because Angus are genetically more variable and responsive to selection.

Woodward earned a doctoral degree in animal genetics from the University of Minnesota. He has spoken to cattlemen's groups in numerous countries, including New Zealand, Australia, Hungary and France. He has received numerous honors for his work in animal breeding and genetics.



W.J. Harrer

## W.J. Harrer

W.J. "Wib" Harrer spent his life as a cattle producer, marketer and promoter of the Angus breed in Montana. He and his son Bill started Green Meadow Ranch near Helena

after he and his brother dispersed their herd in 1946.

Wib, along with other breeders, started the Montana Angus Association, and he served as the first secretary-treasurer of that association. He also served as manager of the first Montana Angus Association-sponsored sale in 1943. He later organized the first Association-sponsored feeder-calf sale in Billings.

In 1947, Wib paid top dollar for Henkes Eliminator, the highest selling bull in Montana at that time. Many people in the business predicted that the purchase of this bull would cause Wib to go broke; however, the bull's progeny helped pay for the ranch.

Wib served a six-year term as director of the American Angus Association. He dispersed his herd in 1970, and his cattle sold into most of the Western and Midwestern states.

