

Heritage Foundation Recognizes Significant Contributions

BY SHELIA STANNARD

Seven Angus enthusiasts who have made significant contributions to the Angus breed were selected by the American Angus Association Board of Directors 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 in the United States.

Special ceremonies honoring the inductees were held during the American Angus Association's Annual Banquet Nov. 15 in Louisville, Ky.

The 1999 inductees included John Crouch, Saint Joseph, Mo.; Bill Graham, Albany, Ga.; Robert Neumeyer, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; and Eli and Bette Votaw, Wellfleet, Neb. L.E. Laflin and E.B. Laflin, Crab Orchard, Neb., and Olsburg, Kan., respectively, were inducted posthumously.

Each inductee or their family received a framed Angus Heritage Foundation certificate, and their names are engraved on a permanent Heritage Foundation plaque displayed in the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Photos and brief biographies of the inductees will be included in the 1999 Angus Heritage Foundation booklet, which lists the inductees from the Foundation's beginning in 1983.

Short biographies of the 1999 Angus Heritage Foundation inductees follow.



John Crouch



William Graham



L.E. Laflin



E.B. Laflin



Robert Neumeyer



Eli and Bette Votaw

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JOHN CROUCH

John Crouch, Saint Joseph, Mo., has been actively involved in the Angus industry most of his life. Crouch grew up on his family's registered Angus farm near Jonesboro, Tenn., and is a 1963 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry.

He is currently director of performance programs for the American Angus Association, a position he accepted in 1981. He oversees the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program and the genetic evaluation program for the Angus *Sire Evaluation Report*.

Crouch has been instrumental in the development of the American Angus Association Centralized Ultrasound Processing (AAACUP) Laboratory, which allows Angus producers to obtain and use carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs) from live animals.

Before moving to the Association headquarters in 1981, he served for seven years as a regional manager in the states of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Crouch's knowledge of beef-breeding genetics has made him one of the most popular speakers in the beef industry. He has lectured in more than 39 states and in several foreign countries, including Australia, Scotland, Chile, Brazil and South Africa.

He and his wife, Judy, have five children and six grandchildren.

WILLIAM GRAHAM

Bill Graham developed the Graham Angus herd in Albany, Ga., to produce performance-tested bulls that could improve commercial herds in the severe environment of the extreme Southeast.

Graham was born on a sugar plantation in the Florida Everglades. He fell in love with Angus cattle at age 16, and his father let him breed some native Florida cattle to Angus bulls.

Graham established his registered herd in the early 1950s and became a strong advocate of performance testing. He has

used the AHIR program and strict culling to create a herd that is recognized for its maternal-trait cows and growth bulls. Today the Graham Angus herd is raised under natural conditions, producing calves that will work in the feedlot, as well as heifers that will work as replacement females.

Graham and his wife, Patricia, live in Miami Lakes, Fla. They have five children and 10 grandchildren.

E.B. LAFLIN and L.E. LAFLIN

The Laflin Angus herd is one of the oldest registered Angus herds in the United States. The Laflin family homesteaded at Crab Orchard, Neb., in 1857, and in 1900 E.B. Laflin established the family's Angus program. E.B. emphasized efficiencies with exceptional size and bred-in performance in the early 1900s.

In the early years of the herd, E.B. didn't believe he needed to exhibit his cattle at shows, but he did judge several Angus events, including the American Royal and the National Western in 1928.

E.B. was elected the second president of the Nebraska Angus Association in the early 1900s, and was the first Nebraskan elected to serve on the American Angus Association's Board of Directors.

L.E. Laflin continued his father's legacy after E.B.'s death in 1932. L.E. was a strong supporter and active member of the Nebraska Angus Association. Elected by his peers, he served as a director of the American Angus Association from 1935 to 1941. Judging state fairs and national shows was another highlight during the years that L.E. spent advocating the Angus breed.

Both E.B. and L.E. practiced law in Crab Orchard. Today the Laflin Angus tradition continues with Bob, Barb, R.D., Guy and Karen Laflin of Olsburg, Kan., and Chris and Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan.

ROBERT NEUMEYER

Robert Neumeyer, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, has been involved in the Angus business for 45 years. He was the first secretary and sale

manager of the Denison Angus Association in Denison, Iowa. After moving west, he became the secretary and manager of the Western States Angus Association, until moving to Idaho to join Jaynbee Angus, a herd established in 1941.

Neumeyer served two terms as a director of the American Angus Association. He was instrumental in maintaining the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program in the mid-1980s when some Board members thought the program should be discontinued.

Neumeyer and his wife, Hollyce, have four children who were active in 4-H, FFA and junior Angus activities. Two of their children, Jean and Jeffrey, each held positions on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board.

ELI and BETTE VOTAW

Eli and Bette Votaw, Wellfleet, Neb., have been active members and supporters of the Angus industry most of their lives. Eli bought his first registered Angus heifer in 1937 and joined the American Angus Association in 1938. Since that time he has served six years on the Association's Board of Directors, and he has contributed to the development of the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program.

Bette is a charter member of the American Angus Auxiliary. She served as its president in 1993. She has served on many Auxiliary committees and is currently on the Advisory on Trust and the Legislation/Bylaws committees.

Eli and Bette own and operate E Bar V Angus Ranch, which started on Eli's father's homestead in 1884. They are strong supporters of junior programs and always encouraged their own children's involvement in showing, judging and promoting the breed. Their daughters served as Nebraska Angus queens and as Miss American Angus.

Today their enthusiasm about the Angus breed has spread to their grandchildren, who are also involved in junior Angus activities.

