

Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for members** of our Angus family

IN THE NEWS

Jared Knock has been hired as an area sales manager based in Montana for Trans Ova Genetics. In his new position, Knock will advise producers on reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer (ET), sexed semen, genetic preservation and cloning, and *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) to create offspring from choice genetics. He will also counsel breeders on sexed-semen custom collection and align embryo owners with the company's multiplier herds.



Jared Knock

In addition to experience with his family's Angus herd, Knock has worked at the China Beef Research Center, located in Beijing, China. Knock attended South Dakota State University (SDSU) where he earned a degree in animal science and agricultural business.

ErReR Hill Farms and **Somerset Steel Erection Co.** recently celebrated 50 years in business. To mark these events, Somerset Steel hosted a party for employees, customers and business partners Aug. 3, and the farm hosted a field day event Aug. 4 in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Angus and Pennsylvania Cattlemen's associations.

The ErReR Hill Farms' event took place at the farm in Friedens, Pa. The event featured

farm tours, tractor square dancers and a junior heifer show.

In addition to speaker John Queen, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a panel and seminars were conducted that focused on the state of the Angus industry and other topics relating to the breeding and raising of Angus cattle.

ErReR Hill Farms and Somerset Steel Erection are just two of the seven businesses owned by Riggs Industries Inc. that were founded or cofounded by the late Sidney Riggs.

Jean Riffle, Pleasant Hill, Mo., was elected president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4409 in Harrisonville, Mo. Riffle also serves as secretary for American Legion Post 42. Riffle and her husband operate the John Riffle Angus Farm, a Historic Angus Herd located in Pleasant Hill.

Julie Ellingson, Saint Anthony, N.D., was recently nominated to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree. The award is given to those who advance agricultural education and the National FFA Organization through outstanding personal commitment.

Ellingson will travel to Indianapolis, Ind., to receive the honor during an onstage presentation at the 80th National FFA Convention Oct. 24-27.

William Jackson and Sons, Hope, Ind., has received the Historic Herd Award from

the American Angus Association. The herd was established by William Jackson at Greensburg, Ind., in 1947. He joined the American Angus Association that same year.

William's oldest son, Bill, helped manage the original herd and then began a herd of his own in 1960. The farm remained in Decatur County until 1971, when the family relocated to Columbus, Ind. Bill; his wife, Janice; and their four children, Deb, Mark, Greg and Kim, showed Angus cattle for 10 years in 4-H, sometimes exhibiting 10 calves at the Bartholomew County Fair.

Bill, a former professor at Iowa State University, has served as president for both the Southern Indiana Angus and Indiana Angus associations. Janice has served as president of the Indiana Angus Auxiliary.

In 1999 the farm was moved to its current location. The family is still involved in raising Angus cattle today, and though they have retired from careers in education, Bill and Janice continue their full-time work on the farm along with sons Mark and Greg and son-in-law Kip Bonnell.

The American Angus Association presents the Historic Herd Award to Angus herds that have been in the continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Ben Pemberton and Son, Marshall, Mo., has received the Historic Herd Award from the American Angus Association. The herd was established by Ben and his son, Richard, with the purchase of four cow-calf pairs in 1949. They joined the Association in 1953.

Ben and Richard sold cattle privately as well as through consignment to local association sales. They hosted six production sales with other area breeders in 1968-1973. They then hosted four production sales featuring Wye breeding at the farm in 1974-1977. Richard served as president of the Missouri Angus Association from 1980-1981 and was also on the board of directors.

L.C. Thornton, Maysville, Mo., has received the Historic Herd Award from the American Angus Association. The herd was established by L.C. in 1935 when he purchased 13 cows, five heifers and three

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



►The ErReR Hill Farms 50th anniversary event Aug. 4 featured farm tours (pictured), tractor square dancers and a junior heifer show.

bulls for \$1,400. In 1937 he joined the American Angus Association.

L.C., a vocational agriculture teacher from 1929-1943, and his wife, Leta, oversaw the day-to-day farm operations and purchased Angus cattle at various sales. They have two sons, Tommy and Don, who were both involved with the farm, as well as five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Two granddaughters, Mary Raskievitz and Cindy Pulley, were involved in showing cattle. L.C. continues to manage a herd of 60 cows with the help of great-grandson Mike Pulley and granddaughter Cindy.

Wakelon Angus Farm, Zebulon, N.C., has received the Historic Herd Award from the American Angus Association. The herd was established by Jane and J.R. Fowler in 1955. They joined the American Angus Association in 1957.

The Wakelon herd began with 24 foundation cows, 12 heifers and a bull. J.R. remained active in the Association and the North Carolina Angus Association until his death in 2000. The Fowlers' son, Bob III,



► **Oliver Hansen**, Durant, was awarded the Lyle Haring Memorial Award. Pictured are (from left) Ron Hansen; Henry Hansen; Paul Stueland, presenter; Oliver Hansen, award winner; Bob Schlutz, presenter; and Tom Hansen.

continues to manage Wakelon Angus Farms and is the eighth generation since 1743 to continuously farm the land in Wake County.

Willard Schnell, Dickinson, N.D., received the Honorary Membership Award Sept. 29 from the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) at its annual

convention in Bismarck, N.D. The 56-year member of the NDSA was selected for the honor by the board of directors for his service to the association and the beef industry as a cattleman, horseman, businessman and auctioneer.

Schnell's father founded the Dickinson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 350

Runnion celebrates 90th

Dale Runnion, former fieldman and *Aberdeen-Angus Journal* general manager, celebrated his 90th birthday with a large

gathering of friends and family Aug. 19 in Evergreen, Colo. Dale's wife, June; and the couple's four children, John, Birmingham,

Ala.; Jim, Chicago, Ill.; Joy Pruitt, Evergreen; and Gay Runnion, Denver, Colo., were on hand to commemorate the occasion.

Livestock marketing and publishing friends from Dale's many career avenues were present to reminisce and toast his accomplishments. He is well-known for founding the *International Limousin Journal*, which evolved into the *Limousin World*, as well as for his leadership role in the early years of the present *Angus Journal* in Saint Joseph, Mo. In recognition of his industry leadership and service, his portrait was hung in 1988 in the Saddle and Sirloin Club in Louisville, and the Livestock Publications Council (LPC), of which he was a founder, named him its 1987 Headliner of the Year.

In November 2006, Dale was inducted into the American Angus Heritage Foundation in recognition of his commitment to the breed and programs of the American Angus Association. During his time at the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, he revitalized the field staff, which contributed to the breed's rapid growth in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the policies he instituted and the staff members he promoted during his tenure as general manager of the *Angus Journal* in the 1980s are still serving the Angus breed.

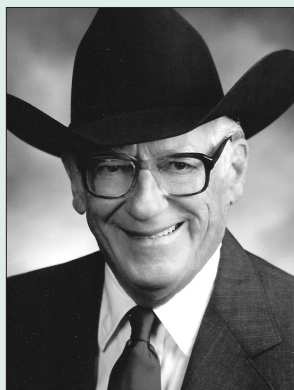


► Guests at Dale Runnion's 90th birthday celebration, including some from the cattle publishing part of his career, include (front row, from left) Nancy Wedman, Yukon, Okla.; Diane Sears, Loveland, Colo.; Cheryl Oxley, Saint Joseph, Mo., *Angus Journal* production manager; Dale; June; (standing, from left) Dan Wedman, former *Limousin World* partner, Yukon, Okla.; Alan Sears, Five Star Cattle Systems, Loveland; and Andy Rest, Association regional manager, Shepherd, Mont.

Fred Johnson Jr., 91, Summitville, Ohio, died Sept. 6 at his home.

Born March 26, 1916, in Clearfield, Pa., to Frederick and Ethel Johnson, his parents moved to Summitville, Ohio, in 1921, and he resided there most of his life.

Fred attended elementary school in Summitville in a building he helped to construct, and later graduated from East Liverpool High School. After high school he enrolled at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), where he majored in engineering.



Fred Johnson Jr.

Following his studies at Penn State, Fred joined the family business, the Johnson China Co., at East Liverpool, Ohio, and later joined another family business, the Summitville Face Brick Co. in Summitville, Ohio.

Fred's early years in the family business were interrupted by World War II. Enlisting as a combat infantryman with the U.S. Army's 88th Division in Italy, Fred was seriously wounded and confined to a military hospital for 11 months. He was later awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service to his country.

Following World War II, Fred returned to Summitville, and, upon the retirement of his father, Fred Sr., he assumed the company presidency. In 1947, with his brother, Peter, he launched Summitville Tiles. By the time he retired in 1982, the

company had three manufacturing operations and a chain of distribution centers that spanned the nation.

After retiring, Fred dedicated his full energies to the family cattle operations, Summitcrest Farms, which he had established in 1949. With cattle breeding operations in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska, and a genetics company in Montana, Summitcrest's champion breeding cattle developed into a brand recognized around the world.

Fred was a past director of the American Angus Association, a past president of the Ohio Angus Association and a past chairman of the Ohio Beef Council. In 1985 he was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Stewart Ling to the National Beef Promotion and Research Board where he was elected its first treasurer and was subsequently named chairman of the board.

In 1978, Fred helped found the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program, serving as chairman for its first six years. *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) is now the largest and most successful branded-beef program in the world, with current annual worldwide sales of more than 500 million pounds.

In 1989, Fred was inducted into the American Angus Heritage Foundation and the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame. The 29th All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity was dedicated to him, and *Angus News* named him the Man of the Decade in 1990. The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) named him Seedstock Producer of the Year for 1989.

In 1990, Fred was appointed by Gov. Dick Celeste to serve on the Ohio Exposition Commission where he was subsequently elected chairman of that commission during the term of Gov. Voinovich.

Upon his retirement from Summitcrest in 1995, Fred established the Loup River Ranch and built his second home near Milburn, Neb.

In 1998, the Johnson family was selected as one of eight Cattle Businesses of the Century. In 1999, Fred was inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Club's Gallery Hall of Fame for his "outstanding and enduring contributions to the advancement of the livestock industry." His canvas and oil portrait hangs in a gallery among two centuries of the American livestock industry's most legendary leaders.

In 2007, the National Cattlemen's Foundation presented him with the National Beef Industry Vision Award in honor of his outstanding leadership and service to the beef industry.

Active his entire life in civic and community affairs, Fred served on the local school board, had been chief of the local volunteer fire department and was a member and elder of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church near Summitville. He was awarded the Lone Eagle Scout badge by Dan Baird, founder of the Boy Scouts of America, and later served as troop master.

Fred is survived by his wife and their four children, Fred III, Jeff, Vicki and Cindy. Three additional daughters survive him: Penny, Judy and Patty. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and a brother.

Livestock Sales Co. in 1937. Schnell launched his career as an auctioneer at the age of 18, later serving as president of North Dakota's and Montana's auctioneering associations. It has been estimated that Schnell has had a hand in selling more than 4 million head of cattle and tens of thousands of horses during his 61-year career.

Schnell has also been a rodeo contestant, promoter and manager. On the competition side, he was a state champion calf roper and cow cutter and competed in steer wrestling and bronc riding. Together with area rodeo personalities and family members, he helped create or manage rodeo events such as the Dickinson Bronc Riding Match of Champions, which evolved into the Home on the Range Champions Ride Match; the Dickinson Teddy Roosevelt Rodeo; the Minot Indoor Rodeo; the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale; and many other smaller rodeos, horse shows, cow-cutting events and livestock activities.

Schnell, a life member of the American Angus Association since 1978, has also been active in the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), the National Cattlemen's Association, the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), the North Dakota Beef Commission, the North Dakota Rodeo Association, the North Dakota Cutting Horse Association and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, on which he continues to serve as a board member and trustee.

IN PASSING

W.D. Farr, 97, Greeley, Colo., died Aug. 14 at his home.

William Daven Farr was born in Greeley to Harry and Hazel (Daven) Farr May 26, 1910, the grandson of a blacksmith who had homesteaded in Greeley in 1877. W.D. grew up in Greeley, where he attended public schools and was a member of the first class to graduate from the new high school building, which is now Greeley Central, in 1928. He attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison before returning to Greeley to join his father in business.

He and his wife, Judy, were married June 16, 1933, in Denver. After a honeymoon to Yellowstone, where he taught her the sport of fly-fishing, they made their home in Greeley. In the early years of business, the Farr Co. grew rapidly with irrigated farming and lamb feeding. He convinced his father in 1931 that cattle feeding was the future. They started with 125 head and eventually built a feedlot, Farr Feeders, east

of Greeley that could feed 35,000 head of cattle per day.

In 1938, W.D. attended his first American National Cattlemen's Association (ANCA) convention in Cheyenne, Wyo. The association was an organization of ranchers, and while he was recognized as a lamb and cattle feeder, he also operated a cattle ranch, which allowed him to be a member. In 1970 he served as president of the association and also headed its beef-grading committee for 20 years.

Before World War II, W.D. taught himself to survey. With the help of a small D2 Caterpillar tractor, he leveled the first field in northern Colorado for irrigation. W.D. became a director of several irrigation and ditch companies and was one of the prime movers for the building of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which brings a supplemental water supply from the Western Slope to eight northeastern Colorado counties. He served on the project's board of directors for 40 years and was the first director of the Colorado Water and Power Development Authority. W.D. was a winner of the Colorado Water Congress Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, and in 1994, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District dedicated the Farr Pumping Plant at Lake Granby in his honor.

Shortly after World War II, W.D. helped raise money to build the Denver Coliseum as part of the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). He followed his father and grandfather into the banking business, serving on the board of directors of the Greeley National, Denver National and U.S. National banks. W.D. later became one of the founders and first chairman of the board of Affiliated Bancshares of Colorado.

He served the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an advisor under Presidents Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Richard Nixon. W.D. represented the U.S. Feed and Grains Council in France, Italy and Spain, and he traveled to Australia and China to meet with leading agriculturists from those countries. He was the first recipient of the Swan Leadership Award in 2002 given by NCBA and was a founding member of the Colorado Cattle Feeders Association, as well as serving as a director.

W.D. was honored with a number of prestigious awards. They include his 2007 induction into the Hall of Great Westerners in Oklahoma City, National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center; a 2005 Salute to Agricultural Leadership Award from the National Young Farmers

Organization; the 2004 Beef Top 40, Industry Leadership, *BEEF* Magazine; the 1999 Citizen of the West, NWSS; the 1995 Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame, FFA Foundation; 1991 Colorado Business Hall of Fame; 1991 Distinguished Citizen Award, Longs Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America; 1971 Livestock Industry Award, Colorado State University; and the 1969 Animal Agricultural Award, American Meat Institute; among many others.

W.D. is survived by his sons, John, William, H. Richard, and Randal; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Jay Dillingham, 97, Kansas City, Mo., died Aug. 13 at his home.

Jay was born March 8, 1910, in Platte City, Mo., to Joseph and Edna (Chesnut) Dillingham.

He married Frances Thompson, a daughter of a founder of the American Royal, in 1935.

In 1935, Jay graduated from the Kansas City School of Law, which is now part of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He was hired to work at the stockyards shortly after graduation and never practiced law.

Jay was president of the Kansas City Stockyards from 1948 to 1975, one of Kansas City's largest businesses when thousands of cattle, hogs, sheep, horses and mules were auctioned each year in the West Bottoms. He helped build the American Royal Livestock Show into a national institution. Jay participated in family farming operations that included 2,500 acres of Missouri River bottomland.

He helped land federal reservoir projects in Kansas and Missouri after the 1951 flood surged through the stockyards and devastated the Kansas City area. He was especially active in promoting lakes in the Kansas River basin and Smithville Lake in Clay County. He served on federal and state water resource boards.

Jay was the only person known to have served as president (chairman) of the Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan., Chambers of Commerce. He also played a role in locating Maple Woods Community College north of the river, as well as helping build the Spelman (St. Luke's) Hospital at Smithville.

For more than 32 years, he was a director of Waddell & Reed Mutual Funds of Kansas City. He was appointed by Gov. Joe Teasdale and then by Gov. Christopher "Kit" Bond as chairman of the Missouri Department of Transportation for six years, where he is considered by some as the father of Interstate

435. Interstate 670 in Missouri and Kansas now carries his name.

Jay served on numerous civic committees and commissions and was appointed by Gov. Bond to the Missouri Academy of Squires.

He is survived by his wife; son John and his wife; two grandsons; two great-granddaughters; a cousin; and nieces and nephews.

Lisa Bloom, 30, Westville, Ind., died Aug. 25 at the Porter Hospital-Valparaiso Campus.

Lisa was born Nov. 7, 1976, in Valparaiso to Donald and Carol (Payne) Bloom. She graduated from Chesterton High School in 1995 and went on to receive an associate's degree as a medical assistant at Ivy Tech. She was the office manager for the family business, the Bloom Animal Clinic, and helped in the operation of Bloom Angus Farm.

Lisa was a member of the Porter County 4-H for more than 10 years. She was a member of the American Angus Association and loved showing Angus cattle and her horse, Snickers. Lisa was a member of the Westville United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her parents; sisters Denise and Deanna; brother Rex; one grandmother; several nephews and a niece; and a special friend, Brad Beharrell.

Hazel Heatherly, 94, Richland Springs, Texas, died Aug. 31 at her home.

A lifetime resident of San Saba County, Hazel was born Aug. 30, 1913, in Hall, Texas, to Monroe and Amanda (Hudson) Parker. She lived at Hall Valley all her life, where she rode her horse to attend a one-room school. She later graduated from Richland Springs High School in 1931.

In 1932 she married Nathan Hall Jr. They made their home on part of the original Hall Ranch, which is now known as the Heatherly Ranch. Nathan died in 1950. Hazel married Casey (C.A.) Heatherly Nov. 27, 1952, in Richland Springs, Texas.

Hazel and Casey were active members of the American Angus Association, traveling worldwide to promote the breed. Many breeders came to the ranch to study their methods and buy their stock, particularly the registered Angus bulls.

Hazel was honored by the Texas Angus Association in 2002 with its Hall of Fame Award for 50 years of service. She loved ranching, traveling and history. Her hobbies included sewing, cooking and baking, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 352

most of all she enjoyed being with family and friends.

Hazel is survived by a great-nephew, Bill Baker, and a great-niece, Margaret Baker; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

ANGUS ARRIVALS

Jared and **Julie Murnin**, Abilene, Texas, announce the birth of their daughter, **Claire Ann**, born Sept. 6. She weighed 7 lb., 6 oz., and was 20¼ in. long.

Grandparents are Bill and Cheryl Summerfield, Arroyo Grande, Calif., and Bert and Anita Murnin, Miles City, Mont.

Jared is a regional manager for the Association in New Mexico and Texas.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Keith Collins, chief economist for the USDA, received the 2007 American Agricultural Editors' Association (AAEA) Distinguished Service Award in Louisville, Ky., July 31. AAEA has named a recipient of this award since 1947.

Wilson Carnes and **Bob Rupp** were presented Lifetime Achievement Awards by the AAEA in Louisville, Ky., July 31. **Charles Scruggs**, **Jim Thomson** and **Cordell Tindall** were posthumously honored with Heritage Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards. AAEA reinstated the Lifetime Achievement Award this year, after giving it for the first and only time in 1990.

John Redman, Amity, Mo., and **Matt Reynolds**, Huntsville, Mo., were recently elected to the Missouri Beef Industry Council (MBIC) for three-year terms. **James Rickman**, Stockton, Mo., was re-elected to another term. Rickman currently serves as vice chairman of the board.

David Moore, Farmington, Mo., will also join the board for a one-year term as past president of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Paul and **Judy Anderson**, Leonard, N.D., were recognized as the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Ranchers of the Year at its annual convention Sept. 29 in Bismarck, N.D. The Andersons, 39-year members of NDSA, own and manage more than 200 Angus and Angus-cross cows on their third-generation ranch in the Sheyenne River Valley.

Rachel Aja, Buckeye, Ariz., and **Mark Wellman**, Fowler, Ill., were added to the NCBA member services team Sept. 10. Aja

will represent NCBA in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico. Wellman will work primarily in Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois.

Clark Weaver has accepted the position of director of livestock sales for Destron Fearing. He was most recently the vice president of marketing for Webster Veterinary Supply Inc. In his new position, Weaver will be responsible for all aspects of field sales and management as they relate to the company's livestock business in North America.

Chuck Rogers has been promoted to technical services manager by Allflex USA. He will manage the North America Technical Team and support implementation of electronic identification (EID) systems in various types of livestock operations and work within the global Allflex R process to evaluate new EID products and determine their suitability for use in real-world conditions.

Dave Lusson has been appointed vice president, finance and chief financial officer (CFO) at Diamond V Mills Inc. where he will directly oversee the company's financial reporting, long-term financial planning, accounting and information technology departments as well as the company's Mexican business unit.

Rick Rice has been appointed West Virginia state director of USDA rural development.

Mindy Berendes has been hired as a laboratory biotechnician assistant for Accelerated Genetics in its Semen Production and Technology Division. In her new position, she will assist in the production of the company's new semen technologies and will specialize in media preparation, evaluation and standardization.

Trans Ova Genetics has announced plans to build a new state-of-the-art ET and IVF station in Centerville, Texas. The new laboratories, expected to be open for business Nov. 1, will focus on ET, IVF and the use of sex-sorted semen. As part of the world-class IVF and ET production center, the new facility will also have the capacity to care for up to 200 donor cattle at any given time.

