

Choices

Life is all about choices, or at least in the free world as we know it, life is about choices. Having lived in America my entire life and having had the opportunity to travel in many foreign countries, I cannot imagine life without choices.

Fortunate circumstances

Many people in other lands are not as fortunate as we are. Noted author Joseph Conrad wrote in *Nostromo*, a novel of exile in a foreign land, "In our activity alone do we find the sustaining illusion of an independent existence as against the whole scheme of things of which we form a helpless part."

This passage always reminds me of just how fortunate we are in the United States. We can make a difference.

Three sound choices

I am excited and pleased to comment about three of these recent choices made by your American Angus Association Board of Directors. The first was the decision to pursue, in concert with the Agri-Business Group (ABG) of Indianapolis, Ind., a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant for promotion of premises registration in relation to the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The program is voluntary and provides Angus breeders and Angus affiliates the

opportunity to put in place a system that will enable them to satisfy requirements of national and international marketing programs and country-of-origin labeling (often referred to as COL or COOL), which becomes effective in 2008.

Secondly, realizing that bold action was needed to place the Angus breed in a position of solid leadership in the industry, your Board recently established a new, for-profit company called Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI). This wholly-owned subsidiary will do business as Beef Improvement Co. to provide genetic evaluation for traits that affect profit and consumer satisfaction of beef and beef products.

Additionally, Beef Improvement Co. will be involved in research and the application of new technologies, including the utilization of DNA by the beef industry. In response to the expressed needs of the industry regarding the advancement of science and technology, this decision will prove to be a positive action and will provide our industry with tools to enable it to compete more efficiently with other sources of protein.

Thirdly, your Association is working with Pfizer Animal Health in a cooperative

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Terms expiring in 2008—**Gregg Blythe**, 3207 Old River Rd., Decatur, AL 35603; clydec7@aol.com ■ **Bill Davis**, 34840 CR 106, Sidney, MT 59270; rolnrok@hughes.net ■ **Robert (Bob) Schlutz**, 260 Colonel's Dr., Box 66, Columbus Junction, IA 52738; schlutz89@msn.com ■ **John Schurr**, 40842 Farnam Rd., Farnam, NE 69029; john@schurrtop.com ■ **Gordon Stucky**, 421 N.E. 70 Ave., Kingman, KS 67068; circlesangus@pixius.net

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive vice president: John Crouch
Executive administrative assistant: Diane Strahm

Vice presidents: **Finance**—Richard Wilson ■ **Information & Data Programs**—Bill Bowman ■ **Industry Relations**—Jim Shirley

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF BY DIVISION

Finance—Kenny Miller, assistant director of finance; Richard Wilson, director of finance

Industry Relations—James Fisher, director of junior activities; Sara Moyer, director of AngusSource®; Jim Shirley, director of activities; Shelia Stannard, director of communications & events

Information & Data Programs—Lou Ann Adams, director of information systems; Bill Bowman, director of performance programs; Ty Groshans, director of commercial programs and assistant director of performance programs; Scott Johnson, director of Angus Information Management Software; Sally Northcutt, director of genetic research; Bryce Schumann, director of member services & office management; Carol Waller, assistant director of member services & office management

ANGUS FOUNDATION

President — Milford Jenkins, Saint Joseph, Mo.; mjenkins@angusfoundation.org; 816-383-5100. For more information, refer to www.angusfoundation.org

ANGUS GENETICS INC.

President — Bill Bowman, Saint Joseph, Mo.; bbowman@angus.org; 816-383-5100

ANGUS PRODUCTIONS INC.

President — Terry Cotton, Saint Joseph, Mo.; tcotton@angusjournal.com; 816-383-5200. For an API staff listing, refer to page 12.

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF LLC

President — John Stika, Wooster, Ohio; jstika@certifiedangusbeef.com; 330-345-2333. For a CAB staff listing, refer to page 142.

AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY

President — Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa, For a complete list of officers, refer to page 54 or visit www.angusauxiliary.com.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

President — Justin Brosey, Hamilton, Ohio; justinbroz@aol.com. For a complete listing of NJAA Board Members, refer to page 58 or visit www.njaa.info.



Association Highlights

► by *Shelia Stannard*, director of communications and events

Still time to register for Boot Camp

There is still time to register for the Cattlemen's Boot Camp set for Oct. 29-30 at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State).

The Boot Camp, hosted by the American Angus Association and funded through the Angus Foundation, is an educational session that allows all cattle producers to attend two-day events at major universities across the country.

Penn State will host a Boot Camp Oct. 29-30 in State College, Pa. The registration deadline is Oct. 1. More Boot Camps are planned for this winter and next spring.

Registration fees for Boot Camps are \$75 and cover meals and materials. Preregistration



is required. For more information about this and future Boot Camps, go to www.angus.org or call Kris Sticken with the Angus Foundation at 816-383-5100.

National Western Bull Sale consignments due Oct. 1

Act now to save \$50 on entry fees for the 2008 National Western Angus Bull Sale at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo. The sale is set for Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008. The fee for consignments received on or before Sept. 15, 2007, is \$400 per head. From Sept. 16 through the Oct. 1 entry deadline, the fee is \$450 per head. All consignments must have Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) performance information to be eligible.

Some changes have been implemented

for the 2008 sale, which is the only sale conducted by the American Angus Association. All bulls born before Jan. 1, 2007, must have passed a complete breeding soundness examination (sometimes referred to as a BSE), including both physical and semen, within 30 days of the sale.

The official AHIR adjusted yearling weight expected progeny difference (EPD), if applicable, must meet the breed average for nonparent sires.

For more information, contact David Gazda, sale manager, at 706-296-7846 or dgazda@angus.org. For consignment forms, contact Linda Campbell at 816-383-5143 or lcampbell@angus.org.

Make plans for Annual Meeting

Now is the time to make plans to attend the Association's 124th Annual Convention of Delegates, which is set for Monday, Nov. 12, in Louisville, Ky. The Annual Meeting is conducted in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), which includes a Super-Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus show. The election of officers and five members to the Association Board of Directors will highlight the Annual Meeting, scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (KFEC). Elected delegates and other attendees will hear annual reports of the Association and its entities for fiscal year (FY) 2007.

The Annual Banquet will be Monday evening at the Executive West Hotel. Special honorees at the banquet will include the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Outstanding Leadership Award winner and inductees into the Angus Heritage Foundation. The featured speaker at this year's banquet will be Red Steagall, cowboy poet and singer.

The Angus show schedule will follow the same schedule this year as it did last year. The junior show will be Sunday, Nov. 11; the Roll of Victory (ROV) bulls and cow-calf pairs will show Monday, Nov. 12; and ROV females will show Tuesday, Nov. 13.

ASSOCIATION FEES

CURRENT ASSOCIATION FEES

Following are the correct fees for various American Angus Association services. Be sure to send the correct amount of money with the work being requested, as incorrect payments are the main cause of delays.

REGISTRATIONS

Applications for animals less than 4 months of age	\$7
Applications for animals 4-10 months of age	\$9
Applications for animals 10-12 months of age	\$14
Applications for animals more than 12 months of age	\$27

TRANSFERS

Applications received less than 30 days from sale date	\$5
Applications received 30-60 days from sale date	\$7
Applications received more than 60 days from sale date	\$12

MISCELLANEOUS

Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) fee (per weaning weight)	\$3
Artificial insemination (AI) service certificate	\$10
Regular annual membership	\$30
Junior annual membership (less than 21 years of age)	\$20
Embryo-transfer (ET) calf	regular registration fee plus \$10
Cell-clone transplant calf	regular registration fee plus \$50

Rules of the American Angus Association are included in the *Breeder's Reference Guide*. Free copies are available from the Association.

BREEDER'S REFERENCE

Symbols are used with a registration number to denote important information about an animal.

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
#	Pathfinder cow or Pathfinder sire	HG	Horn gene
+	Embryo transfer calf	R	Red
^	Cell clone	X	Multiple defects, check list for kind
%	Split-ET	F	Tested for defect printed without producing abnormal calves
@	Clone-ET	GDF	Produced 35 or more calves from daughters without a genetic defect or genetic factor
S	Syndactyly	WT	Wild Type Color Gene
H	Double muscling		
D	Dwarfism		
M	Osteopetrosis		
HI	Heterochromia irides		