



Newsmakers

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

► IN THE NEWS

ABS Global Inc. dedicated its new 13,000-square-foot Distribution Center at DeForest, Wis., to **Robert Walton**. Walton was honored for his role in starting the company, which markets bovine genetics in more than 70 countries.

Select Sires Inc. and its board of directors have announced that the federation donated more than \$66,000 to Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts. Of the donations, \$50,000 will be used to directly assist dairy and beef producers, and the remaining funds will go toward the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

► IN PASSING

Billy "Bill" Ray Doyle, 62, Poplar Bluff, Mo., died Oct. 8 at his home.

Bill was born Oct. 9, 1942, in Fagus, Mo., to Alfred and Mary (Book) Doyle. He married Janice Kaye (Katie) Perry on June 18, 1964.

He was a self-employed glazier and owned B&D Glass Co. in Malden for 35 years. Bill attended Osborn General Baptist Church in Qulin, and he enjoyed playing fast-pitch softball, rabbit hunting and raising registered Angus cattle.

He is survived by his wife; mother, Mary; brother Don; and two sisters, Sue and Pat.

Dr. L. Phil Keeter, 60, Stilwell, Okla., died Oct. 17 in Tulsa, Okla.

Dr. Keeter was born Jan. 2, 1945, in Lincoln, Ark., to Cecil Leon and Mary Irene (Doyle) Keeter. He graduated from Stilwell High School in 1961 as valedictorian and went to

Northeastern State University, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in 1965. After teaching math in the Stilwell school district for more than eight years, Dr. Keeter was accepted to the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine and obtained his degree in 1978.

After completing his residency with OU Tulsa Family Practice, he opened a private practice January 1980 in Stilwell and joined the medical staff at Memorial Hospital. In May 1994, he joined the Indian Health Service and later became affiliated with the Cooper Clinic in Fort Smith, Ark. In 1997 he returned to his medical practice and Memorial Hospital, serving there as chief of medical staff at the time of his death.

Dr. Keeter raised Angus cattle on Keeter's Triple K Angus Farm and was active in the breed for more than 40 years. He served twice as president of the Northeast Oklahoma Angus Association and was elected many years as a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting. He was named "Mr. Oklahoma Angus" and inducted into the Oklahoma Angus Hall of Fame.

He was a member of the Sooner Club and served as president of the Stilwell Kiwanis Club from 1970-1971. He was a longtime member of the Christian Church in Stilwell.

He is survived by his sister Ruby.

Sandra Blankenship Cook, 71, Crawford, Ga., died Sept. 29 at her home.

Sandra was born Aug. 13, 1934, in Guymon, Okla., to Leo and Ruth Blankenship. She attended college at Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., where she met her husband, M.K. "Curly" Cook. They were

married in 1955 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 6.

After completing their college degrees, they moved to Georgia to work on a ranch, and later to Athens, where Sandra attended the University of Georgia and worked for the Georgia Extension Service. The Cooks bought a farm in Oglethorpe County, Ga., and lived there together until Sandra's death.

Before becoming office manager for the Nichols Land and Investment Co., a job from which she retired in 1994, she taught business and typing classes at Oglethorpe County High School. She enjoyed traveling and playing bridge, but her passion was cooking and entertaining.

Sandra was well-known for her kindness and respect for others, as well as her volunteer work at the church. She was an active member of Tuckston United Methodist Church in Athens for almost 40 years.

She is survived by her husband, daughter Kim, son Currey, and two grandchildren.

Walter Robert Danekas, 84, Clark, S.D., formerly of the Raymond community, died Sept. 28 at the Beverly Healthcare Center in Clark.

Walter was born July 17, 1921, in Raymond, S.D., to Albert and Elizabeth (Beckman) Danekas. He graduated from Raymond High School in 1940. Following his education he began a lifelong love of farming and raising registered Angus cattle, which he did for more than 60 years.

On Sept. 28, 1946, he married Valois A. Deslauriers at Watertown. The couple lived for a short time near Raymond before building a farm northeast of town. They lived there, raising their five children, farming and operating Blue Top Angus Farm. In 2003, they moved to Clark.

He was a lifelong member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church (WELS) at Raymond and had served on the church board. He collected Studebaker automobiles and won several trophies and awards for the collection.

He is survived by his wife; sons James and Gene; daughters Janet, Judy and Ruth; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

► ANGUS ARRIVALS

Jeff and **Susan Rhode** announce the birth of their son, **Gavin James**, born Sept. 21. He weighed 9 lb., 6 oz. and was 22 in. long. He joins an older brother, Isaac.

Grandparents are James A. and Judy Waters, Norborne, Mo., and Dale and Marilyn Rhode, Kingston, Ill. Jeff and his family operate Springlake Farm, Kingston, Ill. Susan formerly worked in the American Angus Association's public relations and communications department.

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INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Earle Klosterman, former Ohio State University (OSU) faculty member, was honored by OSU's Department of Animal Sciences for his contributions to the study of beef cattle, beef cattle efficiency and crossbreeding. The Klosterman Honors Lecture, a series of five presentations celebrating Klosterman's work, took place Oct. 26 in Wooster, Ohio.

Dale Watson, former beef herdsman at the University of Missouri (MU), was named the Northeast Missouri Livestock Person of the Year. Watson was to be inducted into the Northeast Missouri Livestock Hall of Fame during the 2005 Missouri Livestock Symposium.

Teresa Coarsey Lasseter was appointed Farm Service Agency (FSA) administrator. As administrator, Lasseter will oversee farm programs, farm loans, commodity operations, conservation programs, disaster assistance and field operations.

James Link was named administrator for

the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Link, formerly a director of ranch management at Texas Christian University, will now lead the livestock and grain regulatory services agency.

Jon DeVaney was named the Washington state director for USDA Rural Development. In his new role, DeVaney will work to enhance economic opportunities for residents in rural Washington.

Dave Combs was appointed USDA's chief information officer. Among other responsibilities, Combs will coordinate integration, training and enforcement of the agency's information management and information technology programs.

Ross Davidson was named senior advisor on energy policy, a position in which Davidson will advise and assist Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Kerry Barling and **Kim Anderson** joined the professional service veterinary team at Novartis Animal Health US Inc. Both will provide technical service support to livestock producers and large animal veterinarians.

The **American Meat Institute (AMI)** elected six officers, including **Robert "Bo" Manly**, chairman; **Richard Bond**, vice chairman; **David Miniat**, treasurer; **Rod Brenneman**, secretary; **Bill Buckner**, immediate past chairman; and **J. Patrick Boyle**, president and chief executive officer (CEO).

Eight new leaders were also added to the AMI board of directors. They include **Jeffery Ettinger**, **Tom Hayes**, **Francois Leger**, **Russ Martin**, **Michel McCain**, **Jim Ransom**, **Eldon Roth** and **John Stewart**.

Secretary Johanns appointed nine new members to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. Board members advise USDA and land-grant colleges and universities on top national priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, Extension and economics. They meet with Congress and hold stakeholder listening sessions. New appointees include **Jean-Mari Peltier**, **Dave Hilferty**, **John "Randy" MacMillan**, **Daryl Lund**, **Marianne Edge**, **Thomas Fretz**, **Martin Apple**, **Aristides Patrinos** and **Laurien Unnevehr**.

