



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Stephanie Ausfahl, Simla, Colo., is one of two new “wranglers” for the Beefmobiles, minivans emblazoned with images of beef that travel across the United States helping



Stephanie Ausfahl

beef and dairy producers better understand how beef checkoff dollars are spent. The Beefmobiles visit more than 250 livestock marketing facilities and beef events and 10 consumer venues, reaching out to producers to provide information and to solicit input about the checkoff program.

Ausfahl owns and operates Ausfahl Angus Ranch and R&S Fencing Co., both in Simla. Craig Hamilton is the other new wrangler. He and Ausfahl will join Tracey Orsburn, project coordinator, in focusing on the educational aspect of the Beefmobile project.

Callie Birdsell, Sparta, N.C., was named the state winner in the North Carolina Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet in December 2006. The competition is for persons age 18-35 and is similar to a debate, though held as a four-person forum or panel discussion.

Topics discussed were “National Animal Identification and Its Effects on U.S. Agriculture,” “New Uses for Traditional Agriculture,” and “Given the Partisan Nature of Politics Today, How Can Agriculture Affect Legislative Policy?” After two round-robin discussions, Birdsell and three other competitors participated in a final discussion for the state title.

In addition to a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, in January to compete in the national American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet, Birdsell won a cash prize of \$500 and her choice of a piece of agricultural equipment or an ATV.

Jackie Jacobs has accepted a position as a regional sales manager in Montana for Bovigen LLC. Jacobs was formerly a Web Services coordinator for Angus Productions Inc. (API) in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Michele Vise-Brown has been appointed chief executive officer (CEO) of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), effective Jan. 1. She has been with NIAA



Michele Vise-Brown

since 2003, serving as director of member relations and committee operations. Vise-Brown replaces Nevil Speer, who had been acting CEO since June 2006. She has an animal science degree from the University of Kentucky, and has long been involved in numerous livestock endeavors, including breeding and showing Angus and Simmental cattle. She and her husband, David, own and operate Dachele’s Farm in Woodburn, Ky.

IN PASSING

Dale Feltman, 62, Hartwell, Ga., died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006.

Dale and his wife owned Feltman Angus Farm in Hartwell. He was a member of the American Angus Association and the Georgia Angus Association.

Dale is survived by his wife, Eleanor; son, Kevin; daughters, Dona and Tara; and a sister and a brother.

Kenneth (Kenny) Reeser, 74, LeRoy, Ill., died Dec. 8, 2006, at OSF Saint Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington, Ill.

Kenny was born Oct. 14, 1932, in Danvers, Ill., to Jake and Lorene (Stahly) Reeser. He married Anna Mae “Maisie” Beasley in November 1958.

A life member of the American Angus Association, he had raised Angus cattle since childhood, eventually having one of the largest cattle herds in Illinois. Kenny experienced numerous achievements with his herd, including a national champion, “Charger,” in 1964.

He worked for State Farm Insurance Co. in data processing for 43 years. Kenny served as president of the Illinois Angus Association, president of the LeRoy school board for several terms, trustee of the LeRoy Fire Board, and as a coach and manager of fast-pitch softball teams in the LeRoy area. He is a member of the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his wife, Kenny is survived by two daughters, Connie and Rhonda; a son, Kevin; three grandchildren; and two brothers and two sisters.

Rachel Breck, 98, died Jan. 1 at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, Conn.

Rachel was born Jan. 21, 1908, in New York City, N.Y., to John Henry Hammond and Emily Sloane Vanderbilt. She was a graduate of Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Conn. As a teenager, Rachel started working for the Professional Children’s School in New York, becoming a member of the school’s board at 19. She served in that capacity for 36 years and was president during her last four years on the board.

Rachel owned and operated Hedgerows Farm in West Cornwall, Conn. She became a member of the American Angus Association in the early 1950s, served as president of the Connecticut Angus Association and the New England Angus Association, and was a delegate to the Association annual meeting for nearly 25 years. In 1980, Rachel was the first woman to seek a position on the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

She was also actively involved with the Eastern States Angus Association, the Eastern National Livestock Show and Eastern States Expo. She had the grand champion female at the 1976 National Western Stock Show (NWSS), and served as an Angus ambassador while traveling to



► **Rachel Breck** displays the original crewl picture she created in 2001 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the American Angus Auxiliary.

2007 Nebraska Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Kearney, Dec. 8, 2006



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

► The 2007 Nebraska Angus Ass'n board of directors are (seated from left) **Neri Barstow**, Springview, president; **Stewart Hartwell**, Oakland, vice president; **Richard Hollman**, Hallam, secretary/manager; **Craig Dethlefs**, Ravenna; (standing, back row from left) **Lori Wagner**, Genoa; **Ronald Sabata**, North Platte; **Lemoyne Dailey**, Thedford; **Kent Nelson**, Crete; and **Susan Hebbert**, Ashby.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

► **Bill and Barbara Rishel**, North Platte, were named winners of the 2006 Producer of the Year Award. Pictured are (from left) Ryan, holding Tatum, and Judy Terwilliger, Lincoln; and Barbara and Bill Rishel.

foreign countries on goodwill and public relations tours. Rachel dispersed the Hedgerows cattle in 1983, but still attended Angus events into her 90s. In 1990, she was selected for induction into the Angus Heritage Foundation, with the caption above her photo reading "First Lady of Angus Industry."

Andy Angus, originally created by Rachel from a battered teddy bear purchased at a Salvation Army store in New York City in 1955 or 1956 to promote the Connecticut Angus Sale, presided over the Angus Auxiliary's 40th Anniversary celebration in Louisville, Ky., and is now on permanent display at the American Angus Association office in Saint Joseph, Mo. In 2001, at 93, she created an original crewel picture in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Auxiliary, which was auctioned to benefit the Auxiliary scholarship fund.

Rachel is survived by her daughter, Leith; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Veryl Lee Jones, 85, Calhoun, Mo., died Friday, Jan. 5, at Saint Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.

Veryl was born Aug. 31, 1919, in Calhoun, Mo., to Robert Lee Jones and Maude (Dannatt) Jones. He graduated from Calhoun High School in 1937 as a star member of the basketball team. Veryl worked on the farm with his father and brothers until enlisting in the U.S. Army, where he served for 39 months and was honorably discharged as a second lieutenant.

He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1949, after serving as a member of the 1947-1948 livestock judging team and as a member of the Farmhouse fraternity. Veryl returned to the farm and also taught

for three years at the veterans farm training classes at Calhoun.

On Sept. 15, 1951, Veryl married Ruby Kenney of Clinton, Mo., and they had two sons. In 1952, Veryl accepted a livestock fieldman's position with the *Corn Belt Farm Dailies* in Washington, Iowa, where he worked a territory for the *Chicago Drivers Journal* for seven years.

In August 1959 he moved to Clinton, Mo., where he traveled mostly in Kansas and Missouri for the *Kansas City Drivers Telegram* for five years. In 1964, he accepted a livestock fieldman's position with the *Angus Journal* of Webster City, Iowa, and later at Saint Joseph, Mo., when the American Angus Association purchased the *Angus Journal*.

On Sept. 4, 1993, Veryl married Virginia Keirseay Gentry of Butler, Mo.

Veryl is survived by two sons, Jay and Michael; three grandsons; and a number of nieces and nephews. He is also survived by Virginia's family — daughter Susan and her daughter, Gentry; daughter Patricia; son Sam and his son, Jackie; and two aunts, Marylee and Jane.

► ANGUS ARRIVALS

Jason and Audrey Frey, Bozeman, Mont., announce the birth of their son, **Connor Vernon**, born Oct. 31, 2006. He weighed 4 lb., 7 oz., and was 18 in. long.

Grandparents include Vern and Corinne Frey, Towner, N.D. Vern is a regional manager for the Association.

► INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Keith Williams has been appointed as press secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by Secretary Mike Johanns.

Williams has served as communications

director for the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee for nearly four years. He served in the same capacity for the House Agriculture Committee from 1998 to 2002.

Whitney Rounds was appointed technical services manager—cattle for Kemin AgriFoods North America in December 2006. Kemins most recently served with Prince Agri Products, and, prior to that, was a consultant for AgriTek-Canada and Xtra Factors, a division of the NSA feedlot-consulting group.

Congressman **Collin Peterson** (D-Minn.) was selected as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture for the 110th Congress. Starting in January 2007, Peterson will lead the committee, which is responsible for reviewing agriculture policy issues in the U.S. House of Representatives. The current farm bill was written in 2002, and many of the provisions in the bill will expire in September 2007. The committee will have to address the reauthorization of farm programs including commodity support, agricultural trade, marketing, food assistance and rural development policies.

Mark Keenum was confirmed in December 2006 by the U.S. Senate as undersecretary for the USDA's Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Keenum has been a staff member for Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) since 1989, first serving as a legislative assistant for Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was named Cochran's chief of staff in 1996, has served as an advisor to the senator on political, legislative and appropriations issues, and has also managed the administrative and legislative functions of the office.

