



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Advancing genetic selection

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Convention set a record for attendance this year, with 752 registered attendees by Friday's lunch. The conference typically provides fodder to think about, and the organization's 37th annual meeting, July 6-9 in Billings, Mont., was no different. Cow adaptability, indexes, advancements in genomics and multi-breed analysis took center stage this year.

The meeting was too close to deadline to provide coverage in this issue, so we'll provide highlights in September. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit [www.bifconference.com](http://www.bifconference.com) for online coverage.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) staff provided this real-time coverage through sponsorship by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. Conference proceedings, staff-written summaries and many of the PowerPoint® presentations of the speakers are posted to the site's Newsroom and Symposium Papers pages.

We tried a new feature this year, adding live coverage of the general sessions and some committee meetings via streaming audio/video. A few server problems made accessibility to the live feed hit-or-miss on Thursday, and we apologize for any inconvenience or frustration this may have caused. It worked like a charm on Friday. For those who couldn't get the live feed, or who want to go back and listen to the sessions again, the audio/video is available on the site now. If you would like to get the sessions on

CD, we can send them to you that way for a slight fee. You can e-mail your request to me at [shermel@angusjournal.com](mailto:shermel@angusjournal.com).

### Congratulations

Articles on each of the award winners are also posted to the site. Our congratulations to Angus members who took home some special recognitions from the meeting.

Bill and Barb Rishel, North Platte, Neb., were recognized Friday afternoon as the Seedstock Producers of the Year (see "Trend Designer," September 2001 *Angus Journal*). Prather Ranch, Fall River Mills, Calif., was recognized as the Commercial Producer of the Year (see "Setting the Bar," July 2005 *Angus Journal*).

Steve Suther, director of industry information for Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), received the Ambassador Award, which recognizes a member of the media who has contributed to the advancement of BIF ideals.

Dale Davis, Belgrade, Mont., received a Pioneer Award recognizing his contributions toward the advancement of beef cattle breeding. I met Mr. Davis at Thursday's awards lunch and was saddened to learn that he went to the hospital the next evening and subsequently died. A former American Angus Association Board Member, he did much to advance the concepts of genetic selection. He was very deserving of the honor as a pioneer in beef cattle breeding. Our most heartfelt sympathies go to his family.

Also honored with Pioneer Awards were

Jack Cooper of Willow Creek, Mont.; Don Kress, emeritus professor at Montana State University; and Jack and Gini Chase of Leiter, Wyo. Les Holden, formerly of Montana, was honored posthumously.

Terry O'Neill of Tomahawk Land and Cattle was honored with a Continuing Service Award, along with Jerry Lipsey, former director of junior activities for the American Angus Association and current executive vice president of the American Simmental Association. Also receiving continuing service awards were Michael MacNeil of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory at Miles City, Mont., and Robert Williams, director of breed improvement and foreign marketing of the American-International Charolais Association.

### Honored at home

We have our own honors to bestow this month. Congratulations to Crystal Albers, who was recently promoted from assistant editor to associate editor. Crystal joined the API staff two years ago upon graduating from Kansas State University.

Crystal has been a tremendous asset to our editorial team. In addition to feature writing and production responsibilities, she has spearheaded our efforts to provide you the latest news and industry events through the "Beef Business" column in the *Angus Journal* and the Angus e-List. If you aren't signed up for the e-List, I encourage you to sign up and take advantage of this service, which provides Angus and industry news on a daily basis.

Congratulations, Crystal.

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