

Honorees Named

The NJAA honors three couples with induction into the Honorary Angus Foundation.

by *Shelby Axtell*

One of the goals of the Angus Foundation is to open the doors of opportunity for Angus youth. The Foundation provides funding for education, youth and research. Each year, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) selects outstanding individuals to join the Honorary Angus Foundation. Inductees are those who have shown notable dedication and support to juniors.

To recognize their dedication to Angus youth, three couples were bestowed the honor Friday, July 22, at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo.

Dick and Diane Beck

Dick and Diane Beck, Red Lodge, Mont., have been enduring supporters of the NJAA and the Angus Foundation. Raising their family in the NJAA and the Angus breed, they are firm believers in the benefits of Angus youth programs.

The Becks have provided generous monetary support to the Angus Foundation in the past several years, says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation director of development. Although they have sponsored numerous events in conjunction with the NJAS, Jenkins says they provide much more than just financial gifts.

"The Becks lead by example with their financial support to the Foundation and believe in its future," Jenkins says. "They have been very unselfish in helping to ensure the success of the Angus Foundation and are an inspiration to all of us."

Retiring NJAA Board officers Jeana Sankey, Council Grove, Kan., and Tyler Grissom, Prague, Okla., have witnessed the Becks' support firsthand. The Becks have been actively involved in junior board activities, both personally and through their family. Their daughter, Jenni, was the 2004 NJAA chairman of the Board, and served with both Jeana and Tyler.

"They have been dedicated to the junior programs by being past NJAS chairs, helping market our Foundation heifer and helping us gather donors for the Foundation Banquet in Louisville each year," Grissom says.

Sankey says they have always been very supportive to junior members, whether it was watching a show, in the barns or whatever else might be needed.

"They are people that I know if I had questions or problems I could go and talk to and they would help me out," Sankey says.

Currently, Dick is the general manager of Three Trees Ranch Inc., Sharpsburg, Ga., and the Becks are partners in ORigen Breeders Service, Billings, Mont. The Becks' gracious support and dedication to the Angus breed enable numerous youth to continue to reap the benefits of the NJAA.

George and June Crenshaw

A special Kansas couple committed to the Angus breed has affected generation after generation of Angus enthusiasts. George and June Crenshaw, Shamrock Farms, Manhattan, Kan., have played an active role in the Angus breed and the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) for many years.

"They have touched my life since I was a young 4-Her showing my first Angus heifer and steer 45-plus years ago," says Andy McCurry, Burrton, Kan. "Rarely does one find such impassioned individuals whose zest for this business endures and who are still contributing over 50 years later."

"The Crenshaws have always been family-oriented," says Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch, Ashland, Kan. "Regardless of what your name was, the Crenshaws have always been there for all of us in the Angus business."

They were known to provide many junior Angus enthusiasts with the opportunity to attend shows. Many juniors have heard the stories George enjoys telling about his experiences showing Angus cattle and things he has learned along the way.



► Dick and Diane Beck (center) of Red Lodge, Mont., have been enduring supporters of the NJAA. Retiring NJAA Board members Kyle Conley (left) and Jennifer Ourso (right) present the Becks a framed print to commemorate their induction into the Honorary Angus Foundation during the 2005 NJAS.



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“I have come to realize that the stories are much more than a recount of the past by a man who has devoted a lifetime to the Angus business, but a legacy that the Crenshaws are sharing with the present and future generations of junior Angus members,” says Garrett Lampe, Scott City, Kan., KJAA president.

With a list of contributions too long to mention, the Crenshaws have been Angus breeders since 1942 and have been a driving force behind the KJAA. They helped start the first Kansas Junior Angus Preview Show in 1971, and for the past 30 years they have provided Angus exhibitors with silver dollars at the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. The Crenshaws were named the first honorary members of the KJAA and the first Kansas Angus Family of the Year.

The Crenshaws have been involved in the Angus breed for more than 60 years (see the March 2002 *Angus Journal*, p. 136). With juniors and the betterment of the breed always at heart, the Crenshaws continue to be mentors and role models for Angus enthusiasts of all ages.

Fred and Betty Johnson

For more than 60 years, Fred and Betty Johnson, Summitcrest Farms, with locations in Ohio, Nebraska and Iowa, have been pioneers in the Angus breed. With a list of recognitions that include Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year, the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Commitment to Excellence Award, the American Angus Association's Historic Angus Herd Award, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Beef Business of the Century Award, the Johnsons have proven their dedication and belief in Angus.

Jake Tiedeman, NJAA Board chairman, says the Johnsons have been pioneers of the Angus breed in the pasture and on the rail, as well as dedicated supporters of every aspect of the Angus breed.

“In addition to contributing great Angus genetics to the breed, Fred and Betty have always been generous with their resources and time, especially when it comes to the support of the junior programs,” Tiedeman says. “Whether serving an integral role in getting the Certified Angus Beef program off



► Retiring NJAA Board members Jennifer Ourso and Kyle Conley present a framed print to George and June Crenshaw (center) of Shamrock Farms, Manhattan, Kan., to commemorate their induction into the Honorary Angus Foundation. The Crenshaws, who were recognized at the 2005 NJAS, have helped many young Angus enthusiasts participate in junior activities.

the ground in the 1970s, or graciously hosting Angus Foundation fund-raising events, such as the ‘That Old Black Magic’ event last fall, the Johnsons’ immense support of the Angus breed is much appreciated.”

The Johnsons hosted the “That Old Black Magic” Gala and Auction in fall 2004, which generated nearly \$70,000 for the Angus



► Fred and Betty Johnson of Summitcrest Farms are also inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation. The Johnsons have been generous supporters of the Angus Foundation.

Foundation (see the January 2005 *Angus Journal*, p. 60), Jenkins says.

“Fred and Betty are generous supporters of the Angus Foundation,” Jenkins says. “The donations generated through ‘That Old Black Magic’ are extremely important in enabling the Foundation to allow further development of educational and instructional tools for Angus breeders of all ages.”

Summitcrest Farms have provided more than just monetary support; they have been leaders in beef carcass testing. Being one of the first breeders to make interim carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs) available on their sale bulls, Fred and Betty have continued to pave the way for Angus breeders.

“Fred took some risks regarding carcass testing and it paid off,” says Jennifer Svoboda, Nebraska Angus Association secretary. “They have a long list of accomplishments, and you would never know it by them. Fred and Betty are just the neatest, most down-to-earth people.”

The Johnsons have and continue to be key leaders in the Angus industry. Their motivation keeps other breeders and youth excited and committed to the Angus breed.

