

Angus Members Take Center Stage at BIF

**BEEF
IMPROVEMENT
FEDERATION**



by **Shauna Rose Hermel**

Angus members claimed the coveted titles of seedstock and commercial producers of the year at the 2006 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium April 18-21 at the Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Miss. Sauk Valley Angus, Rock Falls, Ill., and Pitchfork Farm, Stronghurst, Ill., earned the premier awards, while many other Angus producers claimed titles as well.

Nearly 500 cattlemen from across the country, South Africa and Canada met for the 38th annual event, themed "21st Century Genetics: Rising to the Challenge Southern Style." The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA),

Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and Mississippi State University Extension Service hosted the event.

Meetings began Tuesday evening with a symposium sponsored by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UGC) titled "Basics of Ultrasounding Beef Cattle for Genetic Improvement." General sessions Wednesday and Thursday focused on how cow-calf producers can meet retail and consumer targets and how they can best fit into their production environments. Afternoon committee meetings allowed participants to discuss current technologies in beef cattle performance and evaluation.

In coming months, the *Angus Journal* will

bring you highlights of the general sessions and committee discussions. You can access online coverage of the meeting at www.bifconference.com. The meeting coverage site contains summaries of each of the sessions, along with audios, PowerPoint® presentations, proceedings and helpful links to other Web sites.

BIF took time to honor industry leaders and supporters during the meeting's two awards luncheons.

Seedstock producers honored

Sauk Valley Angus was named the 2006 BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. Headquartered southwest of Rock Falls, Ill., in Whiteside County, Sauk Valley Angus is owned by Gary and Kathy Sandrock and managed by Jay King, Ben Sandrock and Matt Sandrock. King serves as a director for the American Angus Association. The family-owned and -operated seedstock and row-crop operation has been at the current location for seven generations. All income is derived from the sale of Angus seedstock and cash crops.

Angus nominees for the seedstock award included:

Benoit Angus Ranch. The ranch got its start in 1962 with the purchase of six registered Angus heifers. Located near

Esbon, Kan., the ranch is owned and operated by Everett and Bonnie Benoit; their sons, Chad and Doug; and Doug's wife, Michelle.

Champion Hill. Located in southeastern Ohio coal country near Bidwell, the operation is owned by Marshall Reynolds, who started the business in 1993, and managed by Paul Hill. Hill is treasurer of the American Angus Association.

EE Ranches Inc. The Winona, Miss., ranch has been in operation for 23 years and features a herd of Angus cattle. It is owned by

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► **Above:** BIF honored Sauk Valley Angus, Rock Falls, Ill., as the 2006 Seedstock Producer of the Year. The family-owned operation is owned by Gary and Kathy Sandrock and managed by Jay King, Ben Sandrock and Matt Sandrock. Pictured are (from left) Matt, Gary and Kathy Sandrock; Jay King; and Ben Sandrock.



► **Right:** BIF honored Pitchfork Farm, Stronghurst, Ill., as the 2006 Commercial Producer of the Year. Pictured are Sara (left) and Ken Nimrick.

Bill and Jo Ellard and managed by Jack and Cheryl Evans.

Earhart Farms. Larry Earhart is the third generation to farm the homestead his family claimed south of Powell, Wyo., in 1929. The registered Angus herd was started in 1958.

Lawler Farm. Located near Opelika, Ala., Lawler Farm is owned by Charles Lawler and managed by Bruce Randall. Lawler's son-in-law, Bob Dudley, and his grandson, Tillman Dudley, are also involved with the operation. The current purebred Angus operation began in earnest in 1999.

Quaker Hill Farm LLC. Owned by Charles S., Lee, and Charles A. Rosson, Quaker Hill is located in Louisa County, Va., and consists of 400 cows, including a purebred Angus herd.

Other seedstock nominees included **Figure 4 Cattle Co./Volk Ranch LLLP**, George, Gary and Gail Volk, Gunnison County, Colo.; **Powder Creek Simmentals**, Rodney and Gail Hilley, Molena, Ga.; **Thomas Charolais Inc.**, Billy and Claudette Thomas, Raymondville, Texas; and **Vorthmann Limousin**, Roger and Ann Vorthmann, Treynor, Iowa.

Commercial producers recognized

Pitchfork Farm, Stronghurst, Ill., was named the 2006 BIF Commercial Producer of the Year. Owners Ken and Sara Nimrick operate a grain and commercial beef cattle operation consisting of 220 cow-calf pairs and 35 replacement heifers on 340 acres of permanent and rotational pasture. They have been on the same farm in Henderson County since 1971; the land has been in Sara's family since 1852.

Commercial programs recognized as nominees included:

Duck Farm Inc. Owned by Samuel and Nadine Wohlstadter and managed by Kevin Powell, Duck Farm is located in Madison County, Va. The cattle operation consists of 660 commercial Angus cows.

Hunt Hill Cattle Co. Cooper and Katie Hurst established Hunt Hill Cattle in 1995 south of Woodville, Miss. Commercial cows and first-calf heifers are based on Angus, Hereford and Brahman genetics. Raised replacement heifers are bred to Angus bulls.

McDorman Farms. Owned by Louis J., Louis H. and Janelle McDorman, the southwest Ohio operation has a Charolais-Angus-Hereford-cross cow herd bred to purebred Angus bulls.

Rock Creek Ranch. Owned by Jim and Jean Houck and Jeff and Lori Houck, the Lynn County, Kan., ranch features a herd of 500 Simmental and Sim-Angus females.

Sutherland Ranches. Virginia and Lynn Sutherland own the Colorado ranch. This herd has been a closed herd since the 1920s, using only home-raised heifers for replacements and buying registered bulls.

Van Waardhuizen Inc. This first-generation livestock and crops farm located in south central Iowa is owned by Keith and Julie Van Waardhuizen. The cow herd consists of 135 commercial Angus cows, which are bred to Angus bulls that are all full-blood brothers.

Others recognized

BIF recognized three individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle with its Pioneer Award: **John Brethour**, retired from Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center, Hays, Kan.; **Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers** of Rogers Bar HR, Collins, Miss.; and the late **Dave Pingrey**, formerly of Black Bull Cattle Co., Yazoo County, Miss., and a former American Angus Association president.

The organization honored three individuals with the Continuing Service Award, which recognizes individuals for their service to the organization and to the beef industry: **Lisa Kriese-Anderson**, associate professor in the department of animal sciences at Auburn University; **Jimmy Holliman**, superintendent at the Auburn University Black Belt Research Center in Marion Junction and former BIF president; and **Dave Notter**, professor of animal and poultry sciences at Virginia Tech University.

BIF named *Cattle Today* Editor **Belinda Hood Ary** recipient of its 2006 Ambassador Award. The honor is given to a member of the media each year for that individual's efforts to help cattle producers understand cattle performance-testing and genetic prediction tools.

Jamie Williams, Colorado State University, and **Amy Kelley**, Montana State University, received Frank Baker Memorial Scholarships. Williams won the scholarship with her essay, "Selection to Improve Performance of Cattle in Subtropical Regions Using Heat Tolerant EPDs (expected progeny differences)." Kelley won the scholarship with her essay, "The Relationship of Genetics and Nutrition and Their Influence on Animal Performance."

For more on each of the award winners, see the Awards page at www.bifconference.com.

The 2007 BIF meeting, where the organization will celebrate its 40th birthday, will be June 6-9 at the Hilton Fort Collins, in Fort Collins, Colo.

NEWSMAKERS

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Memorial contributions can be made to the Angus Foundation and sent to 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

Dale Meyer, 54, Douglass, Kan., died April 27.

He is survived by daughter, Jamie; mother, Helen; sisters, Carol and Donna; and numerous relatives and friends. Memorials can be made to the Angus Foundation and marked for the Kansas Scholarship.

Stanley E. Stout, 64, Cottonwood Falls, Kan., died April 30.

The son of Elmore G. and Doris L. (Titus) Stout was born Nov. 23, 1941, in Emporia, Kan. He married Brenda Williams Feb. 1, 1996, in Kansas City, Mo.

He grew up on the TS Ranch near Cottonwood Falls and remained active in the family's horse and cattle business during his professional auctioneering career. A graduate of Kansas State University, Stout auctioned livestock for genetic suppliers across the country.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cottonwood Falls, the American Hereford Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, the National Auctioneers Association, the Kansas State Ahearn Club, the Livestock Marketeers, and the Kansas State Block and Bridle. He was on the Board of Directors of the American Royal and a Chase County 4-H Alumnus of the Bazaar 4-H.

He is survived by his wife; son Justin; daughters Jessie, Jamie and Jodie; his father; sister Marcia; stepsons Wesley and Andrew; stepdaughter Sarah; and six grandchildren.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Mike Bennett has been appointed state director for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in Colorado. Bennett currently serves as president of Heritage Bank for the Boulder region.

Glen Keppy has been appointed to the post of associate administrator for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). As associate administrator, Keppy will oversee management of FSA farm and farm loan programs and commodity operations activities.

Shelley Khal, chairman of the World Ag Expo Media Committee, has been named 2008 World Ag Expo show chairman.

New officers of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

