

Meet Your Candidates

Five members, including four incumbents and one new candidate, have announced they will vie for positions on the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

At press time, five members had announced their intention to run for a position on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November in Louisville, Ky. Chris Sankey of Council Grove, Kan., is seeking his first three-year term on the Board. Arlen Sawyer, Bassett, Neb.; Doug Schroeder, Clarence, Iowa; Darrell Silveira, Firebaugh, Calif.; and Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont.; are each seeking re-election for a second three-year term.

The delegates presented beginning on page 70 will elect five directors, the president and chairman of the board, and the vice president and vice chairman of the Board, as well as vote on any bylaws amendments that may be presented at the Association's 128th Annual Convention of Delegates. The convention will be convened Monday, Nov. 14, in Louisville in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE; see page 58 for schedule of Angus activities).

Biographical sketches of the candidates are presented here in alphabetical order.

Chris Sankey Council Grove, Kan.

The Kansas Angus Association unanimously endorses Chris Sankey of Council Grove, Kan., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.



Chris Sankey

American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Chris and his wife, Sharee, own and operate Sankey's 6N Ranch located in the Flint Hills near Council Grove. The

Sankeys have two children, Cody and Jeana, who were actively involved in the Kansas Junior Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Chris's livestock roots trace back three generations to his grandfather's purchase of the family ranch in south-central Kansas. The Sankey Ranch registered Angus cow herd was established by H.F. and Larry Sankey in 1940, with the Sankey's receiving the Historic Angus Herd Award in 1990.

Following his graduation from Sterling

High School, Chris attended Kansas State University (K-State) and received his bachelor's degree in animal science and business in 1978. While at K-State, Chris was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and Block & Bridle Club, and he participated on the junior and senior livestock judging teams. Chris was employed by the K-State Purebred Beef Unit and worked under Ken Conway and Galen Fink. One of the highlights of his "Beef Barn" career was being involved with Manhattan Gal, K-State's triple-crown-winning Angus female.

After graduation, Chris married Sharee Laflin, a fourth-generation Angus member from a ranching family at Olsburg, Kan. Chris's first job out of college was assistant manager at Southern Star Land & Cattle Co. in Missouri. His stay there was short as he had the opportunity to go home to the family ranch and be involved there.

Having the chance to focus and expand in the registered Angus business, Chris was hired to manage Mission Valley Ranch to develop its purebred Angus herd. Chris moved his family and their cow herd to northeast Kansas in the early 1980s. In 1983, the chance of a lifetime came along and he and Sharee leased the historic 6N Ranch in the great natural prairie of the Flint Hills just outside of Council Grove.

In 1993, the Sankeys purchased the headquarters and part of the ranch they had been leasing while Omega Cattle Corp. purchased the balance. The Sankeys managed Omega Ranch until it sold in 2008. During this time Chris and Sharee were continuing to expand their Angus cow herd while adding another breed to their program.

Chris has been active in the Kansas Angus Association (KAA), serving on the KAA board and as president of the association in 1990. He has served on two National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) committees, a regional show committee and with various association committees. He currently serves on the 2012 National Angus Conference & Tour committee. He has been a Kansas Junior Angus Association advisor for two terms.

Chris is involved in the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) and is a past County Chairman and past Purebred Council

Committee Chairman. He has also served his home community by being a 4-H leader in the Beef Project and served as a member of the Morris County Extension Council and Farm Bureau Board.

Sharee was a member of the American Angus Auxiliary officer team and served as president in 2005-2006. She currently serves as Chairman of the Liaison Committee for the Auxiliary.

Their son, Cody, 31, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma State University (OSU) and is the manager of the Purebred Beef Cattle Center at Michigan State University (MSU). He is also the current livestock judging team coach at MSU.

Jeana, 27, received her bachelor's degree in ag communications from OSU. Jeana capped her NJAA career by serving as vice chairman of the NJAA Board. After graduation from OSU, she became director of activities and shows for the American Maine-Anjou Association. In 2010, she married Dustin Hurlbut of Raymond, S.D. Jeana and Dustin are now involved with the Hurlbut family Angus and Simmental operation, along with her involvement with SCI Designs.

Chris and his family utilize all the tools available to improve their genetics, using artificial insemination (AI) since 1977, incorporating embryo transfer (ET) and ultrasound data along with DNA testing. They have developed a wide array of merchandising tools for their Angus genetics, including sending bulls to the Midland Bull Test, selling bulls in the National Western Angus Bull Sale and hosting an annual female sale at the ranch in the fall. These marketing avenues, along with their private-treaty sales, have allowed them to reach an expanded market that includes international trade into Mexico. Through the years they have developed a great network of customers in different areas, including getting juniors involved in the NJAA.

"The Angus breed has given generations of our families a way of life that we enjoy," Chris says. "I would like the chance to help continue in the growth of the American Angus Association and would value your support for a position on the Board."

Arlen Sawyer Bassett, Neb.

The Nebraska Angus Association has whole-heartedly and unanimously endorsed Arlen Sawyer as a candidate for re-election as



Arlen Sawyer

a member of the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Arlen and his wife, Becky, are owners of A&B Cattle located south of Bassett in the north-

central Sandhills of Nebraska. They have two children. Jessica, 30, is a psychiatric nurse-practitioner. Adam, 22, is currently helping in the operation.

The Angus roots run deep in the Sawyer family. Arlen's grandfather, Howard Washington Sawyer, purchased his first Angus in 1917 and began raising registered Angus in 1920. Arlen's father, Richard James Sawyer, carried on the tradition of farming on the family homestead at Howard, S.D., and raised Angus cattle until his death in 1990. Sawyer's Angus was recognized as a Centennial Herd in 1980. In 1987 the entire Sawyer family celebrated the farm's centennial.

Arlen is a graduate of South Dakota State University (SDSU), where he was active in Block & Bridle Club, Rodeo Club and Little International. He was a member of the SDSU 1974-1975 livestock judging team coached by Dan Gee.

After graduation Arlen married Becky Schumacher, who had grown up on an Angus farm near Cresco, Iowa. In December 1976, Arlen and Becky decided to move to Bassett, Neb., where he accepted the position of manager of the 700-head registered cow herd at K Plus Angus Ranch.

In 1982, Arlen and Becky purchased a small ranch in Rock County, Neb. In 1984, the Sawyers became associated with Premier Angus and Silver Plume Angus as they initiated the Profitmaker Bull Program. A Premier cow herd of 350 females and a Silver Plume herd of 100 females were maintained by the Sawyers until fall 1990.

From 1984 to 1990, Arlen and Becky purchased more ranch land in Rock County, Neb., and expanded their own cow herd. They established "A&B Cattle" in fall 1990. They have since conducted 21 bull sales, hosting the sale the first Thursday in April. They sell registered Angus bulls to commercial and registered cattlemen through the sale and private treaty.

A&B Cattle was recognized as a Historic

Angus Herd in 1995, on the 75th anniversary of the Sawyer family's continuously raising registered Angus cattle. Some of the first females Arlen and Becky purchased were from the original Sawyer Angus Farm herd.

The A&B breeding program puts strong emphasis on calving ease, carcass quality, feed efficiency and feedlot performance — all traits that their bull customers highly value. They have a rigorous selection program in the cow herd based upon production records, and try to closely mimic the efficiency of the area's commercial cow herds on native Sandhills forages.

A&B Cattle currently consists of 500 Angus purebred and commercial cows. Arlen's mission in life is to provide genetics that will allow his customers to most profitably raise high-quality beef.

The Sawyers have taken advantage of many of the programs and services of the American Angus Association, including AngusSource®, the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Value Discovery program, Angus Information Management Software (AIMS), and Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). For the past three years, their cow herd has been involved in DNA research conducted by the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC) and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) that includes research on identifying gene panels for growth and production traits.

Through the years, Arlen has judged numerous regional and national livestock events, including the Western National Angus Futurity (WNAF), the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity, the Fort Worth Livestock Show Roll-of-Victory (ROV) Angus Show, the American Royal ROV Angus Show, and the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) ROV Angus Show, as well as other breed events at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) and the NAILE.

Since 1990, A&B Cattle has exhibited cattle at the American Royal, the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity, the WNAF and the NWSS. As an exhibitor in the "yards" in Denver for many years, A&B Cattle exhibited the reserve grand champion pen of bulls in 1992 and 2002. The Sawyers continue to take pens of registered bred heifers as featured consignments to the National Western Foundation Female sale.

Arlen's daughter and son were active members of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association and the NJAA, both showing at almost a dozen national junior Angus shows. Jessica was a former NJAA Board Member and was the 2000 national showmanship winner. Adam has begun breeding and

raising a small herd of Angus females of his own from former junior Angus projects.

Arlen is a member of the Nebraska Angus Association, Nebraska Cattlemen and the Sandhill Cattle Association. He is a past president of the Nebraska Angus Association and the Area II Region of the Nebraska Cattlemen. He has served on the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic board of directors and on the Beef Advisory Council to the Black Hills Stock Show. He has served as advisor to the Nebraska Junior Angus Association.

Locally, he has served as a two-term president of the Bassett Country Club, was a board member of the district FmHA, and is an active member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bassett, where he served as president of the Parish Council.

During his tenure on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, Arlen has served on the boards of CAB, the Angus Foundation and Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI). He has also served on the Breed Improvement, Activities, and Industry Relations committees. He is currently vice chairman of the Communications and Public Relations Committee.

"I have really enjoyed serving the American Angus Association as a Board Member. I try never to forget exactly who I represent, that being the members of this great association who continue to support our breed registry," Arlen says. "I've always tried to respond to questions as promptly as possible and have invited input from lots of different perspectives. It would be a great honor to serve the membership of the American Angus Association again for another term."

Doug Schroeder Clarence, Iowa

The Iowa Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Douglas A. (Doug) Schroeder, as a candidate for re-election to a second term on the American Angus



Doug Schroeder

Association Board of Directors.

Doug grew up on a family farm near Clarence, Iowa, a small rural farming community. He has been actively involved with livestock all of his life, participating in 4-H as a youth with projects in cattle, swine and sheep. Doug also spent 10 years as a 4-H leader.

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After he graduated from Clarence Lowden High School in 1980, Doug attended Kirkwood Community College, where he received his ag business degree. While in college, Doug was a member of the livestock judging team and Hoof & Horn Club.

Doug married Glenda Swanson in September 1982. They have three children — Jason, 27; Drew, 25; and Lauren, 24. All three children were active in 4-H, FFA, Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association, Iowa Junior Angus Association and the NJAA. Jason, Drew and Lauren have participated in various contests at the NJAS. They have shown bulls and heifers at every NJAS from 1993 to 2008.

Jason is married to Jessica, and they have two children — Peyton, 2, and Lane, 1 month. Jason works for Schroeder Angus and rents 220 acres of crop ground. Drew works for Pioneer Hybrids, has a farm plot, helps out on the farm and has a taxidermy business. Lauren is a financial consultant. All three children have their own cattle in the operation.

Doug started working at Pioneer International Hybrid after graduating from college. In 1988 they rented farm ground near Clarence, and in 1989 they purchased the original Schroeder homestead.

Today, the farm consists of 320 acres of owned and 500 acres of rented ground, consisting of corn, soybeans, alfalfa and pasture. They manage 125 registered Angus cows, all of which are enrolled in the AHIR program. Doug also uses ultrasound data to enhance the carcass merit of the herd.

Schroeder Angus produces seedstock for purebred and commercial producers. They sell their cattle privately off the farm and through state and national sales. They also enter bulls on test in the Iowa Angus Association (IAA) and the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) central bull tests. Schroeder Angus has been using AI for 28 years and ET for the last 13 years. Throughout the years, Schroeder Angus has competed in the showring at the local, state and national level. Schroeder Angus is also involved in Rose Avenue Pork LLC, owning and managing 5,000 head annually.

Doug is very interested in finding and researching new ways of utilizing DNA information on feed efficiency and carcass traits. With the rise in cost of inputs, this issue has become increasingly more important.

Over the years, Doug has been active in associations such as Cedar County Cattlemen's Association; Cedar County Corn & Soybean Association; Cedar County

Pork Producers; Eastern Iowa Angus Association, in which he was president for two years; and Iowa Angus Association, in which he was also president for two years.

Doug and Glenda have both been strong and active supporters of junior programs on the state and national level. They were Iowa Junior Angus Association advisors for 13 years and were extremely honored to be recognized as NJAA Advisors of the Year in 2006 at the NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind. They were chairpersons for the NJAS in 2000 and 2008. Doug showed great leadership ability through his involvement in such a major event and is very adamant about the support needed to carry out a successful show. It has grown in scope from a simple cattle show to an experience of a lifetime and an educational opportunity that will reap benefits for many years for all junior members.

Since being elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors in 2008, Doug has served on the Activities Committee, including as vice chairman; Finance & Planning Committee, including as vice chairman; and the Industry Relations; Communication & Public Relations; and GIPSA Discussion committees. He has also served on the Foundation and CAB boards.

Doug says the importance of promoting Angus cattle is greater than ever with the current price of inputs and the rise in pasture ground being used for corn and soybean production. The importance of advertisement and new technology is crucial in today's agricultural business. The Angus breed continues to stand strong, and through the Board and staff working together for the membership, it will only become stronger.

Darrell Silveira Firebaugh, Calif.

The California Angus Association and the board of directors of the Western States Angus Association have unanimously endorsed Darrell Silveira, Firebaugh, Calif., to serve as a second-term candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Silveira has been rooted in the Angus community for more than 38 years. Over the years the operation has grown. Together with his family — which includes his partners; a brother, Dudley, an accountant; and Rick Blanchard, operating manager — they own and operate Silveira Bros., a diversified farming and seedstock operation.

Darrell has served on the board of directors of the California Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association. In 2007, he was inducted into the California

Angus Hall of Fame for his years of contributions to the association and to the advancement of the breed. He has served as a delegate to the American Angus Association Annual Convention in Louisville, Ky., for



Darrell Silveira

more than two decades.

He was part of a group of breeders instrumental in starting the California Angus Days Female Sale, Show and Annual Meeting.

He also helped put together the inaugural California Angus Breeders' Bull Sale designed to serve as an outlet for smaller producers to market bulls. In 2003, Silveira Bros. was named the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Seedstock Producer of the Year

Silveira Bros. hosts two sales annually at the ranch, the "Partners for Performance" Bull Sale and the "Partners for Performance" Female Sale. They also market cattle at the California Angus Breeders' Female Sale, as well as exporting bulls and females to many countries, including Argentina, Australia, Mexico and Canada.

Born and raised in one of the richest agricultural regions in the country, Darrell has been involved in agriculture his entire adult life, making his living only within the realm of agriculture. He has raised cotton, sugar beets and alfalfa hay in his early years in the farming business. The enterprise has grown today and, in addition to alfalfa, Silveira Bros. raises wine grapes and almonds.

Through his ties in the alfalfa business early on, he worked with a research team to develop specialized alfalfa seed and market it through S&W Seed Co., which today markets seed throughout the United States, South America, Mexico, Australia and the Middle East.

He served for nearly two decades on the California Crop Improvement Association board of directors at the University of California-Davis. He was a director for the local irrigation district and one of the founding members of the National Farmers Organization (NFO) in the San Joaquin Valley. He served as a director and as president of the California Alfalfa Seed Research Board, serving on that board for 15 years.

He graduated from Tranquility High School in Tranquility, Calif., and attended

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he studied agribusiness and worked to make his lifelong dream of agriculture and cattle come together as Silveira Bros. Diversified Farming.

In 2005, Silveira was honored with the California Golden Bear Award at the California State Fair in Sacramento. The award recognized his efforts in the advancement of agriculture and cattle in California.

While serving on the American Angus Board of Directors, Darrell has served on the boards of Angus Productions Inc. (API) and the Angus Foundation. He has also served on the Finance & Planning Committee; the Alternative Income Committee; the Information & Data Management Committee; the Bylaws Review Committee; and the Activities Committee, including as vice chairman.

Jim Sitz Harrison, Mont.

The Montana Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Jim Sitz, Harrison, Mont., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.



Jim Sitz

majoring in business and agricultural management. While attending college, his father, Bob Sr., died from injuries in a tractor accident at the ranch. Jim completed college and returned to the ranch to work with his mother, Donna, and brother, Bob Jr., on a full-time basis in the management and operation of Sitz Angus Ranch.

The Sitz Angus Ranch was started in 1928 by Will and Frieda Sitz, Jim's grandparents. Sitz Angus Ranch has since grown and has become known as one of the top sources of Angus genetics in the country. They are consistently among the top in the nation in registrations recorded at the American Angus Association, with well over 1,400 head each year.

The Sitz program markets more than 900 bulls each year to seedstock and commercial cattlemen throughout the United States. These bulls are marketed in two annual sales

hosted at both the Harrison and Dillon ranches. They also market both registered and commercial Angus females through these sales and through female production sales.

Jim married Tammi Huntsman in 1997, and they have four children: Amber, Ashley, Tyler and Tucker. Tammi is very involved in the daily operations of the ranch, keeping track of the records for all segments of the operation.

Jim has been and is very active in regional and state organizations. He has served on the board of directors and was president of the Montana Angus Association for two years. He has previously served as a member of the Montana Beef Council for the Montana Stockgrowers Association and presently serves on the board for Rocky Mountain Supply, a statewide agribusiness. The Sitz Angus operation is well-recognized throughout the state of Montana for their support of both the beef industry and agriculture in general.

Jim and the Sitz program have tremendous appreciation for the strengths of the American Angus Association and the influence the Angus breed of cattle has on the beef industry. Their program emphasizes the female strengths of the breed and what they have to offer them as well as their customers. The Sitz program has been recognized regularly for the number of Pathfinder® cows reported by the American Angus Association.

Jim also has a great appreciation for other programs of the American Angus Association, including the junior program, CAB and AngusSource®. Having grown up working with Angus cattle in 4-H at local and state levels, he has a great understanding of the values that these programs have given him. He recognizes the value that CAB and AngusSource add to the value of cattle produced not only at the Sitz Ranch, but also for their commercial customers.

During his first term, Jim has served on several committees, including Breed Improvement, serving as vice chairman in 2010 and 2011; Information & Data Management; Member & Affiliate Services, serving as chairman in 2011; Industry Relations; Alternative Income, and API Internet Auction, as well as serving on the Genetic Recessives Task Force.

He served as chairman of the Bylaws Review Committee formed in June 2010 and chairman of the Reproduction Efficiency Task Force formed in February 2010.

Jim has also served on the boards of CAB, AGI and API. He was appointed to represent

the American Angus Association on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) International Markets Committee.

"My goal would be to serve on this Board representing all segments of the membership with the success of all in mind as we promote the Angus breed and what it has to offer the beef cattle industry," Jim states. "I would appreciate the opportunity to use my experience to serve the American Angus Association."

