

Nine Announce Candidacies

Nine members of the American Angus Association have announced they will seek a spot on the board of directors this November.

Compiled by **Shauna Rose Hermel**, editor

Nine members have declared their intention to run for a position on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November in Louisville, Ky. **John Elbert Harrell**, Opelika, Ala.; **Leo McDonnell**, Columbus, Mont.; **John Pfeiffer**, Mulhall, Okla.; and **Kevin Yon**, Ridge Spring, S.C., are seeking a second three-year term on the board. **Tom Burke**, Smithville, Mo.; **Morley Cox**, Logan, Utah; **John Grimes**, Hillsboro, Ohio; **James Henderson**, Childress, Texas; and **Charles McPeake**, Athens, Ga., are each seeking election to their first three-year term.

The delegates presented beginning on page 94 will elect five directors, a president and chairman of the board, and a vice president and vice chairman of the board, as well as vote on any bylaws amendments that may be presented at the Association's 130th Annual Convention of Delegates. The convention will convene Monday, Nov. 18, in Louisville in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). See page 76 for a schedule of Angus activities.

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

Short list of candidates

Seeking re-election

John Elbert Harrell, Alabama

Leo McDonnell, Montana

John Pfeiffer, Oklahoma

Kevin Yon, South Carolina

New candidates

Tom Burke, Missouri

Morley Cox, Utah

John Grimes, Ohio

James Henderson, Texas

Charles McPeake, Georgia

Tom Burke

Tom Burke has declared his candidacy because of his love, dedication and devotion to the Angus breed.

A fourth-generation Angus breeder, Tom's great-grandfather used registered-Angus bulls in the late 1800s. His grandfather, father and uncle were all registered-Angus breeders. Today, Tom

is an owner of the original Burke Farm located in southeastern Minnesota. The farm was homesteaded 128 years ago and is recognized as one of Minnesota's Century Farms.

In 1959, at the age of 16, Tom cast his first vote as a delegate to the American Angus



Tom Burke

Association annual meeting. He has served as a delegate for many years since.

A charter member of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association, Tom was elected the organization's

first president in 1960 and served three consecutive terms. He and his twin brother, Tony, were named FFA State Star Farmers of Minnesota in 1961, and Tom was elected Minnesota FFA vice president in 1962. In 1963, he was elected president of the Minnesota 4-H Federation.

After completing his military obligation, Tom joined the *Drovers Journal*. He served as fieldman for two years in the 12 southeastern states.

In the 1960s, Tom joined the staff of J.B. McCorkle, a national Angus sale-management firm in Smithville, Mo. He continued the sale-management business after McCorkle's death.

Tom served on the Missouri Angus Association board in 1971-1973, as vice president in 1973 and 1974. He was a chairman of the association's state show and sale in 1974. In 1972, the Missouri Junior Angus Association recognized him as its "Man of the Year." He is one of five original life members of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Tom was elected chairman of The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity in 1972 and continues in that role. In 1974, he was appointed to the board of the International Live Stock Show in Chicago, Ill. He is a charter member of the Atlantic National Angus Show, serving on the board of trustees since the show's inception in 1987. Tom was the official announcer for all 27 Atlantic

Nationals. The 1993, 1996 and 2007 shows were dedicated to him.

Tom has been an Angus sale manager for more than 46 years, averaging more than 175 registered-Angus sales per year. He has conducted Angus sales in 47 states, six Canadian provinces and the Caribbean. He takes pride in managing and conducting Angus sales of all types and sizes, and he treasures the lifelong friendships he has made. In 1994, he was recognized as "Marketeer of the Year" during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo.

Tom has addressed Angus field days in more than 35 states and five Canadian provinces. He has traveled extensively internationally on behalf of the Angus breed. In 1993, *USA Today* recognized him as one of the 25 most-traveled people in America.

For 20 consecutive years, Tom was honored by the American Angus Association as "Promoter of the Year." During that period, he recruited more than 1,000 adult and junior members.

On numerous occasions, the American Angus Auxiliary has honored Tom for his work on its behalf. He has been the longest-serving judge of the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off.

Tom has attended all 47 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contests, as well as 45 National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS) between 1969 and 2013, serving as announcer or master of ceremonies at several.

He was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 2004 and presented with the Historic Angus Herd Award in 2006. The Kansas Angus Association selected him as an Honorary Member in 2005. This year the Livestock Publications Council (LPC) presented Tom with his most coveted honor, the Headliner Award.

Tom has co-authored seven best-selling Angus books, including *Angus Legends, Volume I*; *Angus Legends, Volume II, Special Edition*; *Unforgettable Memories, the Atlantic National*; *The 40th Anniversary of the National Junior Angus Show*; *the 50th Anniversary of the Central Illinois Angus Association and Preview Show*; *Angus Legends*,

Special Edition, Volume I, The Bulls; and Angus Legends, Special Edition, Volume II, The Cows.

In 2008, Tom was elected to the International Stockyard's board of directors.

Today he owns 250 registered-Angus cows and has 30 bulls in major artificial insemination (AI) studs. He is involved daily at the American Angus Hall of Fame, which is the home of the largest collection of Angus history in the world. Daughter Carmen; son-in-law Jake; and grandchildren Jett, Miles and Blair are members of the American Angus Association and reside on the Burke Family Farm at Platte City, Mo. Tom is a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Weston, Mo.

He has been active through the recording of nearly 16 million total head currently registered in the United States, giving him a broad insight into the breed.

He travels 340 days a year on behalf of the Angus breed. His life is Angus cattle. As a director of the American Angus Association, Tom will be very accessible. You won't have to find him, he will find you if you have a question or problem.

Duane Morley Cox

My name is Duane Morley Cox, but I prefer to be called by my middle name, "Morley." I am a 74-year-old former "rocket scientist" who spent 34 years as a degreed mechanical engineer, designing solid



Duane Morley Cox

propellant rocket motors, including the Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Boosters. Assigned to work on the Presidential Commission Investigating the Challenger Accident, I subsequently was one of three engineering managers who led the booster redesign effort that successfully and safely returned us to flight in just 33 months.

I lost my first wife of 40 years (Janis) to complications of cancer in 2000, and subsequently married Jeanne Seeley, whose parents/family had a commercial cattle herd for more than 50 years. Between Jeanne and I, we have 10 children and 27 natural or adopted grandchildren.

In 2005, the Seeley family decided to divide the property, and Jeanne purchased as much as she could. We have been able to lease the rest from family members. In 2006, in cooperation with her son Troy;

his wife, Kimberly; and their children, we formed the BlueBell Angus Ranch and began to transition to a registered-Angus herd, aggressively breeding and purchasing the highest-quality Angus we could afford and retaining all heifers until last year, when we reached our maximum herd size.

Our 2013 calf crop is our best to date as indicated by the fact that 41% of these calves are in the top 10%, and 76% are in the top 25% of the Angus breed for \$B [and a random selection of 21 for GeneMax™ (GMX) testing demonstrated that six scored 99, 16 scored 90 or higher, and all scored 75 or higher). In addition, we already have two bulls on the semen market, with another poised to enter the semen market next year.

Each year since beginning our operation I have served as a delegate or chairman of the Utah delegation to the Annual Convention. I will enthusiastically and aggressively support the programs and initiatives of the Association.

As a breeder, I have discovered the complexities of designing solid rocket motors are virtually identical to the complexities of breeding superior Angus cattle. My 34 years of multivariable design of solid rocket motors gives me a unique perspective on how to achieve rapid progress in breeding superior cattle. While I am pleased with the success and progress that we have been able to make in our herd, there are specific things that the Angus Association could do to help us all develop a better and more profitable product.

First, I will be prepared to demonstrate at the Annual Convention a simple but effective technique for helping all seedstock and commercial operations (big and small) "see" their herds on a collective basis, and "see" their individual animals on a comparative basis — techniques which I, as a board member, will work to have the Association adopt and make available for all members.

Second, it is critical for all members to have access to any and all EPDs and related information on any animal they have ever owned or bred, so they can better see their progress and envision future direction.

Third, I believe that the board needs to adopt and implement a plan to make available an improved breeding module that allows all members to make better breeding decisions based upon principles, which is how we designed the first shuttle boosters that put men into space with only a single full-scale preflight ground test of the same design, and it's how I run my breeding program.

Lastly, I advocate against the restrictions the Association has placed upon the disclosure of GeneMax results for bulls.

Commercial herds that exist and have relatively stable female populations can produce more CAB-qualified offspring if they use bulls with the highest possible GMX scores. To my knowledge, CAB success has been measured and compared only against GMX scores, and knowledge of the GMX values for prospective commercial herd sires is therefore critical to achieving rapid increases in CAB production levels and profits.

My seven years as a "four-wheeler cowboy" have been the best of my life. The family culture, variability of individual operations, interest in each other's success, willingness to share perspectives and breeding/operational principles, challenge to develop a better product, etc., creates a shared community of ethical, personal, family and community values that I enjoy and see as the backbone of a truly great America, while having the vital purpose of feeding the growing population of the world with an ever-improving product. I am proud to be part of this community.

If elected, I pledge to listen to all who want or need to have a friend, partner or advocate or just have a conversation about cattle. I believe I have unique talents and perspectives from which the Association and membership will profit, and the rapid progress in our BlueBell Angus herd demonstrates that I have a vision from which many others could benefit.

Thanks for your consideration. I would appreciate your vote, and I look forward to meeting and discussing my visions with any and all of you at the Annual Convention or anytime you would like to call. Go Angus.

John Grimes

The Ohio Angus Association unanimously endorses John Grimes of Hillsboro, Ohio, as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

John is a second-generation Angus breeder who was raised on his family's Angus and commercial cow-calf operation, Maplecrest Farms, near Decatur, Ohio. Upon graduation from Eastern Brown High School in 1979, John attended the Ohio State University (OSU) where he majored in animal science. He was a member of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity, Saddle & Sirloin Club, and Towers Agricultural Honorary. While attending OSU, John was a member of the Ohio 4-H Livestock Judging Team, the OSU Meats Judging Team and the OSU Livestock Judging Team. He served as a delegate for the election of the original Board of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

After graduation from OSU in 1983, John

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returned home to manage the family farming operation. In 1986, he married his wife, Joanie. They have two daughters: Lindsey, 22, and Lauren, 19. Both children have been actively involved in the NJAA.

Lindsey attended OSU and graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. She was a member of the OSU Livestock Judging Team and received All-American honors. Lindsey was a member of the National Junior Angus Board. She is attending Kansas State University in pursuit of a master's degree in animal science. Lauren



John Grimes

is attending Ohio Northern University majoring in pharmacy. Lauren served as Ohio's Junior Chairman for the 2012 NJAS. John took a position with OSU Extension in 1986 and received a master's degree in animal science from OSU in 1988. He served as Extension educator in agriculture and natural resources through 2010. In 2011, John was named Extension beef coordinator to address beef production concerns for Ohio producers. He holds the academic rank of associate professor. John has developed numerous educational programs, bulletins, fact sheets and videos for clientele. Research on early weaning of beef calves has been published in scientific journals and presented at professional conferences. John has been recognized for his educational efforts by receiving numerous teaching awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

John has devoted considerable service to Ohio's beef industry. He is a member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and has served on the board of directors, the Seedstock Improvement Sale Committee, and was Ohio Beef Expo Steer and Heifer Show Committee chairman. John has served three terms on the Ohio Beef Council and was elected treasurer. He has been a member of the beef subcommittee of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and the Ohio-Israel Agricultural Initiative Advisory Committee.

John has contributed leadership to the Angus breed on the state and national level. He has been a long-time member of the Ohio Angus Association and has served as president, vice president and director. He

has been a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting for many years. John was a member of the 1992 NJAS Executive Committee and was fundraising chairman. John and Joanie also served as Ohio's adult co-chairmen for the 2012 NJAS.

John has been a member of the Highland County Planning Commission, Hillsboro Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, Highland County Cattlemen's Association, and Hillsboro First United Methodist Church.

The entire family is involved in the management and operation of Maplecrest Farms, an Angus and commercial seedstock and forage operation. Extensive use of embryo transfer (ET) is used to raise the annual calf crop to more than 300 calves. The operation hosts an annual female production sale in September and has started an annual bull sale in March. All modern genetic tools and evaluation techniques are used to advance the production of quality seedstock for the commercial and purebred breeder.

John has been recognized by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association as Young Cattleman of the Year, and Maplecrest Farms has been named Seedstock Producer of the Year by the same group.

John believes the policies adopted by previous boards have helped place the Angus breed as the leader and dominant genetic supplier for the beef industry. However, the Angus breed will continue to face challenges such as competition from other breeds, genetic issues and dwindling numbers of cattle and producers. These challenges must be managed using the best available information and science with an eye toward the future. Breed priorities should include continued growth of the *Certified Angus Beef* brand, strengthening the genetic database, and expansion of the junior program.

John says his background as a breeder, the family's involvement in the junior program, and his experiences as an Extension professional in teaching and research have motivated him to give back to the Angus breed as a potential Board member. He would be proud to serve the membership and would appreciate your support.

John Elbert Harrell

With a diverse and unique blend of business, educational, organizational and Angus cattle experience, John Elbert Harrell announces his candidacy for re-election as a director of the American Angus Association.

The Alabama Angus Association unanimously endorses his candidacy based on John's lifetime of service with distinction

to that organization. Greg Blythe of Macedon Farms says "John Elbert has one agenda, to serve all Angus breeders equitably with honesty and integrity." He is a lifetime member of the American Angus Association



John Elbert Harrell

and grew up on Harrell Bros. Angus Farm in Lowndes County where his great-grandfather began farming in 1880. His father, Walter Elbert Harrell, established the registered-Angus herd in 1948 and

was executive secretary of the Alabama Angus Association for over 40 years.

As a director of the American Angus Association, John Elbert has served as chairman of the Angus Foundation Board and vice chairman of the Finance & Planning Committee. He is a director for Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and Angus Productions Inc. (API), serves as chairman of the Member & Affiliate Services Committee, and is chaplain for the board.

John Elbert has 44 years' experience breeding and marketing Angus cattle. He and his partner, Mitch Lazenby, own and operate Highlander Ranch in Auburn/Opelika, Ala. They have 100+ registered-Angus females, develop 150 bulls each year and host an annual female sale in April and a bull sale in December. John has 25 years' experience as a community bank president and 18 years' experience as a successful small-business owner.

Roland Starnes, Turner Cattle Co., says, "John Elbert is a successful and passionate cattleman, businessman and community leader with an allegiance to all Angus breeders large and small."

John Elbert is a third-generation graduate of Auburn University with a degree in agricultural economics. He also holds a master's degree in human resource management and a graduate degree in banking from Stonier School of Banking. He holds a certificate in financial planning from Florida State University.

He showed heifers as a junior and was captain of his county livestock judging team. He was manager of Harrell Angus Farm from 1977 to 1982 and was responsible for the herd's AI program, annual production sale, and the marketing of 100+ bulls annually. He was then hired as manager of the "Pickett" division of Lovana Farms, where he was

promoted to performance director for all cattle operations. With the help of the American Angus Association, he developed and implemented one of the largest performance records programs to that date.

While continuing to breed Angus cattle, he began a commercial banking career, which took him to Florida, Georgia and Alabama as a community bank president, where he provided financial services to countless customers (from small-business owners to large corporate clients), giving him a broad understanding and a wealth of experience in business and financial management.

John Elbert and Ann, his wife of 36 years, own and operate a college bookstore in Auburn, Ala., with his sister.

He is a director and past president of the Alabama Angus Association and has been the association's sale committee chairman for more than 10 years. He and Ann are strong supporters of junior Angus members. John Elbert has also served as past treasurer of the Lee County Cattleman's Association, president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, director of Cattlemen for Christ International, president of the Lee County Gideons, and is a past Rotarian. He is a member of Church of the Highlands, is a long-time Youth Sunday School teacher and serves on the church's prayer team ministry and pastoral ministry team.

He and Ann have two children. Maggie is an attorney now serving DC Metro Church as director of children's ministries. Wes is a ministerial protégé, also in Washington, D.C., at DC Metro Church.

John has a tremendous respect and appreciation for the American Angus Association. He believes in the importance of our accurate and reliable database and knows the importance of protecting and utilizing that data to provide tools for members' continued success. He appreciates the contributions and value of regional managers and in the power of the brand as it is reflected in API and CAB and their respective services to Angus breeders. He knows the importance of funding future research and in the value of promoting the continued education of our youth, and is grateful for the role the Angus Foundation plays in those key areas.

We will continue to face challenges and opportunities, and our board and staff must be prepared to deal with them both on behalf of our membership. Phillip Gleason, president of the Alabama Angus Association, says, "John is progressive, independent and stands on firm foundational values and is uniquely qualified to serve as a national

director. No matter what we may face, I trust John to represent our interest as a national director. I know we can count on him."

The officers, members and directors of the Alabama Angus Association respectfully ask the voting delegates of the American Angus Association to re-elect John Elbert Harrell as a director in the 2013 election in November.

James Henderson

The Texas Angus Association supports James W. Henderson as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

James was born in Kerrville, Texas, as a fourth-generation rancher in the Texas Hill Country. He was an active 4-H member



James Henderson

for 12 years, participating in numerous livestock shows and judging contests. Upon graduation from high school in 1973, he was awarded one of the prestigious Houston

Livestock Show and Rodeo 4-H Scholarships.

James attended Texas A&M University where he received a degree in animal science in 1977. He was a member of the National Champion wool judging team in 1974; the meat judging team in 1975, where he was high individual of the Fort Worth contest; and the meat and livestock evaluation team in 1977. James is blessed to have two adult daughters, Hayley and Mary Katherine, who are both graduates of Texas A&M with careers in agriculture.

After graduation James enrolled in graduate school at Texas Tech University as a teaching assistant and coach of the meat judging team. He moved to a career in the meatpacking and processing industry. During the packing-industry portion of his career, James has worked virtually every position in multiple species packing and processing plants up to and including serving as president of B3R Country Meats, which later sold to Coleman Natural Meats.

During his time in the packing industry, James gained considerable international experience and worked closely with the staff of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) in the development of retail deli products of roast beef, pastrami and corned beef and the addition of *Certified Angus Beef*[®] Natural to the product line.

James is a past president of the Southwest Meat Association, a former member of the Texas Cattle Feeders board of directors, past chairman of the Beef Production Research Committee for the National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) and served for 34 years as superintendent of the Intercollegiate Meats Judging Contest for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

In 2004, James married Mary Lou Bradley, another fourth-generation rancher and the second generation of her family to raise registered-Angus cattle. James has continued the time-tested traditions of Bradley 3 Ranch (B3R) that include being one of the first American Angus Association members enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR[®]) program and the measurement of multiple performance traits. In 1996, B3R became the very first Angus ranch to begin parentage verification using DNA technology. James has taken the next step forward with DNA and incorporated HD 50K data into the selection program, and he collects genomic data on all calves born on the ranch.

All B3R females are now enrolled in the MaternalPlus[®] whole-herd reporting program, and B3R has been home to the most Pathfinder[®] Dams in Texas for the past several years. Since James has joined the Bradley family, B3R has also received numerous awards, including the Beef Visionary Award from the National Cattlemen's Foundation, The Beef Merchandiser Award from the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, The Seedstock Commitment to Excellence Award from CAB, and in 2013 was named Seedstock Producer of the Year by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF).

James and Mary Lou currently market about 250 bulls per year to commercial and seedstock customers throughout the United States. The bulls are developed first on grass where forage gains are measured, and then on a high-forage feed test for 84 days at the ranch. James believes that as grains become less available for growing cattle, forage efficiency will become more and more important in the selection of maternal traits. James' knowledge and passion for cattle utilizing forage has led to a B3R cow herd that requires minimal inputs beyond their native forages each year.

James has a lifelong passion for the cattle industry and a long history of working with the CAB program. His work in many facets of the beef industry has increasingly focused

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his passion on Angus genetics and its key role in the beef industry. His service in leadership positions in several other associations gives James experience that he would like to share as a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Leo McDonnell

The Montana Angus Association board and the North Dakota Angus Association endorse Leo McDonnell as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Born and raised in Billings, Mont., Leo is a fourth-generation rancher, raised



Leo McDonnell

around both feedlot and cow-calf operations. He and his wife, Sam, live near Columbus, Mont., and have four children (Steve, Darcey, Kelsey and Buffy) and 10 grandchildren.

They owned and operated the Midland Bull Test until 2008, when they turned management and operation of the test over to their son Steve Williams and his wife, Lindsay. They currently manage 600 cows and have two production sales a year, with one in Montana and one in North Dakota.

Growing up, Leo was active for 10 years in 4-H, showing fed steers, and the local Boy Scout Troop, eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. He fitted and showed several champions for various breeders at major shows in the western United States while in high school. Also while in high school, he started his Angus herd with cows purchased from Candee Angus.

From 1971 to 1975, Leo attended Texas Tech University and the University of Wyoming, studying animal nutrition for a feedlot background and animal science. He returned home in 1976 to help his father run the Midland Bull Test and also managed a commercial feedlot, Patton and Davidson Feedlot.

Leo and Sam purchased their first ranch in 1987 near Reedpoint, Mont., and later moved their ranch to Rhame, N.D., where they graze about 350 registered cows. They also have a herd of registered cows in western Montana and maintain a fall-calving herd at Columbus, Mont.

Leo and Sam purchased Midland Bull Test following his father's death in 1993. Known as "The Granddaddy of

Performance," the test is recognized as a pioneer in the development and promotion of performance. Midland has grown to testing more than 2,000 bulls per year. It has often led the field in introducing breeders and ranchers to additional trait selection. It was one of the early seedstock programs to measure testicle size, recognizing its importance to early fertility in female offspring, as well as its importance to bull fertility.

Midland was one of the pioneers in ultrasound, measuring for ribeye area (REA), intramuscular fat (IMF) and back fat (BF) in 1969 and 1970. It has now become the largest private facility to measure individual feed intake to assist in identifying more-efficient cattle. Emphasis has been on efficiency as it relates to the cow herd and replacement females, and semen is put out in commercial herds where the McDonnells contract calves back and finish them to validate outlier efficiency herd bulls they use.

They sold Midland to Steve and Lindsay last year. Leo and Sam now concentrate their efforts on the cow herd, ranching, grandchildren and developing a national database for efficiency-tested cattle.

Leo has been involved in several industry groups, being a past chair of the Montana Cattle Feeders; a delegate in the mid-1990s for Montana, sitting on the NCBA International Trade Committee and the Research and Education Committee; a co-founder for the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) in 1998-1999; representing cattle producers on the industry-wide Long-Range Planning Committee, and currently a director of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association and Cattlemen's Beef Board. Leo has also been active in the Montana Stockgrowers Association; the Montana Cattlemen's Association; and the Beartooth Stockgrowers Association.

Leo has testified on behalf of U.S. cattle producers at numerous Congressional hearings, including being the sole cattle producer invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Trade Deficit Review Commission in 2001. He is credited with taking the lead in getting country-of-origin labeling (COOL) passed and has spent considerable time in Washington, D.C., advancing issues important to U.S. ranchers.

Leo has received numerous awards, including the 1999 Black Hills Stock Show Agri-Businessman of the Year and the 2000 Ag Advocate of the Year presented

at the Billings Chamber of Commerce ag appreciation dinner. Most special to Leo and Sam are a pair of saddles awarded to them in South Dakota on behalf of their work for cattle producers.

In his spare time, Leo likes to read, rope, spend time with children and grandchildren at sports events, fishing and youth rodeo. He says the cattle business and ranching has always been their passion, so they don't need a vacation. They do what they enjoy every day.

"Life works best when you give back, and I believe this is true on a business and industry level," Leo says. "The Angus breed, Angus breeders and the Association have in a large part been responsible for our family's successes in ranching and at Midland Bull Test. It is for that reason that I am running for director. I would hope with my experience of working with breeders and ranchers with diverse interests, and a love of this industry and the passion to see it advance would be an asset to the members."

Charles McPeake

The Georgia Angus Association unanimously and enthusiastically supports Charles McPeake as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Charles, a Tennessee native, was reared on a diversified grain and livestock farm and



Charles McPeake

was active in 4-H and FFA livestock competitions. He has owned Angus cattle continuously since 1970.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee—

Martin in 1968, followed by four years of working for the University of Tennessee Cooperative Extension Service. He earned a master's degree in 1974 (University of Tennessee—Knoxville) and a doctorate in animal breeding and genetics (Michigan State University) in 1977.

From 1977-1990, Charles served South Dakota and Oklahoma as a beef cattle breeding specialist. The University of Georgia (UGA) named him professor and head of Extension Animal Science in 1990, with program responsibility for Extension animal science, dairy science and veterinary medicine beginning in 1993. In 1997 he

became coordinator of Extension programs for the College of Agriculture-Natural Resources and Family and Consumer Sciences. Since retirement in 2005, he and son Andrew have been engaged in an Angus seedstock operation.

During a 34-year career, Charles had direct contact with beef cattle breeders and youth. He is an effective listener and communicator, and possesses a keen perception of the industry's ever-changing needs and goals. He can communicate scientific research and breeding concepts into common language to help producers increase value-added profitability.

While at the University of Tennessee on a master's program, he worked with data from the Angus herd at Ames Plantation. At Michigan State University his research dealt with crossbreeding and its economic effects through selection and mating systems. At South Dakota State University, he was charged with providing guidance and technical assistance to the South Dakota Livestock Production Records Association and served as its executive director. In 1980, he joined Oklahoma State University (OSU) where he managed Oklahoma Beef Inc. (OBI) and served as its executive secretary. OBI operated with a large annual cash flow and a sizable investment in facilities and equipment. Data collected at the station was used in research studies at OSU and nationally to justify changes in performance testing procedures. Several thousand bulls were tested at the unit during a 10-year tenure at OSU.

Charles served the BIF in several capacities — as a member of the Seedstock Committee (1978-1984); as co-chairman with Frank Baker of the annual BIF meeting in Stillwater, Okla. (1981-1982); as secretary and chairman of the Central Test Committee (1985-1988), and as executive director from 1989-1993.

At UGA, Extension educational programs for beef producers were developed. He organized the Georgia Master Cattlemen course "Cow College" for interested master cattlemen graduates, and "Beef Challenge" that dealt with retained ownership scenarios (real-world). Charles also taught a capstone course for senior students that pertained to world meat trade. He believes in advanced technology, refereed research and dissemination of information through mass communications.

Present and past professional affiliations include the American Angus Association; American Society of Animal Science; American Registry of Professional Animal

Scientists; Gamma Sigma Delta honor society; Alpha Zeta honor society; Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity; cattlemen's organizations at local, state and national levels; the American Quarter Horse Association; and the Mount Rushmore Masonic Lodge #220.

Charles and his wife, Sandra, have two children and four grandchildren. Andrea (Overholser) earned a bachelor's degree in consumer economics from the University of Georgia. Andrew obtained his education at Oklahoma State University (bachelor's in animal science; master's in food science), where he was a member of the 1998-1999 livestock judging team, and Michigan State University (doctorate in ruminant nutrition). He currently owns and operates CAM Ranches in Arnoldsville, Ga., and works side-by-side with his dad on a daily basis.

"As a breeder and enthusiastic advocate for the Angus breed, I would appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors," he says. "I have the experience and knowledge to represent fellow Angus breeders in the continued growth of the number one breed and breed registry in the world."

John Pfeiffer

The Oklahoma Angus Association unanimously endorses John Pfeiffer as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors, noting



John Pfeiffer

that his lifetime experience with the Angus breed combined with his dedication to agriculture make him uniquely qualified to represent the nation's largest breed organization.

During his first term on the American Angus Association board, John served on the CAB Board and the Communications & Public Relations, Breed Improvement, and Finance & Planning committees.

John graduated from Oklahoma State University (OSU) with a bachelor's degree in animal science. While attending OSU, he was a member of the livestock judging team, Block & Bridle and Farmhouse Fraternity, and he purchased his first 160 acres, which is the home place today.

John and his wife, Gaye, have been

married 32 years and have two sons. John Christopher attended OSU, judged on the livestock judging team and is currently in the Marine Corps. Andy graduated from Mulhall-Orlando High School and is building a successful swine operation.

The Pfeiffer family started in the Angus business when John's great-grandfather purchased a registered-Angus bull in 1907. John is a fourth-generation Angus breeder whose herd began with two heifers his granddad gave to him when he was 9 years old. His granddad bought lifetime memberships to the American Angus Association for each grandchild when they were born and had a history of starting many young people in the Angus business with 4-H and FFA projects. That tradition of youth support is carried on by John and his family today.

The family operates a diversified farming operation consisting of 2,200 acres of crops and pasture. Much of the wheat, alfalfa and corn go directly into the 140 registered- and 75 commercial-Angus cows. Stocker calves are brought in depending on the amount of excess wheat pasture and market conditions. Registered females are merchandised through a fall production sale hosted with Blackjack Farms LLC in Seminole, Okla. All bull calves are developed at home and sold through the spring bull sale with Blackjack Farms. Several of the steers are fed through the OK Steer Feedout. John Christopher and Andy had several champion carcass steers at the NJAS and OK Junior Cattlemen's Feedout. Carcass data has been used to make breeding and culling decisions, and the results have affirmed progress in the breeding program.

John spent 30 years teaching high school science, served two years as administrator and was twice selected as teacher of the year. In addition to full-time teaching and farming, he made time to be instrumental in the agriculture community on a local and state level. He is a member of the Orlando United Methodist Church, where he has served as lay leader and chairman of the administrative board. He has been president of the Oklahoma Angus Association and, with Gaye, served as editor of the *Oklahoma Angus Challenger* and *Oklahoma Angus Directory*.

John and Gaye have attended the Brand Builders Seminar hosted by CAB in Wooster, Ohio. They have served as advisors to the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association and were finance chairmen for the 2007 NJAS. They have been named 4-H Volunteer

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Leaders of the Year on the state level and are Angus superintendents at the state fair and OK Youth Expo. John has served as president of the United Cooperative and vice president of the Logan County Farm Bureau and FSA Committee. He was a member of the first Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program. He has been a director for the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, president of the Logan County Cattlemen's Association and president of the Mulhall-Orlando Lions

Club. Whether the ag teacher needs a load of sand for the local fair barn, or Farm Bureau needs a producer to visit the state legislature, they call John to get the job done.

John says that the American Angus Association has long benefited from strong leadership that has concentrated on making Angus the beef breed. His experience in all aspects of the cattle business and leadership in various organizations give him an understanding of what it takes to

keep Angus at the forefront of the cattle business. His work with people outside of the ag sector provides a framework of how to communicate our business to them. It is imperative that we focus on the fact we are producing beef and the association continues to provide members with the tools they need to produce a profitable product. There are many challenges facing the entire agriculture sector. John's lifetime perspective in the Angus business provides insight on how to meet those challenges.

The Oklahoma Angus Association would appreciate your consideration of his candidacy.

Kevin Yon

The South Carolina Angus Association unanimously endorses Kevin Yon of Ridge Spring, S.C., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Kevin is a first-generation Angus breeder who got



Kevin Yon

his introduction into the cattle business at the age of 14. It was then that he borrowed money to purchase an Angus heifer.

Thirty years later, Angus cattle are still a way of life for

Kevin. His platform running for the Board is simple — to give back service to the breed and the people who have afforded him the opportunity to grow his business and family successfully.

Kevin met his wife, Lydia, at Clemson University where they were both pursuing degrees in animal science. After college, they got their feet wet as a couple in the cattle industry by landing their dream job of managing a registered-Angus operation, Congaree Farms, near Columbia, S.C. After seven and a half years of growth there, the owner decided to disperse his cattle operation. Out of a job, but not their dream, the Yons took the plunge in 1996 and started their own Angus operation, Yon Family Farms.

By this time, the Yons were the proud parents of three children under the age of 6, and made the move with 100 head of Angus females to embark on the venture that would become the family's sole source of income to this day.

With both parents working fulltime on the farm, the children have essentially "grown

up” with the farm and have been part of its development every step of the way. Angus cattle have been an integral part of their lives and they have been very involved in NJAA activities, as well as 4-H and FFA. The eldest, Sally, served as vice chairman of the National Junior Angus Board and as Miss American Angus. The Yon children all borrowed money to purchase their own cattle and have all worked on the farm as they attended school. Sally earned a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University in ag education and is pursuing a master’s in ag communications at Oklahoma State. Both Drake and Corbin are students at Clemson University, where Drake is a senior in ag economics and Corbin is a sophomore in ag mechanization and business.

What began on 100 acres with additional leased land has evolved into an operation utilizing more than 2,800 acres that maintains approximately 700 head of Angus brood cows and 300 commercial cows. Two annual sales (one in November and one in February) are hosted at the farm each year. More than 200 Angus bulls and about 100 head of females are sold at auction.

The Yons stress the importance of utilizing all the tools available and are strong proponents of performance testing, running an on-farm bull test for two groups of bulls each year. Their operation is forage-based and focuses on producing cattle for their customer base, which is made up mainly of progressive commercial cattlemen.

Kevin has served in leadership positions in numerous ag groups, beginning as president of the Block & Bridle Club at Clemson University, where he was also on the livestock judging team. He has served as president of the South Carolina Angus Association and South Carolina Cattlemen’s Association, and as chairman of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Beef Advisory Committee.

He most recently served on the BIF board of directors and on the advisory council to the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC). Kevin has participated in the Young Cattlemen’s Conference (YCC) tour for young leaders sponsored by the NCBA and has served on NCBA committees.

Yon Family Farms was named the 2009 National Environmental Stewardship

Award Winner. Kevin has been a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting for numerous years. He has been a speaker at both the CAB Annual Conference and the National Angus Conference & Tour. In addition to serving in these cattle leadership roles, Kevin is active in his community and church, serving as an officer in the Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Little League Baseball coach, 4-H livestock club volunteer leader, vice president of the Ridge Farmer’s Mutual Coop, and vice chairman of the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District.

Kevin has served one term on the American Angus Association Board. During that time he served on the CAB Board, the AGI Board, the Breed Improvement Committee, and the Communications & Public Relations Committee. Kevin, his family, and Angus friends are enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve another term on the Board so that he can continue to give back to the breed that he loves.

