

# Eleven Announce

Eleven members have announced they will seek a spot on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November.

Compiled by **Shauna Rose Hermel**, editor

**E**leven members have declared their intention to run for a position on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November in Kansas City, Mo. Chris Sankey, Council Grove, Kan., is seeking a second three-year term on the board. Art Butler, Bliss, Idaho; Jerry Connealy, Whitman, Neb.; David Dal Porto, Brentwood, Calif.; John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio; Robert Groom, Lyons, N.Y.; James Henderson, Childress, Texas; Trevor Lienemann, Princeton, Neb.; Greg McKean, Mercer, Pa.; Dave Nichols, Bridgewater, Iowa; and Craig Vejraska, Omak, Wash., are each seeking election to their first three-year term.

The delegates presented beginning on page 88 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 131st Annual Convention of Delegates. The convention will convene at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the KCI Expo Center, Kansas City, during the "Angus Means Business" National Convention & Trade Show. See page 74 for a schedule of activities.

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

## Art Butler

Art Butler's dedication to the production of Angus cattle is grounded in a multi-generational commitment to the breed. He is the third generation of Butlers to raise registered-Angus cattle at Spring Cove Ranch of Bliss, Idaho.

Spring Cove Ranch was settled in 1912 by his grandfather A.H. Butler, who chose to make his desert homestead around a natural spring in southwestern Gooding County. The pioneer Butlers purchased their first registered-Angus cattle in 1919, and Angus cattle and Butlers have roamed the ranges of Spring Cove Ranch continuously for 95 years.

Art was born in 1955 and attended grade school and high school in the small town of Bliss, population 200. He participated in

## Board candidates

### Seeking re-election:

**Chris Sankey, Kansas**

### Seeking a first term:

**Art Butler, Idaho**

**Jerry Connealy, Nebraska**

**David Dal Porto, California**

**John Grimes, Ohio**

**Robert Groom, New York**

**James Henderson, Texas**

**Trevor Lienemann, Nebraska**

**Greg McKean, Pennsylvania**

**Dave Nichols, Iowa**

**Craig Vejraska, Washington**

livestock 4-H as a student and later as a 20-plus-year leader. He was inducted into the Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame in 2011.

He attended the University of Idaho, where he earned a degree in animal science in 1978 and was a member of the Farmhouse Fraternity and the Livestock Meat Animal Evaluation Team. Art's efforts to encourage, sponsor and expand junior



**Art Butler**

livestock projects and programs was highlighted when he received an Honorary State FFA Degree in the 1990s. After college graduation Art returned to Spring Cove Ranch to continue the family tradition of raising Angus cows and kids. He and his wife, Stacy, son Josh and daughter Sarah manage the 350-head cow herd and host an annual production sale at the ranch in March, selling bulls and females. The family also farms 500 acres, growing alfalfa, sweet corn, field and silage corn, other grains and pasture.

Art carries on his family tradition of

incorporating all available technology and production tools to enhance Spring Cove cattle genetics and management. Artificial insemination (AI) was first used on the ranch in the early 1950s with fresh semen delivered by bus. Art enrolled the herd in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program in 1974 and began using embryo transfer (ET) in 1991.

He also used the Structured Sire Evaluation Program to prove many of the Spring Cove herd sires, incorporated ultrasound scans for carcass traits and is now using DNA technology and HD50K data to help increase the accuracies on the sale bulls and in the selection of new herd sires.

Art was a Gooding County Soil Conservation district supervisor for 10 years and served as chairman for two years. He served as president of the Idaho Angus Association and is currently on the executive board of the Idaho Cattle Association, for which he chairs the Purebred Council.

His love of Angus cattle and enthusiasm for youth development have resulted in hosting many 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests, and the family invites traveling collegiate livestock judging teams to stop over at Spring Cove for home-cooked meals and practice.

Art traveled to Turkey in 2011 on a trade mission with World Wide Sires. He has entertained visitors at the ranch from Russia, Australia, Mexico and Turkey; and he hosted a dinner stop on the 2007 National Angus Tour.

Art is a staunch supporter and proponent of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), AngusSource® and other American Angus Association programs designed to assist commercial and purebred producers. In recent years, he expanded his efforts to help his bull customers market their Spring Cove-sired calves by becoming a representative for Western Video Market through Stockman's Market.

These trips into the western "outback" to videotape feeder calves opened marketing doors for his customers and provided Art with a keen understanding of the kind of

# Candidacies

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CONVENTION  
& TRADE SHOW**

bulls and genetics that are needed to survive and reproduce in the dry, arid desert-range conditions of the West. Art's Spring Cove cattle herd grazes on sagebrush-covered Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, thus providing him with yet another direct connection to the commercial cattle operations of the West.

Art's interest in running for the board stems from his belief that it is important for our breed to continually focus on the future and to collaborate to incorporate all current and future tools so we can continue being the "breed in the lead." His life has been defined by his commitment to the Angus breed and to the continuance and improvement of his family's century-old legacy — Spring Cove Ranch.

## Jerry Connealy

Jerry Connealy is one of seven children raised on the family ranch south of Whitman, Neb., by his parents, Marty and Donnie. His mother's ancestors were commercial cattlemen in the Nebraska Sandhills, and his father's were farmers in eastern Nebraska.

In 1961 Marty and Donnie purchased their first Angus cow. Their place was small, so Marty supplemented their income by



**Jerry Connealy**

becoming one of the first AI technicians in the region. Jerry began AIing alongside his father at the age of 13 and has assisted in breeding choices ever since. Along the way, the family was befriended by Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Rubelle Clark of Alderson, W.Va. Marty and Donnie were privileged to buy a small set of cows from Mr. Clark's famous Craigie herd in the early 1970s.

Jerry and his wife, Sharon, met at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL). After they graduated in 1981, they moved back to the ranch and the 270 cows Marty and Donnie had acquired.

Since 1981, Jerry and Sharon's roles on

the ranch have changed and expanded, but the commitment to the production of high-quality genetics has been a constant. They have been fortunate to be joined on the ranch by son Jed and his wife, Kara. Both Jed and Kara are graduates of UNL and are an integral part of the operation. Jerry and Sharon's other children are Ben, a UNL graduate who resides in San Diego, Calif.; Hannah, a Creighton University graduate who resides in Boston, Mass., with her husband, Erik; and Gabriel, who is a senior at Creighton University.

Jerry has been an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church his entire life. He served on the local school board for 16 years. Connealy Angus was honored to donate the heifer for the Angus Foundation Heifer Package sold at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in January 2013.

Connealy Angus is committed to utilizing the best resources available in all aspects of cattle production and range management. The ranch is blessed with a number of long-time, dedicated employees who share the vision of devotion to excellence in Angus cattle production.

The Connealys host numerous international visitors at the ranch each year for tours, and guests are presented with information regarding the Angus breed in the United States, as well as an overview of the management practices implemented on the ranch.

All at Connealy Angus feel enormously indebted to the forward-thinking Angus leaders who have dedicated so much time and talent to making the Angus breed dominant in the cattle industry.

If elected, Jerry feels a great responsibility to ensure the breed continues to move forward and maintains its strength. As one whose sole source of income is Angus cattle, he feels that he can address multifaceted issues that are of paramount importance to the production of outstanding Angus cattle for all.

## David A. Dal Porto

The California Angus Association (CAA) and the Western States Angus Association (WSAA) proudly endorse David A. Dal Porto as a candidate for the board of

directors of the American Angus Association.

David was born in Oakley, Calif., where he was raised on his family's commercial cattle and farming operation. He and his wife, Jeanene, still manage their registered- and commercial-Angus operations near Oakley, as well as Brentwood and other areas of northern California. They have three children — Lindsey, A.J. and Dawson. All three have been active as youth in 4-H



**David A. Dal Porto**

and FFA, as well as in exhibiting Angus cattle on local, state and national levels. David purchased his first registered-Angus heifer at 9 years old, and has built a herd of registered- and commercial-Angus cows that is the foundation of their family operation today. David attended Chico State University and majored in ag business management. While at Chico State he was a member of the livestock judging team. He continued that endeavor, judging shows at local, regional and national levels, including the NWSS in Denver, Colo.

After college, David returned to Oakley to work on the family ranch and start building his own herd of Angus cattle. This foundation has developed into what's known today as Dal Porto Livestock. David spent many years expanding his herd of registered females and built strong and valued relationships with commercial producers throughout the West. He was awarded champion range bull honors at many leading consignment sales, including the Cal Poly Bull Test, Cow Palace and the California State Fair.

In 1992, Dal Porto Livestock partnered with the Medeiros family of Rancho Casino to host their own production sale. This event has had tremendous success and growth. It is now recognized as one of the most sustainable bull sales in the West. They will host their 23rd annual sale this fall. The

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success of this sale has not gone unrecognized. In 2011, David and his bull sale partner, David Medeiros, were awarded the CAB Seedstock Commitment to Excellence Award at the CAB Annual Conference. This award was for their service to all aspects of the industry, including fellow Angus breeders, the commercial producer, the feedlot and the consumer.

For many years, Dal Porto Livestock has fed its own commercial steers and heifers at Beller Feedlot of Lindsay, Neb. Owner-operator Terry Beller is another past CAB Commitment to Excellence recipient for feedlots and was a natural fit for Dal Porto Livestock to diversify its operation at a high level.

David is a past board member of the California Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association. He has served as president of Contra Costa/Alameda County (CCAC) Cattlemen's Association and has chaired various committees for the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). In 2001 he was recognized as Seedstock Producer of the Year by the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA), and he was the CCAC Cattleman of the Year in 1992. David has been a member of the local school board and the RD799 water board. He chaired and served on many local youth, FFA and 4-H boards.

David's lifelong work and passion is Angus cattle. His sole source of income is derived from Dal Porto Livestock and the management of Ironhouse Cattle Co., a large commercial cow-calf and stocker operation in northern California.

Under David's management both Dal Porto Livestock and Ironhouse have been on the cutting edge of genetic evaluation and implementing new technologies. From the collection of weights and carcass data to ultrasound to DNA, David has firsthand experience at every level in the evolution of performance information and how to apply it.

He complements that knowledge with a management background developed from his experience in the most overregulated and one of the highest-resource-cost areas of the country. As his record and accolades show, he has a keen understanding of all levels of the beef cattle industry. More importantly, he has an intense desire to maintain and enhance the leadership and value of Angus cattle.

It is with these qualifications that the WSAA and the CAA endorse the candidacy of David Dal Porto and ask that you support his election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

### John Grimes

The Ohio Angus Association endorses John Grimes, 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,



**John Grimes**

Maplecrest Farms, near Decatur, Ohio. 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 directors for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

After graduation in 1983, John returned home to manage the family farming operation. In 1986, he married Joanie. They have two daughters: Lindsey, 23, and Lauren, 20.

Lindsey graduated from OSU in 2012 with a bachelor's 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 (NJAB). She is pursuing a master's in animal science at Kansas State University. Lauren is attending Ohio Northern University majoring in pharmacy. She served as Ohio's junior chairman for the 2012 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and was recently elected to the NJAB.

John took a position with OSU Extension in 1986 and received a master's in animal science in 1988. He served as extension educator in agriculture and natural resources through 2010. In 2011,

John was named extension beef coordinator. 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 received 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 (OCA) 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.

He is a longtime 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. He and Joanie 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 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 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 OCA as Young Cattleman of the Year, and Maplecrest Farms has been named OCA's Seedstock Producer of the Year.

John believes the American Angus Association Board's ultimate responsibility

is to provide the leadership and vision necessary to ensure the breed's continued role as the dominant genetic supplier for the beef industry. The Association must provide the membership with tools necessary to aid in the production of a profitable product that satisfies the demands of today's consumer. Prioritizing the continued growth of the CAB brand, strengthening our genetic database for breeders, and developing future leaders through expansion of the junior program will help ensure our position in the beef industry.

John believes 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.

### Robert B. Groom

The New York Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Robert B. Groom as a candidate for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Robert was born on a dairy farm in Cheshire, England. He graduated from High School in 1984 at the age of 16. A year later he and his family moved to the 360-acre diversified stock farm of East Tullyfergus, Perthshire, Scotland.



**Robert B. Groom**

He established the Tullyfergus Aberdeen-Angus herd in 1987. The herd was built slowly as he studied the breed and its history. Funds to expand the herd were earned by operating a contract sheep-shearing business in June and July, hiring several people to help shear 30,000 ewes.

In 1989 he undertook a three-month study tour of the Angus breed in the United States, living and working with families raising Angus cattle in many different areas of the country.

Robert married Linda in August 1993 and rented the nearby farm of Balwhyme. This was used entirely for the production of registered Angus and malting barley. A herd of commercial-Angus cows was used as

recipients for embryos from their American donor cow and to promote the maternal and performance characteristics of the Angus breed to other producers.

In the United Kingdom (UK), Robert was appointed to the technical committee of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society (A-ACS) in 1996. During the time he served, this committee was primarily concerned with DNA parentage testing and estimated breeding values (EBVs). In 1997 he was elected to Council of the A-ACS. He served on the council for two years prior to coming to the United States in the fall of 1998. The Tullyfergus herd was dispersed in September 1998 and set a UK record for a registered-Angus calf.

Since coming to the United States to pursue their "American Dream," Robert and Linda have re-established the Tullyfergus Angus herd near Lyons, N.Y., as a 75-cow registered operation producing bulls for commercial and registered cow-calf producers, show heifers and steers. They provide management for a 100-cow commercial herd that produces top-quality steer calves and replacement females, ET recipients and club-calf prospects. They have more than 600 acres each summer to feed and to sell. They also do a small amount of cash-cropping and custom-baling.

Robert is an active member of the New York Angus Association (NYAA) and the New York Beef Producers Association (NYBPA). He has served as president and vice president of the NYAA and is currently secretary-treasurer and junior advisor. He served as chairman and vice chairman of the Western Region of the NYBPA. In 2007 he was named Beef Promoter of the Year by the NYBPA and NY Beef Industry Council. The following year NYBPA presented him their highest award, Cattleman of the Year. He has organized numerous promotional and educational events for both the NYAA and NYBPA to further the positive message about Angus genetics and beef consumption.

He was selected to participate in the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) program in 2009.

Each September the herd hosts a joint production sale with friends Roger and Alice McCracken and Rita Partee to offer both registered-Angus bulls and females and top-quality commercial-Angus females. This sale is being gradually expanded to assist other breeders and commercial customers in marketing their cattle.

Linda is a research associate at the University of Rochester Medical Center. They have three children — Oliver, 17; Charlotte, 13; and Evie, 8. After three years of legal work status they decided in September 2001 to start the process to attain legal permanent residence in the United States. It was granted in April 2008. After five required years of residency, Robert and Linda both became citizens this year. Their daughters are natural-born U.S. citizens.

All their children have shown cattle at local and state fairs, and are active in school activities such as newspaper and band. The Grooms lease cattle to several local 4-H members and mentor them through the show season in all aspects of beef cattle management.

In May Robert was elected to the Lyons Central School Board of Education.

Those who know Robert marvel at his energy, enthusiasm and common sense. He has proven himself to be a critical thinker and a problem-solver. He is a great student of breed history and pedigrees.

### James W. 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



**James W. Henderson**

Country. He was an active 4-H member 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, for which he was high individual of the Fort Worth contest; and the meat and livestock evaluation team in 1977. James is blessed to

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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 CAB in the development of retail deli products of roast beef, pastrami and corned beef and the addition of CAB® 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 AHIR 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 Cattleman'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's 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 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.

### Trevor Lienemann

It is with a diverse blend of business management, consulting, educational, organizational and beef industry experience that Trevor Lienemann announces his candidacy for director of the American Angus Association, unanimously endorsed by the Nebraska Angus Association.

Trevor is a first-generation Angus breeder with a passion for the Angus breed and the



Trevor Lienemann

beef industry. He was not born into The Business Breed; he chose it. The family's Angus seedstock operation, Lienemann Cattle Co., is near Princeton, Neb.

Trevor grew up knowing the value of hard work and responsibility. In 1976, when he was 9 years old, his father lost complete use of his sight, but engaged Trevor in agriculture through 4-H, FFA and a commercial cattle herd. While Trevor enjoyed raising cattle, the ag economy in the

early 1980s made it difficult to pursue as a career. Entering college, Trevor sold his herd.

In 1989 he received a bachelor's in business administration from UNL and joined KPMG Peat Marwick LLC. He earned his certified public accountant's (CPA) license and quickly rose through the ranks to become a senior manager, providing financial assurance and consulting services to a wide variety of industries.

He missed his connection to cattle. In 1992, shortly after marrying Torri, he convinced her they should invest in cattle. Trevor obtained six aged Angus females from a local producer. While building the family operation, he continued to work in a variety of private and public entities until earning the ability to operate the Angus seedstock operation full-time in 2008.

Trevor has been a member of the American Angus Association (Life) and Nebraska Angus Association since his initial investment. He has participated in leadership for both organizations and is currently president-elect of the Nebraska Angus Association. He has attended the American Angus Association annual meeting as a delegate for the past several years.

Trevor is completing his second term on the Nebraska Cattleman's board. Through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau, he has hosted visiting dignitaries from China, Turkey, the Netherlands and Ghana. His continued education includes participation in Angus events such as BLI, BootCamp, BIF and others.

It is his involvement in such organizations coupled with his deep-seated desire to improve policy and practice surrounding the beef industry that spurred him to seek a position on the board. Trevor would like to give back to the breed, serve the people who have given him the opportunity to be successful and grow as a leader striving for continual improvement and advancement of the Angus breed.

Building a successful first-generation cattle operation gives Trevor a unique view of the needs of small-, medium- and large-scale members of the American Angus Association. Typically, the key link is family involvement, as is true with Lienemann Cattle. The entire family has ownership, investment and responsibilities for the Angus seedstock operation.

While cattle are central to their home life, the Lienemanns like to keep their endeavors diverse. In addition to the cattle, Trevor manages his own livestock equipment and consulting company. His nationally recognized, patented bale feeder design (the Bextra feeder) is a testament to his drive for excellence.

Torri is the director of graduate studies at Concordia University in Nebraska. Maci, 20, attends UNL and is working toward a degree in animal science and biology. She currently serves as a UNL Animal Science Ambassador, is president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association, and was the 2013-2014 American Angus Association Ambassador. Taylor, 18, is a freshman at Doane College, working on a bachelor's in business administration. Sydni, 16, and Skylar, 14, are in high school; they are both active in NJAA, 4-H and FFA.

AI, ET and dominant industry sires are used to raise the annual calf crop. The operation hosts the Lienetics annual production sale in March, and select Angus bulls are tested and sold through the Midland Bull Test, with a bull earning the top index award in 2012. All modern production data, genetic tools and evaluation techniques are used to advance the production of quality seedstock for the commercial and purebred breeder.

Trevor conducts a customer feeder-calf buyback program; calves, along with his culls are fed to harvest with individual carcass data collected, evaluated and submitted to AHIR.

"With a respect for current and past leadership for serving the breed and its membership to succeed through the likes of open AI, AHIR, CAB and genomic enhancement, I feel it is a great time to lend my diverse business knowledge, talents, innovative and entrepreneurial skills to the Angus breed at the leadership level on the board of directors," says Trevor. "I will be responsive and strive in every way to enhance the value of the Association to its membership, and propel the Angus breed forward as the continued leader of the beef industry. The internal, external and unknown challenges and opportunities facing the Association and Angus breed are intense and diverse, but I believe we can overcome and advance through unity, focus on our mission and sound business practices."

## Greg McKean

Greg McKean's strong commitment to the Angus breed spurred his candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. The Angus breed has provided his sole livelihood for his adult life. It has supported him for 35 years and educated all



**Greg McKean**

three of his children. McKean feels he has reached a time in his life when he must give back to the breed that has given him and his family so much. McKean comes from a fifth-generation Angus family in the state of Pennsylvania. His maternal great-grandfather bought the first of the family's registered Angus in 1902. His father, Bob McKean, and paternal grandfather owned a slaughterhouse and grocery store prior to the purchase of the family farm while Greg was in the seventh grade. While his father ran the store, Greg was in charge of the initial 150-acre farm and 20 pairs.

Greg expanded his knowledge of cattle and the Angus breed on the local and regional show circuit during his formative years. His maternal grandfather taught him a great deal about the breed and showing. He took that knowledge to Penn State University in 1976.

While in his first semester in 1977, Greg took an interest in a bull calf in Penn State's herd. He and Bob McKean purchased one-third interest and breeding possession of the calf. PS Powerplay turned out to be the most influential bull of his time. From his experience with PS Powerplay, Greg learned a great deal about the breed, marketing and business while forming many important relationships, learning from industry leaders involved with the bull, such as Penn State, Glenkirk Farms, Butch Meier of Missouri, and Summitcrest Farms.

In his sophomore campaign at Penn State, Greg won the Block & Bridle Little International in his first attempt. The following year he served as the event's vice manager, and he managed the show his final year. He was a member of Penn State's livestock, meats and horse judging teams.

After graduating from Penn State in 1979 with a degree in animal production, Greg

returned home to manage the family farm. Through his management, the farm has grown in influence and scale.

The farm played host to the first ever CAB Beef Roundup before the entire nation realized the benefits of Angus. His father's store was one of the first retail stores to market and promote the CAB brand, due to Greg's brother Kirke being a CAB employee at the time.

During this time he bred MB Rachel 2173, the dam of Whitestone Widespread MB and a foundation female for the McKean Bros. farm.

Greg started McKean Cattle Co. as a feeder-buying operation to give local cattlemen opportunity to market animals on a live or carcass basis without the commission and turbulence of an auction barn. Through his time buying local feeders and feeding them to market in Kansas, Greg realized the inability of local cattlemen to purchase quality genetics. This observation led to the first annual spring bull and female sale in 2004. During the early years of this sale he would purchase all offspring of bulls he sold at a premium because of their greater success in the feedlot.

In 2006 Greg received the first Seedstock Producer Award given by the Pennsylvania Angus Association. In 2007 he won the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association Seedstock Breeder Award. He reduced his feeder involvement following his father's death in 2007 to focus on producing the highest-quality production Angus he could produce.

He is a past chairman of the Pennsylvania Beef Council, a past president of the Pennsylvania Angus Association, a past president of the Stoneboro Fair for 10 years and a past 4-H leader. He recently retired from his local school board after 12 years.

He and Peggy, his wife of 25 years, have three children: Cody, 23; Marshall, 21; and Rachel, 18. Cody graduated from Penn State with a degree in architecture. Marshall goes to Westminster College for accounting, and Rachel attends Auburn University for business. Each child was heavily involved in the local 4-H and competed at state and regional Angus shows, as well as at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show (ERJAS) and NJAS. His children grew up working the farm and credit a great deal of their educational and real-world success to that upbringing. His children's involvement

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in the family herd paid their way through college and allows them to continue involvement in the best breed of cattle.

### Dave Nichols

The Iowa Angus Association is proud to unanimously endorse Dave Nichols of Bridgewater, Iowa, as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Dave was raised on his father's small cattle-feeding operation. Starting as a tenant farm, Nichols Farms has now grown to 5,500 acres, breeding 1,500 head this spring and maintaining a small feedlot. In addition, Nichols Farms oversees the breeding and marketing of an additional 1,500 cooperator and franchise cows.



Dave Nichols

Throughout its 77-year history, all

revenue of Nichols Farms has been generated from cattle. Today, Nichols Farms' managing partners are Dave; his wife, Phyllis; and his sister-in-law, Lillian. Nichols has placed 42 bulls in AI studs and exported cattle, semen and embryos to 30 countries, resulting in five Palermo grand and/or supreme champions.

Dave bought his first steer at the age of 8 with a note from the bank and entered the Angus seedstock business at 11. In 1957 he won the national FFA Public Speaking Contest discussing the merits of performance-testing bulls. He and his father started selling performance-tested Angus bulls that year.

Today, Nichols Farms consists of multiple breeds, but "Angus is still the first, largest and most important" of these breeds. It is with this spirit that Dave seeks a position on the American Angus Association Board as "a way to serve the breed that has provided me with a living, lifestyle and ability to travel the world."

Very active in the performance movement at a young age, he served on the first BIF board and continues to be a fixture at BIF meetings. He served as BIF president and received recognition with BIF's Continuing Service, Seedstock Breeder of the Year and Pioneer awards.

Throughout his career, Dave has had a thirst for knowledge and desire to serve. This

has led him to serve in "too many" leadership positions and receive "too many" awards to list.

Among the highlights was chairman of NCBA's Product Enhancement Subcommittee. With his leadership, this committee's accomplishments include the adoption of instrument grading and the \$5,000,000 Carcass Merit Program, which included the collection of SNP data that was used in the validation of today's genomic panels.

Dave was also instrumental in the thought process, funding and data collection used in developing today's ultrasound technology. With this perspective, Dave strongly supports CAB and the pull-through demand it creates for Angus seedstock.

Dave has always been youth-oriented, having hosted 45 high school, college and foreign interns; serving as church youth minister; and hosting hundreds of judging teams and college tours. He feels that NJAA and the Foundation's three-part mission of education, youth and research are critical to the American Angus Association's future.

Recently, Dave has been awarded the 2014 NCBA Regional Environmental Stewardship Award and the Livestock Publication Council's Headliner Award. He serves on the Beef Cattle Efficiency Advisory Committee and as chairman of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC). Dave has been invited to speak on approximately one program a month for 40 years.

Nichols Farms has one of the most extensive databases in the industry with more than 70 computer fields on each animal, and this database has been used in recent years for genomic validation and animal breeding research by the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Neb.

Dave has always been an early adopter of all of the Association's programs — from the first year AHIR collected weaning weights through ultrasound and genomic testing. He has as a priority to maintain the integrity of the Association's herd book and database.

Says Dave, "That foresight and experience are only useful if they come with the will to act." He looks forward to being a positive force in the future of the Angus business. Your support of Dave Nichols for the board of directors will be greatly appreciated.

### Chris Sankey

The Kansas Angus Association Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed Chris Sankey of Council Grove, Kan., for reelection to his second term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Chris and his wife, Sharee, own and



Chris Sankey

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 NJAA and are still involved in family ranch decisions and marketing.

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 Sankeys receiving the Historic Angus Herd award in 1990.

Following his graduation from Sterling High School, Chris attended K-State, receiving his bachelor's in animal science and business in 1978. While at K-State, Chris was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Block & Bridle Club and 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.

After graduation, Chris married Sharee Laflin, a fourth-generation Angus member from a ranching family at Olsburg, Kan. Opportunities in the Angus business included managing at Southern Star Land & Cattle Co., Mission Valley Ranch and the family operation. 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 they purchased the headquarters and part of the ranch. During this time, Chris and Sharee were continuing to expand their Angus herd while adding another breed to their program.

Chris has been active in the Kansas Angus Association, serving on its board and as president of the association in 1990. He has

served on two NJAS committees, a regional show committee, and 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 and is a past county chairman and past Purebred Council committee chairman. He has served his home community by being a 4-H beef project leader and a member of the Morris County Extension Council and Farm Bureau Board.

Sharee has been a member of the American Angus Auxiliary officer team and served as president in 2005-2006. She is currently vice president of the Kansas Angus Association.

Cody and his wife, Lindsay, reside in Economy, Ind., where they own and operate their Angus cow herd.

Jeana and her husband, Dustin Hurlbut, live in Raymond, S.D. Sixth-generation Angus member Bayler Maree Hurlbut was born in July. They are involved in the Hurlbut Family Angus Farm, and Jeana is a graphic design artist for SCI Designs.

Chris and his family utilize all tools available to improve their genetics, using AI since 1977, incorporating 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 and online sales have allowed them to reach an expanded market that includes international trade into Mexico and Canada. Through the years they have developed a great network of customers in different areas, including getting juniors involved in the NJAA.

Since being elected to the board of directors in 2011, Chris has served and is currently serving on the Angus Productions Inc. (API) Board and the Angus Foundation Board. He also serves on the Finance and Planning Committee and Activities Committee.

"It has been an honor to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors the past three years," says Chris. "Our association's greatest strength is the diversity among the membership, and our greatest challenge for the future is to bring all the differences of opinions together to



move forward and keep the American Angus Association at the top of the industry.

"I would appreciate your support for my re-election to the board of directors of the American Angus Association.

### **Craig Vejraska**

The Western States Angus Association has endorsed Craig Vejraska as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Craig and his wife, Mary K., along with sons Todd and Scott, own and operate Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch located in the heart of cow country in north-central Washington state. Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch is a third-



**Craig Vejraska**

generation ranch started by Craig and his father, Lou, in the early 1960s.

Craig has been very active in the livestock industry. As the owner of Okanogan Livestock

Market, he served two terms as president of the Washington Livestock Marketing Association (LMA). As president of the Washington Angus Association, Craig and Mary K. hosted the very first modern-day National Angus Conference & Tour in Washington state.

Craig has served two terms on the board of directors of the Western States Angus Association. He was appointed by the governor of Washington state to be on the 303 Committee that wrote the rules for the state regarding animal disease traceability. He is past president of the Cattle Producers of Washington, a statewide organization concentrating on livestock marketing.

Angus cattle are a family business for the

Vejraska family. Mary K. served as Region 1 Director for the American Angus Auxiliary. Son Todd is currently serving as director for the Western States Angus Association. Todd's wife, Katlenia, is vice president of Okanogan County CattleWomen, and son Scott serves on the state board for the Cattle Producers of Washington.

Craig and his family use many of the tools available for marketing, including AI, ultrasound, and residual feed intake (RFI). They host an annual bull sale at the Okanogan Livestock Market and have been taking bulls to Midland Bull Test for more than 40 years.

As owner of Okanogan Livestock Market, Craig has sent thousands of top-quality Angus feeder cattle to Midwest feedlots.

Craig and Mary K. have traveled extensively with fellow Angus breeders and have attended Montana Angus tours, national Angus conferences and tours, and the World Angus Forum in Australia.

In addition to the cattle business, Craig has served as county commissioner for Okanogan County. During his term he was elected president of the Washington Counties Risk Pool. As president of the Risk Pool, he negotiated the general liability and employee benefit packages for 39 county governments.

Craig says, "The Angus breed of cattle and the American Angus Association have been good to my family. I've watched this breed of cattle and the American Angus Association turn the cow herds of America black. I would like the opportunity to serve on the national board of directors of the American Angus Association, using my 50 years of experience in the livestock industry from seedstock producer, cattle feeder and livestock marketer to help the American Angus Association stay the Number 1 breed registry in the country."

