

# Five Announce Candidacies

Five members seek Board positions in November.

Compiled by **Shauna Rose Hermel**, editor

**F**ive members have declared their intentions to run for a seat on the American Angus Association Board of Directors this November. Jerry Connealy, Nebraska; David A. Dal Porto, California; John Grimes, Ohio; James W. Henderson, Texas; and Dave Nichols, Iowa, each seek re-election to their second terms.

The delegates listed beginning on page 34 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 bylaw

amendments that may be presented at the Association's 134th Annual Convention of Delegates.

The meeting will convene at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 6, at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas, during the Angus Convention. See the Convention program packaged with this issue for a full schedule of activities.

Biographical sketches provided by the candidates follow.

## **Jerry Connealy, Nebraska**

Jerry Connealy has been honored to serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors for the past three years. During this time, he has served on the Executive, Breed Improvement, Finance & Planning, and Member & Affiliate Services committees. He served as chairman of the Breed Improvement Committee. He has also served on the boards of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Angus Productions Inc. (API) and Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI), serving as chairman of the AGI Board this past year.

With all of these experiences, Jerry has gained a profound appreciation for the excellent staff in Saint Joseph, Mo., as well as a greater understanding of the complexities of the Association and the diverse needs of the membership.

He is encouraged by the growth in the

breed and the commitment to advancing Angus cattle that he finds in the office, as well as amongst the membership. He also feels that the breed is on the right track to remain in the forefront of producer and consumer minds for quality and marketability.

Complacency is never an option.

Jerry was raised on the family ranch south of Whitman, Neb., by Marty and Donnie Connealy. 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 cows. Marty supplemented their income by becoming one of the first artificial insemination (AI) technicians in the region. Jerry began AIing alongside his

father at the age of 13, and he 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



**Jerry Connealy**

were privileged to buy a 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. 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 constant. They have been fortunate to be joined on the ranch by son Jed and his wife, Kara, as well as son

Gabriel, and his wife, Becca. All are graduates of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Jerry and Sharon's other children are Ben, a University of California–San Diego graduate who resides in that city, and Hannah, a Creighton University graduate who resides in Boston with her husband, Erik.

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. Numerous domestic and international visitors are hosted at the ranch each year for tours, and they 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 into making the Angus breed dominant in the cattle industry. If re-elected, Jerry feels a great responsibility to ensure that 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, California**

The California Angus Association unanimously endorses David A. Dal Porto as a candidate for a second Board term.

David was born in Oakley, Calif. He was raised on his family's commercial cattle and farming operation. He and his wife, Jeanene, still manage their registered and commercial Angus operation in Oakley, Brentwood and northern California. They have three children — Lindsey, AJ and Dawson. All three have been active as youth in 4-H and FFA, as well as in exhibiting Angus cattle on the local, state and national level.

David purchased his first registered Angus

### **Board Candidates**

#### **Seeking a second term:**

**Jerry Connealy, Nebraska**

**David Dal Porto, California**

**John Grimes, Ohio**

**James Henderson, Texas**

**Dave Nichols, Iowa**



heifer at age 9. He has since built a herd of registered and commercial Angus cows that is the foundation of their operation.

After graduating from high school, David attended Chico State University, and majored



**David Dal Porto**

in ag business management. While at Chico State he was a member of the livestock judging team. He continues that endeavor, judging shows at the local, regional and national levels, including

the National Western Stock Show (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 set of cattle has developed into what's known today as Dal Porto Livestock. David spent many years expanding his herd of registered females. He built strong and valued relationships with commercial producers throughout the West.

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, and they will host their 26th annual sale this fall. 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, Lindsay, Neb. Terry Beller, a past CAB Commitment to Excellence recipient for feedlots, was a natural fit for Dal Porto Livestock to diversify their operation at a high level.

David has served as a past board member of the California Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association. He has served as president of the Contra Costa Alameda County Cattlemen's Association (CCACCA) and chaired committees for the California Cattleman's Association. He was

recognized as the 2001 California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Seedstock Producer of the Year and the CCACCA Cattleman of the Year.

He is currently serving his first term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. During his first term, he has served on the AGI Board and for three years on the CAB Board. He has also been a member of the Breed Improvement and Activities committees, and he chaired the Member Services Committee.

Serving the members of the American Angus Association has been a privilege, and David hopes to have the opportunity to continue to represent his fellow members of the American Angus Association.

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 to 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 high-cost areas of the country.

It is with these qualifications that the California Angus Association proudly endorses David Dal Porto for a second term on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association

### **John Grimes, Ohio**

The Ohio Angus Association (OAA) endorses John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio, as a candidate for the Board.

The second-generation Angus breeder was raised on his family's Angus and commercial cow-calf operation, Maplecrest Farms, near Decatur, Ohio. John attended Ohio State University (OSU) majoring in animal science. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, the Saddle & Sirloin Club and Towers Agricultural Honorary. At OSU, John was a member of the Ohio 4-H livestock judging team, and the OSU meats and livestock judging teams. He was a delegate who elected the original

National Junior Angus Board (NJAB).

After graduation in 1983, John returned home to manage the family farming operation. In 1986, he married Joanie. They have two daughters: Lindsey, 26, and Lauren, 23. Both girls were active in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and served on the NJAB.

John took a position with OSU Extension in 1986 and earned 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



**John Grimes**

Ohio producers. He holds the academic rank of associate professor.

John has developed numerous educational programs, bulletins, fact sheets and videos for clientele. His

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, receiving numerous teaching awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

He is a member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and has served on its board of directors and the Seedstock Improvement Sale Committee. He was also the 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.

A long-time member of the OAA, he has served as president, vice president and director. John and Joanie received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the OAA. John has been a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting for many years. He was a member of the 1992 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Executive

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Committee and was fundraising chairman. He 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 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 previously recognized by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association as Young Cattleman of the Year, and Maplecrest Farms has been named Seedstock Producer of the Year.

During his first term on the American Angus Association Board, he served on the boards of CAB, AGI and API, and as chairman of the Angus Foundation. He also has served as chairman of the Activities Committee and as a member of the Research Priorities and the Member & Affiliate Services committees. John is advisor for the NJAA.

He believes the Association Board's ultimate responsibility is to provide the leadership and vision necessary to ensure the continued role of the Angus breed as the dominant genetic supplier for the beef industry. The Association must provide the membership tools necessary to aid in the production of a profitable product that satisfies today's consumer. Prioritizing the continued growth of CAB as the leading branded-beef program for consumers, 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's 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 potential Board member. He would be proud to serve the membership and would appreciate your support.

### James W. Henderson, Texas

James W. Henderson is a candidate for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors. He was born in Kerrville, Texas, as a fourth-generation rancher in the Texas Hill Country. He was active in 4-H and FFA as a youth, participating in numerous livestock shows and judging contests, and was



James Henderson

awarded one of the prestigious Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 4-H scholarships.

In 1977 James received a degree in animal science from Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the national champion wool judging team in 1974, a member of the meat judging team in 1975, and high individual at the Fort Worth contest and a member of the 1977 meat and livestock evaluation team. He was active in the Saddle & Sirloin Club, serving as chairman of several committees and as the animal science representative to the College of Agriculture Council. He was named an honorary member of the Saddle & Sirloin Club in 2015. James is blessed to have two adult daughters, Hayley and Mary Katherine, both having received ag degrees from Texas A&M.

James spent 30-plus years in all segments of the meat-packing and processing industry. His experiences in operating plants both domestically and internationally and touching all facets of the industry allow him to remain active today as a consultant to several companies involved in meat animal production.

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

In 2004, James married Mary Lou Bradley, another fourth-generation rancher. As the second generation of her family to raise Angus cattle, Mary Lou introduced James to the Angus family. Bradley 3 Ranch (B3R) was one of the early entrants into Angus

Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®), was the first Angus member to use DNA to verify parentage, was an early adopter of HD 50K technology and has had all their cows enrolled in MaternalPlus® for several years. Since James joined the Bradley family, B3R has received numerous awards, including the Beef Visionary award from the National Cattleman's Foundation, the Beef Merchandiser Award from TCFA, the Seedstock Commitment to Excellence Award from CAB, and 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 measured on a 75-day grass gain test and then on a high-forage feed-gain test. James believes that finding and propagating cattle that will produce high-quality protein with minimal inputs will be more valuable as resources become more scarce.

James has served many roles in his first term as an Association Board Member. He has served as a member of the Finance & Planning, Breed Improvement and Strategic Long Range Plan committees; the data-scraping task force; a Board representative to NCBA; and as chairman of the Member Services and the Industry Relations committees. James has also served for three years on the CAB Board and for two years on the AGI and API boards.

James feels that during the last three years the Board has accomplished a great deal to position the American Angus Association and the Angus breed as leaders of the cattle industry. However, a great deal remains to be done so that Angus breeders not only stay as the largest registered beef breed in the world, but continue to deliver value to purchasers of registered Angus genetics. He feels that the future for registered Angus cattle will keep them on top of the beef production system if the Association will continue to grow and add products and services into the future, as has been their history. James asks for your support in his re-election bid as he works to accomplish those things that will allow all Angus Association members to prosper.

### Dave Nichols, Iowa

The Iowa Angus Association is proud to endorse Dave Nichols of Bridgewater, Iowa, as a candidate for re-election.

Dave has been in the cattle business his



entire life, having grown up on his father's cattle-feeding operation. From his father's humble beginnings as a dryland tenant farmer in Nebraska, Nichols Farms has grown to 5,500 acres, 1,400 cows and a small feedlot. By private treaty they annually market more than 500 bulls and a large number of commercial heifers developed



**Dave Nichols**

from the Nichols herd and those of their customers. Nichols Farms has a very active feeder-calf marketing program to enhance the profitability of their customers.

Dave bought his first steer at the age of 8 with a note from the local bank. He entered the Angus seedstock business at age 11. Dave won the National FFA Public Speaking Contest discussing the merits of performance-testing bulls. He, his brother, Lee; and his father, Merrill; started selling performance-tested Angus bulls later that year. It remains the primary business of Nichols Farms today.

Being active in the performance movement beginning in his youth, he served on the first BIF board of directors, and he continues to be a fixture at BIF meetings. He served as BIF president and was honored with BIF's Seedstock Breeder of the Year, Continuing Service, and Pioneer awards.

Throughout its 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 more than 40 bulls in AI studs and has exported cattle, semen and embryos to more than 30 countries, resulting in five Palermo grand and/or supreme champions in Argentina.

Nichols Farms consists of multiple breeds, and Dave has served as president of the American Simmental Association. However, Dave emphasizes, "Angus is still the first, largest and most important" of these breeds. It is in this spirit that Dave seeks re-election to the American Angus Association Board as "a way to serve the breed that has provided me with a good living, a rewarding lifestyle, and the opportunity to travel to the world's beef producers."

Dave has been an early adopter of

Association performance programs — from AHIR and carcass progeny testing to ultrasound, genomic testing and MaternalPlus. He places a high priority on maintaining the integrity of the Association's herd book and database.

Throughout his career, Dave has had a thirst for knowledge and desire to serve. This has led him to serve in far too many national leadership positions, speak on too many programs and receive too many awards to list. The culmination of his impact on the industry came when his portrait was hung in the Saddle & Sirloin Gallery, considered the highest honor a person can receive in the livestock industry.

Dave is an eternal optimist and firm believer that the only sustainable money from which to build the beef industry comes from the consumer. He strongly supports the CAB brand and the pull-through demand it creates for Angus seedstock.

Dave has always been youth-oriented, having hired more than 45 high school, college and international interns. Nichols Farms has hosted hundreds of university judging teams and college tours. Most recently, Dave served on the committee that awarded scholarships from the Angus Foundation and was a judge for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB Cook-Off at this year's NJAS.

Dave strongly believes that youth development is the key to the sustainability of the industry, and he feels that NJAA and the Foundation's three-part mission of youth, education and research are critical to the breed's future.

As an active Association Board member, he has served as chairman of the Breed Improvement Committee and as a member of the Finance & Planning, Member & Affiliate Services, and Executive committees. He has also served on the boards of AGI, API and the Angus Foundation.

Through these leadership activities and the knowledge he has gained by serving on the Association's Board, committees and subsidiary boards, Dave strongly feels he can make his biggest positive contribution to the future of the Association and the breed if he is honored to serve a second term. If elected, he is committed to helping Angus continue to maintain and grow its dominant position in the beef industry. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

