

# Standing Out from the Crowd



**A**nne Lampe goes by many titles: mother, daughter, wife, cattlemoan, manager and secretary for the Kansas Angus Association, American Angus Auxiliary member and past president, talented interior decorator, fashionista, photographer, editor, designer, and, most recently, Distinguished Woman.

It's barely 7 in the morning and just shy of 10° F outside, but she's dressed impeccably. Her truck is warmed up and ready to go, coffee is brewing, and the wintery scent of peppermint wafts through her beautifully decorated 19th-century farmhouse. She's a cattlemoan, she's a mother to two boys, and she's one heck of a good time manager.

Lampe was presented with the American Angus Auxiliary's Distinguished Woman Award at the 2016 Angus Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., in November 2016.

"I don't think I've ever been so surprised in my whole life," she says, her 33 years in Kansas still unable to hide her Louisiana accent.

It was an emotional moment for Lampe,

► **Above:** Anne Lampe and her husband, Mark, manage about 50 head of Angus cows from their home in Scott City, Kan.

## Louisiana native and Kansas cattlemoan does it all — and earns herself a prestigious title.

*Story & photos by Shelby Mettlen, assistant editor*

whose younger son, Clayton, and husband, Mark, showed up to congratulate her on the occasion. Adding to the emotions were her older son, Garrett, and his wife, who welcomed a new life into the family the same morning in Illinois.

"I think the other [son] would have been there if they hadn't been having a baby," she laughs.

Though she was surprised by the honor, she probably shouldn't have been. Lampe has her hands full, but you'd never know it. Another task is just another challenge for her to master.

### Southern roots

The South Louisiana native has made her home in Scott City, Kan., for more than 30 years, but her roots remain planted deep in the Bayou.

Lampe grew up just 9 miles from the Gulf of Mexico in Charenton, La. Her late father, Paul St. Blanc, and his brothers

began raising registered Angus cattle in 1953. He was an ag teacher and both Lampe's parents were advisors for the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, so she became involved at an early age.

"I went to my first NJAA (National Junior Angus Association) show in 1974 in Dallas, Texas, and then all the way through my junior career, never missed any of them," she remembers.

Her father, who passed away suddenly in 1999, was deeply involved in the Angus business and a key player in getting the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off on its feet.

"Dad was always real fond of the Cook-Off; of course he loved the kids, loved the National Junior Angus Show, everything," she recalls. "He was such a big supporter of that."

He participated as an adult contestant in the contest's inaugural year in 1983, and continued to work "behind the scenes," Lampe says.

"If kids needed help lighting the grill or any of those things, no matter where they were from, he was always just kind of there for them," she says. "That was something that was dear to our family and dear to him."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 156



He didn't stop with the Cook-Off, Lampe says; the man just loved to cook.

"Being from South Louisiana, he always had his big jambalaya pot with him, and back in those days, there were very few meals that were provided, so he would cook and provide food to anybody who wanted to come," she says.

He was a great cook of Cajun cuisine and jambalaya was his specialty, she says. To honor that, Lampe and her mother, brother and sister started the Black Kettle Award, now the highest and most-coveted honor of the Cook-Off. The Black Kettle Award goes to the highest-scoring team in all meat and age divisions in the competition. The first award was given in 2000, and it's been awarded each year since.

"The Cook-Off is near and dear to me," Lampe says. "Every year it's exciting because there's new kids, new recipes, a new place that we have to try to figure out."

### Connecting women

It's accomplishments like these that earned her the title of Distinguished Woman in 2016. Lampe served as president of the Auxiliary in 2012, the organization's 60th birthday. That year, she introduced the Women Connected Conference, a networking event inviting women from diverse backgrounds and roles to come together to celebrate a common bond: Angus cattle.

In the past, the Auxiliary had hosted a couple of team-building conferences for members and directors, but Lampe wanted to hold a women's conference.

Why? To bring awareness to the

► **Angus roots run deep in Anne Lampe's family. Her late father, Paul St. Blanc, received the Historic Angus Herd Award in 1983.**



► Anne Lampe was president of the American Angus Auxiliary in 2012 and continues to serve the Auxiliary in a variety of ways, including creating and coordinating the Women Connected Conference. She was awarded the Distinguished Woman Award at the Angus Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., last November.

Auxiliary's purpose, and to create a network of women beyond the Auxiliary, she says.

"Whether it be women that were full-time ranchers themselves, that worked on the ranch with their husbands, were mothers of juniors or worked in the industry in any kind of way; the common bond only needed to be Angus cattle," she says.

With support from the Angus Foundation, the Women Connected Conference is hosted every two years, inviting women from across the industry, of all demographics, to network and find fellowship. Lampe says she hopes to keep the conference alternating between the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., and the Certified Angus Beef Education & Culinary Center in Wooster, Ohio, to utilize the organization's outstanding staff and to familiarize folks with the headquarters.

"Just the networking and building those friendships and those bonds with people across the country where they have that common bond of Angus cattle, no matter what level it's on, it just really has touched them," she says. "This is just a good opportunity to get together and realize that if you have a 10-cow operation, if your kids have a couple of show heifers or if you have 300 cows, how much you have in common, and what you can draw from each other and what you can learn from each other."

### Growing up Angus

Lampe's father and his brothers started

raising Angus cattle in 1953, and St. Blanc's herd earned him the Historic Angus Herd Award in 1983 for 30 years of business with the American Angus Association. Lampe was an Angus Auxiliary Scholarship winner, competed in the Miss American Angus contest and was involved in the formation of the NJAA committees and board. She competed on the livestock judging team at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, where she met her husband, Mark, before moving on to Kansas State University. Mark now serves as assistant manager for Royal Beef, an Irsik and Doll-owned feedyard just outside Scott City.

Just because the Lampes make their home on the plains of western Kansas now doesn't mean she's forgotten her roots. Her family still holds her father's membership number, and she remained involved in the Louisiana Angus Association for some time after relocating to Scott City. She's now the manager and

► **Right:** "It's always been a way of life for me," Anne Lampe says of the cattle industry. "I always say my life revolves around everything Angus."







secretary for the Kansas Angus Association, for which she travels to sales state-wide; sells advertising; offers membership support; and produces, edits and publishes the organization's magazine, the *Kansas Angus News*.

Her boys started showing and competing in contests in 1995 and 1996. With her encouragement, they participated in public speaking, Cook-Off, photography, team sales, quiz bowl and more. Both are decorated with awards from both the NJAA and Kansas Junior Angus Association.

"I guess we just kind of jumped in," she says. "When they were old enough — even before they were old enough — we still went to the national shows. It's always been a way of life for me. I always say my life revolves around everything Angus."

Lampe became an advisor in Kansas in the early 2000s. In her position with the Kansas Angus Association, it's part of her job to serve as a sort of "continuous advisor" to the other advisors and officer

team. In 2007, she was named NJAA Advisor of the Year.

"That's another time they caught me by surprise," she laughs.

Both Lampe boys served as president of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, attended Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and served as voting delegates. Today, Garrett manages Top Line Farm in Tremont, Ill., and Clayton manages the cow herd at Rocklin Farms in Rockbridge, Ill.

### Continuing the tradition

In the early 1990s, Anne and Mark bought their farm, and she came into a partnership with an uncle. At the height of their operation, the Lampes managed about 150 cows.

"That's when the boys were here," she explains. "In the last couple of years, with Mark working full time at the feedyard and my job with the Kansas Angus Association, we run about 50 cows."

By the time the boys reached the last five years of their junior careers, they exclusively showed bred-and-owned

► "When the boys were growing up and showing, we focused on some show heifers," Anne Lampe says, "but now, just good, solid cows."



(B&O) heifers, Lampe says. "We're very proud of that."

The operation has always been registered Angus cow-calf, she says. "When the boys were growing up and showing, we focused on some show heifers. That's kind of what the cow herd base was for a little while, but now, just good, solid cows."

She's already prepared for grandkids Carter and Claire to start showing, and has a few head of cattle in their names. Carter, 10, showed in his first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Nebraska in 2016. Claire, 7, "can't wait to be 8," Lampe says. She'll compete in her first show in Wisconsin in 2018.

Having two grown boys in the industry begs the question of whether one of them will come back to take over the family operation.

"I think Clayton would if he ever got that opportunity. I'm not sure about the other one. He always says he likes green grass," she says through a laugh.

Garrett has managed Top Line Farm since 2007. His wife, Gretchen, a veterinarian, also grew up in the Angus business. Their son, Weston, born the day Anne received the Distinguished Woman Award, is Anne and Mark's third grandchild.

"I see a long future in the Angus industry for them," she says.

### It's a lifestyle

"I just like cows," Lampe states. "I have them everywhere."

It's true — be it wallpaper, figurines, photos or cowhide furniture — the Lampe household is littered with cows.

"They're kind of my obsession sometimes," she admits. "I like those kind



CONTINUED ON PAGE 158



(alluding to the indoor variety), but I love my ones outside the most.”

Lampe points out that “100% of our income comes from the beef industry.”

In fact, the rest of her family earns a living the same way. Lampe’s brother and sister both work in the industry.

Even with both boys living two states and several hours away from home, Lampe says the opportunities to see family abound. “We’re all involved in the same things,” she says. While she admits she’d love to see them every weekend, shows, events and sales all present opportunities to come together several times a year.

“Most of our conversations on the phone kind of revolve around cattle and of course the kids, the grandkids now, too,” she says. “It’s just a way of life for all of us.”

The dedicated working woman thanks Mark for helping with her full schedule during the year.

“I couldn’t do any of it without the full support of my husband,” she says. “He’s not come with us to all the shows on the road, but he’s always here to take care of what’s at home and is fully involved in the beef industry at the feedlot.”

### A welcome surprise

The Distinguished Woman Award is not presented each year; it’s only given when an Auxiliary member merits the award. Lampe is the 25th woman to receive the award since its introduction in 1960; the last award was presented to Bette Votaw in 2012.



►“I couldn’t do any of it without the full support of my husband,” Anne Lampe says. She was surprised by her husband, Mark, and son Clayton when she received the Distinguished Woman Award in Indianapolis last November. Pictured (from left) are Lampe’s sister, Melanie Kiani; mother, Vicki St. Blanc Murdock; youngest son, Clayton, Lampe (center); husband, Mark; and niece, Emma Collins.

“It’s interesting to see the women who have come before me to win that award,” she says. “It definitely is an honor. I’m very humbled.”

Lynne Hinrichsen of Westmoreland, Kan., chaired last year’s committee in charge of selecting the Distinguished Woman. It’s a prestigious award, and is only given when a woman’s personality, efforts and accomplishments stand out from the rest.

“This is really someone who is selected because they have devoted their time encompassing everything about the Auxiliary, educating youth and promoting the breed,” she says.

That woman may be comfortable being

at the forefront of the Auxiliary, or she may be someone who works quietly behind the scenes, knowing what she’s doing is contributing to the Auxiliary and everything for which it stands. Lampe just so happens to be both.

“Anne does everything,” Hinrichsen says, matter-of-factly. “You talk about a person that does everything,” she laughs. “She’s kind of amazing.”

It’s in her blood, Hinrichsen says of Lampe. Her entire family has been

involved in the Auxiliary or Angus business in some way, and her sons are continuing the tradition with their families.

“She’s never forgotten everything the Auxiliary stands for,” Hinrichsen says.

It was “just an honor” to introduce her fellow Kansan as the 2016 Distinguished Woman, Hinrichsen says.

“We always tease her because Louisiana is in her heart, but so is Kansas,” she says. “For me to be able to pass that on to her, that meant a lot. She does a lot for everybody.”

Lampe joins a “prestigious list of women,” according to Hinrichsen. “They live and breathe this.”

In the future, Lampe will pass the torch on to the next ambitious woman to hold the title of Distinguished Woman.

“It all comes down to how we can uphold what the Auxiliary stands for,” Hinrichsen says, “and helping our kids and our cattle be the best they can be.”



### A lifelong commitment

“The future of the Auxiliary, I think it’s a bright one,” says Anne Lampe, former president of the American Angus Auxiliary and 2016 recipient of the organization’s Distinguished Woman Award.

The wife, mom of two grown boys and grandma of three has a lifelong connection to the Auxiliary. Her mother served the organization while she was growing up and her sister, Melanie, serves the organization as Region 4 director in Mississippi.

The Auxiliary celebrates its 65th year in 2017, and works with the American Angus Association, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the Angus Foundation to promote youth, education and the Angus breed.

“We have a long history,” Lampe continues. “We have a lot of women who have been members and who have served the Auxiliary for a long time and are still involved and that helps with [the] continuity of it. But at the same time, we always have new

women coming in, and that’s because we have so much connection with youth.”

Working with the NJAA and the younger generation are integral parts of the Auxiliary’s mission, she says. “It’s based on support and breed promotion and helping out our youth. As long as that’s our mission and we stick to it, I see a bright future.”

There’s no shortage of enthusiasm among members when it comes to working with youth, she says. “We’re just so focused on youth and breed promotion that the future is bright. We have so many [involved]; the Auxiliary membership is so diverse.”

Members range from ranch wives to corporate businesswomen.

“That diversity just really fuels each other and that’s one of the reasons for the Women Connected conference, bringing all those people together,” she says. “The sky’s the limit when it comes to that.”