



# Movin' Forward

► by **Bryce Schumann**, chief executive officer

## Familiar ground

*"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are."*

— **David C. McCullough**

### April announcement

On April 9 we announced the identification of a genetic defect affecting our Angus population — neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH). As members and breeders, we are going to define ourselves by the reactions and responses that we take to our latest challenge.

As a breed, when we look at who we are, we should look back to little more than 30 years ago. The year was 1978. As an organization we were challenged by a changing marketplace. A decade before, in 1968, the American Angus Association recorded 406,310 registrations. In 1978 we recorded 222,608 registrations.

In that time of business contraction, the Association was faced with genetic challenges not unlike it faces today. The actions of the

Board of Directors during that tumultuous time were direct:

- They approved publishing to the membership in the *Angus Bulletin* a complete list of animals carrying genetic defects.
- They unanimously approved a motion to code registration certificates to reflect genetic defects and bulls progeny-tested free of any genetic defect.
- The Board established procedures to progeny-test bulls for recognized genetic defects. At the October 1978 Board Meeting policy existed for progeny-testing bulls for syndactyly, but procedures for testing bulls for dwarfism, osteopetrosis, double muscling and red color were also directed.

- At the same October meeting, the Board moved to cease registrations on AI-sired calves conceived 60 or more days after an affected sire's status was published in the *Angus Bulletin* or breed publication.

The point of my history lesson is this is not the first difficult time we have faced. History additionally shows that in 1978 we as a breed chose to address our challenges head-on by providing information to members about genetic defects, providing defect information on our pedigrees, using progeny testing to find noncarrier animals in affected genetic lines and to adopt rules that limit the spread of undesirable genes in the Angus population. I am certain these decisions, which history has proved were the correct ones, were not popular at the time.

The decisions our Association faces today are really no different, but the advantages we enjoy are much better. We have technology that can answer questions we could not answer 30-plus years ago. We have today a market share and a consumer demand that could not have been envisioned in 1978.

If history is our guide, the choices we make are pretty clear. Let's move forward.

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#### 2009 OFFICERS

**Jay King**, president and chairman of the Board, 28287 Woodside Dr., Rock Falls, IL 61071; cell: 815-535-1990; jpkingsva@yahoo.com  
■ **Bill Davis**, vice president and vice chairman of the Board, 34840 CR 106, Sidney, MT 59270; cell: 406-489-2311; rolnok@hughes.net  
■ **Joe Hampton**, treasurer, 2600 Back Creek Church Rd., Mount Ulla, NC 28125; cell: 704-880-2488; joe.hampton@ncagr.gov

#### 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Terms expiring in 2009—Al DeClerk**, 3914 Engelberg Rd., Pochontas, AR 72455; cell: 870-926-7334; eafherd@centurytel.net ■ **Joe Hampton**  
■ **Steve Olson**, PO Box 590, Hereford, TX 79045; cell: 806-676-3556; sg\_olson@live.com ■ **Rob Thomas**, 42734 Old Trail Rd., Baker City, OR 97814; cell: 541-403-0562; rob.thomas@thomasangusranch.com ■ **Cathy Watkins**, 4556 N. CR 850 W., Middletown, IN 47356; cell: 765-635-4222; beaver-ridge@att.net

**Terms expiring in 2010—Jarold Callahan**, 7450 N.W. 192nd St., Edmond, OK 73012; cell: 405-590-3061; callahan@expressranches.com ■ **Norman Garton**, 15660 E. Pawhuska Rd., Nevada, MO 64772; cell: 417-684-5477; ngar2@yahoo.com ■ **Chad Hoffman**, 33995 E. 1900 N Rd., Colfax, IL 61728; cell: 309-838-4929; angus21@mchsi.com ■ **James Rentz**, 1005 W. Vine St., Coldwater, OH 45828; cell: 937-477-5347; james.rentz@yahoo.com ■ **Phil Trowbridge**, 164 Waltermire Rd., Ghent, NY 12075; cell: 518-369-6584; phil@trowbridgefarms.com

**Terms expiring in 2011—Arlen Sawyer**, 44718 873rd Rd., Bassett, NE 68714; cell: 402-760-0232; abcattle@hntel.net ■ **Doug Schroeder**, 971 Rose Ave., Clarence, IA 52216; cell: 563-357-4044; schroederangus@msn.com ■ **Darrell Silveira**, PO Box 37, Firebaugh, CA 93622; cell: 559-

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**Industry appointments—CAB Board, Robert Norton Jr.**, BioZyme Inc., PO Box 4428, 6010 Stockyards Expressway, Saint Joseph, MO 64504; office: 816-238-3326; bnorton@biozymeinc.com ■ **AGI Board, Doug Parrett**, University of Illinois, Department of Animal Sciences, 184 Animal Sciences Lab MC 630, 1207 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801; office: 217-333-2647; dparrett@uiuc.edu

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Chief executive officer:** Bryce Schumann  
**Executive administrative assistant:** Diane Strahm  
**Chief operating officer & Angus Genetics Inc. president:** Bill Bowman  
**Angus Foundation president:** Milford Jenkins  
**Angus Productions Inc. president:** Terry Cotton  
**Certified Angus Beef LLC president:** John Stika

#### DEPARTMENTAL STAFF BY DIVISION

**Finance—Richard Wilson**, vice president & director of finance; Kenny Miller, assistant director of finance

**Industry Relations—Jim Shirley**, vice president & director of activities; Robin Ruff, director of junior activities; Sara Snider, director of AngusSource®; Shelia Stannard, director of communications & events; Anne Trenholm, assistant director of communications

**Information & Data Programs—Bill Bowman**, vice president & director of performance programs; Lou Ann Adams, director of information systems; Ty Groshans, director of commercial programs and assistant director of performance programs; Scott Johnson, director of Angus Information Management Software; Don Laughlin, director of member services; Sally Northcutt, director of genetic research; Carol Waller, assistant director of member services