



# Movin' Forward

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

## DNA technology center stage

*At the most recent Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) meeting in Sacramento, Calif., discussion of DNA technology and its effect on the beef cattle business was center stage.*

### Opportunity for enhanced EPDs

DNA is having a profound effect on genetic evaluations in the dairy cattle industry by increasing the accuracy of its genetic predictions. Genetic evaluations using marker-assisted expected progeny differences (EPDs) are generating accuracies equal to sires with small progeny proofs. This increased accuracy will speed the rate of genetic change by increasing generation turnover and improving the efficiency of selection for traits of economic importance to the dairy industry.

There were papers presented on the current state of DNA technology in the beef cattle industry and the opportunities that it can provide. Numerous presentations provided insight into how DNA data from a chip that gathers 50,000 DNA markers will be used in the future in the beef cattle business to improve and enhance genetic predictions.

These presentations underscored the importance of the Angus breed to the beef cattle business. A majority of the DNA research presented was based on populations of Angus cattle.

I came away from the meeting believing that, as a breed, we have a unique opportunity to utilize DNA technology to improve our ability to make selection decisions on existing EPD traits, but also to make selection decisions on hard-to-measure traits. The limiting factor is the availability of phenotypes on the traits of interest to associate with the genotypic data.

### Managing defects

There were also DNA presentations on the use of DNA in the management of recessive genetic defects. Obviously, this is an issue that our membership is well aware of and with which it is gaining experience. But, it is

important to note that we are not the only breed to deal with recessive defects in recent times. A large number of major beef breeds have and are bridging similar issues just as we are with the identification of arthrogryposis multiplex (AM) and neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH).

At the time of this column, the American Angus Association has received test results on more than 65,000 animals for AM. Clearly, our members have utilized the technology to provide answers on AM status and to help them manage their breeding programs to manage this gene.

### Here to stay

DNA technology is changing our daily lives in a multitude of ways. This same technology is helping us answer what would have been unanswerable questions not that many years ago. This technology is not without challenges, but it is also technology that is not going to go away.

The current research presented at BIF shows that the beef cattle business and the Angus breed will continue to be affected by a continually improving DNA technology that will provide greater opportunities to those who adopt its use. You can listen to the sessions yourself by visiting the Newsroom at [www.bifconference.com](http://www.bifconference.com), our meeting coverage site of the event.

*Bryce F. Schumann*

E-MAIL: [bschumann@angus.org](mailto:bschumann@angus.org)

### AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997  
Office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central)  
phone: 816-383-5100; fax: 816-233-9703  
e-mail: [angus@angus.org](mailto:angus@angus.org) ■ home page: [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org)

#### 2009 OFFICERS

**Jay King**, president and chairman of the Board, 28287 Woodside Dr., Rock Falls, IL 61071; cell: 815-535-1990; [jpkingsva@yahoo.com](mailto:jpkingsva@yahoo.com)  
■ **Bill Davis**, vice president and vice chairman of the Board, 34840 CR 106, Sidney, MT 59270; cell: 406-489-2311; [rolnrok@hughes.net](mailto:rolnrok@hughes.net)  
■ **Joe Hampton**, treasurer, 2600 Back Creek Church Rd., Mount Ulla, NC 28125; cell: 704-880-2488; [joe.hampton@ncagr.gov](mailto: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](mailto:eafherd@centurytel.net) ■ **Joe Hampton** ■ **Steve Olson**, PO Box 590, Hereford, TX 79045; cell: 806-676-3556; [sg\\_olson@live.com](mailto:sg_olson@live.com) ■ **Rob Thomas**, 42734 Old Trail Rd., Baker City, OR 97814; cell: 541-403-0562; [rob.thomas@thomasangusranch.com](mailto:rob.thomas@thomasangusranch.com) ■ **Cathy Watkins**, 4556 N. CR 850 W., Middletown, IN 47356; cell: 765-635-4222; [beaver-ridge@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:callahan@expressranches.com) ■ **Norman Garton**, 15660 E. Pawhuska Rd., Nevada, MO 64772; cell: 417-684-5477; [ngar2@yahoo.com](mailto:ngar2@yahoo.com) ■ **Chad Hoffman**, 33995 E. 1900 N Rd., Colfax, IL 61728; cell: 309-838-4929; [angus21@mchsi.com](mailto:angus21@mchsi.com) ■ **James Rentz**, 1005 W. Vine St., Coldwater, OH 45828; cell: 937-477-5347; [james.rentz@yahoo.com](mailto:james.rentz@yahoo.com) ■ **Phil Trowbridge**, 164 Waltermire Rd., Ghent, NY 12075; cell: 518-369-6584; [phil@trowbridgefarms.com](mailto:phil@trowbridgefarms.com)

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

217-1504; [silveirabros@msn.com](mailto:silveirabros@msn.com) ■ **Jim Sitz**, 9100 U.S. Hwy. 91 N., Dillon, MT 59725; cell: 406-925-9888; [sitzangus@gmail.com](mailto:sitzangus@gmail.com) ■ **Gordon Stucky**, 421 N.E. 70 Ave., Kingman, KS 67068; cell: 620-532-4122; [gordon@stuckyranch.com](mailto:gordon@stuckyranch.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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