

# NJAA Recognizes 2013 Advisors of the Year

Texas Junior Angus Association volunteers honored as 2013 Advisors of the Year.

by Laurin Spraberry, American Angus Association

**D**evoted, proactive and deserving are a few words Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) members used to describe their state advisors, Tom and Merridee Wells. For nearly a decade, the couple's tireless efforts have not only helped the TJAA become fierce competitors on the national level, but they've also affected the entire Angus breed with their diligent efforts.

To honor their never-quit attitude, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) recognized the Wells as the Advisors of the Year at the 2013 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo.

Whether they are helping with the team sales competition or the All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off, the Wells family has dedicated their lives to the service of the TJAA. Their dedication has resulted in Texas being one of the largest groups of juniors in the United States, bettering the breed and its youth.

Tylee Jo Williams, TJAA member, described the couple as her mentors and second parents, who are always welcoming new members with open arms.



PHOTO BY KASEY BROWN

► Kelli Retallick (left), 2012-2013 NJAA leadership director, presents the Advisor of the Year award to TJAA advisors **Merridee** and **Tom Wells**.

“They are always there pushing each and every one of us to try a new contest or to step up to our officer duties and fulfill our responsibilities,” Williams says.

With a growing group of juniors, finding enough time and resources can be a challenge. Texas Angus Association member Nikolyn Williams says the couple has made it their duty to ensure money was never an obstacle for Texas juniors to have a place to learn and grow.

“Merridee and Tom demand excellence from themselves, as well as those surrounding them,” Nikolyn says. “Texas has flourished under their leadership, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.”



**Editor's Note:** Laurin Spraberry is the public relations and communications intern for the American Angus Association.



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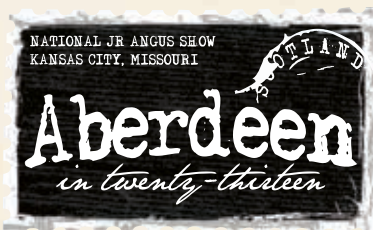
## Nominations and past Advisor of the Year winners

In 1980, the idea of recognizing the tremendous contributions of junior Angus association advisors was conceived, and during the National Junior Angus Show of the following year, the Advisor of the Year award was introduced.

Although there are many advisors who are deserving of recognition, the purpose of this annual award is to highlight the work of one outstanding advisor and extend a special token of appreciation to that person or couple.

Any junior Angus association may nominate an advisor for the award by sending a letter of nomination (which briefly describes the contributions of the nominee, and photographs of the nominee) to the Junior Activities Department of the American Angus Association. The letter should include 1) an introduction; 2) a description of the nominee's involvement in various levels of Angus activities; 3) a description of the nominee's involvement in civic, church and other activities; and 4) brief closing comments.

Nominations for the Advisor of the Year are accepted through March 1 of each year. Here are the previous recipients.



- 1981 — Bob Herriott, Illinois
- 1982 — Paul & Vicki St. Blanc, Louisiana
- 1983 — Mida Peterson, West Virginia
- 1984 — Evelyn Edmunds, South Carolina
- 1985 — J.V. & Helen Heyser, Texas
- 1986 — Gordon & Norma Conner, Kentucky
- 1987 — Gerald Crossland, Arkansas
- 1988 — Dan & Karen Coonrad, Northwest Region
- 1989 — Jerry & Kay Williams, Texas
- 1990 — Ted & Windy Bartee, South Carolina
- 1991 — Stan & Barbara Shaw, Wisconsin
- 1992 — Dave & Sue McGiveron, Wisconsin
- 1993 — Melvin & Donna Porter, Georgia
- 1994 — Glen & Pat Grote, Texas
- 1995 — Tom Nichols, Iowa
- 1996 — Charles “Bud” and Pam Smith, Kentucky
- 1997 — Pete & Barb Sweeney, Michigan
- 1998 — Don & Pam Snepp, Indiana
- 1999 — William & Lucille Leatherman, North Carolina
- 2000 — Mike & Kerri Gleason, Texas
- 2001 — Jane & Teddy Morelock, Arkansas
- 2002 — Connie Robbins and Cary Childs, Mississippi
- 2003 — Frank & Julie Feeser, Maryland
- 2004 — Carla Vaught, Arkansas
- 2005 — John & Pam Patterson, Montana
- 2006 — Doug & Glenda Schroeder, Iowa
- 2007 — Anne Lampe, Kansas
- 2008 — Michelle Rieff, Arkansas
- 2009 — Mike & Barbara Ettredge, Texas
- 2010 — Carolyn Gazda, Georgia
- 2011 — Rachel Frost, Illinois
- 2012 — Eddie & Patti Hymel, Louisiana