

2016 Foundation Inductees

Three couples join the ranks of those inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation.

by Sarah Hill, projects editor

In 1985, the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) established the Honorary Angus Foundation to recognize and thank those who have shown incredible support of Angus youth. Seven Angus breeders were honored as the first inductees. Each year since the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) has honored up to three individuals.

Bob and Becky Tiedeman, North Platte, Neb.; Kelly and Martie Joe Schaff, Schaff Angus Valley, Saint Anthony, N.D.; and Joe and Susanne Bush, Gatesville, Texas, were honored this year at a presentation during the 2016 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Bob and Becky Tiedeman

The Tiedemans have been dedicated to assisting with the sale of the Angus Foundation Heifer Package for many years, whether by encouraging Angus peers to buy the heifer or fitting and preparing the heifer for the sale. The Tiedemans have generously donated cash gifts to the Angus Foundation and have been active in the organization's fundraising activities, donating and buying items in the Angus Foundation's silent auction at the NJAS.

"Bob and Becky are always finding a way to give back to the Angus breed and help our Angus youth," says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. "They love this industry and promoting what it stands for."

Becky's family has a long history of Angus Foundation support. Her father, Jim Baldrige, purchased the first two Angus Heifer Packages in 1980 and 1981.

Champions of the Angus Foundation's mission to their Angus friends, the Tiedemans were longtime friends of the late Camron Cooper of Twin

Bridges, Mont., who bequeathed her Talon Ranch and Angus herd to the Angus Foundation in 2009.

The Tiedemans own a herd of black Angus and Red Angus cattle. Becky serves on the newly created Angus Foundation Resource Development Committee, which works to secure resources for the Angus Foundation. The Tiedemans have also served as advisors for the Nebraska Junior Angus Association.

The Tiedemans have a son, Jake, and a daughter-in-law, Lindsay. Jake is a former NJAB chairman and is still active with the family's Angus herd.

Joe and Susanne Bush

The Bushes hope to pass on their passion for the Angus business to the next generation of Angus breeders. The couple finds pride in helping youth however they can, and believe in the lessons learned from being in the agricultural community. They also recognize the importance of education and how it benefits those who will carry on the Angus breed and agriculture industry.

"We like to watch the kids as they take care of their animals," Joe says. "The experiences they gain and the foundation it builds for them to go and be more productive adults is easily seen."

To further their vision of supporting youth and education in the Angus industry, the Bushes have named the Angus Foundation as the primary charitable beneficiary for the bulk of their estate. This year, the Bushes will award the first scholarship from the Joseph and Susanne Bush/J&S Angus Scholarship Endowment Fund that they funded in 2015 with a cash gift to the Angus Foundation.

"Joe and Susanne have made sure that everything they've worked for will go on to benefit the greater good," says Jenkins. "They definitely inspire youth with their

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► The NJAA inducted Kelly and Martie Jo Schaff and Joe and Susanne Bush into the Honorary Angus Foundation during the 2016 National Junior Angus Show. Pictured are (from left) Charlie Boyd, Angus Foundation Board Chairman; Kelly Schaff and Kourtney Schaff, recipients; Jera Pipkin, Miss American Angus; Joe and Susanne Bush, recipients; Evan Woodbury, retiring NJAB Angus Foundation director; and Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president.

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commitment to the Angus breed and beef industry.”

Joe and Susanne started their registered-Angus herd in 2008, and both work full-time off the farm. Joe is a former FFA member and worked on farms as a teenager. He retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years. Susanne has served in the U.S. Army for 24 years as a soldier and contractor for the Department of Defense.

Kelly and Martie Jo Schaff

Earlier this year, the Schaffs generously donated a heifer that sold at the 2016 National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. The sale of that heifer generated \$230,000 to support Angus youth, education and research.

“We realize the importance of a new generation,” says Kelly Schaff. “That’s the future of the breed. Being able to help them ensures the ongoing success of the breed and giving back to an organization and breed that’s been so wonderful to us.”

“Kelly and Martie Jo are very passionate about the Angus breed and providing

opportunities for young people to get involved in the business they love,” says Jenkins.

The Schaffs own Schaff Angus Valley, which was first homesteaded in 1902 by Kelly’s great-grandfather, making Kelly and Martie Jo the fourth generation on the ranch. Kelly’s grandfather brought the first registered-Angus cattle to Schaff Angus Valley in 1938. Nearly today’s entire herd is built from nine of those original cow families.

Any member of the American Angus Association is eligible to nominate individuals or organizations for the Honorary Angus Foundation. A complete list of members can be found online.



Editor’s Note: Established in 1980 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Angus Foundation remains focused on its mission to support Angus education, youth and research. To learn more about the Angus Foundation and the programs it supports, call the Angus Foundation at 816-383-5100 or go to www.angusfoundation.org.



► From left, Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins presents a framed artwork to **Becky and Bob Tiedeman** in recognition of their induction by the National Junior Angus Association into the Honorary Angus Foundation.