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Angus Contributors Honored

NJAA inducts supporters into Honorary Angus Foundation.

by *Tammy Ettredge*

To honor their generous contributions to the Angus breed and its future leaders, the Angus Foundation inducted two couples and one individual into the Honorary Angus Foundation during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 9-15 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Robert "Bob" and Nedra Funk, Yukon, Okla.; Frank Champion Murphy, Chicago, Ill.; and Bill and Barbara Rishel, North Platte, Neb., were this year's honorees.

Each year, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) selects outstanding individuals to join the Honorary Angus Foundation. Inductees are those who have shown notable dedication and support to juniors.

It is through such support and dedication from these contributors that Angus youth continue to be successful.

Robert "Bob" and Nedra Funk

Striving for excellence in Angus cattle and its junior members is an everyday occurrence for Bob and Nedra Funk, owners of Express Ranches, located in Yukon, Okla.

Since their first registered Angus purchase in 1969, the Funks have endeavored to produce top-quality seedstock to promote the Angus breed. In addition to their genetic contributions, the Funks have continually supported the Angus breed and its youth.

Throughout the years, the Funks have faithfully contributed to the NJAS and have been major contributors to NJAA events in Oklahoma. In 2005, they were part of a partnership that purchased the original "Champion" painting by Frank Champion Murphy for \$15,000 to benefit the 2006 NJAS.

"Bob and Nedra have always stepped up to the plate to support the Angus youth," says



Bob and Nedra Funk



Frank Champion Murphy

James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities for the American Angus Association. "This year, we are excited to have them host events for the 2006 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, and allow attendees to have an inside look into their operation."

According to Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president, Express Ranches has also been supportive at many Angus Foundation events, including the auction of the 15 millionth Angus registration and the "That Old Black Magic" Gala and Auction. In 2003, Express was one of a trio that purchased the Angus Foundation Heifer Package.

In addition to Express Ranches, Bob is the owner and president of Express Personnel Services, which he founded in 1983.

Frank Champion Murphy

By creating beautiful masterpieces and promoting Angus cattle through his work, Frank Champion Murphy has created a lasting impression in the Angus industry and around the world.

"His work was initially on advertising, but he has also worked on oil paintings and illustrations for Angus publications," says Keith Evans, former director of public relations for the American Angus Association. "He has produced some award-winning work."

Originally a freelance artist in Chicago, Ill., Murphy was commissioned by the Association in the early 1950s to portray Angus cattle through illustrations. Since then, he has created the Association's centennial celebration poster and numerous images that have appeared in the *Angus*



► **Left:** In January 2006, Rishel Angus donated a bred heifer to the Angus Foundation to headline the Angus Foundation Heifer Package. The female was purchased for a record \$250,000.

► **Below:** A supporter of many Angus youth events, Bob Funk (right) visits with Danielle and Andrew Foster at the 2006 LEAD Conference, which the Funks helped host.

Journal and other educational publications.

Fisher says Murphy's latest work was commissioned by the Indiana Junior Angus Association to depict an image of the NJAS. The work titled "Champion" portrays a champion Angus female, as well as other aspects of the NJAA, including Miss American Angus and the NJAA Board of Directors. In November 2005, the original sold for \$15,000 to benefit the 2006 NJAS.

While many of his original paintings decorate the walls of the Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., his artwork has provided more than just promotional support to the Angus breed. Murphy's limited-edition prints have generated considerable funds for the Angus Foundation for several years, enabling the development and support of the NJAA.

Murphy's commitment to the advancement and success of the Angus breed is evident.

Although Murphy's direct effect on the Association has been extensive, his indirect influence on the breed and its junior members is undying.

Bill and Barbara Rishel

Promoting the development of the Angus breed and its youth is a commitment in which Bill and Barbara Rishel, Rishel Angus, North Platte, Neb., strongly believe. For the past 40 years, the Rishels have greatly contributed to the advancement of junior members and Angus genetics.

In January 2006, Rishel Angus donated a bred heifer to the Angus Foundation to



headline the Angus Foundation Heifer Package. The female was purchased for a record \$250,000. One of the goals of the Angus Foundation is to open the doors of opportunity for Angus youth. The Foundation provides funding for education, youth and research.

"Bill and Barb are genuinely wonderful people," Jenkins says. "They epitomize the big, kind-hearted and giving people of the Angus breed, and it all started with the gift of a heifer."

Jenkins says the generosity and support given by the Rishels is immeasurable. Due to the record-breaking sale, the Foundation has been able to increase its available scholarship funds given to NJAA members to \$100,000 this year.

The Rishels' generous support to the Angus Foundation and Angus youth is deeply rooted. Bill and Barbara have raised their three daughters — Jill, Joy and Judy — in the NJAA, and Bill served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors for two terms.

"Bill and Barb have always enthusiastically supported the junior Angus members," Fisher adds. "From state to regional to national shows, their assistance has been very generous, and it is greatly appreciated."

The Rishels have and will continue to be leaders and contributors to the Angus industry.



Bill and Barbara Rishel

