



Newsmakers

► Items of interest about and for members of our Angus family. Compiled by **Linda Robbins**.

IN THE NEWS

Mac Angus Farm, Havelock, Que., Canada, received the 50-Year Heritage Award from the Canadian Angus Association. The awards were introduced in 1998 to recognize those breeders who had been a member for 50 consecutive years within the Association.

Mac Angus Farm is a seventh-generation diversified cattle, apple and maple syrup operation owned by David Sample and family. The name Mac Angus was an idea of Kenneth Sample, David's grandfather, to combine the MacIntosh apples for which the area is famous with the Angus cattle. Until 1960, the farm milked Ayrshire dairy cattle. With the advice of Jim Houston from MacDonal College, Kenneth Sample ventured into the Angus business with 10 cows.

The farm maintained the herd at 20 cows until 1986, when grandson David took over the cattle. From 1987 to 1991, David purchased more breeding stock in Canada and the United States. Through a very strict artificial insemination (AI) program, he built the herd to 85 mother cows by the year 2009. Mac Angus performance tests their own bulls and supplies several red and black Angus bulls to commercial and purebred herds throughout the province of Québec.

David, wife Kelly, and their three children (Alexander, Miranda and Mark) have shown and kept the farm in front of the livestock public for 25 years. Performance Angus cattle that are easy to live with and look at are an absolute passion for David, who hopes to maintain the herd for several more generations.

Mac Angus Farm has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1993.

Mark Harms, Lincolnville, Kan., was elected 2013 president of the 5,500-member Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) at its convention Nov. 28. He and his wife, Kim, own and operate Harms Plainview Ranch. They raise registered Angus, Red Angus and Charolais cattle. The ranch utilizes leased grass in Marion and surrounding counties. Dryland farm acreage is used primarily for feed production. Harms Plainview Ranch has grown to involve four cooperator herds in Kansas to help supply the business with breeding stock.

Harms, a Nebraska native, has served

as chairman of both the KLA Purebred and Stockgrowers councils, chaired the KLA Policy & Resolutions Committee for three terms, spent several years on the



Mark Harms

on the NCBA Federation Division board of directors and is a past member of the industry's Joint Advertising Committee.

Harms is a founding member of U.S. Premium Beef (USPB). He was chairman of the USPB Board of Directors Nominating Committee for the first six years the company was in business. Harms Plainview Ranch is a seedstock supplier for USPB. They belong to the Kansas Angus Association (KAA), the Kansas Charolais Association and the Kansas Red Angus Association. Harms is a past KAA director.

Locally, Harms is a member of Saint John's Lutheran Church, where he has served on the board of education and as vice chairman of the congregation. He is a past director of Marion County Farm Bureau.

He and Kim have three children. Daughter Taylor is a freshman at Kansas State University (K-State). Sons Cade and Payton are in eighth and seventh grade, respectively.

Harms Plainview Ranch has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1993.

Richard Roemer, Grainfield, Kan., was honored at the convention for being a member for 60 years. He has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1951.

IN PASSING

Charles "Charley" Richards, 84, Ardmore, Okla., died Oct. 14.

Charley was born in Lone Grove, Okla., June 16, 1928, to Ray and Cleo (Coffey) Richards. His father was principal of the Lone Grove High School and his mother was a teacher there. The family later moved to

Johnston County, where his father became superintendent of the Russett School. Charley graduated from Russett High in 1946.

He attended Murray State College and then Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University), where he received an animal husbandry degree in 1950. While working on a master's degree in animal genetics in Colorado, Charley received his draft notice for Korea. The army put him at the Austin, Minn., Hormel headquarters as a meat inspector and buyer for the 4th Army.

While he was back home on leave, he stopped at the stop sign at Commercial and Stanley alongside a black Ford driven by Nita Boyd, whom he had known at Oklahoma A&M. With cars behind them honking to move on, Charley hollered, "Meet me at the root beer stand." They were married Aug. 17, 1951.

After the war, Charley returned home to start his family and continue building a small cow herd he had started in high school. Charley chased his dreams of raising the best registered-Angus bulls. In the late 1950s, he and Jean Neustadt had the Ardmore Sale Barn. In the early 1960s he was hired as the Noble Foundation's first beef livestock consultant with its demo teams.

He was instrumental in getting the old Murray State Bull Test moved to and becoming the Noble Foundation Performance Bull Test. After leaving Noble in 1973, Charley continued raising Angus, winning bull tests in Montana, Iowa, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia and Georgia. Iowa's beef association awarded him with an outstanding producer award, the only time it was given to a non-Iowan.

The *Angus Journal* featured his bulls on its cover in the 1970s. In 1977, Charley had the first transplanted frozen embryo Angus calves in the nation.

Charley's grandmother and grandfather were both Chickasaw original roll-numbered citizens. While promoting his bulls across the United States, he never missed the chance to tell people of his Chickasaw heritage and that he was just a "Chickasaw cattleman from Oklahoma."

Charley volunteered for many things. With friend Holland Jester, he auctioneered the OKC Junior Livestock Show and the Carter County and Johnston County fairs for more than 30 years. He served on the Carter

County Free Fair Livestock committees, the Arbuckle Boy Scout Council and the Chickasaw Library Board.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Angus Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma State University Animal Science Hall. He was a lifetime member of Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, the Oklahoma Angus Association and the First Baptist Church of Ardmore. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1950.

Among his happiest times were having fun with his children and their friends camping, fishing, hunting and sledding, and then later camping and fishing adventures with his grandsons. Papa made sure to be at every sporting event he could for his grandsons, traveling many miles and hours as needed.

When one of his grandson's teachers required the class to write a theme paper about "My Best Friend," he wrote about his Papa Charley Richards — an honor for Charley.

He was "born to fish," taking the opportunity every chance he could. Charley liked to cook and would be in charge of the food for his friends on their many fishing trips. A huge fan, family holiday gatherings were scheduled around the Dallas Cowboys game schedule.

In addition to his wife, Charley is survived by son Charles Jr.; daughter Kay; and three grandchildren.

Eli Votaw Jr., 94, Wellfleet, Neb., died Oct. 30 at Lincoln, Neb.

Eli was born Oct. 13, 1918, at the ranch his father had homesteaded in 1884. He was the eighth child born to Eli and Clara (Swink) Votaw of rural Wellfleet. In 1937, the *Angus Journal* printed an article about an 18-year-old Nebraska boy who had traveled to Iowa and purchased the "very best heifer of the auction." This was the beginning of Eli's nationally recognized registered-Angus herd.

Eli enlisted during WWII in the Horse Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan. He was later transferred to the 7th Corps headquarters in Omaha, Neb., where he was a master sergeant in the military police. Following his honorable discharge in 1943, Eli purchased his first piece of ground. He married Bette Petersen of North Platte, Neb., April 10, 1950. Together they diligently worked to

build the historic E Bar V Angus Ranch.

In 1975, Eli was elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors. While serving his two terms on the Board, he was instrumental in establishing the internationally recognized *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) program. For 30 years, E Bar V participated in a work study program with the University of Nebraska School of



Eli Votaw

Agriculture in Curtis, Neb. Eli was very influential in many young men's and women's personal lives and agricultural careers.

In addition to his ranch work, he served on the Community Center School Board,

and for more than 20 years Eli served on the advisory board of the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture. In 1992, he was honored as the Lincoln County Feeder Rancher of the year. He was a 60-year member of the Nebraska Cattlemen, serving on various committees. He was also a longtime member of the National Cattlemen's Association.

Eli helped organize the Southwest Nebraska Angus Association and served as secretary-treasurer for several years. He was a life member of the Nebraska Angus Association and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1973. Eli served as a Nebraska delegate to the annual meeting of the American Angus Association for decades. He was a member of the American Legion Post #163 and First Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Platte, Neb., and the Elks Lodge.

Two cherished accomplishments were bestowed upon Eli and Bette in recognition of their contributions to the improvement and advancement of Angus in the United States. They were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 1999, and, in 2006, the Nebraska Angus Association presented them with the Nebraska Pioneer Producer Award.

A true cowboy, he loved to ride horses through the canyons with his family. Eli lived his life as a passionate supporter of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

ranching and Angus beef industry. As an avid storyteller, Eli's memories will be continued on for many generations to come.

One of Eli's favorite sayings was "The only thing you can leave behind is a good family."

In addition to his wife of 62 years, Eli is survived by daughters Kathy and Kerri; brother Bill; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Angus Foundation, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

James "Jim" Leathers, 91, Overland Park, Kan., died Nov. 4, 2012, in Shawnee, Kan.

Jim was born May 4, 1921, in a farmhouse north of El Dorado, Kan., the first child of

Charles and Anna (Cherryholmes) Leathers, joining three previous generations of Leathers who had farmed the Flint Hills of Butler County.

Jim was a lifelong Kansas resident, tied closely to its agriculture. He attended a one-room grade school, El Dorado High School and Butler Community College before enrolling at Kansas State College.

An agricultural deferment to farm during World War II interrupted his college studies; he eventually graduated with a double major in agronomy and economics.

Jim married Mildred Calhoon Nov. 10, 1946.

He was the cooperative extension agent for Cowley County until 1951, before moving to the KMBC farm in Stanley, broadcasting daily as part of the radio station's farm department. Later, he continued as director of the newly formed Kansas City Livestock Market Foundation, and then as farm director for station WDAF.

Jim's final job was with the animal health division of Chemagro (Bayer) Corp., from which he retired in 1986. He was active for many years in the national FFA and the American Royal, and he was a longtime member of the Overland Park Presbyterian Church.

Jim is survived by son Charles and daughter Rinda.

Jack Reich, 43, Zap, N.D., died Nov. 6 of injuries received in an automobile accident in southern Minnesota. The family was returning home from the Mayo Clinic so their son, Vander, could recuperate after an operation to remove a brain tumor.

Jack was born to Delvin and Joyce (Boland) Reich Sept. 15, 1969, in Mandan, N.D. He attended Zap public schools and graduated as salutatorian in 1988. Jack competed in high school rodeo as a bareback rider and attended the High School National Finals in Pueblo, Colo., numerous times.

He competed on the rodeo team for Montana State University, Boseman, Mont., and graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1993. Jack was a member of the PRCA for several years, until his passion for ranching and family outweighed the draw of the arena.

Jack married Mardee Williams of Eudora, Kan., May 3, 1996, in Shawnee, Kan. Jack enjoyed working with his horses, roping, and especially hunting with his son, Vander; but his true passions in life were his family and the Angus herd he built and took great pride in.

Jack and Mardee and their three children

Nebraska Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Kearney, Dec. 1



►The 2012 Nebraska Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (seated, from left) **Randy Petera**, McCook, past president; **Susan Hebbert**, Ashby, secretary-manager; **Clayton Glause**, Fremont, president; (back row, from left) **Brandon Meyer**, Blue Hill, south director; **Brock Foxhoven**, Crofton, northeast director; **Vincent Bickel**, Gordon, west director; **Trevor Lienemann**, Princeton, southeast director; and **Kory Ostrand**, Mason City, central director.



►**Fred and Theresa Kraye**, Kraye Angus Ranch, Mullen, received the Pioneer Producer Award. Pictured are (from left) John, Theresa and Fred Kraye.



►**Judy and Tim Stiefel**, Four Winds Farms, Denton, received the Pioneer Producer Award.



►**Right: A&B Cattle**, Bassett, received the Producer of the Year Award. Pictured are (from left) Jessica, Arlen, Becky and Adam Sawyer.

owned and operated Reich Angus Ranch, known for its registered Angus bulls. Jack had been a member of the American Angus Association since 1996.

He spent many years involved with the North Dakota Stockmen's Association and eventually served two-year terms as vice president and president. He continued to work closely with the association after his terms in office. Jack was instrumental in introducing registered black Angus into Kazakhstan. He visited the country and hosted its cattle breeders at his annual bull sale.

Jack is survived by his wife, Mardee, also seriously injured in the accident; children Kaydee and Will; father; sister Stephanie; and brother Joe.

Vander Reich, 10, Zap, N.D., died Nov. 6 of injuries received in an automobile accident.

Vander was born to Jack and Mardee Reich March 25, 2002, in Dickinson, N.D. Vander was an extremely active young man who would throw himself completely into any interest that captured his imagination. One example would be him going into a sporting goods store and walking right up to a salesman, introducing himself while shaking hands, and asking to see several firearms by model number and with specific options.

This occasionally left the salesman momentarily bewildered, but he would soon find himself well into a detailed conversation about the options available on the guns Vander happened to be interested in. This is a situation that played out in implement dealerships, saddle shops and cattle conventions.

Not shy, Vander was eager to engage anyone in conversation. He never met a stranger.

Vander had many interests, hunting and fishing being chief among them, followed closely by his interest in farming and ranching. Vander participated in the Thunder Wrestling Club, Mercer County 4-H, youth rodeo and the Zap Gun Club and trap-shooting team. He had been a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) since 2004.

Vander was a source of pride and enjoyment to all with whom he came in contact.

Vander is survived by his mother; sister Kaydee; brother Will; grandparents Delvin Reich and Bob and Maureen Williams; great-grandparents Maurice and Mary VanLerberg; uncles Joe and Justin; and aunt Stephanie.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Cliff Konkol has been hired by Accelerated Genetics as vice president of finance. Based out of the company's headquarters in Baraboo, Wis., Konkol will be responsible for providing financial leadership, guidance and strategic planning for the cooperative, properly utilizing financial resources to achieve cost-efficient operations and control of financial assets ensuring profitable company growth.

Josh Jens has joined ABS Global Inc. as a district sales manager for southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois and Iowa.

Lisa Franzen-Castle, Nebraska extension

nutrition specialist in the Panhandle District, has received the New Extension Employee Award. Extension Educator **Aaron Berger**, based in Kimball, Neb., and Extension Educator **Jenny Nixon**, based in Harrison, Neb., both received Distinguished Extension Educator awards. The awards recognize achievement in areas such as program outcomes and impacts; innovations in planning, delivery and evaluation; supporting partnerships and linkages; and skills such as leadership, organization and teaching.

Fred Poston, Michigan State University (MSU) vice president for finance and operations, has been appointed dean of the university's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and special advisor to the president. The appointment was approved by the MSU board of trustees at its Oct. 26 meeting and was to be effective Jan. 1, 2013. Poston succeeds Douglas Buhler, who served as interim dean since January 2011.

Jill Long Thompson has been designated the chair and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration, effective Nov. 27, 2012. She will be responsible for policymaking, adopting regulations and overseeing the examination and regulation of the institutions that compose the Farm Credit System, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corp (Farmer Mac).

She succeeds Leland Strom, who served as chairman and CEO since May 2008. Strom will remain a member of the Board pending future action by President Barack Obama and the U.S. Senate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

Ruth Jensen, Santa Monica, Calif., was honored by the American AgriWomen with the LEAVEN Award, the highest honor bestowed on a member of the organization. She was nominated by Wisconsin Women for Agriculture. LEAVEN is an acronym for Loyalty, Enthusiastic, Anticipatory, Valiant, Effectiveness and Nurturing.

Veterinarian **Donald Knowles**, animal geneticist **Larry Cundiff** and plant geneticist **Kenneth Vogel** were honored Dec. 5, 2012, by being inducted into the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Science Hall of Fame. ARS established the Science Hall of Fame in 1986 to recognize agency researchers for their outstanding lifelong achievements

in agricultural sciences and technology. Nominees must be retired or eligible to retire to receive the award.

Knowles was recognized for his leadership on multiple infectious animal diseases that affect national and global food security.

Cundiff has developed internationally recognized programs of excellence in beef genetics.

Vogel began researching perennial grasses for bioenergy when little was known about their genetics and agronomic traits. His research has led to the development of switchgrass, a previously obscure prairie grass, as a bioenergy crop.



Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your newsmaker, email lrobbins@angusjournal.com or call 816-383-5245.

Pick of the Crop

The Angus Foundation has announced that Connealy Angus, Whitman, Neb., will donate the 2013 Angus Foundation Heifer, scheduled to sell January 2013 at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo.

Package additions include 30 days insurance from American Live Stock Insurance Co., Geneva, Ill.; free transportation to the buyer's ranch provided by Lathrop Livestock Transportation, Dundee, Ill.; and an Advanced Reproductive Technology Package from Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center, Iowa.

The Connealys are offering the buyer of the 2013 Angus Foundation Heifer Package the pick of their 2012 spring crop of elite heifer calves. Yearling and scan data on the heifers will be available to the buyer in February 2013.

The Connealy family issued this statement about the donation: "We are privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to the endeavors of the Angus Foundation. For more than 30 years, the Foundation has been exemplary in its commitment to funding scholarships and programs for youth, continuing education and research. We are grateful



for the wonderful work the Foundation has done that has benefited so many individuals and enhanced our industry so greatly."

Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins says, as with all Angus Foundation Heifer donors since the inception of the

successful fundraising activity in 1980, the Foundation is thankful to the Connealy family as the 2013 donor.

"I am immeasurably humbled by the Connealy family's generous donation of the pick of the 2012 spring heifer crop," Jenkins says. "The enviable success and proven track record of this elite Angus seedstock program producing breed-leading sires year in and year out speaks for itself."

Sires of the Connealy Angus 2012 spring heifer crop include: Connealy Consensus, Connealy Tobin, Connealy Capitalist 028, Connealy Confidence 0100, Connealy Consensus 7229, GDAR Game Day 449, Hoover Dam, Connealy Mentor 7374, Connealy Trustmark, DR Sierra Cut 7404, Connealy Packer 547, EXAR Upshot 0562B, Connealy Broadside 557, Kessler's Frontman R001, Connealy Impression, Connealy Impression 582, Connealy Irish 0204, Benfield Substance 8506, Connealy Gold, Connealy Freightliner, Connealy Answer 71, SAV Final Answer 0035, Coleman Regis 904, Connealy Stimulus 8419, Connealy Contrast, Connealy Concrete, Connealy In Focus 4925, Connealy Final Product, Styles Upgrade J59, SAV Pioneer 7301 and Hoover Headliner J32.

The sale of the Angus Foundation Heifer supports the Angus Foundation, the not-for-profit affiliate of the American Angus Association that funds and supports programs involving education, youth and research in the Angus breed and agricultural industry.

For more information about the Angus Foundation Heifer, contact Jenkins at 816-383-5100.

— **Katie Allen**, Angus Foundation



Editor's Note: Katie Allen is director of marketing and public relations for the Angus Foundation.