



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

The Ohio Angus Association has announced the recent hiring of **Dan Wells**, Chillicothe, Ohio, as its new executive secretary/fieldman. Wells brings with him an extensive background, knowledge, and



Dan Wells

awareness of the Angus breed, its people and events, in Ohio and beyond.

Raised on a registered Angus farm outside Chillicothe, Wells grew up showing steers and Angus heifers at the county fair and, occasionally, at the Ohio Angus Preview Show. Wells attended Ohio State University (OSU), where he earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture, studying animal science and ag business.

After college, Wells accepted the position of executive director of the Virginia Angus Association. During his time in Virginia,

he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the association, planned their many events and activities, ran their sale management operation — Virginia Sales Services — and launched their graphic design and layout service, working directly with many Angus breeders and businesses in the Mid-Atlantic region.

In spring 2008, Wells returned to his family farm in Ohio after accepting an opportunity to work for Cotton & Associates. Today, Wells still resides on the family farm in Chillicothe, with wife Mallorei and 2-year-old son Garrett. He and his father, Ray, own and operate Wells Livestock and he also owns and operates Wells Livestock Services, offering complete livestock marketing services and equipment sales.

Dan began his work with the Ohio Angus Association Feb. 1, and worked concurrently with retiring Secretary/Fieldman Allen Gahler through the Ohio Beef Expo in March. Wells can be reached at 740-505-3843 or danwells@ohioangus.org. His home office for the Ohio

Angus Association is located at 625 Cattail Rd.; Chillicothe, OH 45601.

John Widdowson of Lodgepole, Neb., has been selected by the Angus Foundation's Board of Directors to represent the American Angus Association at the 2012 National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC). The Angus Foundation will sponsor Widdowson's registration and travel expenses. This is the 10th year the Angus Foundation has funded an Association member to attend YCC, which will take place May 31-June 7.

YCC allows young leaders the chance to see firsthand and further understand all aspects of the beef industry. Attendees participate in a nationwide tour of the beef production chain from ranch to feedlot to packing plant, through marketing and regulatory affairs, and finally ending at consumer foodservice. To qualify for participation, a man or woman must be nominated by one of NCBA's affiliate

Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Athens, Jan. 28

►The 2012 Georgia Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **David Williams**, Bishop; **Christy Page**, Jefferson, executive secretary; **Mike McCravy**, Bowdon, president; **Smitty Lamb**, Tifton, vice president; **Carolyn Gazda**, Athens; **Doug Williams**, Milan; (standing, from left) **Melvin Porter**, Jefferson; **Michael Jones**, West Point; **Randy Daniel**, Colbert; **Harvey Lemmon**, Woodbury; **Chris Throne**, Lexington; **Andrew McPeake**, Arnoldsville; **John Jarrell**, Butler; **Roland Starnes**, Woodbury; and **Larry Bramblett**, Elberton.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



►Officers for the Georgia Angus Auxiliary are (from left) **Tanya Eidson**, Arnoldsville, president; **Melissa Miller**, Athens, vice president; and **Holly Alford**, Bowman, secretary-treasurer.



►**Shirley Myers**, Macon, was inducted into the Georgia Angus Hall of Fame. Pictured are (from left) Katie George and Keegan George, grandchildren; Kathy and Shirley Myers; and Stephanie George, daughter.



►**Sam Ambrose**, formerly of Newnan, was posthumously inducted into the Georgia Angus Hall of Fame. Pictured are (from left) Harvey Lemmon, presenting the award; and Ann (daughter) and John Dilts, accepting the award.

members, be between the ages of 25 and 50 and be an NCBA member.

Widdowson, and his wife, Laurie, own and operate SandPoint Cattle Co. LCC, located on 13,000 acres in the southern panhandle of Nebraska. The operation is home to about 3,200 registered Angus cattle, including 1,900 mother cows. The Widdowsons have been very active in supporting the Angus breed through the Angus Foundation.

According to the NCBA, the tour will begin in Denver with a comprehensive overview of the industry. Participants will take an in-depth look at many of the issues affecting the beef industry and what NCBA is doing to address these issues on behalf of its members, and they will receive a comprehensive view of market information from CattleFax. The group will then travel to JBS Five Rivers' Kuner Feedyard, then tour the JBS Greeley packing and processing plant. Participants will then travel to the Chicago Board of Trade and OSI Inc., one of the nation's premier beef patty manufacturers. The next stop will be the nation's capital, where participants will get a chance to meet with their respective congressmen and senators and many regulatory agencies that make decisions affecting agriculture.

Widdowson has been a member of the Association since 1999.

Dustin Focht, Stillwater, Okla., and **Martin Machado**, Winton, Calif., were among the five highest-scoring contestants at the Greeley Producers Livestock Marketing Association-hosted qualifier in Greeley, Colo., Jan. 17 in the third qualifying contest for the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA)-sponsored 2012 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC).

The fourth and final qualifying contest was scheduled for March 8 at Groesbeck Livestock and Auction Co., Groesbeck, Texas. The eight highest scorers in each qualifying contest, along with the reigning International Livestock Auctioneer Champion — Rod

Burnett, Armstrong, B.C. — will make up the field of 33 for the 2012 WLAC, which will take place June 16 at the Turlock Livestock Auction Yard Inc., Turlock Calif.

▶ IN PASSING

Joseph Smith, 76, Lexington, Va., died Jan. 24 at his home.

Joe was born Dec. 24, 1935, in Jackson Center, Ohio, a son of Herman and Ruth (McCoy) Smith.

Joe was every inch an Aberdeen-Angus man from growing up on the family farm in Ohio. A 1954 graduate of Washington Local

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▶ **Roland and Janet Starnes**, Woodbury, received the Member of the Year award.



▶ **Larry Bramblett** (right), Elberton, receives a past president recognition plaque from Bryce Schumann, American Angus Ass'n CEO.

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High School, Joe graduated from the animal science program at the Ohio State University, where he worked at the beef barn and was on the beef and sheep judging teams. His great pride was caring for the legendary sire

Bardoliermere 2, and his work at Ankony in New York and Walbridge Farms in New York and Kentucky.

He was also very knowledgeable in the Hereford and Shorthorn breeds.

In addition to his wife, Naomi, Joe is survived by stepdaughters Catherine and Sharon; stepson Michael; brothers Nevin

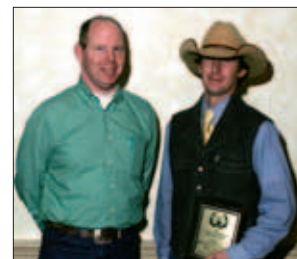
and Robert; sisters Sara and Barbara; three step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

Don Good, 90, Manhattan, Kan., died Feb. 14 at his home.

Don was born Oct. 8, 1921, in Van Wert County, Ohio, to George and Dora (Haines)

Virginia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Natural Bridge, Feb. 4

►The Virginia Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (front row, from left) **Buddy Shelton**, Gretna, president-elect; **Anne Jones Cardwell**, Forest, treasurer; **Jason Pratt**, Atkins, president; **James Young**, Forest, past president; **Felicia Roberts**, Fishersville, office manager; (standing, from left) **Jess Herbers**, Lynchburg; **Betsie Michael**, Fishersville; **Stephen Jones**, Forest; **Carol Wojciechowski**, Middlebrook; and **Thomas McCall**, Greenville.



►**Jason Arehart** (right), New Market, receives the Sale Chairman of the Year award from Thomas McCall.



►Outgoing board members are (from left) **Jason Arehart**, New Market; **Pete Henderson**, Williamsburg; and **Keith Shifflett**, Scottsville.



►**CSF Cattle Co.**, Raphine, was recognized as the Field Day Host. Pictured are (from left) Chance Snyder and Jess Herbers, presenting the award.



►**Linda Alexander** (left), Berryville, receives the Virginia Angus Ass'n Distinguished Service Award from Jerry Crenshaw.



►**James Young** (left), Forest, receives the Outgoing President award from Jason Pratt.



►**Benfield Farms Inc.**, Deerfield, was named Seedstock Producer of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Robert Grove, presenting; and Juliana, Kendall and Donald Benner.



►**Jacob Bowman**, Riner, receives the Virginia Angus Ass'n Advisors Award.



►**George Winn** of G&E Farms, Gretna, was recognized as the Commercial Producer of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Ethan, George, Ellen and Graham Winn; and Buddy Shelton, presenting the award.



►**Tim Douglas** (right), Berryville, receives the Manager of the Year award from Thomas Clark.



►**Thomas Clark** (left), Culpeper, receives the Cattleman of the Year award from Thomas McCall.



►**John Hostetler**, formerly of Linville, was posthumously honored with the Hall of Merit Award. Pictured are (from left) Peter Hostetler; Janet Hostetler; and Ske Ellington, presenting the award.

Good. He was raised on an 80-acre livestock and crop farm in Van Wert County with three brothers and one sister.

Don's livestock interests manifested early, through 4-H and FFA projects with Oxford sheep and swine. He was a member of the swine ton litter club at age 13, showed a champion pen of five lambs at a district

show the next year, and was a member of Ohio's champion junior livestock judging team. Don is recognized nationally and internationally for his accomplishments as a teacher, livestock judge, administrator and strong supporter of research.

In 1939, Don entered Ohio State University (OSU), working in the beef and horse barns and the meats laboratory to work his way through school. He also played baseball and wrestled for OSU.

During his senior year, Don was called to active duty in World War II, serving in Europe and the Pacific. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge and two battle stars. Throughout the years, Don has been an advocate for veterans and the armed services.

After returning to OSU, he was on the 1946 OSU livestock judging team. He was high man in judging at the Kansas City Royal Livestock Show and was second high man at the Chicago International Livestock Exposition, where the team won.

Don received his bachelor's degree in 1947 and was named to the Animal Science Hall of Fame at OSU in 1950. In 1970, he received the OSU College of Agriculture Centennial Award. After a summer of working with the Pet Milk Co. in public relations, Don started his 40-year career at Kansas State University (K-State).

His first position was to coach the livestock judging team, manage the purebred beef herds, and teach/advise students. As judging team coach, he won 14 major contests in 18 years. At the end of his first semester at K-State, he returned to Ohio to marry Jane Swick and bring her back to live in Manhattan.

In 1950, Don received his master's degree from K-State and his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1957. He was named department head of Animal Husbandry at K-State in 1966 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1987. Following a devastating tornado in 1966, he and others with his "can-do" attitude helped to form the Livestock and Meat Industry Council. This is a group of industry leaders that would aid in seeking private and corporate funding for use in improving or rebuilding facilities used to teach students and perform research.

Don's illustrious career is dotted with many recognitions and teaching/leadership awards, large and small. His portrait was hung with those of other great contributors of the livestock industry in the Hall of Fame portrait gallery at the Saddle and Sirloin Club in Louisville, Ky.

Don was widely known as a livestock judge and was a strong advocate for measurable carcass traits to back up meat animal judging decisions. His decision to select an Angus-

Kurt Kangas joins Association as new regional manager

The American Angus Association welcomes Kurt Kangas of Bakersfield, Calif., as the new regional manager for Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah.



Kurt Kangas

"There's nothing better than a herd of Angus cattle out on pasture," Kangas says. "I have a real appreciation for the cattle in the Angus breed, but it's the people behind the cattle that I really enjoy."

Expect to see Kangas at Angus events, as well as at sales throughout the region. He says his main goal is to visit with members and commercial producers, get to know their herds and see how he can assist in fostering a mutually beneficial relationship.

"Kurt will be a great asset to our team as we continue to look to the future of the business breed," says Bryce Schumann, Association CEO. "It's an exciting time to be in the Angus business, and it's a privilege to work with talented people like Kurt."

A native of California, Kangas is a graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman with a bachelor's degree in range science. He has previously served as a rangeland consultant for HartCo Environmental Services in Gallatin Gateway, Mont., and worked at Basin Angus Ranch for more than a decade until the herd dispersed in 2010.

Just prior to joining the Association, Kangas was a representative for Country Sweet Produce and remained involved with area cattle operations.

"I feel very fortunate to be part of the Association and look forward to getting to know our members and other ranchers in the Western region," Kangas says.

Contact Kangas at kkangas@angus.org or 661-706-2041 for help locating Angus seedstock or to answer questions about Association programs and services.

Charolais crossbred steer as champion at the International Livestock Exposition in 1969 has often been called a landmark event in the acceptance of crossbreeding and a change to the modern beef type of today. Don's influence transcended K-State and North America with seminars and consulting to more than 10 countries.

When Don looked back on his career he always spoke of the special friends he made

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► **John Pyne**, formerly of Mineral, was posthumously honored with the Virginia Angus Ass'n Handbook Dedication Award. Pictured are (from left) Cyndi Santowasso; Evie Pyne; and Virginia Coleman, presenting the award.



► **Charles Foster**, Lynchburg, received the Hall of Merit Award. Pictured are (from left) John Mrotek, presenting the award; Charles and Joan Foster; and Bernice Mrotek.



► **Pete Henderson and Peter Henderson**, Edgewood Angus LLC, Williamsburg, received the Bartenslager Award. Pictured are (from left) Pete Henderson, Peter Henderson and Scott Greiner, presenting the award.



► **Richard McClung**, New Market, received the Hall of Merit Award. Pictured are (from left) Richard and Susan McClung; and Ike Eller, presenting the award.

in the livestock industry all over the world and the importance of family and faith. A colleague commented that Don's interest in people has been the trademark of his career. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1961.

Don loved nothing more than doing chores, chopping weeds/thistles, and looking at the purebred Angus cattle at the family farm in Olsburg, Kan., now operated by son Craig and his wife, Amy. His grandchildren were often the highlight of his day when he went to the farm to help.

Don is survived by daughter Linda; sons Craig and Gary; sister Elizabeth; brother Fred; and grandchildren Laura and Grant.

Laura Kennedy, 99, Lawrence, Kan., died Feb. 15 at Pioneer Ridge Retirement Community.

Laura was born near Stull, Kan., Oct. 20, 1912, to Michael and Louisa (Schafer) Kropf, and lived her entire life in the Stull and Clinton communities. Laura loved her childhood on the farm and spent a lot of time with her Collie dog and with her trusty Quarter Horse, Queen.

She became known to some in the area as "The Queen of the Hills," as she was often seen regally riding that great horse. In 1941, she became the loving wife of Harry Kennedy, fully enjoying life, farming and working together until his death in 1980.

She deeply loved her family and her faith was of utmost importance to her, as she made every effort to live that faith and impart it to her family. Laura was a member of Stull United Methodist Church as well as the Clinton United Presbyterian Church,

and she taught Sunday School and took an active role in church Christmas functions at both.

She was personally committed to and very aggressively supported the needy, as well as several Christian and underprivileged causes. Laura had a very positive attitude and encouraged her children to excel. She assisted in every way she could.

Laura enjoyed playing checkers and had a passion for poetry. She was also known for her awesome lemon meringue pie.

Laura is survived by daughters Gloria and Elaine; son Dan; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Josh Branen has been promoted to CEO of BioTracking LLC. In his new position, he will guide overall business operations while overseeing product development.

Ronald Kensinger has been appointed chair of Ohio State University's Department of Animal Sciences. Kensinger plans to create new partnerships, boost the department's fundraising efforts and increase the amount of access to hands-on research opportunities for students. He began his duties Jan. 1.

Blaine Lotz, Edna, Kan., was named the champion of the third qualifying contest for the 2012 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC). The reserve champion was **Kevin Schow**, Paxton, Neb., and the runner-up champion was **Russele Sleep**, Bedford, Iowa. **Mike Bailey**, Jennings, Kan.; **Jeff Bynum**, Southside, Ala.; and **Daniel Mitchell**, Cumberland,

Ohio, were among the top five highest-scoring contestants at the Greeley Producers Livestock Marketing Association-hosted contest in Greeley, Colo., Jan. 17.

Karen Formico has joined Andis Co. as vice president of marketing. In this newly created position, she will be responsible for overseeing and providing leadership for all initiatives involving marketing, public relations, advertising and communications.

Ron Randel, Texas AgriLife Research scientist, received the Award of Excellence in Agricultural Research and Extension from Build East Texas, an organization that presents the award annually to recognize outstanding contributions by the personnel of the Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in East Texas.

Haley Siergiej has been selected by the Nutrients for Life Foundation as a regional representative in Illinois. In this position, Siergiej will provide grassroots educational and public awareness services in the state and work with industry members to share the Foundation's core programs and enhance community relations. Her primary role will be to work with primary and secondary educators in the Illinois school system to promote the Foundation's plant and soil science curriculum.



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.