



Newsmakers

► Items of interest about and for members of our Angus family

IN THE NEWS

Jeff Fowle, Etna, Calif., an American Angus Association member since 1994, is one of four founding farmers of the AgChat Foundation, a new website with a mission to empower farmers and ranchers to connect communities through social media platforms. Fowle, Darin Grimm of Kansas, Mike Haley of Ohio and Ray Prock of California met a year ago on the weekly streaming conversation called AgChat that was founded on Twitter by Michele Payn-Knoper.

The Foundation has four program areas focused on social media that include Advocacy 2.0 Training; Strategic Advocacy Coordination; Data Analysis; and Technology Scholarships. It seeks to involve all sectors of agriculture, encompassing diverse viewpoints such as conventional, organic and small- and large-scale operations.

“It becomes very apparent through social

media that there is a great diversity of farm stories,” Fowle points out. “My family runs our ranch one way and we may have a neighbor across the valley that makes very different choices. The real value of social media comes from farmers telling their own story from their own perspective.”

Farm mothers have to be versatile. They have to be nurturing, smart, hard-working and tough. Central Illinois Angus breeder **Cheryl Day** is all of these and then some — at least according to her 12-year-old daughter, Sierra. Sierra nominated her mother for Monsanto’s “2010 America’s Farmers Mom of the Year” contest. The annual contest honors selected farm moms for their contributions to their families, farms and ranches, and to their communities.

Cheryl is among five regional finalists selected by a panel to vie for the 2010 national

title, which was determined by online votes and announced May 4. (Carol Cowan of Watonga, Okla., was the national winner.)

“I am just one member of a farming team,” says Cheryl, a ninth-generation farmer who spends half her time doing chores in mud-caked jeans and the other half in a business suit lobbying at the state capital for agricultural interests. “I want my children to learn about agriculture the same way I did — by getting dirty and taking risks.”

Cheryl works with her husband, Mike, Sierra, and 6-year-old son, Chayton, raising corn, soybeans and purebred Angus cattle near Cerro Gordo. She’s especially partial to the cattle.

Growing up on a cow-calf operation, she participated in 4-H and FFA and used her heifer projects to help pay for college. She says she wants to teach her children and others a similar work ethic and love for life on the farm.

“Farming is a rollercoaster, but agriculture has always been my passion. I truly want to empower others to pursue their agricultural dreams and protect the right to farm for the next generation,” Cheryl says.

That last part is especially important to her — she works as a freelance agriculture communicator and promotes landowner

Michigan Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jackson, March 14



PHOTOS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

►The Michigan Angus Ass’n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Charles Preston**, Prescott, president; **Monte Bordner**, Sturgis, vice president; **Nancy Thelen**, Saline, secretary; **Bonnie Canfield**, Clarksville, treasurer; **Charles Reid**, Eaton Rapids, chairman of the board; **Scott Foster**, Niles, American Angus Ass’n Board Member; (standing, from left) **Steven Thelen**, Saline; **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids; **Kirk Sterzick**, Lowell; **Jonathan Taylor**, Gregory; **Cody Sankey**, Lansing; **David Hawkins**, Mason; **David Lutchka**, Grass Lake; **Tim Ruggles**, Kingston; **Ken Geuns**, Bath; and **Merle Boehmer**, Williamston.



►Michigan Angus Auxiliary officers are (seated, from left) **Sharon Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, president; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, vice president; **Vicki Meiburg**, North Branch, secretary-treasurer; **Susan Merriman**, Lowell, historian; (standing, from left) **Julie Thelen**, Saline, queens chairperson; **Nancy Thelen**, Saline, awards chairperson; and **Barb Sweeney**, Mason, scholarship chairperson.



►**Justin Kennedy** (left), Nashville, receives the Outstanding Senior Member Award from **Danielle Foster**.



►Winning Premier Breeder awards are (from left) **Danielle Foster**, Niles, first; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, second; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy, third; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, fourth; and **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell, fifth.



►**Robert Reid** (right), Eaton Rapids, receives the Adult Appreciation Award from **Katie Reid**.

water rights as the executive director for the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts. She also volunteers countless hours to various agriculture organizations, serves as a 4-H leader, is a CropLife ambassador, and speaks regularly at schools and community events. She never misses an opportunity to serve as an advocate for agriculture, her daughter says.

“She accepts any invitation to tell the truth about agriculture,” Sierra wrote in her nomination essay. “I understand her commitment that speaking out for agriculture is necessary to ensure that my generation will be able to farm.”

IN PASSING

Carleton Meinders, 79, New Sharon, Iowa, died April 9 at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa.

Carleton was born Oct. 30, 1930, to Corneleus and Marie (Anderson) Meinders in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He graduated from Lacey High School in 1948. After his education he began farming with his parents in the Lacey area. Carleton remained on the family farm his entire life. He also served as a security guard from 1985 to 2002 for Pinkerton at Clow Valve Co.

Carleton was a member of Lacey Methodist Church and most recently the Central United Methodist Church. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, a 4-H leader and enjoyed raising black Angus cattle. He was a member of the Iowa Angus Association and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1966.

Carleton is survived by wife Nellie; daughters Dorothy and Carol; son Carleton Jr.; and grandson Clayton.

Oliver “Ollie” Hansen, 89, Durant, Iowa, died April 13 at Genesis Medical Center, East Campus, Davenport, Iowa.

Ollie was born April 15, 1920, to William and Alice (Vollstedt) Hansen in Dixon, Iowa. He graduated from Davenport Central High School in 1938 and Iowa State University (ISU) in 1942. He served as youth assistant for the Scott County Extension Service prior to entering the Army, serving his country during WWII and attaining the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Following his honorable discharge in May 1946, he married Loretta Lage May 19, 1946, in Davenport. She died Nov. 2, 1957. He later married Chrystol Thoma on April 18, 1959, in Clermont, Iowa. She died Feb. 14, 2007.

Ollie began his banking career in 1946 and served as cashier at Liberty Trust & Savings Bank until 1950, when he was named executive vice president. He was appointed president of the bank in 1965 and continued to serve in that position until 1986. He was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Kentucky Angus Ass’n Annual Banquet, Louisville, March 5



►Left: The **Carl Nunn family**, Upton, received the Family of the Year Award. Pictured are (from left) Cindy, Carl “Butch,” Lincoln, Jason, Emily, Josh and Sarah Nunn.

appointed chairman of the board of directors in 1978 and served in that capacity until his death. He served as chairman and president of Liberty bancorporation, the parent holding company of Liberty Trust & Savings Bank, and on the board of directors of Farmers Savings Bank, West Union, Iowa, from 1966 to 1993.

He served the banking industry in various capacities, including Iowa Superintendent of Banking, president of the Iowa Bankers Association, and president of the Iowa

Independent Bankers Association.

He served as state vice president and chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the American Bankers Association. In recognition of his involvement on a national and state level he was inducted into the ISU Agricultural Council Hall of Fame, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture and Davenport High School Hall of Honor. He received the IBA James A. Leach Leadership Award, the ABA Bruning Award, the Iowa Independent Bankers Association Founders Award, and the Iowa State Fairs Lyle Haring Memorial Award.

Ollie was an active member of the

Durant community and was a member of the Durant American Legion Post #430, had served on the Durant School Board, the Bishops Committee of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and the Durant Chamber of Commerce.

Ollie had a passion for Angus cattle, exhibiting his first Angus heifer in 1931 and making his last cow-calf purchase just two weeks before his death. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1958, and was a 2009 inductee into the Angus Heritage Foundation.

Ollie is survived by sons Thomas and Ronald Hansen, and Michael and Jeffery

Thoma; Christie Thoma; sister Patricia; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Loy Glause, 77, Palmer, Neb., died April 12 at his home.

Loy was born Oct. 28, 1932, near Saint Libory, Neb., to Philip and Stella (Wagner) Glause. He attended Zion Lutheran parochial school and was a 1950 graduate of Saint Paul High School. Loy was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, where he was a member his entire life.

He served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955, having been stationed in Alaska. He was united in marriage to Norma Jean

“Jeanie” Homfeld March 2, 1957, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Neb.

After their marriage, Loy and Jeanie first lived near Worms, Neb., until 1962, when they moved to the Palmer area and started the family farm. On the family farm they grew a wide variety of produce, which the family sold from 1962 to 1991. Loy also raised Angus cattle on the Lazy Black Diamond Ranch from 1951 until his death. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1973.

Loy loved following and supporting his children and grandchildren in various activities. He also loved working with his

cattle and visiting with customers on his family ranch. Loy was active in his church and set a very good example for his family and friends who witnessed his Christian faith.

Loy is survived by his wife; sons Randy, Brian, Kevin, Galen, Nathan, Aaron and Clayton; daughters Cynthia, Amy, Joy, Dawn, Elaine and Penny; brothers Larry, Andy and Paul; sister Naomi; 36 grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

Alfred “Al” Kober Jr., 72, Oley, Pa., died April 17 at his home after a brief illness. Al

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

was born Aug. 24, 1937, to A. Stanley and Victoria (Barnes) Kober.

During his 58 years in the retail industry, Al became a respected authority on meat merchandising, promotions and food safety. He treasured his role as an educator and as a servant to fellow retailers.

Al entered the retail business in 1952 at Clemens Supermarkets in Kulpsville, Pa. He moved up the ranks to assistant meat manager in 1964, meat and deli manager in 1969 and meat supervisor in 1973. While serving as Clemens' meat director, Al launched a close trim program for all meat cuts, years before the practice became an industry norm.

In 1996, Al found a beef brand that aligned with his goals and ideals for pleasing Clemens' consumers. The same brand later led him to a career change after 50 years with his hometown retailer. Not interested in retirement, Al accepted a position as retail director for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand, for which he had previously consulted.

During eight years with the company, he channeled his retail experience into providing customer-driven merchandising, training and marketing programs. His focus on the "customer first" helped retail stores nationwide grow from a combined 24 million pounds (lb.) in sales per month in 2002 to more than 30 million lb. per month in 2009.

He was a well-loved adult Bible fellowship teacher at The Chapel, Green, Ohio, and an elder at his previous church in Pennsylvania. Al will be remembered for his faith, integrity, energy, passion for the industry, and his caring and kind leadership.

Al is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judith (Heinly) Kober; his father; brothers Robert and Dick; sisters Arlene and Grace; sons Brian, Kenton, Jason and Benjamin; daughters Robyn, Heidi, Stefanie, Nina and Greta; and 21 grandchildren.

Floyd Dominy, 100, Boyce, Va., died April 20 at his home.

Floyd was born on a farm in Adams County, Neb., Dec. 24, 1909. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1933 with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. He was honored by the university with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1963 and an Honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1967.

Floyd began his professional work as a teacher of vocational agriculture at Hillsdale, Wyo., and in February 1934 was appointed county agricultural agent for Campbell County, Wyo. In August 1938, he became field agent for the Western Division of the Agricultural Administration with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

During the first two years of WWII, Floyd worked with Nelson Rockefeller, the coordinator of inter-American affairs, as assistant director of the Food Supply Division.

In 1944, Floyd was commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve and served the last two years of WWII as a military government officer in the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Iwo Jima. When mustered out of the Navy in April 1946, Floyd joined the Bureau of Reclamation as a land development specialist, responsible for establishing procedures by which newly irrigated land on public lands could be settled by returning veterans.

Floyd advanced as chief of the Repayment Branch, then chief of the Irrigation Division, to assistant commissioner in 1957. When the new position of associate commissioner was created in 1958, Floyd was selected, and on May 1, 1959, he was sworn in as commissioner by appointment from presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon until his retirement from federal service Dec. 1, 1969.

Floyd was one of our nation's giants in water and land development projects. He was responsible for the creation of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, among

others. For his work in the United States he was named one of the top 10 "Public Works Men of the Year" in 1966. Spain and Thailand have awarded him their nation's highest civil award. The General Contractors of America bestowed the Golden Beaver Award to Floyd in 1974 for "Outstanding Engineering Achievement in Heavy Construction."

Following retirement, Floyd, a man of the soil, established residence at Bellevue Farm in the heart of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, and devoted his energies to the registered performance-tested Angus cattle business. He served as chairman of the Performance Testing Station at Red House, and on the board of directors of the Virginia Angus Association. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1958.

Bellevue Farm became a symbol of excellence for Virginia Angus cattle, and received the Get-of-Sire Award from the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association in 1978 and in 1979.

Floyd was named 1979 Seedstock Producer of the Year for Virginia. Floyd was married for 53 years to Alice (Criswell) Dominy until her death in March 1982.

Floyd is survived by daughters Janice and Ruth; son Charles; eight grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Susan "Sue" Pierce Lesh, 75, of Arlington Heights, Ill., died April 22 at home after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

Sue was born in 1934 in Rochelle, Ill. She attended Rochelle High School and the University of Colorado. She worked for the Northern Trust Bank in Chicago, Ill.; married James Lesh in 1961; moved to Arlington Heights; and became a homemaker and mother to three.

The family often told stories of how Sue, as a very young girl, would help pack lunches for the herdsmen taking boxcars full of cattle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

out to shows across the country. She enjoyed helping entertain the many visitors to the Pierce family's Woodlawn Farms in Creston, Ill., through the years, and made a few trips with her brother, Blanford, to the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) and to the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), renewing old friendships.

A longtime resident of Arlington Heights, Sue was very active in the Fourth of July festival planning and a committed participant in the Republican party of Wheeling Township.

She worked for the Illinois Tollway Authority for 13 years and laughingly recounted the many "quick" visits she had with Angus friends as they would purposely drive through her toll booth lane.

Sue is survived by sons John and Tom;

daughter Lucy; brother Blanford; former husband James Lesh; and six grandchildren.

It was her wish that any Angus friends wanting to honor her memory do so with a donation to the Angus Foundation's Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus by contacting Foundation President Milford Jenkins by phone at 816-383-5100, via e-mail at mjenkins@angus.org or by mailing their donation to Angus Foundation, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

AgriLabs announced that the company will present two \$5,000 **Bruce Wren Continuing Education Scholarships** for practicing veterinarians to honor Wren, a member of the company's Technical Services team. The selection process and the administration of each of these two grants — one to a beef practitioner, the other to a dairy practitioner — will be headed by **Gatz Riddell** and **David Selner**.

W.R. "Bob" Watt Jr. has retired as secretary and general manager of the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show (also known as the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo) after more than 40 years of service to the organization. **Bradford Barnes** has been elected the new president and general manager.

Steve Loerch, Ohio State University faculty member and nationally and internationally recognized expert on beef cattle nutrition and management strategies, has received the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) 2010 Distinguished Senior Faculty Research Award.

Gold Standard Labs, a private diagnostic laboratory for testing cattle to detect those persistently infected (PI) with bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), has opened its seventh facility in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Personnel at the new lab include Veterinarian **J.D. Norris**, **Tina McCord** and **Jane Coble**.

Wendy Powers has been named director of Michigan State University Extension's (MSUE's) new Institute for Enhancing Michigan's First Green Industry: Agriculture and Agribusiness. Powers is a professor in the departments of Animal Science and Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at MSU and is MSU's director of environmental stewardship for animal agriculture.

Tim Amlaw has been named vice president of American Humane® Certified, the farm animal welfare standards program of the American Humane Association.

Jim McGrann, professor emeritus Extension economist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and a pioneer in creating the Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) software adopted by the industry, has been inducted into the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

The registry in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University (TAMU) recognizes outstanding former students for meritorious accomplishments in their field. It is the highest department-level honor and is named after Tyrus R. Timm, who led the department from 1953 until 1973.

McGrann retired from Extension service in 2004 and is now vice president of the International Farm Management Association and operates a private ranch management and economist consultancy that serves livestock producers.

Illinois Angus Ass'n Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield, March 30



► Illinois Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Jeffrey Dameron**, Normal, president; **T.J. Curtin**, Blue Mound, vice president; **Stan Prox**, Macomb, co-business manager; **Douglas Turner**, Mahomet, co-business manager; **James Marsh**, Union, past president; (standing, from left) **Lee Stremsterfer**, Pleasant Plains; **John Kirchner**, Mount Morris; **Stephen Kiesewetter**, Farmington; **Aaron Schafer**, Owaneco; **Brad Bergman**, Tremont; **Kevin Eathington**, Avon; **Wayne Conrady**, Lincoln; **Grant Bedel**, Chillicothe; **Dale Rhode**, Kingston; **Kevin Rose**, Salem; **Chad Hoffman**, Colfax, American Angus Ass'n Board Member; **Luke Lemenager**, Hudson; and **John DeRycke**, Prophetstown.

Michigan Angus Futurity, 1971

► This photo taken at the 1971 Michigan Angus Futurity displays a class of junior bull calves from the first calf crop born at Michigan State University (MSU) sired by Black Revolution 317, or "Pipeline." The showmen in the photo represent a "Who's Who" in the Angus industry today. Starting on the right, the first-place bull is shown by **Larry Cotton**, MSU Beef Unit manager, who is now the owner of Cotton & Associates. In second is **Jerry Carrico**, MSU Beef Unit assistant manager, now an Angus breeder in Iowa; in third, **Dave Hawkins**, MSU faculty member; in fourth, MSU graduate student **Daryl Strohbein**, now a retired Extension beef specialist at Iowa State University; in fifth, **Herb Duible**, an Angus breeder from Ann Arbor; in sixth, MSU graduate student **Erskine Cash**, now a retired faculty member at Pennsylvania State University; in seventh, MSU faculty member **T.R. Greathouse**, who was later a department chair at Colorado State University and associate dean at Texas A&M University; in eighth, MSU graduate student **C.K. Allen**, who served as the executive secretary of the American Angus Ass'n and as a faculty member at Northwest Missouri State University; and in ninth, MSU graduate student **Don Woodburn**, now the president of Coffeyville Community College.

