



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Williams Angus Farm, owned and operated by Joe and Faye Williams of Newton, was named the 2011 Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Purebred Producer of the Year. Williams Angus Farm is located near Newton in Dale County. Angus cattle were first purchased 49 years ago, and farm operations began at the current location in 1964.

Today, Williams Angus Farm has an Angus seedstock operation with a cow herd of approximately 150 head. In addition to Angus seedstock production, the farm is comprised of several agricultural enterprises, such as commercial beef cattle, peanuts, cotton, small grains, grain sorghum, hay and corn silage. While complementary, these enterprises were selected to diversify the farm for flexible, sustainable production.

The prime directive of the Williams Angus Farm's seedstock operation is to produce high-quality seedstock, which are functional, practical and performance-oriented for commercial beef production in the Southeast. The ultimate goal is to produce high-quality,

Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Ass'n Annual Meeting, March 31, Huntsville



► **Faye** (left) and **Joe Williams** (center), Newton, receive the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Ass'n Purebred Producer of the Year award from **Johnny Gladney**, Alabama Cooperative Extension System regional agent.

high-value herd sires that will sire feeder cattle that excel in all beef industry segments and demand premium market prices. The breeding program of the seedstock operation, emphasizing economically important traits, is designed to complement and fill the needs of their commercial customers, as well as their commercial operation.

Joe Williams serves the state cattle industry as a director and past president of the Dale County Cattlemen's Association, chair of the Dale County Farmer's Federation Beef Committee and vice chair of the hay and forage committee. He is also a founder, director and past president of the Southeast Alabama Feeder Cattle Marketing Association. Williams Angus Farm was nominated by the Alabama BCIA for the national Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year.

William and **Nancy Byars** of Fortuna, Mo., have been honored with the Historic Angus Herd Award, presented to Angus breeders or immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

William Byars always dreamed of raising Angus cattle. He spent three years training in the military for electronic service, and continued to look forward to one day purchasing cattle of his own. In April 1956, when he was 21 years old, his dream became a reality. With his initial \$400 investment in

Alabama Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, April 20, Cullman



► **Left:** The Alabama Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Gregg Blythe**, Madison, president; **Philip Gleason**, Springville, first vice president; **Scott Bonds**, Guntersville, second vice president; **George Richburg**, Auburn, treasurer; **Mike McGuire**, Waverly, secretary-fieldman; **Randy Crowell**, Elrod, past president; (standing, from left) **J.B. Turner Jr.**, Harvest; **Michael Rorex**, Bridgeport; **Tandy West**, Centre; **John Briscoe**, Joppa; **John Harrell**, Opelika; **Tim West**, Centre; **Kenneth Barrentine**, Pisgah; and **Jennifer Lee**, Daviston.



► The Alabama Angus Auxiliary officers and directors are (from left) **Karen Hill**, Holly Pond; **Judy Parris**, Albertville; **Meghan Hill Rutherford**, treasurer, and **June Wood**, vice president, both of Holly Pond; and **Debbie Graydon**, Montgomery, president.



► **Buddy** and **Barbara Moore**, Eva, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured are (from left) John Harrell, presenting the award; Barbara and Buddy Moore; and Randy Crowell, Alabama Angus Ass'n president.



► **Randy Crowell** (right), Elrod, was presented the outgoing president recognition award by **Gregg Blythe**, newly elected Alabama Angus Ass'n president.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

The **Bennett family** of Knoll Crest Farm, Red House, Va., was inducted into Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame for its outstanding service to the college, university, and the agricultural and life sciences communities. The family received this recognition during a March 16 event at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

The Bennett family — whose members include James, Barbara, Paul, Tracy, Brian, Cara, Jim and Annette — owns Knoll Crest Farm, a cattle operation on 3,000 acres in Red House. James' father started the farm in 1929, and it has remained a family operation. James brought one of the first registered herds of Hereford cattle to Virginia in 1944 followed by Gelbvieh cattle in 1981 and Angus cattle in 1991.

In 1972, the Bennetts developed the Red House Bull Evaluation Center, which was under contract with Virginia Tech until 1998 for performance testing of bulls owned by other purebred breeders for the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA).

James has served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors; the Virginia Cooperative Extension advisory board; the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center advisory board; the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services board; the American Polled Hereford Association as president; and the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Board, of which he was chairman. Brian and Jim are on several local advisory committees, including FFA, 4-H and Extension.



► **Above:** The **Bennett family** was inducted into the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame for its contributions to the state and the university. Pictured are (from left) Brian; Cara; Annette; Barbara; James; Dean Alan Grant, presenting the award; Tracy; and Paul.

Paul has served as president of the Virginia BCIA, president of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association and president of BIF. He also serves on the advisory committee of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC), the Virginia Angus Association Board of Directors and the Virginia Cattlemen's Foundation. He has spoken to numerous classes and student organizations in both the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Paul graduated from Virginia Tech in 1983 and Brian graduated in 1987. Three of the 10 Bennett grandchildren are enrolled at the university.

Knoll Crest Farm has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1992.

three head of Angus cattle, a legacy began that still continues today.

In 1962, the newlywed couple moved to the Kansas City, Mo., area, where William took a job for IBM. During that time, the cattle stayed behind in Mexico, Mo. But in 1968, the Byars purchased their acreage in Fortuna and moved back to the farm five years later.

Throughout the years, the cattle industry changed significantly. To meet the needs of modern production practices, the Byars knew they needed to turn their herd in a new direction. In 2008, they purchased a bull from Keeney Angus of Nancy, Ky., which helped bring about increased herd production, fertility, efficiency and consistency.

To William Byars, there is nothing better than living on a farm with family close by. In 2005, their son, Chris, and daughter-in-law, Pam, bought the farm and continue to expand their operation, while living next door to William and Nancy.

"My wife and I are proud to have a herd to pass along to our children," says William, who notes that the family's 70-head herd still has cattle that link back to the first three ancestors he purchased 56 years ago.

Six grandchildren now enjoy spending time on the Byars family farm. One granddaughter, Jessica Marie, was born with

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cystic fibrosis, and William believes her life has been blessed by living on the farm.

William and Nancy have been life members of the American Angus Association since 1977.

Courtenay DeHoff, a December 2011 graduate of Oklahoma State University (OSU), has joined Rural TV anchoring the Mid-Day Market Reports in Nashville, Tenn. DeHoff joined the anchor staff April 1. She previously was a producer/anchor for RFD-TV's *Oklahoma Horizons* in Stillwater, Okla.,

while attending OSU.

DeHoff became a member of the American Angus Association at age 21 at the conclusion of her NJAA career.

IN PASSING

Jack Davis, 89, Kansas City, Mo., died, surrounded by his family, Nov. 28, 2011. Jack was born in 1922, on Halloween, in Wheeling, Mo., where he began his life story working with his father, Clarence, on the small family farm in north Missouri. He also benefitted much from his mother, Ruth, a smart and hard-working woman who always said Jack was going to the university when no one thought that possible, and whose sudden

blindness at age 50 inspired him to become a doctor. Money was tight, but Jack made it to college through extraordinary effort.

Jack was especially proud of a 3-acre tomato patch that he and a friend raised that brought him enough money to return to college for his sophomore year. Jack was raised in the Wheeling Methodist Church. He was captain of the Wheeling town baseball team, a catcher who could hit the long ball. He entered Maryville Teachers' College in Maryville, Mo., at the age of 16, moving on to the University of Missouri (MU) in Columbia in 1941.

Because of the war, he was accepted into medical school at MU after his junior year,

Missouri Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Feb. 25, Columbia



► The Missouri Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Josh Worthington**, Dadeville, general manager; **Brent Murphy**, Houstonia, past president; **Deb Thummel**, Sheridan, president; **Todd Ragsdale**, Paris, president-elect; **Brian Meier**, Jackson, vice president; **Alan Mead**, Barnett, secretary; (standing, from left) **Rebecca March**, Doniphan; **Brian Brockman**, Brookfield; **Linda Eck**, Sarcoxie; **Robert Smith**, Marshfield; **Russell Coon**, Bethel; **Kenny Hinkle**, Nevada; **Steve Houston**, Savannah; and **Kent Dye**, Elsberry.



► **Kenneth Gillig**, Aurora, received the Pioneer Breeder award. Pictured are (from left) Beth, Brittany, Kenneth, Ashley and Ken Gillig.



► The Missouri Angus Auxiliary officers are (seated, from left) **Susan Coon**, Bethel, president; **Tammy Bartholomew**, Archie, first vice president; **Connie Sayre**, Stotts City, second vice president; (standing, from left) **Myra Colin**, Butler, secretary; and **Darla Eggers**, Mexico, treasurer.



► **Brad Hillard** (left), Holliday, receives the Herdsman of the Year award from Brock Meyer.



► **Wallace Cattle Co.**, Stotts City, received the Breeder of the Year award. Pictured are Samuel Wallace and Ernie Wallace.



► **Bear Valley Farm Inc.**, New Florence, and **Eddie LaBoube**, Hermann, received the Commercial Producer of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Ben Eggers and Eddie Sydenstricker, presenting; Mike, Valerie, Adam, Kiely and Ernst Uthlaut, recipients; and Eddie LaBoube, recipient.



► **Bobby McBride**, Centralia, received the Get-of-Sire award for progeny of Birks Net Worth 307.

and the Army paid for his medical education. He served as president of his medical school fraternity, Phi Beta Pi, and also was at the top of his class at MU after two years. He transferred to the Washington University School of Medicine, and earned his MD degree in 1947.

Jack repaid his debt to the U.S. Army by serving as a captain in the medical corps at Darmstadt and Bad Nauheim, Germany, in 1953-1954. He was accompanied there by his wife, Jackie, and the two children they had so far, John and Melinda.

Jack and Jackie moved to Raytown, Mo., in 1948, where he first began his life as a specialist in internal medicine. He was a member of the American Medical Association (AMA) for 50 years, and was a founder of the Raytown Clinic in the early 1950s. He established a solo practice in Kansas City in 1967. He practiced medicine at both Research Medical Center and Baptist Memorial Hospital. He was president of the staff at Baptist Hospital Medical Center in 1975.

He received the "Teacher of the Year" award from the Goppert Family Care Center in 1979; the Herbert H. Virden, M.D. Dedicated Physician Award from his colleagues on the Baptist Hospital medical staff; and the Trustee Service Award presented by the Board of Trustees of Baptist Health Systems.

"Dr. Jack" took special pride in seeing his medical legacy continued by his offspring. In 1978, eldest son John joined Jack in his medical practice, and they worked side by side for 13 years.

In 1970, Jack fulfilled a longtime wish to own, once again, some fertile Missouri farmland, and he purchased 320 acres in Garden City, Mo., near Harrisonville, joining two loves: medicine and the land. He worked there side-by-side with both of his sons, clearing land, building fence and ultimately raising a prize-winning herd of black Angus cattle. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1979.

Jack is survived by his wife; sons John and Stephen; daughter Melinda; brother Dick; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marvin "Robbie" Robertson, Aldie, Va., died March 27 at his home.

Robbie was co-owner of Whitestone Farms in Aldie.

He is survived by daughter Nancy and grandsons Robert and Michael.

Colin Barnes, 9, Darlington, Wis., died April 10 at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, Wis., from injuries he

► Illinois Angus Ass'n Board of Directors Meeting, March 12, Springfield



►The Illinois Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Kevin Cassady**, Ancona, president; **Luke Lemenager**, Hudson, vice president; **Aaron Schafer**, Owaneco, secretary; **Stan Prox**, Macomb, business manager; **T.J. Curtin**, Blue Mound, past president; (standing, from left) **Lee Stremsterfer**, Pleasant Plains; **Richard Dickinson**, Congerville; **Wayne Conrady**, Lincoln; **Ryan Schlipf**, El Paso; **Kevin Eathington**, Avon; **Richard Hurst**, Dorsey; **Nancy Harsy**, Murphysboro; **Dale Rhode**, Kingston; **Joel York**, Palestine; **Michael Prescott**, Springfield; **Kevin Rose**, Salem; **Stephen Kieseewetter**, Farmington; **Annie Ruyle**, Roodhouse; **John Kirchner**, Leaf River; **Cheryl Day**, Cerro Gordo; and **Robert Fanning**, Cordova.

received while putting his ATV away after his nightly routine of chores.

Colin was born Sept. 5, 2002, to Lance and Jeanna (Wall) Barnes. He was a third grader at Darlington Elementary Middle School and attended Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Colin was very involved in a broad range of activities and enjoyed many things. He loved being with friends and family, picking on his sisters, and playing with his dog, Dusty, and his female cat, Greg. He played

basketball, baseball and flag football. Colin was an outdoorsman and liked to hunt, fish, shoot bow and arrow, show cattle and farm. He enjoyed watching tractor pulls and cheering for No Fear Deere and The Little Angry. He was looking forward to showing at the Lafayette County Fair and Badger Kickoff Classic in Milwaukee. His smile lit up the room, and he will be forever loved and remembered.

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Colin is survived by his parents; older sisters Alysha and Sammi; paternal grandparents Vincent and Joyce Barnes; and maternal grandparents Jim and Jane Wall.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Effective May 1, **Colin Meyers** is executive director of the Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI) pet business, **Steve Boren** is executive director for the company's cattle business, and **Matt Musselman** will lead the equine business unit as executive director. **Tim Bettington**, appointed as vice president of sales and marketing for the company in March, will continue to lead the swine business unit.

Christine Jenkins has been named group director of U.S. veterinary medical services by Pfizer Animal Health. In this position, Jenkins will lead the U.S. group responsible for customer support and information on products, as well as adverse event reporting and pharmacovigilance.



Tennessee Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting, March 9, Lebanon



► **Above:** The 2012 Tennessee Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (front row, from left) **Molly Phifer**, Chapel Hill; **Joe Beaver**, Jonesborough, vice president; **Kenneth Armstrong**, Unionville, president, **Loretta Davis**, Shelbyville, secretary-treasurer; **Jamie Nicholson**, Lebanon; (back row, from left) **Tim Wright**, Spring City; **Bobby Denton**, Cumberland Furnace; **Tommy Wheatley**, Kenton; **Stacey Wheatley**, Kenton; **Vince Santini**, Lawrenceburg; and **Quintin Smith**, Lebanon.

► **Right:** The **Rozell family** of Chapel Hill received the Family of the Year award.

