



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Jeff Windett, Columbia, Mo., has joined Hoop Beef Systems LLC (HBS). Windett joins a team of professional consultants working with customers to expand cattle feeding opportunities in the Midwest by minimizing feed costs, environmental impact and improving marketing opportunities.

Windett's primary responsibilities are to expand the sales team and provide consultation to customers in the HBS Premium Advantage Program® for cattle procurement, health, nutrition, risk management and marketing. He will be responsible for the lower Midwestern states.

Windett previously worked for Wilson Foods, the American Angus Association, the Iowa Beef Improvement Association and Circle A Angus Ranch. He most recently served as the executive vice president of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Jim and Karen Kopriva, Raymond, S.D., are the 2012 Leopold Conservation Award winners. According to a release by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the Koprivas have made conservation a family tradition, and their grassland, water and wildlife habitat management techniques are a clear demonstration that responsible environmental management and successful agricultural operations can readily co-exist.



►The Kopriva family received the 2012 Leopold Conservation Award April 12. Pictured are (from left) Angela; Jim; and Karen Kopriva; South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, presenting; and Lee Kopriva.

To help recognize those on the front lines of the state of South Dakota's conservation efforts, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and the Wisconsin-based Sand County Foundation launched the Leopold Conservation Award. The award, named for renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, recognizes farm and ranch families who demonstrate outstanding conservation leadership on their land and in their communities.

The Koprivas have been members of the American Angus Association since 1992.

Libby Lopez, 24-year-old daughter of Dennis Lopez, owner of Diablo Valley Angus, Byron, Calif., will be one of the inaugural cast of the new CBS relationship series "3," which will premiere with a special 90-minute episode July 22.

Libby's biography from the show states that she grew up on a ranch in California where she tended and participated in showing cattle. She has been a model since the age of 18. The show originates in Chicago, Ill. The show will follow three single women of different ages, life experiences and backgrounds as they meet for the first time with a common goal — to find true love.

Dennis Lopez has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1965.

Ron Williams has been elected chairman of the board of the Western Stock Show Association (dba, National Western Stock Show, NWSS).

Williams is president and CEO of the Gary-Williams Co. and has been in partnership with Sam Gary for 35 years. He was raised in rural Nebraska and moved to Colorado upon graduation from college in 1967. Williams owns and manages a cow-calf operation in the "gyp hills" of southern Kansas. He has been a member and treasurer of the Executive Committee of the National Western for eight years.

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



►The Tennessee Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Molly Rozell Phifer**, Chapel Hill; **Joe Beaver**, Jonesborough, vice president; **Kenneth Armstrong**, Unionville, president; **Loretta Davis**, Shelbyville, secretary-treasurer; **Jamie Nicholson**, Lebanon; (standing, from left) **Timothy Wright**, Spring City; **Bobby Denton**, Cumberland Furnace; **Tommy Wheatley** and **Stacy Wheatley**, both of Kenton; **Vince Santini**, Leoma; and **Quintin Smith**, Lebanon.



►The **Rozell family**, Chapel Hill, received the Family of the Year award. Pictured are (seated, from left) Rosa Laws, Betty Farrow and Eddie Farrow; (standing, from left) Bobby Denton, Molly Rozell Phifer, and Wendell Phifer.

Will Mayfield joins American Angus Association

The American Angus Association welcomes Will Mayfield of Pulaski, Tenn., as the new regional manager for Delaware,



Will Mayfield

Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. His duties began in late May 2012.

"The Angus Association has always been a huge part of my life," Mayfield says. "It is an honor to serve the members and show others what the Angus industry can offer."

Mayfield will represent Angus at various cattle events and sales throughout the region.

Ask him questions about Association programs and services, or for help locating Angus seedstock. He can also advise producers on marketing opportunities available through the Association.

"Will is a great fit to our team, and we look forward to seeing

what he brings to our Angus producers and the future of the business breed," says Bryce Schumann, Association CEO. "We hope farmers and ranchers in the Eastern region call on Will for advice with their operations."

A native of Tennessee, Mayfield is a graduate of the University of Tennessee (UT) with bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science. Mayfield grew up near Pulaski on Mayfield Angus Farm where he assisted with the herd's beef nutrition, genetic evaluation and artificial insemination.

His past experience includes work as an undergraduate assistant and graduate research assistant for UT; intern for Genex CRI of Baton Rouge, La.; and involvement in his family's registered Angus herd and grain farming operation. Mayfield was also a member of the UT livestock judging team in 2008 and served as the assistant coach in 2010 and 2011. He is a past member of the National Junior Angus Association and Tennessee Junior Angus Association.

Don Elliman and **Gail Klapper** have been ratified by the board of the Western Stock Show Association as new members of the Executive Committee.

Elliman currently serves as chancellor of the University of Colorado—Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus and runs both the downtown and the medical campus. Former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter appointed Elliman as the state's COO and he was director of the state of Colorado's Office of Economic Development.

He had a 30-year career with Time Inc.; was the CEO of Ascent Sports, owners of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and Pepsi Center; and worked for Kroenke Sports Enterprises as the president after Ascent Sports sold the enterprise to Stan Kroenke.

Klapper founded the Klapper Firm and serves as its managing principal. She is the director of the Colorado Forum, a group of Colorado CEOs and leading professionals whose goal is to create an informed, objective

voice on critical public policy issues. Klapper founded the Public Education & Business Coalition.

In 1976, she was appointed by President Gerald Ford as a White House Fellow and special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. She served as a member of Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm's Cabinet. She currently serves on the board of Maxim Series Fund Inc. and is president of the board of the Hyatt Regency at the Convention Center Authority.

► IN PASSING

Jerry McMorris, 71, Denver, Colo., died May 8 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jerry was born Oct. 9, 1940, in Rock Island, Ill. He was a 1962 graduate of the University of Colorado (CU) School of

Business. He bought a small company as a 19-year-old sophomore at CU and turned the small firm into a trucking giant, NationsWay Transport.

Jerry is remembered as serving with the NWSS beginning in 1990. He served as a member of its Executive Committee for 18 years, and as treasurer and vice chairman. In May 2006 he was elected chairman of the board, a position he held for six years.

He is also remembered as the person who ensured big-league baseball survived in Colorado when he led an effort in 1992 to save the franchise when the financial partnership of the original owners collapsed just nine months before the Rockies were scheduled to play their first regular-season game. He operated as the team's chairman,

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► Indiana Angus Auxiliary Annual Spring Luncheon, April 28, Wabash



►The Indiana Angus Auxiliary hosted its annual spring luncheon at the Honeywell Center in Wabash, Ind., Saturday, April 28. In attendance were four generations of one Indiana Angus family. Pictured are (from left) **Casey Butler**, Vincennes, current president; **Peggy Kidwell**, Fountain City, a past president; **Marcella Peek**, Winchester, a past president; and Butler's daughter, **Maddi Butler**, Indiana Jr. Angus Ass'n president and junior chair of the 2014 National Junior Angus Show.

president and CEO from the inaugural 1993 season until opening day 2001. He was part of the team's ownership group until December 2005.

Jerry established the Mike Morris Cystic Fibrosis Research and Care Center at Children's Hospital Colorado in Denver as a tribute to his son, who died in 1996. Jerry was named the 1993 Colorado Business Leader of the Year and the 1992 Master Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2008, Jerry won the prestigious George Norlin Award from

the University of Colorado–Boulder.

He owned Timnath Farms and the Red Mountain and Belvoir Ranches, with interests based in Northern Colorado and Wyoming.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Mary; two children; and six grandchildren.

ANGUS ARRIVALS

Jesse and Rhonda (Nida) McCurry, Colwich, Kan., announce the birth of their twins: son **Jett Cecil** and daughter **Cora Jo**,

born April 15 at Wesley Hospital, Wichita, Kan.

Jett weighed 6 lb., 14 oz., and measured 19¼ in. long. Cora weighed 6 lb., 2 oz., and was 19 in. long. Jett and Cora were welcomed home by brother Jackson and sister Anna.

Grandparents are Brenda Tautfest, Red Rock, Okla., and Greg and Pam McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan. Great-grandparents are Cecil and Sandra McCurry, Mount Hope, Kan.

Rhonda served as a 1997-1999 NJAA

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Association member receives national honor

Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Angus rancher from White City, Kan., was named the 2012 America's Farmers Mom of the Year.

Nominated by her children (Meghan, Allie, Trenton, Tyler and Eric) and aunt (Mary Ferguson), Lyons-Blythe is a prime example of what it means to be a working rancher and mom. Both nominations summarized what makes Lyons-Blythe so special to her family, farm, community and the agricultural industry. She was selected as the Southwest Region's Farm Mom of the Year by a panel of judges from American Agri-Women and Monsanto, and later the 2012 America's Farmers Mom of the Year through online voting.



Debbie Lyons-Blythe

Lyons-Blythe and her family manage 250 registered Angus cows, along with a commercial heifer development program. Amid running the ranch, she also manages five kids and a husband. Plus, she shares her experiences through her blog, www.kansascattleranch.blogspot.com.

Lyons-Blythe started blogging after she realized that consumers are hungry for information about their food, and sometimes they do not rely on accurate sources. Her own relative had questions about the safety of serving non-organic milk to her children, because she thought it was unhealthy for them.

Blythe says her blog is an opportunity to share what she and her family do on the ranch every day, and connect with others interested in food production, and it works.

Without Blythe's blog or similar media outlets, consumers might not see why and how producers raise cattle. Blythe says it is important for farmers and ranchers to take 10 minutes each day to post a Facebook status or tweet about what they are doing, how they are doing it and why. Blythe also suggests taking photos and posting them online.

Blythe has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1980.

Board Member and is currently a contract writer. Jesse serves as director of development for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kansas.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Clint Rusk has been selected as the head of the Animal Science Department at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Rusk currently serves as the dean of the Animal Science Department at South Dakota State University. He will begin his duties at OSU Aug. 1.

Richard Coffey has been named the director of the University of Kentucky (UK) Research and Education Center in Princeton. The director of the center is a 50% appointment and includes managing all aspects of the center. Coffey will continue to work as a swine extension specialist and coordinator of UK youth livestock programs.

Coffey replaces Lloyd Murdock, UK extension soils specialist and the center's founding director. Murdock will likely take a post-retirement appointment with the college.

Rene Ward has joined Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI) as associate director, public relations and internal communications. In her new role at BIVI, she is responsible for media outreach, community relations, and external and employee communications.

Genex Cooperative Inc. and **Superior Livestock Auction** have partnered to offer cattle producers a combination of services. Genex will provide Superior's customers with a source of genetic options, and Superior will provide Genex members and customers with a nationwide marketing outlet.

Alan Lee has been named south Arkansas and Louisiana area sales manager for BioZyme Inc. He will provide customer support and assistance to the company's dealer network.

Brian Crouch has been named director of sales and marketing for Art's Way Manufacturing Co. Inc.



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.