



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Coulter Angus, Congerville, Ill., has been recognized by the American Angus Association as a Historic Angus Herd.

Kenneth Coulter was 15 years old when he purchased his first Angus heifer, bred by Eglin Bros. Farm, in 1937. The heifer was popular in the showing and won championship titles at many shows, including junior champion at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo.

As a young man, Kenneth helped fit and exhibit the Central Illinois Association show herd across the country. After serving in the Air Corps, he continued his passion for Angus and acquired more cattle to expand his herd.

Many animals in the herd originated from Timberline Farms and Central Illinois Angus sales. Through the years, they used Timberline bulls and purchased bulls from Ankony Angus and other operations. Coulter Angus was also an early adopter of artificial insemination (AI) in the 1960s and still uses the technology on the herd today.

The Coulter family grew in a similar fashion. Together with his wife, Madeline, and their four children, they showed cattle at numerous county, state and national shows and were very involved in 4-H. The Coulter children's herd helped finance the four children's college educations.

The Coulter Angus herd currently numbers around 50 head of cows with ownership from son Kevin Coulter and grandson Matt Coulter.

The Historic Angus Herd Award is



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► **Madeline (left) and Kenneth Coulter (center) receive the Historic Angus Herd Award from Jerry Cassidy, Ass'n regional manager.**

presented to Angus breeders or immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Robin Ruff has been named the new director of activities, events and education for the American Angus Association.

In her new position, Ruff will work with members to coordinate events, such as the Beef Leaders Institute, Cattlemen's Boot Camps, Angus activities at the NWSS and more. She will also oversee the Association's award programs, including the Angus Heritage Foundation, Historic and Century awards. In addition, Ruff is responsible for coordinating about 17 nationwide Roll of Victory (ROV) shows throughout the year.

Ruff says she is looking forward to expanding the Association's educational outreach. One example will be the 2014

National Angus Convention and Trade Show in Kansas City. The event marks a dramatic departure from the traditional annual business meeting, which has been in Louisville, Ky., during most of the last four decades. The 2014 event will include educational workshops, a trade show featuring allied industry partners, top-flight keynote speakers and several social activities.

During her time with the Association, Ruff has served as the junior activities assistant and director of junior activities. She planned and managed the premier event of the beef industry — the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS); served as advisor to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors; arranged annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences; and coordinated several other youth leadership events.

A Kansas native, Ruff grew up in Hanston on a family-owned operation with around 200 head of cattle. She holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University, and is expected to graduate with her master's degree in youth development in 2014.

Ruff is active in the community through the Saint Joseph Junior League, Trails West® Arts and Musical Festival, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Bradley 3 Ranch, Memphis, Texas, was named 2013 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year during the annual BIF Research Symposium & Convention in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Bradley 3 Ranch was started in 1955 with the purchase of 20 registered-Angus cows. Today, the herd is one of the few Angus herds in the country that has maintained more than 200 registered-Angus cows for more than 50 years. Located in the southeast part of the Texas Panhandle, much of the ranch is rough, with canyons, draws, mesquite and cedar trees. Bradley 3 Ranch is currently home to 400 registered-Angus cows and is managed by Mary Lou Bradley-Henderson, Minnie Lou Bradley and James Henderson.

Early on, the Bradleys were committed to a disciplined approach to performance. As one of the first members of the American Beef Cattle Performance Registry, they maintained an emphasis on performance that is still the foundation of the herd today.

In 1986, the Bradleys started B3R Country

Alabama Angus Ass'n Field Day & Jr. Preview Show, Cullman, May 31-June 1



► **John Elbert Harrell (right), Hayneville, receives the Progressive Breeder of the Year award from Philip Gleason, Alabama Angus Ass'n president.**



► **The Mike McGuire family, Waverly, was named Family of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Mahlon Richburg, presenting; and Reid, Clayton, Mike and Angel McGuire.**



►Left: Bradley 3 Ranch of Memphis, Texas, was named the 2013 Beef Improvement Federation Seedstock Producer of the Year during an awards ceremony June 13 at the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla. Pictured at the awards presentation are (from left) Joe Cassady, BIF executive director; Mark Cowan, 2012-2013 BIF president; Mary Lou Bradley-Henderson, James Henderson and Minnie Lou Bradley, recipients; and Burt Rutherford, *BEEF* magazine, award sponsor.

Meats. In the next 16 years, they built the all-natural meat company to a 125-head-per-day harvest facility that harvested more than 30,000 head in 2002, the year it was sold. Customers were both beef producers and beef consumers. The beef producers were part of one of the earliest value-based marketing systems in the United States.

Bradley 3 Ranch has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1958.

Darnall Ranch, Harrisburg, Neb., was named 2013 BIF Commercial Producer of the Year.

Darnall Ranch Inc., managed by Gary and Lane Darnall, is a family owned cow-calf operation, feedlot and farm located in the panhandle of Nebraska, 30 miles southeast of Scottsbluff, Neb. The ranch was originally homesteaded in 1889 by Scott Darnall and incorporated in 1973.

The 124-year-old family ranch now includes some seventh-generation youngsters helping out with 1,700 commercial Angus cows and the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)-licensed feedlot. Today, the cow herd consists of 1,700 commercial Angus females that produce 300-400 replacement heifers annually. Bulls are developed using expected

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► **Arkansas Jr. Angus Preview Show**, Pocahontas, May 25-26



►Serving as advisors for the Arkansas Jr. Angus Ass'n are (from left) **Claire Taylor**, Fort Smith; **Kirk Boecker**, Bentonville; and **Cheri Tweedy**, Imboden.

PHOTO BY LYNSEY MEHARG



► Darnall Ranch Inc. of Harrisburg, Neb., was named the 2013 Beef Improvement Federation Commercial Producer of the Year during an awards ceremony June 13 at the BIF 45th Annual Research Symposium and Convention in Oklahoma City, Okla. Pictured at the awards presentation are (from left) Mark Cowan, 2012-2013 BIF president; Gary Darnall and Lane Darnall, recipients; and Burt Rutherford, *BEEF* magazine, award sponsor.

progeny differences (EPDs), genomics and the GrowSafe system.

The balance of Darnall Ranch offspring are fed out in the 22,500-head CAB-licensed commercial feedlot, where records are collected for conversion, rate of gain, and grade and yield, along with a profitability analysis each year.

Darnall Ranch strives to use the land and cattle as an efficient and economical multi-generational agribusiness. Twenty-five thousand acres of grassland, 2,400 acres of irrigated and 4,700 acres of dryland farm ground are used to grow the feedstuffs to help support the cow-calf, yearling and feedlot operations.

Kevin Blair, Lanigan, Sask., has been affirmed as president of the Canadian Angus Association (CAA).

Kevin and his wife, Noreen, own and operate Blair's Ag Cattle Co. with their family and support staff. For more than 35 years, Blair's family has been involved in the purebred beef industry. Most recently, their primary focus has been red and black Angus for a total of 350 producing purebred females. Their operation includes an extensive embryo program and 10,000 acres of grain and pasture located in Lanigan.

Blair's Ag has gathered proven cows and cow families from reputable breeders across Western Canada in hopes of making a big-ribbed, tanky female for today's cattlemen. They focus on maternal traits, and it is with this in mind that they hold an annual spring bull sale.

Blair is a strong supporter of the Canadian Junior Angus program and the Canadian Angus Foundation (CAF). Blair's Ag offers a scholarship program to youths who purchase heifer projects from them. They have also been strong supporters of the CAF Building the Legacy Sale, which has raised more than \$110,000 for Canadian Angus youth programs over the past two years.

Corinne Gibson of Fir Mountain, Sask., was chosen as president-elect and will support Blair in this role. Gibson operates Six Mile Red Angus with her family, which has been proudly raising Angus cattle since 1954. She and her husband, Clayton, had their 36th annual bull sale in April. Gibson takes pride in her family-oriented, progressive, pioneer program.

► **Louisiana Jr. Angus Field Day**, Lecompte, May 26



► Winners in the adult division of the quiz bowl contest are (from left) **Kurt LeBeouf**, Deridder, third; **Gene O'Martin**, Kentwood, second; and **Angie LeBeouf**, Deridder, first.

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Padlock Ranch, Ranchester, recipient of the 2013 Leopold Conservation Award in Wyoming, was honored for voluntary achievement in conservation by Governor Matt Mead at the Wyoming Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show in Cheyenne.

The \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award (www.leopoldconservationaward.org), named for renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, was presented to Padlock Ranch by Sand County Foundation, Wyoming Stock

Growers Association (WSGA) and Peabody Energy.

Padlock Ranch operates a sustainable and profitable cattle operation on 500,000 acres in Wyoming and Montana. In addition to being a successful and sustainable cattle ranch raising natural beef, Padlock offers vacationing guests an opportunity to share in the Western lifestyle through working ranch, hunting and fishing, and photography vacations.

Homer and Mildred Scott started Padlock Ranch in 1943 with 300 cows and 3,000 acres. It has grown to 11,000 head of cattle on land straddling the Wyoming/Montana state line.

Today, the operation is led by Wayne

Fahsholtz, who manages the resources and assets of the ranch for long-term sustainability, while conserving and improving the environment through good grazing and other practices.

“We believe that if we can graze in a manner that protects habitat, and if the wildlife species that should be here are here, then we are doing the job we set out to do,” Fahsholtz noted.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Wyoming is made possible through the support of Peabody Energy, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the Monaghan Foundation.



Dustin Focht, Stillwater, Okla., was named champion of the 2013 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC) at the 50th anniversary of the contest sponsored by the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) and hosted by Montgomery Stockyards, Montgomery, Ala.

A latecomer to the livestock auctioneering profession, Focht, 43, whose grandfather was a livestock auctioneer, didn't begin selling until 13 years ago. He credits fellow Oklahoma auctioneers Ralph Wade and Greg Griffith with helping to form him into the world champion auctioneer he is today.

“I had never sold anything or had a chant before I met Ralph. He took a complete beginner and in two days taught me the basics and put me in the block at Oklahoma National Stockyards,” Focht explains. “Greg taught me all the values that exemplify an auctioneer: professionalism, integrity, honesty and value.”

Focht says patience, preparation and the experience of 11 previous WLAC contests gave him the confidence and ability to win this year's contest. Focht, who also earned the high score in the interview contest, says during the contest he worked on relaxing, being professional and doing the best auctioneering job he could with the tough competition he faced.

Focht was sponsored by Cherokee Sales Co. LLC, Cherokee, Okla.; Woodward Livestock Auction Inc., Woodward, Okla.; and Anthony Livestock Sales Co., Anthony, Kan.

This year's champion takes home a customized 2013 Ford F-150 pickup to use during the year of his reign; \$5,000 cash; a championship sculpture; world champion Gist belt buckle and hand-tooled leather briefcase from LMA; world champion ring sponsored by Montgomery Stockyards; the Golden Gavel Award sponsored by the World Wide College of Auctioneering; and a James Reid Ltd. money clip sponsored by *cattleusa.com*.

Also making a great showing were the reserve champion **Brian Little**, Wann, Okla., and runner-up champion **Blaine Lotz**, Edna, Kan. Little was sponsored by Coffeyville Livestock Market LLC, Coffeyville, Kan. As reserve champion, Little received \$2,000 cash, a Gist knife and reserve champion Gist belt buckle from LMA.

Lotz was sponsored by South Coffeyville Stockyards Inc., South Coffeyville, Okla.; Fredonia Livestock Auction, Fredonia, Kan.; and Tulsa Stockyards Inc., Tulsa, Okla. He took home \$1,000 cash, a Gist knife and runner-up Gist belt buckle sponsored by LMA.

The 2013 Audrey K. Banks "Rookie of the Year" Award winner was **Mike Godberson**, Pawnee, Okla., who was sponsored by Ouachita Livestock Market LLC, Ola, Ark., and Cattleman's Livestock Auction, Harrison, Ark. Godberson was awarded \$500 cash by LMA.

The seven remaining 2013 WLAC finalists — **Tye Casey**, Plymouth, Ind.; **Brennin Jack**, Prince Albert, Sask.; **Daniel Mitchell**, Cumberland, Ohio; **Brandon Neely**, Southside, Ala.; **Jason Santomaso**, Sterling, Colo.; **Russele Sleep**, Bedford, Iowa; and **Preston Smith**, Imperial, Neb. — received Gist belt buckles from LMA.

Each of the 31 semi-finalists received garment bags from LMA and commemorative 50th anniversary soft coolers from the host market.

Thirty of the semi-finalists were selected during four quarterfinals hosted during the year at different livestock markets in the United States. As the International Livestock Auctioneer Champion is always given a "bye" to become an automatic semi-finalist, Jack qualified as the champion from Canada.

When not on the auction block at the livestock markets he works, Focht will spend his year traveling the country sharing his auctioneering skills with other livestock markets, and acting as a spokesperson for the industry.

Focht has been a member of the Association since 2006.

█ IN PASSING

George Poole, 92, Roxboro, N.C., died May 28 at Roxboro Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center.

George was born in Orange County, N.C.,

Aug. 21, 1920, to John and Allie (Tilley) Poole. He lived in Rougemont for more than 91 years until his health forced him to move to Caswell House Assisted Living in Feb. 2012 and then to Roxboro Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in July 2012.

Prior to his retirement in 1985, George was a cattle and tobacco farmer. As a young man, he was an avid fox hunter. He also loved to bird hunt and owned both a pack of prized fox hounds and several bird dogs. Later, when the deer population began to explode in North Carolina, he hunted deer and owned deer dogs. He continued to hunt well into his advanced years.

George also owned game chickens, and when it became difficult to fox and deer hunt due to development and his age, he devoted a great deal of his time to his chickens, much to the dismay of both his wife and daughter.

Following the death of his wife when he was 80 years old, his daughter recognized that the chickens provided him with something to do, kept him active and probably helped add years to his life.

George is survived by daughter Linda; sisters Hilda, Alma, Patricia and Karen; grandchildren Johanna and Joel; and great-grandchildren Billy, Cassidy and Garrett.

█ INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Tom Lundy has joined ABS Global Inc. as a customer service representative for the North American Customer Service Team. As a customer service representative, Lundy will be assisting with day-to-day operations of providing products, supplies and information on company services to U.S. customers, employees and independent sales staff.

Mark Russell has been hired as the new executive director of the Missouri Beef Industry Council.

Irene Brown-Crowder has been hired as northeast sales manager for the Animal Nutrition Division of QualiTech. She is based in Shippensburg, Pa.

Andrew Perrine has been hired by Accelerated Genetics as the assistant staff veterinarian. His responsibilities will include maintaining the health of the bull herd by regularly testing each bull and tending to any other medical needs. Another large part of his position will include ensuring that quality semen is shipped correctly under both United States and international laws with appropriate paperwork. He will work closely with staff veterinarian David Brown and be based out of the company's production facility in Westby, Wis.

Douglas Lyke has been hired as a

laboratory technician in Middleton, Wis., for Genetic Visions. He will learn the tools and background knowledge surrounding genetic-marker applications used by the company and will assess and run genetic tests on the samples sent to the company.

Michael "Mick" Dettmann Jr., Beulah, N.D., has been hired by the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) as its west river fieldman. Dettmann will help enforce the state's livestock laws, protect producers against livestock loss and theft, and support other members of the state's brand-inspection team. He will offer training and support to local and market brand inspectors; serve as a liaison between law-enforcement agencies and the NDSA; and inspect registered feedlots and livestock in transit.

William Danforth was honored by the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) with the organization's inaugural Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions to education, plant and life sciences, and advancements in agriculture.

William Buckner, CEO of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation; **David Cleary**, director of global agriculture for The Nature Conservancy; and **Jerome Lyman**, vice president, Quality Systems & Food Safety, McDonald's Corp., have been elected to the board of trustees of Farm Foundation.

Jay Armstrong, Muscotah, Kan., was elected chairman of the board, and **Mark Scholl**, Owensboro, Ky., was elected vice chairman. Scholl will also serve as vice chairman of the board of directors of Farm Foundation, NFP.

Joe Swedberg, vice president of legislative affairs for Hormel Foods, and **George Hoffman**, president and CEO of Restaurant Services Inc., were named as two new members of the same board.

Elizabeth Dean has been appointed as the inspector general for the Farm Credit Administration. She will be responsible for providing independent and objective oversight of agency programs and operations through audits, inspections, investigations and the review of proposed legislation and regulations. She succeeds Carl Clinefelter, who retired earlier this year.

Allison Skare has joined the staff of Farm Foundation NFP as program coordinator, with responsibility for event management and implementation.

