



# Newsmakers

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

## IN THE NEWS

Cutting-horse legends **Buster Welch**, **Shannon Hall** and **Dirk Blakesley** conducted a one-on-one clinic with 21 participants in August as a fundraiser for Ashland, Kan., schools. Welch, a lifetime rancher and five-time National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) World Champion Futurity winner; Blakesley, 2009 NCHA Open Futurity Finalist and professional trainer with more than \$1 million in earnings; and Hall, 1999 NCHA Futurity Champion and professional cutting-horse trainer with more than \$3 million in earnings, conducted the one-day event at the all-weather indoor facility at Gardiner Quarter Horses, Ashland.

The public was invited to attend and many showed up to watch and learn, as well as make a donation to the fundraising event. In addition to spectators and participants, several corporate donors helped make the event even more successful. Shortys Caboy Hattery, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Platinum Performance®; Classic Equine®; Farmers Cooperative-Purina; Intervet-Schering Plough Animal Health; Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI); Merial; ImmVac Inc.; and Pfizer Animal Health made generous donations to the event.

Gardiner Angus Ranch is a family-owned Angus ranching operation located near Ashland. The ranch registers more than 2,000 head of cattle each year through the American Angus Association, of which they have been members since 1950.



► Cutting-horse legends (from left) **Buster Welch**, **Shannon Hall** and **Dirk Blakesley** conducted a one-on-one clinic with 21 participants at Gardiner Angus Ranch as a fundraiser for Ashland, Kan., schools.

## IN PASSING

**Cecil Gillespie**, 87, Winterset, Iowa, died July 21 at Winterset Care Center South.

Cecil was born June 16, 1923, west of Pitzer on the farm of his paternal grandmother. He was the son of Raymond and Bessie (Sawhill) Gillespie. At the age of six months his parents separated and later divorced. Cecil and his mother moved to the home of his maternal grandparents, where he spent most of his life.



**Cecil Gillespie**

He attended country schools and graduated from Winterset High School in 1940. He attended Iowa State College until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in November of 1942. Cecil was enrolled in flight training for two years. Upon completion of his training, he was sent to Tinian, joining the 9th Bomb Group to co-pilot the B-29 SuperFortress.

He achieved the rank of 1st lieutenant. His squad flew 27 successful missions by Aug. 14, 1945 (V-J Day). On Sept. 2, 1945, the Japanese signed the unconditional surrender on the deck of the U.S.S. Missouri. Cecil's squad flew overhead as part of a United States show of strength to intimidate the Japanese not to change their minds. While in the Army Air Corps, Cecil was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and two Presidential Unit Citations.

He was discharged in December 1945 and returned to Iowa State in January 1946. He completed his degree in animal husbandry in 1947 and returned home to farm and raise Angus cattle, his lifelong passion.

Cecil married Jean Souter of West Des Moines June 27, 1959. Along with raising cows and bulls, they raised two sons and a daughter. Cecil was recognized by the American Angus Association with the Historic Herd Award, given to honor a farm or ranch that has continuously produced registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more. His mother often said that he knew the pedigree of his Angus cattle far better than that of his own family.

Cecil was a member of many organizations, including the Lions Club, VFW, American Legion, First United Presbyterian Church, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shriners, Madison County Cattlemen, and Farm Bureau. He had been a

life member of the American Angus Association since 1950.

He had served as a District Soil Commissioner, was a past director of the State Soil Commission, and was a third-generation director of Farmers & Merchants State Bank, succeeding his grandfather and father, serving 34 years.

Cecil is survived by sons Steve and Jim, daughter Lori, two grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

**Henry Whitehead**, 92, Granville, Ohio, died Aug. 5 at Mount Carmel East Hospital.

He was born June 30, 1918, in Granville to M. Stuart and Delia (Hayes) Whitehead. A 1936 graduate of Union High School, Henry married Roberta Williams May 1, 1941, in Alexandria, Ohio, and together they farmed and raised Angus cattle.

Henry was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church for more than 85 years, Heart of Ohio Angus Association, a life member of the American Angus Association since 1950, the Licking County Cattlemen's Association, Ohio and National Cattlemen's associations, the Agrology Club, and the 4-H Alumni Club. He had served 20 years as a 4-H advisor and was a member of the Hartford Fair board of directors for 20 years.

Henry is survived by sons Marion and Benjamin, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Benjamin "Ben" Greene**, 23, Covington, La., died Aug. 12 in a farm accident.

Ben was born March 3, 1987, to Gary and Kimberly Greene. He graduated from Covington High School in 2005 and earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2009. He was a second-year student at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

His lifelong love of agriculture began at an early age and is what motivated him to excel in school and extracurricular activities. He was active in 4-H and FFA with sheep and beef cattle show projects and earned the Governor's Award for Excellence and the Louisiana Beef Premier Exhibitor Award in 2005.

He was a member of the Louisiana and national Angus associations, the Louisiana

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Cattlemen's Association, the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Small Animal Medicine Club. Ben was also serving as the class of 2013 representative. He was a member of Saint Timothy on the Northshore United Methodist Church in Mandeville, La.

Ben is survived by his parents, brother Matthew, grandparents Charles and Rita Petter, and his beloved soulmate M. Marie Snyder.

**Harold Jarrell**, 84, Columbus, Ga., died Aug. 21 at Timm's Creek Plantation, his Taylor County home, near Butler, Ga.

Born the youngest of 10 children to Mary and Floyd Jarrell Sr., on Jan. 14, 1926, he grew up and developed his vigorous work ethic on the farm where his family had settled in the early 1800s.

At the age of 15 he entered the University of Georgia and graduated from the Medical College of Georgia at age 21. He was the first resident of a partnership between Macon General Hospital and the Medical College of Georgia, the predecessor of the Ob-Gyn department of Mercer University Medical College. As chief resident, Dr. Jarrell developed the Medical College of Georgia's Ob-Gyn Residency Program in Columbus.

After completion of his residency, he served his country in Japan as a captain in the U.S. Medical Corps during the Korean conflict. Following his military duty, he established Ob-Gyn Associates of Columbus, which continues today as one of the leading practices in the region.

Dr. Jarrell spent the next 42 years of his life delivering newborns and healing the sick while devoting his life to his patients. It was important to him that his patients understood his concern and commitment for their well-being.

As an innovative pioneer in his specialty, he took pride in sharing the art of medicine with medical residents and students. In 2008, Saint Francis Hospital honored Dr. Jarrell and his brother, Dr. Floyd Jarrell Jr., as recipients of the Dr. Clarence C. Butler Service and Leadership Award.

A gregarious Southern gentleman and farmer, Dr. Jarrell found great joy in working with his nephew, John Jarrell, and wife, Nina, in overseeing Timm's Creek Plantation and his award-winning Angus cattle.

He sought to glorify God through his efforts to restore, preserve and beautify

Union United Methodist Church. For more than 50 years he served its administrative board in numerous positions. He was instrumental in bringing honor to Union Cemetery by achieving its placement on the National Historic Trust Registry.

Dr. Jarrell is survived by his wife of 52 years, Corinne; daughters Julie and Chappell; son Harold Jr.; sister Cathryn; brother Floyd; and seven grandchildren.

## INDUSTRY EXTRAS

**Darrell Wilkes** was honored as the beef business Manager of the Year during the 2010 ABS Beef Roundtable Banquet in Madison, Wis. Wilkes has been with ABS since 2002, manages beef sales for the western U.S. and is the U.S. beef supply systems manager. He earned the award based on a formula including unit sales, sales revenues and percent increase in sales.

**Luke Schmid** and **Conrad Spangler** were announced as winners of the AgriLabs Dr. Bruce Wren Continuing Education Award at the combined annual meetings of the American Association of Beef Practitioners, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants.

Each \$5,000 grant will be used by the winners — who have earned their veterinary degree within the past 10 years — to make possible the professional continuing education proposals they submitted. Schmid works with beef cattle at the Washington Veterinary Clinic, a mixed practice in Washington, Kan. Spangler works primarily with dairies at Circle H Headquarters, a large animal practice in Dalhart, Texas.

**Ray Steffens**, West Union, Iowa, has retired from the Growmark board of directors, after being elected for the first time in 1999.

Six of the cooperative's 16 director seats, established by geographic zone, were filled by election this year, and each director will serve a three-year term. **Dan Kelley**, Normal, Ill., has represented Zone A since 1995; **Chet Esther**, Frederick, Ill., has represented Zone B on the board since 1994; **John Reifsteck**, Champaign, Ill., has represented Zone C since 1993; and **Kevin Herink**, Clutier, Iowa, was elected to his first term on the board, representing Zone D.

**Denis Bourdeau**, Embrun, Ont., has served on the board representing Zone F since 2007. **Jim Anderson**, Thompsonville, Ill., is the interlocking Farm Bureau director. 

**Editor's Note:** This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your "Newsmaker" item, e-mail [lrobbins@angusjournal.com](mailto:lrobbins@angusjournal.com) or call 816-383-5245.