



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

The American Angus Association has honored **Clarence Frey**, Mulhall, Okla., with the Historic Angus Herd Award.

Frey purchased his first Angus heifer, Blackbird 177 of PSF, from the Pfeiffer Angus Farm Production Sale in 1952. His \$250 FFA project jump-started his Angus herd as she gave birth to heifer calves for several years. He joined the Association in May 1957.

The objective at Frey Angus has always been to raise productive, maternal, eye-appealing cattle that produce a high-quality end product. The Oklahoma State University (OSU) graduate utilized artificial insemination (AI) and turned weights into the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program to reach his goals. Bulls are tested at Oklahoma Beef Inc. (OBI), at Stillwater. For many years, bulls and females have been marketed through OBI sales, consignment sales and private treaty. Today's herd consists of nearly 150 cows.

Frey has served as a voting delegate to

the American Angus Association Annual Meeting for 22 years. In 2006, the U.S. Army veteran was inducted into the Oklahoma Angus Hall of Fame.

Frey and his wife, Anita, were married in 1961 and have two children, Mike and Shelia. They were active as juniors and remain invested in the more than 50-year operation. Frey's grandchildren have already started showing and building their own Angus herds.

The American Angus Association presents the Historic Angus Herd Award to Angus herds that have been in the continuous production of registered Angus cattle by the same family for 50 years or more.

Ron Meyer, Fremont, Neb., received an award from the Nebraska Junior Angus Association (NJAA) to honor his devotion to the Angus breed and his 23 years of work for the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, from which he retired Sept. 28.

The award was presented during the 4-H

breeding heifer show at the Nebraska State Fair Sept. 1. During the years Meyer worked for the Home, he mentored more than 600 youth who received more than 15,000 Angus and 4-H awards. Thirty young residents of the Home have participated in the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), and two young women have been Nebraska Angus queens.

The NJAA wanted to thank Meyer for what he has done for the junior and adult Angus organizations in Nebraska while working with youth who have challenges unimaginable to most people.

Julie Schaff Ellingson has been named the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) executive vice president to replace Wade Moser when he retires in December. Moser served NDSA for 26 years, the organization's longest-serving executive vice president and the nation's second-longest-serving state cattlemen's association executive officer.

Ellingson, a Saint Anthony, N.D., native, has been the communications director for NDSA for 13 years. As communications director, she has served as an association lobbyist, a public relations officer and as the editor and advertising manager of the *The North Dakota Stockman* magazine. Under her leadership, the magazine has won several awards from the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) and the Livestock Publications Council (LPC), and it has set new size records. During her tenure, Ellingson also coordinated many association activities and programs, such as the NDSA Spring Roundups and the beef industry Military Appreciation Day.

In addition to her association work, Ellingson and her husband, Chad, own and operate a registered Angus ranch along with their children, Stetson, Jameson, Sierra, Medora and Sheridan. They are active members of several industry organizations, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the American Angus Association and the North Dakota Angus Association.

Shawn and Shevele Unruh, Medicine Butte Angus, Zap, N.D., were recognized as the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Ranchers of the Year at the NDSA annual convention banquet in Minot,

2008 Indiana Angus Ass'n Field Day, Greencastle, Ind., Aug. 23



► The 2008 Indiana Angus Ass'n Field Day was Aug. 23 at Willer Timber Ridge Farm, home of Ted and Kathy Willer. The 80 individuals who attended evaluated cattle from three herds in the Hoosier Angus Alliance: Kittle Angus Farm, Doug Brown Farms and Willer Timber Ridge. The day's activities included cattle judging, a presentation on the use of distillers' grains by Ron Lemenager from Purdue University, an update on American Angus Association services and programs by Jerry Cassidy, and a tour of the nearby Altra Indiana LLC ethanol plant.

Everyone had an enjoyable day of fellowship with Angus breeders, discussions about Angus cattle and all the challenges in the industry, the tour of a new ethanol facility, and learning about the benefits and difficulties in using distillers' grains in Angus cattle operations.

N.D., Sept. 27. They were nominated as the District 4 candidates before being chosen by the NDSA board of directors to receive the state honor.

The couple and their children, 16-year-old Denver and 12-year-old Shawnee, ranch in partnership with Shawn's mother Sharon and their nephew, Austin Jensen, and his wife, Destinee, south of Zap on the family's third-generation operation. Shawn's sister, Shantell; her husband, Dean Hartman; and her daughter Rikki Jensen are also involved in the day-to-day work on the Unruh ranch.

The Unruhs manage 460 commercial Angus cow-calf pairs and 10 horses on 8,000 owned and 1,600 state- and private-leased acres. The family also maintains a small band of purebred Angus cattle to raise some of the herd sires they use on the ranch.

Douglas Birt, Prescott, Iowa, Genetic Focus Inc., received the District 704 ABS Independent Representative of the Year Award during the 2008 Beef Representative Roundtable Banquet in Madison, Wis. He earned the award based on a formula including sales units, sales revenues and percent increases in sales. Birt, an Association member since 1999, has now earned the award five times.

Russ Danielson, Harwood, N.D., associate professor in the Animal Science Department at North Dakota State University (NDSU), was named an honorary member of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) at the NDSA Annual Convention Banquet Sept. 29 in Minot, N.D.

In addition to teaching duties, Danielson is the faculty advisor for the NDSU Judging and Saddle & Sirloin clubs and is the student advisor for 76 undergraduate animal science and equine majors. He has advised about 900 students since he began teaching.

Danielson also serves on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Research Committee, the North Star Classic and North Dakota Winter Show livestock committees, and is secretary-treasurer of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame and the North Dakota Livestock Endowment Foundation.

He is a keen livestock judge, having evaluated beef cattle shows in 26 states and four Canadian provinces, including the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), Fort Worth Stock Show, Houston Stock Show, American Royal, Cow Palace and Canadian Western Agribition.

Danielson and his wife, Helen, have two married daughters and three grandsons. They continue to own the family farm near Valley City.

► IN PASSING

Janiece Mydland, 69, Joliet, N.D., died Sept. 9.

Janiece was born Sept. 13, 1938, to Oscar and Helen Bell in Tokio, N.D. She grew up and attended grade school in Boyd, N.D., and graduated from Joliet High School in 1956. She married Paul Mydland Jan. 27, 1956, in Joliet.

Janiece had a variety of occupations including ranch wife, sugar beet factory worker, travel agent, Extension office, motel/bar manager and welding rod room manager; but she was first a mother and a grandmother. She served on the board of directors of PCA, was a past president of the American Angus Auxiliary and the Midland Empire Angus Association, and was a charter member and first female president of the Northern International Livestock Exhibition (NILE).

She and her husband began building a performance registered Angus herd in 1961, retiring from ranching in 1992 to pursue other adventures.

Janiece enjoyed many activities, such as Joliet sports, music, horse racing, rodeos and dancing with her husband. She particularly enjoyed entertaining and socializing with family and friends.

Janiece is survived by daughter Debbie; sons David and Danny; siblings Joanne, Lou Anne, Lowell, Dennis and Doug; and six grandchildren.

Ruth Schmidt, 92, Freeport, Kan., died Sept. 20.

Ruth was born Aug. 16, 1916. She was married to Henry Schmidt and with him owned and operated Henry Schmidt & Son Angus in Freeport.

She is survived by a son, Gerald.

Dale McCutchan, 60, Monticello, Mo., died Sept. 27 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Ill.

Dale was born May 7, 1948, in Blessing Hospital, to J.D. and Ella Mae (Parker) McCutchan. He was a graduate of Lewistown High School and Central United Methodist College in Fayette, Mo. He married Cindy Lloyd May 24, 1975, at the Canton Christian Church in Canton, Mo.

Dale served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 10 years and attended Monticello Community Church in Monticello. He enjoyed working with his cattle.

He was a past director of Ursa Farmers Co-op, a past state president of the Missouri Angus Association, a past president of the Missouri Farm Bureau, and a member of the Lewis County Fair Board and open show beef superintendent for several years.

Dale was a member of the Missouri

Angus Hall of Fame, a member of the Marion and Lewis County Cattlemen's associations, the Missouri Angus Association and a life member since 1969 of the American Angus Association.

In addition to his wife, Dale is survived by daughter Jill; son Dan; his mother; brother David; sisters Linda, Sharon and Patty; and two grandsons.

► INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Steve Platt, Pilot Rock, Ore., received the District 206 ABS Representative of the Year Award during the Beef Representative Roundtable Banquet in Madison, Wis. An ABS representative since 1991, Platt earned the award based on a formula including sales units, sales revenues and percent increase in sales.

Adam and Jennifer Noble of Colorado received the District 712 ABS Independent Representative of the Year Award. In the seven years they have been ABS independent representatives, this is the fourth time they have received this award.

Eddie Benton of Texas received the District 708 ABS Representative of the Year Award. He has been an ABS representative since 1961.

Marshall Bohbrink, vice president, risk management and treasurer; **Kevin Carroll**, vice president, energy; **Shelly Kruse**, vice president, Midwest retail and acquisitions; and **Jim Spradlin**, vice president, agronomy, have been named as the four new members of the Growmark Inc. management team, effective Sept. 16.

Mark Huseeth, McLeod, N.D., and **Ed Schafer**, formerly of Bismarck, N.D., were named as honorary members of the NDSA Sept. 29, at the NDSA Annual Convention Banquet in Minot for their significant contributions to the state's beef industry in their respective roles as a volunteer leader and a civil servant.

Donald Wagner, retired Oklahoma State University (OSU) animal science department head, and a 2007 Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in September.

The **Wayne and Karen Gerbig family**, Amidon, N.D., was named the NDSA Environmental Stewardship Award winners at the NDSA Annual Banquet Sept. 29 in Minot. Their state-winning application will be forwarded to the NCBA for consideration for next year's regional Environmental Stewardship Award.

