



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Jack Reich, Zap, N.D., North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) president, was named an Honorary Member of the NDSA in September at the organization's annual convention in Minot, S.D.

Reich has dedicated more than a quarter of his life in service to the NDSA and its membership; in fact, his NDSA service is just one year short of his career as a full-time rancher. He was elected to the NDSA board of directors in 2000. Since then, he has chaired the NDSA's Membership Committee, the NDSA Brand Board and several policy committees.

Throughout his tenure, Reich has been an advocate for developing export markets for U.S. beef and protecting private property rights. He also helped the association provide assistance to North Dakota ranchers after one of the most catastrophic winters on record.

Reich, wife Mardee and their three young children, Vander, Kaydee and Will, raise registered Angus cattle along the Knife River in partnership with Jack's father, Delvin. The family hosts an annual production sale each February.

Reich has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1996.

Peter Mesling, Dickinson, N.D., was also named an NDSA Honorary Member.

Dustin Focht, Stillwater, Okla., was named reserve champion at the Livestock Marketing Association's (LMA's) 2011 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC) quarterfinals at the Montgomery (Ala.) Stock Yards. A cash award and a custom-made belt buckle goes to the winner in each quarterfinal competition. The reserve and runner-up champions in each contest also receive custom belt buckles. Dustin and Julie Focht have been members of the American Angus Association since 2006.

Justin Dodson, Welch, Okla., was named champion of the quarterfinals, while **Billy Younkin**, Cecil, Ala., was runner-up champion in a field of 29 contestants.

The three winners are guaranteed a spot in next June's WLAC, as are the next five highest scoring contestants, who are, in alphabetical order, **Philip Gilstrap**, Pendleton, S.C.; **Jacob Massey**, Petersburg, Tenn.; **Brandon Neely**, Southside, Ala.; **Jay**

Romine, Mount Washington, Ky.; and **Jeff Showalter**, Broadway, Va.

The remaining qualifying contests are Oct. 23 at Vold, Jones and Vold Auction Co., Ponoka, Alta., Canada; Oct. 28 at Burlington Livestock Exchange, Burlington, Colo.; and March 4, 2011, at Bloomington Livestock Exchange, Bloomington, Wis. The eight highest scorers in each qualifying contest, along with the reigning International Livestock Auctioneer Champion — **Tim Frey**, Creston, Iowa — make up the field of 33 for the 2011 WLAC, scheduled for June 25 at Upstate Livestock Exchange LLC, Williamston, S.C., hosted by Upstate and Martin & Martin Cattle Inc., Williamston.

Dean and Gloria (Pittman) Hurlbut, Saint Joseph, Mo., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception Sunday, Oct. 24, at Moila Country Club in Saint Joseph.



Gloria and Dean Hurlbut

They were married Oct. 22, 1960, at the Savannah Christian Church, Savannah, Mo., with the Reverend Cecil Swinehart officiating.

Dean retired from the American Angus Association where he worked for 43

years, 13 years as director of junior activities and 30 years as director of activities. Gloria retired from the American Angus Association where she worked for 28 years as supervisor of the Breed Improvement Department.

The event was hosted by their daughters and sons-in-law Stacey and Dennis Jenkins of Saint Joseph and Tracy and Ryan Hurlbut of Olathe, Kan. There are three grandchildren, Kaitlyn Jenkins and Joshua and Jessica Hurlbut.

Best wishes may be sent to the couple at 3519 Emerald Lane, Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

Milton Thomas, New Mexico State University (NMSU) faculty member, has been named the Gerald Thomas Chair in Food Production and Natural Resources in the university's College of Agricultural,

Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Thomas is a professor of beef cattle physiology and genetics in the department of animal and range sciences. As the Gerald Thomas Chair, he will continue his research of fertility issues in New Mexico beef and dairy cattle.

He began researching this area about nine years ago and leads a team of researchers from across the United States studying cattle fertility. This effort is coordinated through the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC) and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Thomas will travel to Australia in the summer of 2011 under the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization McMasters Fellowship to work with a genetics research team. This collaboration also will provide funds for a doctoral student exchange between Australia and NMSU.

Thomas also plans to present talks, as well as bring in guest speakers such as Jim Reecy, professor of animal science at Iowa State University, and David Daley, of California State University, Chico.

More than 250 of Thomas' articles have appeared in journals, research reports and other publications. He also serves on the board of directors of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and has contributed to NMSU's molecular biology program. Thomas received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his doctorate from Texas A&M University.

The Gerald W. Thomas Chair in Food Production and Natural Resources was established in honor of President Emeritus Thomas. When Thomas retired in 1984, the college endowed the \$1 million chair — the first in university history.

NMSU has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1979.

IN PASSING

Robert Grubbs, 92, Covington, Ind., died Sept. 1 at his home.

He was born Dec. 2, 1917, south of Covington, to Alexander and Minnie (McDonald) Grubbs. He was a life resident of Covington and attended Perrysville schools.

He married Sylvia Hunt June 18, 1939, at

Attica, Ind. He was a member of Covington United Methodist Church and was the oldest member of Tidal Lodge 36, Knights of Pythias. He was a 50-year member of — and the first person given a life membership in — the Indiana Angus Association. He also was a member of the Indiana Farmers Union.

He had raised and shown Angus cattle since he was 14, and was known as the turkey man, having raised them for many years. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1957.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughter Shirley, son John, and a brother, Paul.

Dennis Laughlin, 49, Independence, Mo., (formerly of Guilford, Mo.) died Friday, Oct. 1, at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.

Dennis was born in Maryville, Mo., Dec. 23, 1960, to Kenneth and Macil (Kiser) Laughlin. He graduated in 1979 from South Nodaway R IV High School, Barnard, Mo. In 1983, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he was a member of FarmHouse social fraternity and active in campus activities, including Ag Mech Club. He served as President of the Ag Student Council.

On Sept. 22, 1984, he married Ellene Marie Stoecklein at Saint Ann's Church, Independence, Mo. To this union four children were born: Kellan Patrick, Kendyl Marie, Tristan Alexander and Gentry Elizabeth, all of the home.

Dennis was employed by Central States Thermo King as IT Manager at the time of his death and previously worked for Ford-New Holland, DIS Corp. and CRC Communications. He was active as a leader of Boy Scouts Troop 221, Independence, and a member of the Guilford United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife; four children; mother; brother Donald Laughlin, Guilford; in-laws Melvin and Francis Stoecklein, Independence; and many other extended family members and friends.

ANGUS ARRIVALS

Jimmy Ray and **Jane Parish**, Aberdeen, Miss., announce the Sept. 20 birth of their daughter, **Haley Elizabeth**. She weighed 8 lb., and was 19 in. long. Haley was welcomed home by brother Beau.

Grandparents are David and Rex Ann Bondurant, Gladewater, Texas; and Jim and Malinda Parish, Chatsworth, Ga.

Jane is an associate professor and Extension beef cattle specialist at Mississippi State University and an Angus Advisor columnist for the *Angus Journal*.

Maryland Angus Ass'n Annual Social, Centreville, June 6



► **The Brauning family**, Finksburg, was named Breeder of the Year. Pictured are (front row, from left) Seth, Denise and Savannah Brauning; (back row, from left) David Brauning Sr. and David Brauning Jr.



► **The Clarke family**, Rocky Ridge, was named Family of the Year. Pictured are (front row, from left) Taylor and Jessica Clarke; (back row, from left) Becky and Tim Clarke.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

William Herring has joined Pfizer Animal Genetics as senior director of global technical services. In his new role he will lead the global technical services team to maintain the company's commitment to customer-focused solutions through its portfolio of genomics-based products and services. With the expansion of the company's global technical services team, Herring will spearhead and oversee efforts in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Europe and North America.

Marshall Ernst, Windsor, Colo., has been named livestock manager at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). Ernst, currently owner of Ernst Herefords of Greeley, has a long history with the NWSS. He's shown both in the Yards and on the Hill and serves on the NWSS Livestock Yards Committee.

Jitender Dubey, **Ronald Horst** and **L. Dale Van Vleck** have been named to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Science Hall of Fame for research that has helped control parasite-caused diseases of people, farm animals and pets; prevent milk fever disease of dairy cows; and increase knowledge of livestock genetics.

Tammy Beckham, who has served as the interim director, has been named as the new director of the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD) Center. First led by Neville Clarke, the FAZD Center was founded in April 2004 as a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence.

Robin Ganzert has been named president and CEO of the American Humane Association. Before assuming those duties Oct. 1, she had served as deputy director of philanthropic services at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C.

Lara Beal Moody has been appointed to the newly-created position of director of stewardship programs at The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), where she will be responsible for developing and directing TFI's stakeholder outreach programs to promote nutrient stewardship at the field level.

Chuck Woodside, general manager of farmer-owned Kappa Ethanol in Minden, Neb., was elected the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) chairman at RFA's annual membership meeting in Washington, D.C., in September. Woodside succeeds Chris Standlee, executive vice president of Abengoa Bioenergy, who served for three one-year terms.

Neill McKinstry, vice president and general manager, Ethanol Division of The Andersons Inc., will take the position of vice chairman left vacant by Woodside's election. Also taking leadership positions within RFA are **Randall Doyal**, Claremont, Minn., treasurer; **Walter Wendland**, Mason City, Iowa, secretary; and **Bob Dinneen**, president.



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