



# Newsmakers

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

## IN THE NEWS

**Aaron Strommen**, Fort Rice, N.D., was recognized by Genex Cooperative Inc. for top semen sales and service throughout the spring 2009 beef breeding season. Strommen works with local purebred and commercial producers to develop customized reproductive programs that meet producers' immediate and long-term genetic goals. In addition to both conventional and the company's sexed semen, Genex representatives also provide chuteside services including heat detection and synchronization program assistance, artificial insemination (AI) and mating recommendations.

Strommen has been a member of the American Angus Association since 2000.

**Richard Fast**, New Salem; **Vander Reich**, Zap; **Joel Schmitz**, Enderlin; and **Aaron Strommen**, Fort Rice, were recognized by the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) as top member-recruiters for 2009. More than 21 NDSA members enrolled nearly 120 new or returning members who had been out of the organization six months or more.

Fast has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1983. Reich is currently a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), and Schmitz has been a life member since 1972.

**Patrick Goggins**, Billings, Mont., has been named the inaugural recipient of the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) Industry Icon Award. He was recognized for his "grand impact" on LMA and the

betterment of the livestock marketing industry and his stalwart and vocal advocacy of the auction-based, competitive livestock marketing system.

Goggins was presented the award at Public Auction Yards (PAYS) in Billings, one of his three Montana markets. He bought PAYS in the early 1960s, followed by Billings Livestock Commission Co. in 1983, and, most recently, Western Livestock Auction in Great Falls. Goggins served on the LMA Board from 1994 to 2006 and as president from 2001 to 2002.

In addition, he owns Northern Livestock Video Auction in Billings, and conducted the first-ever video auction in the early 1970s. He also originated the first ring sale in the U.S. He is a veteran publisher and weekly columnist for the *Western Livestock Reporter* and *Agri-News*, two papers he recently combined into the *Western Ag Reporter*.

Goggins has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1965. He and his family own Vermilion Ranch in Billings.

A researcher, teacher and businessman, **Dell Allen** has devoted his career to the U.S. meat industry, pioneering advancements in food safety, meat quality and industry viability. To honor Allen for his industry contributions and to support the next generation of meat scientists, Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health has created a scholarship at Kansas State University (K-State) in his name.

The establishment of the Dell Allen Scholarship was announced Oct. 27 at the Meat Industry Hall of Fame banquet in

Chicago, Ill., where Allen was one of the inaugural inductees to the Hall of Fame.

Allen became a faculty member at K-State after completing his doctorate and taught at the university for 22 years in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. In 1988, he left K-State to work for Excel Corp. as director of quality and training. During his tenure at Excel, which became Cargill Meat Solutions, Allen was an influential speaker at international food safety conferences and collaborated with government agencies, agriculture industry groups and consumer advocates. He held various leadership roles before retiring in 2004 as vice president of technical services and food safety.

The Dell Allen Scholarship will be provided to a K-State meat science graduate student. Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health will fund the scholarship for a minimum of three years.

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

Missouri State Fair Commissioner **Kent Blades** of Shelbina was recognized and presented a plaque during the 2009 Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions for his dedication and support of youth in agriculture.

The Fair's Youth in Agriculture Committee honored Blades Aug. 22 during the auction for his commitment to agriculture by helping and encouraging youth to stay interested in the field. He has served as a commissioner for nine years and as a member of the Missouri State Fair Youth in Agriculture Committee since its inception.

Blades' enthusiasm for Missouri agriculture started in his youth when he showed livestock at the Missouri State Fair, even earning Grand Champion Steer himself. His passion for agriculture is shared with his family, including wife Linda and their three children and their families. Blades has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1957.

The Sale of Champions takes place on the final Saturday of the Missouri State Fair each year with proceeds from the sale supporting scholarships to benefit Missouri youth involved in agriculture.

## 2008 Maryland Angus Ass'n Annual Social, West Friendship, Dec. 3



► **John Gundzik** (center), Manchester, receives the Breeder of the Year Award from Maryland Angus Princess Emily Velisek (left) and Maryland Angus Princess Shelby Stabler.



► **The Stabler family** was recognized as the Maryland Angus Ass'n 2008 Family of the Year. Pictured are (from left) **Kelsey, Randy and Shelby Stabler**, all of Gaithersburg.

## IN PASSING

**H. Hart Bennett**, 26, Charles Town, W.Va., died Oct. 24.

Hart was born April 11, 1983, and was a 2001 graduate of Jefferson High School and a 2006 graduate of West Virginia University, where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural studies. He was a 2007 alumni of the Missouri Auction School, which began his journey as an auctioneer with Kable Auctioneer. Contracting his services got you

## Russian Angus producers visit Association

Sparked by Angus pioneers in the 1870s, ingenuity and perseverance built the U.S. Angus herd into what it is today. But like those early Angus adopters, **Sergey Goncharov** is starting at square one.

The Russian entrepreneur and owner of Sputnik Angus Farm is working to build the Angus breed in northwest Russia near historic Saint Petersburg — an area sparsely populated by dairy cattle and egg hatcheries. Goncharov and fellow Russian cattlemen see potential in their vast grasslands and hope to expand the country's agricultural industry. The key to expansion, Goncharov says, lies in Angus cattle.

"I thought Angus was the best investment to make," Goncharov said through an interpreter during an Oct. 26 tour of the American Angus Association. "Agriculture has the most potential for Russia and will be an important part of its growth."

Goncharov visited the Association Monday, along with Kate Zimina, Sputnik's veterinarian and certified ultrasound technician; and Oxana Shvedova, farm manager and embryologist.

Although not their first trip to the United

States, it was the Russian group's first tour of Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

As non-resident members of the Association, Goncharov hopes to register much of the farm's next calf crop thanks to the purchase of U.S. semen, and the farm's successful applications of embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI).

There are challenges, however, he notes. Transportation and a poor infrastructure are significant hurdles, and Russia currently has no official Angus association to register cattle or conduct genetic evaluations.

Despite this, Goncharov believes the power of Angus will far outweigh the challenges.

"We're trying to get better, to grow," he said.



►Left: Sergey Goncharov (from left), Kate Zimina, and Oxana Shvedova (far right) of Sputnik Angus Farm, Saint Petersburg, Russia, met with Bryce Schumann, American Angus Association CEO, and other staff members Oct. 26. The group toured Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., and learned more about the Angus business in America.

an enthusiastic "How 'bout a sale!" to kick things off.

Hart was also employed with The Bennett Agency in Charles Town, representing Farm Family & American National Insurance



**H. Hart Bennett**

companies as an agent. Hart was a member of the American Angus Association, the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Loudon Cattlemen's

Association, the Northern Virginia Feeder Cattle Association and both the West Virginia and National Auctioneers associations.

His interest in agriculture was bred from a

young age with the 4-H Club of America and the National FFA Organization. While active with these assemblies he received numerous awards, including the Caledonia Farm Award in 2000. He doted on his ever-expanding herd of black Angus cattle and his father's mule, Madeline.

Hart is survived by his father, Herald "Chip" Bennett; his mother, Deborah (Hart) Bennett; brothers Alec and Jonathan; sister Catherine; special friend Anne Stewart; and many other relatives and friends.

**Thomas Ihry**, 57, Valley City, N.D., died Oct. 26 at Mercy Hospital in Valley City.

Tom was born in Valley City Feb. 27, 1952, to Elmer (Pete) and Rosalie (Semrad) Ihry. The oldest of 11 siblings, Tom grew up on a farm near Luverne, N.D. After

graduating from Luverne High School, Tom attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo, N.D., and graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science.

While at NDSU, he was an active member of the Saddle and Sirloin Club, Alpha Zeta Honor Society and FarmHouse Fraternity. Upon graduation, Tom returned to Hope where he farmed with his father, his Uncle Leo and his brother John; together they raised grain and livestock.

Tom was active in the Hope community and Saint Agatha's Catholic Church in Hope. On June 19, 1993, Tom married the love of his life, Dawn Crum, in Rushville, Ill. Since August 2004, the family has resided in rural Valley City and are members of Saint Catherine Catholic Church. Tom was proud

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to have his daughters attend Saint Catherine School as his mother did.

The family ranch, Ihry Circle C, was purchased from longtime cattle friends Bev and Curly Werner. Putting down roots on his own land with his family brought Tom great joy. Tom could be described as a fanatic when it came to sports, especially watching his siblings, nieces, nephews and his own children compete. He very much enjoyed following the Hi-Liner football and basketball teams the last two years.

Tom loved the livestock industry, from raising chickens as a child to his beloved cattle. His passion for breeding good livestock will be missed throughout the industry. Tom was not a cowboy, but a true cowman. He was a lifelong member of the American Hereford Association, the American Angus Association and the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

Above all was Tom's vocation as husband and father. Tom daily used every opportunity available to prepare his wife, children and family for eternity. His example of love, faith and loyalty will live on in those whom he touched.

Tom is survived by his wife; daughters Ruth and Grace; son Samuel; his mother;

brothers Timothy, Kevin and John; sisters Lynne, Rachel, Patricia, Karen, Sarah and Beth; and a large extended family.

#### ▶ **ANGUS ARRIVALS**

**Kyle and Jennifer Gillooly**, Wadley, Ga., announce the birth of their son, **Grant Edward**, born Sept. 24. He weighed 7 lb., 15 oz., and was 21 in. long.

Grandparents are Jim and Jane Gillooly of Washington, Ind., and Chris and Lynne Oglesby of Wadley. Great-grandfather is Charles Smith of Wadley.

#### ▶ **INDUSTRY EXTRAS**

**Jim Shirley** has joined Vita Ferm as an area sales manager for South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. He will provide nutritional support and product solutions for beef producers and work with existing and new dealers to grow their business.

Shirley served as a regional manager for the American Angus Association for 19 years until accepting the position of vice president of industry relations in 2004. He retired from that position this past summer.

**Todd Johnson** will be the vice president of the newly created Owner-Member Services Department for the NCBA. Johnson, currently with the Kansas Livestock Association, will join NCBA in January 2010.

In addition to leading a team providing value and services for all types of NCBA's owner-members, including producer and feeder members, state cattlemen's affiliates and state beef councils, Johnson will also serve on NCBA's senior leadership team.

**Jack Maddux**, Wauneta, Neb., received the 32nd annual National Golden Spur Award from the Ranching Heritage Association in Lubbock, Texas. Nominated by the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF), the fourth-generation rancher received the award in recognition of his contributions to the livestock and ranching industries and his contributions to improving the land and natural resources.

As part of the University of Kentucky's elimination of the college's management operations department and the realignment of functions within that department, **Lloyd Murdock** has been named the first director of the University of Kentucky's Research and Education Center (UKREC) in Princeton. Also as a part of the overall reorganization, **Donnie Davis**, the longtime superintendent at Princeton, has been named director of central Kentucky farms for the college. 