



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Bob Fortune, Belvidere, was re-elected for a second one-year term as vice president of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association (SDSA) at its annual convention and trade show. Fortune serves as a member of the South Dakota Beef Industry Council and has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1997.

Matt Kammerer of Rapid City was elected to represent District 8, replacing Craig Shaver. Kammerer has been a member of the American Angus Association since 2002.

Named **Top 10 Industry Leaders** by *The Cattle Business Weekly*, an agricultural newspaper based in Philip, S.D., were:

- Jason Ahola, associate professor of beef production systems, Colorado State University;
- Aaron Arnett, vice president of beef genetics programs for Select Sires, Ohio;
- Joe Martin, executive director of the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association, Minnesota;
- Amanda Radke, agricultural journalist, blogger, advocate and author, South Dakota;
- Dane Rauschenberg, athlete and spokesperson for beef, Oregon;
- Adam Redland, auctioneer at Worland Livestock, Wyoming;
- Teresa Scanlan, Miss America 2011, Nebraska;
- Jake and Kami Scott, Whitestone-Krebs, Nebraska;
- Cory Schrag, cattleman, South Dakota; and
- Jason Zahn, cattle producer and president of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota.

The publication annually recognizes cattle professionals for their leadership.

WEDDINGS

Miranda Blass, Chatham, N.Y., and **P.J. Trowbridge**, Ghent, N.Y., were married Aug.

25 at Trowbridge Farms in Ghent. The couple's daughter, Daisy, served as a junior bridesmaid.

Parents of the bride are Chester Blass, Chatham; and Cheryl Craft, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Parents of the groom are Phil and Annie Trowbridge, Ghent.

Miranda is an occupational therapist assistant who rides and trains sport horses and shows Angus cattle locally; P.J. is a partner, with his family, in Trowbridge Farms.



IN PASSING

Wilson Mitchell Jr., 94, Union Springs, N.Y., died Sept. 13 at his home.

Born March 2, 1918, he was the son of Anna (Bradley) and Wilson Mitchell Sr. Wilson was a 1941 graduate of Cornell University and had worked as the head herdsman on a large dairy farm in Delaware before teaching agriculture at King Ferry Central School.

He returned to the family dairy farm in 1949 and, in 1968, changed to raising purebred Angus cattle. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1973. His wife of 58 years, the former Elizabeth Lewis, died in 2000. They were lifelong residents of Scipioville.

Wilson is survived by sons William, Wilson and Lewis; brother Bradley; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Tyrrell, 97, Knoxville, Tenn., died Sept. 18 at Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home in Knoxville.

Bill was born Oct. 21, 1916, to William and Mary (Kelly) Tyrrell in Illinois. Bill grew up in Delaware County, Ind., and attended Muncie High School. He was a graduate of Purdue University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1939 and a master's in animal science in 1942. During his college days Bill was a member of the Purdue University wrestling team.

He married his beloved wife, Ruth, in 1940. They were married 70 years until her death in 2011. Bill served in the United States Marine Corps during WWII in the central and south Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He attended Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va., and was relocated to San Diego as part of the 28th Replacement Battalion outfitting troops for battle as a platoon leader of the Navajo Indians.

He achieved the rank of first lieutenant as Commander of the Guard Company in 1943 and served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal and Eniwetok, and finally Okinawa in 1945, where he was attached to the 6th Marine Division. Bill retired as a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1958. Upon return from the Pacific, Bill and Ruth moved to Tennessee in 1946 to continue their careers and raise their family.

Bill joined the University of Tennessee (UT) as an extension livestock specialist working with 4-H and FFA. In 1963, he was named head of the UT Extension Animal Science Department. While there he was organizational secretary of the Tennessee Livestock Association and later the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. After retiring from UT in 1973, Bill joined Cherokee Manufacturing Co., Sweetwater, Tenn., as sales manager.

Bill was named Man of the Year of Upper South Agriculture in 1971 by *Progressive Farmer* magazine and *Who's Who* in the South and Southeast. He had been a member of the Knox County Farm Bureau since 1946. He organized and established the Tennessee Junior Beef Heifer Show, the largest of its kind in the eastern U.S. He was a charter member of Council 5207 Knights of Columbus and



► **Landi McFarland** of Hoover Angus Farm, Ellston, Iowa, was chosen by the Romney campaign staff to represent Iowa agriculture to Governor Romney during his visit to a Van Meter, Iowa, farm Oct. 9. Others speaking with Romney during his visit were Sen. Charles Grassley; Craig Hill, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau; and the Koch family, who hosted the presidential rally. Pictured are (from left) Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, McFarland and presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

became a 4th Degree knight in 1967. He was a charter member of both Sacred Heart Cathedral and All Saints Catholic Church. Bill enjoyed traveling the state in his work and vacation travel in the United States and abroad. Bill touched and enriched the lives of many over the course of his life and will be deeply missed.

Bill is survived by sons Patrick, William, Timothy and Daniel; daughters Sarah, Julia and Rose; and 10 grandchildren.

Howard Johnson, 85, Ida Grove, Iowa, died Sept. 20 at his home.

Howard was born Sept. 28, 1926, to John and Ione (Johnson) Johnson in Ida County, Iowa. He graduated from Ida Grove High School in 1943. After high school graduation, he joined his father and uncle in the Johnson Bros. purebred Angus business and farming.

Howard and Anabel Lindberg were married Sept. 25, 1948. Howard's love for Anabel, laying the Christian spiritual foundation for his family, and inspiring a strong work ethic are the hallmarks of his life. He was baptized at First Baptist Church in Kiron and was active in the church throughout his life, serving as a deacon, trustee, usher and several other appointments. The loss of his wife of 63 years earlier this year left him heartbroken.

His passions were loving, providing for and supporting his family. He was known for his reputation in the Angus cattle business. He was an active supporter of his grandchildren's extracurricular activities and academic achievements, as this was very important to him. He served as a 4-H leader and on local USDA committees. He was a Hayes township trustee and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1948.

Howard is survived by sons Dennis and J. Gary; daughters Linda and Diane; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Orville Birk, 70, Jackson, Mo., died Sept. 23 at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Orville was born May 29, 1933, in Tilsit, Mo., to Martin and Martha (Best) Birk. He was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tilsit. He and Mary Ann Hennecke were married July 6, 1958, at Zion Lutheran Church in Gordonville, Mo.

Orville attended the former Tilsit Grade School and Jackson High School. He was inducted into the U.S. Army May 4, 1954, in Cape Girardeau. He was honorably discharged as a private first class July 26, 1956,



Orville Birk

at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

He worked 15 years with the Cape Girardeau County Highway Department, but he is better known as a lifelong farmer. He and Mary Ann owned a Missouri Century Farm, where Orville raised both registered Hereford and registered Angus cattle. He had a passion for consistently producing and selling numerous top-selling Angus cattle through the Missouri Angus Futurity. In his later years, he rekindled his interest in horses and riding.

Orville was a member of the Altenthal-Joerns American Legion Post 158 in Jackson; a member of the Missouri and American Angus associations; a former 4-H leader; and had received numerous awards and recognition for his cattle, including the SEMO Fair Herdsman Award in 2004 and Honorary Membership from the Southeast Missouri State University Agriculture Department in 1982.

He was a 15-year member of Christ Lutheran Church in Gordonville and a former member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tilsit, holding various offices in both congregations.

In addition to his wife, Orville is survived by son Steve; daughter Bonnie; brothers Loyd, Glen and Donald; sister Alice; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Eris (Darigo) Zagar, 88, Girard, Kan., died Sept. 30 at the Heritage Nursing Home in Girard.

She was born Nov. 16, 1923, at Pittsburg, Kan., the daughter of Pete and Anna (Kiado) Darigo. Eris attended Fleming Grade School and graduated from Cherokee High School. She worked in Pittsburg a short time and then went to work in the office of Puritan Dairy until she married Frank Zagar Dec. 27, 1950, at Fleming, Kan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Before her marriage, Eris played softball and was the top member on a bowling team. She belonged to a dancing group that appeared onstage at theaters. She was a very good cook, baking beautiful pies, especially coconut. She also specialized in prune rolls. Dan Willis mentioned her name on the radio many times.

After her marriage, she became farm-oriented very quickly and drove trucks and tractors to work ground for planting and for hauling grain to the bins at home and to market in Girard. She learned to take care of cattle, especially when cows were having calves. When the farm began the registered Angus business, she took care of all the paperwork and transfers when the animals were sold.

When the farm joined the Four State Angus Association, she and Frank managed the association for 14 years, having two sales each year. Eris will be remembered as a very kind and generous person and a friend to all.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by daughter Eris.

Gary Eathington, 71, Avon, Ill., died Oct. 9 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Ill.

Gary was born Feb. 19, 1941, at Saunders Hospital in Avon, Ill., to Ray and Doris (Serven) Eathington. He attended and graduated with the class of 1959 from Avon High School. Gary married M. Catherine Effland Sept. 17, 1960, in Avon.

His love was farming, and he farmed in the Avon area his entire life and chiseled a field on Oct. 6. He was a grain and livestock farmer who loved to raise corn, soybeans and Angus cattle.

Gary served on the Avon School Board for 14 years and on the Fulton County Soil Conservation Board. He was a member of the Fulton County Farm Bureau, the Illinois Angus Association and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1965. Gary was an Avondale 4-H leader for 40 years and the Avon Fat Steer Show Committee chairman for 30 years.

In addition to his wife of 52 years, Gary is survived by sons Kenny, Steve, Sam and Kevin; sister Wanda; six grandchildren; and a special cousin, Duane Serven.

Raymond Moore, 73, Lufkin, Texas, died Oct. 10.

Raymond was born Feb. 14, 1939, in Lufkin to Lloyd and Virginia (Schuller) Moore. He was a lifetime resident of Lufkin.

Raymond earned a degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

While in college in Lubbock, Texas, he met and married Jan Norris. Raymond and Jan returned to Lufkin in 1962 where he joined the Moore family's construction company.



Raymond Moore

He retired as executive vice president of Moore Bros. Construction Co. in 2007 and became a full-time Angus breeder.

Raymond was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Angelina County

Exposition Center where he was a longtime supporter of the Youth Fair. Hundreds of 4-H and FFA projects have originated from Moore Farm, which also rolls out the welcome mat for countless civic, church and agricultural gatherings each year.

He was one of the founders of the Lufkin Roundtable, a group of business and civic leaders known for their good cooking, camaraderie and enthusiastic promotion of Lufkin. The Roundtable's cooking projects support the organization's scholarship fund that has awarded more than 360 \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors in Angelina County.

He received the Angelina Award in 1992 for lifetime achievement in Angelina County projects in Lufkin and East Texas. He was one of the founders of the Angelina Savings Bank and had been chairman since its inception. Raymond served as president of the board of directors of the Texas Hot Mix Association, an asphalt organization that has recognized Moore Bros. as one of the industry's pioneers in the state. An avid member of the Association of General Contractors — Heavy Highway and Utilities Division, Raymond was honored by the board Oct. 8, 2012, with an individual lifetime membership.

Raymond was president of the East Texas Angus Association from 1982 to 1985. As sale chairman, his influence and ideas created a steady market for Angus and commercial cattle breeders in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma for 22 years. Under Raymond's leadership, a total of 52 East Texas Angus auctions grossed \$6.2 million.

Raymond was elected president of the Texas Angus Association in 1988, after serving on the executive committee and the board of directors. His contributions of time, energy and enthusiasm — as well as his financial expertise and generosity — have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

helped make the association a major factor in the success of the Angus breed in Texas and the Southwest. In 2006, Raymond was inducted into the Texas Angus Association Hall of Fame in recognition of his service and commitment to the state organization.

Raymond is survived by wife Carol (Anderson) Moore; sons Alan, David and Brian; brother Jerry; stepsons Doug and Brad; four grandchildren; and six step grandchildren.

Hubert John Gerken Jr., 83, Burlington, N.C., died Oct. 27 at Alamance Regional Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

John was born in Vienna, Va., June 4, 1929, the son of Hubert and Margaret (Ferguson) Gerken. He was raised on a dairy farm in Fairfax County, Va., and after high school graduation, served in the U.S. Army from 1946-1948.

Upon returning from Korea, John enrolled at Virginia Tech and completed an undergraduate degree with honors in animal science. He then served as county extension agent in Frederick and Clarke counties in Virginia. He earned a master's degree at Virginia Tech and a doctorate at North Carolina State University.

Upon completion of his doctoral degree in 1971, John joined the animal science faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. He served the university and the Commonwealth of Virginia as extension faculty in beef cattle nutrition until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1991.

During his tenure at Virginia Tech, he was a consultant to beef cattle producers throughout Virginia and the southeastern United States, as well as in India and the United Kingdom. Recognized many times for his contributions, John received the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award and the Leadership and Service Award from the Virginia Beef Cattle Association, as well as 30-year service recognitions from the USDA and Virginia Tech. In 2010, he was named an outstanding alumnus of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Animal Science Department.

Upon retirement, John went on to raise beef cattle, first on a farm in Virginia, and, after 1997, on a farm in Chatham County, N.C. The farming operation transferred to his daughter and son-in-law's farm in Orange County, N.C., in 2006. Until the last few weeks of his life, John continued to be a valued advisor and frequent visitor to the farm to see his cows.

In addition to farming, John enjoyed reading and travel, particularly to historic

sites and museums. As an avid Virginia Tech football fan, he often spent Saturday afternoons supporting the Hokies. He was also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church and most recently held membership at First Presbyterian Church in Burlington, N.C.

In addition to his wife of 53 years, Shirley (Humphries) Gerken, he is survived by daughter Elizabeth; sister Margaret; brother Carl; three special cousins, June Raymond, David Beaman and Wayne Beaman; and a very special aunt, Alice Beaman.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Amy VanderMark has been named vice president of domestic sales at Accelerated Genetics. In this position, she will be responsible for providing leadership, guidance and strategic planning for the domestic sales team. She will be based out of the company's Baraboo, Wis., administrative headquarters.

Polly Ruhland, CEO of the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), based in Centennial, Colo., has been selected as one of eight 2013 Eisenhower USA Fellows. The fellowship will provide Ruhland with the resources and programmatic support to create and execute an intensive four- to five-week program studying differentiation of U.S. beef in Japan and Taiwan. Working closely with beef checkoff contractor U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), Ruhland will meet and work with key industry contacts to evaluate techniques and messages that would help U.S. producers better distinguish U.S. beef in both markets.

At its annual meeting in Rapid City, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association (SDSA) re-elected **Shane Kolb**, Meadow, for a second one-year term as president. **Randy Volmer**, Owanka, was elected as Region 3 vice president. **Marvin Jobgen** will serve as director from District 3, and **Brad Bunker** of Arlington replaced Joan Wollschlager as director in District 17.

The South Dakota CattleWomen, the official auxiliary of the SDSA and an affiliate of the American National CattleWomen, elected **Karla Pazour**, Pukwana, president; **Kodi Blotsky**, Mission, vice president; **Mary Hendrickson**, Gann Valley, treasurer; and **Danielle McDonnell** of Martin as secretary at its annual membership meeting.

Mary Jessen of Holabird is responsible for the newsletter; **Becky Littau** of Winner will continue to serve as membership chair; and **Ruth Farnsworth** of Carter, **Julie Holmquist** of Reliance and **Pazour** will serve

as representatives of the South Dakota Beef Industry Council.

Lee Pitts, Los Osos, Calif., received the Veritas Award from the American AgriWomen (AAW) at the organization's 2012 annual convention in Denver, Colo. The award is given annually to a person who has given public witness to "the pursuit of truth" in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW statement of philosophy, *The Call to Power*.

Dustin Focht, Stillwater, Okla., won top honors at the final qualifying event for the 2013 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC). The event took place Monday, Oct. 29, at Stockland Livestock Auction (SLA) in Davenport, Wash. For placing first, Focht received a custom-designed Gist belt buckle and a \$500 cash award sponsored by Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) and \$500 cash sponsored by SLA.

Focht, who auctioneers weekly for three livestock markets in Oklahoma and Kansas, faced a tough field of competition that included 17 auctioneers from across the United States and one entry from Australia. When not on the auction block, he enjoys golfing, supporting alma mater Oklahoma State University, and attending sporting events with wife, Julie and 6-year-old daughter Jacie.

The runner-up was **Jeff Bynum** of Southside, Ala. Placing third was **Paul Ramirez**, Tucson, Ariz. Both received a custom Gist belt buckle sponsored by LMA.

The additional seven qualified contestants were **Jake Cheechov**, Creswell, Ore.; **Chuck Cozzitorto**, Hilmar, Calif.; **Will Epperly**, Lancaster, Ky.; **Garrett Jones**, Los Banos, Calif.; **Duane Rus**, Rock Valley, Iowa; **Daren Shumway**, Mesa, Ariz.; and **Robb Taylor**, Perkins, Okla.

These top 10 auctioneers have earned their place in the semi-finals at the 2013 WLAC, hosted by Montgomery Stockyards LLC, Montgomery, Ala., June 14-15. The top 10 from each of the three qualifiers, as well as the International Livestock Auctioneer Champion, traditionally given a "bye" into the contest, create a field of 31 semi-finalists.



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