



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Steven Lastovica of Salado, Texas, was awarded one of three 2016 Outstanding Alumni Awards from the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the annual Legacy and Leadership Banquet Nov. 18, 2016. Steven found his calling in agriculture early — on his family's Angus farm in Bell County, Texas. As an animal science major at Texas A&M, he worked at the Beef Cattle Center and was active in many student organizations, including the Corps of Cadets, the Ross Volunteers and the Texas A&M Senior Livestock Judging Team.

Soon after graduation, he began working as an extension agent for agriculture in Washington County, Texas, where he developed his people skills — and a business idea — as he worked with local livestock breeders. In May 1986, less than a year after college graduation, he and his brother started Milano Livestock Exchange (MLE). For 30 years, it was Milam County's oldest family-run livestock market, having sold more



Steven Lastovica, Salado, Texas

than 1.5 million head of cattle. No longer operating as a weekly livestock auction, Steven has transitioned MLE to operate as a USDA-licensed livestock dealership, providing stocker and feeder cattle to the feedlots, as well as high-quality replacement females through Internet and private-treaty sales.

Steven and his wife, Sandra, also a 1985 graduate, along with their children, own and operate Lastovica Cattle Co., as well as

Supreme Genetics, providing bulls, donors and high-end heifers to customers across the nation.

A Texas 4-H volunteer, Lastovica has long been a supporter of 4-H and FFA, fostering a love for agriculture through the beef cattle industry and ultimately helping young Texans go to college to pursue degrees in agriculture. A respected cattle judge, he officiates at livestock judging competitions on the junior, senior and collegiate levels, and judges livestock shows across the country on a local, state and national level.

Steven and his family share a passion for Texas A&M and the Department of Animal Science. He served on the Dr. Howard Hesby Atrium Committee to provide funding for the renovation of the Kleberg Building atrium. He is a guest speaker in animal science classes and at the Beef Cattle Short Course, and currently serves as a board member of the Agricultural Leadership, Education, and

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Canadian Angus Gold Show winners

The Canadian Angus Association (CAA) has announced the winners of its 2016 National Gold Show Program. Awards were presented before the Power and Perfection Sale at Agribition in Regina, Sask.

The 2016 Black Angus Show Bull of the Year, receiving champion aggregate status, was MAF First Impression 4420, owned by Mogcks Angus Farm of Tripp, S.D., and Mick and Debbie Trefiak of Edgerton, Alta.

The reserve aggregate champion for Black Angus Show Bull of the Year was awarded to BOSS LAKE Brilliance 615 owned by Boss Lake Genetics of Stony Plain, Alta.

Runner-up aggregate champion for Black Angus Show Bull of the Year went to EF Titan 545, owned by Sean Enright and Barry Enright of Renfrew, Ont.

The 2016 Black Angus Show Female of the Year, receiving champion aggregate status, was SC Mich Rose 30X owned by Katie Serhienko of Maymont, Sask., and heifer calf SC Mich Rose 613D, also owned by Katie Serhienko.

The reserve aggregate champion for Black Angus Show Female of the Year went to DMM Blackbird 105A, owned by Lee and Dawn Wilson, Miller Wilson Angus, of Bashaw, Alta., with bull calf DMM International 54D, also owned by Lee and Dawn Wilson, Miller Wilson Angus.

Runner-up aggregate champion for Black Angus Show Female of the Year went to Royal S Pride 42B owned by Brianna Kimmel of Lloydminster, Alta., with heifer calf Twst She's A Heartbreaker 66D, also owned by Brianna Kimmel.

"The competition for our Gold Show program is always fun

and exciting to watch," says CAA CEO Rob Smith. "Our members take great pride in their show cattle. The Gold Show program is a tremendous opportunity to display premium Angus genetics to fellow Angus producers, cattle folk from other breeds, beef industry influencers and the public at large.

The Canadian Angus Gold Show All-Star Team awards were also announced as follows:

In the black Angus bulls, bull calf champion went to BOSS LAKE Brilliance 615, owned by Boss Lake Genetics; junior champion went to EF Titan 545, owned by Sean Enright and Barry Enright; and senior champion went to MAF First Impression 4420, owned by Mogcks Angus Farm and Mick and Debbie Trefiak.

Angus Female All-Star awards went to Greenwood Beauty JJP 23D, owned by Jayden and Jaxon Payne of Lloydminster, Sask., and HLC Barbara 776D, owned by Hollinger Land & Cattle of Neudorf, Sask., tied as the heifer calf champion. Remitall F Tibbie 51C owned by Remitall Farms Inc. of Olds, Alta., was junior champion; and SC Mich Rose 30X, owned by Katie Serhienko, and heifer calf SC MICH ROSE 613D, also owned by Katie Serhienko, was senior champion.

The Gold Show program was developed in 1989 by the Canadian Angus Association to provide an incentive for breeders to move between regions to show cattle. Gold Show winners are determined by the animals that earned the highest number of points in three Gold Shows. If an animal accumulated points in more than three Gold Shows, the points from their best three shows were used in determining end-of-year awards.

The All-Star awards were first presented in 2012 making this year the fifth annual recognition.

Communications Advisory Committee. They also support the university through the Association of Former Students and the 12th Man Foundation.

Lastovica was appointed by former Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples to serve on the board of directors of the Beef Promotion and Research Council, which directs all beef check-off activities, as well as serving as chairman of the Domestic Marketing Committee. He serves in other professional organizations such as the Texas Angus Association, the American Angus Association, and the National Livestock Marketing Association.

Steven has been a strong supporter of his community — coaching youth sports, serving in many capacities with St. Stephen Catholic Church, serving as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and serving as a founding member and donor of the Salado Education Foundation. He was a creator of the annual Chisholm Trail Cattleman’s Ball, which has raised half a million dollars in scholarship funds since 2002.

Steven and Sandra have two children: Stephanie, a 2016 graduate in agricultural leadership and development and a graduate student in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science; and Stuart, a freshman at Salado High School who has his sights set on graduating as an animal science major in 2024.

Steven has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1985.

IN PASSING

James (Jim) Keen Jr., 92, London, Ohio, died Oct. 18, 2016, at his home.

Jim was born in Bluemont, Loudon County, Va., to Pearl and J. Paul Keen. He has lived in Madison County since the 1960s.

Jim was the former manager of Moles Hill Farm in Sharon, Conn. He showed the 1957 International Livestock Exposition grand champion bull, Dor Macs Bardoliermere 60. Jim bred and showed three additional International champions at Moles Hill, including the 1962 grand champion female, the 1963 grand champion bull and the 1965 grand champion bull.

He moved back to Ohio in the early 1970s and owned Keenland Farm at London. Jim was president of the Ohio Angus Association in 1974-1975. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1961.

Leo Baker, 89, of Saint Onge, S.D.,

died Nov. 19, 2016, at the Sturgis Regional Hospital.

Leo was born July 15, 1927, in Perley, Minn. He was the son of Alex and Lucy (Mell) Baker. Leo grew up on a family farm located 2 miles west of Ada, Minn. In 1945 he graduated from Ada High School.

Following high school, he turned down a football scholarship at the University of Minnesota and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Leo served his country during World War II from 1945 to 1946. During those years, he served as an M.P., which yielded many stories for a small-town farm boy from Minnesota. The Seabees were a good fit for him. He was stationed on the USS Shipley Bay and became part of the liberation of the Philippines.

After his honorable discharge, Leo became a college student at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., majoring in animal science. He attended there for two years before returning to the farm near Ada, where he grew small-grain crops and sugar beets.

Leo met the love of his life on a blind date, and he was united in marriage to Marilyn Nelson in Ada, on July 23, 1950.

In 1977, a small down payment was placed on a ranch located near Saint Onge. The Baker family moved west with 100 cows, and shortly after they arrived they named their ranch, “Baker’s Lemar Angus” by combining the names Leo and Marilyn (Lemar). Over time the ranching operation grew and later expanded into an international bull semen producer.

One of Leo’s most outstanding bulls was “Skyhigh.” More semen was sold from that bull than any other in America during that time period. Since then, the genetics program has gained an international reputation. “Final Answer” was another bull that came along. He produced more than 50,000 straws of semen in 14 years.

In 1993, Baker’s Lemar Angus was proud to be chosen as one of the hosts of the 1993 World Angus Forum. Cattle were sold to Japan, Russia, Turkey and more. Leo was always thankful for the many friendships that were established around the world through his ranching operation.

Leo was a member of the Belle Fourche United Methodist Church, the V.F.W. and American Legion, the South Dakota Angus Association, Black Hills Angus Association, and was a past member of the board of directors for the American Crystal Sugar Corp. and the American Angus Association. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1957.

During the past 24 years, Leo had battled cancer. He always said, “There is life after cancer,” “Cancer is limited,” and “Can’t never did anything.” He meant that cancer doesn’t have to be a death sentence, and he showed it. He never gave up; he was faithful to get his cancer treatments, because it meant going forward, fighting and living. Leo wasn’t a quitter. He always looked for the silver lining in things. He was lovable, positive, encouraging to others, courageous, loyal and generous. He will be missed greatly by his family and friends.

In addition to his wife, Leo is survived by son Mike; brother Ronald; sister Doris; granddaughter Elizabeth; great-grandsons Elias and Sylvain; and many nieces and nephews.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Doug O’Brien has been named executive vice president for programs of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International effective Nov. 1, 2016.

Anne Simmons has been named Democratic staff director for the House Agriculture Committee. She formerly served as the Committee’s senior policy advisor.

Bruce Schmolz, Claremont, Minn., was elected the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) chairman for 2016-2017. Dennis Stiffler is the chairman-elect. Conley Nelson will serve as vice chair, and Cevin Jones will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Cortney Malter, Smithville, Mo., has been promoted to marketing manager on the cattle team for Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI). She was previously associate marketing manager, cattle at BIVI.

Tom Rodgers, executive director, global agricultural solutions, Bridgestone Corp., received the 2016 Honorary FFA degree at the organization’s convention and expo in Indianapolis, Ind. The Honorary FFA Degree recognizes individuals who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.

Charles Rosenkrans, Paris, Mo., was awarded the 2016 Agriculture Educator Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Missouri Livestock Symposium in Kirksville, Mo., Dec. 2, 2016. The award is presented

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yearly to an agriculture educator who has made a significant contribution to the agriculture industry in northeast Missouri through their educational efforts.

John Pronschinske, Arcadia, Wis., District 2 and **Tim Bowers**, Marion, Wis., District 9 were re-elected to second three-year terms on the Accelerated Genetics board of directors. With the re-elections, the board of directors reorganized. The new officers are **Scott Dahlk**, Verona, Wis., chair (District 8); **Nick Butzler**, Rockland, Wis., first vice chair (District 5); **Pronschinske**, second vice chair; and **Bowers**, secretary-treasurer.

Remaining members of the board are **Mark Elmhorst**, Granton, Wis., District 3; **Andy Dejno**, Independence, Wis., District 4; **Kenneth Levzow**, Rio, Wis., District 6; **Krista Dolan**, Dodgeville, Wis., District 7; and **Cary Tweten**, Lewiston, Minn., District 10.

Brad Greenway, representing the National Pork Board, will serve as the third chairman for the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA). He is joined by a new

executive committee that includes vice chair **Chip Bowling**, representing the National Corn Growers Association; treasurer **Scott VanderWal**, representing the American Farm Bureau Federation; secretary **Roberta Simpson-Dolbeare**, representing the Illinois Soybean Association; immediate past chairwoman **Nancy Kavazanijan**, representing the United Soybean Board; at large **Monty Henderson**, representing the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association; and at large partner **Mike Parrish**, representing Monsanto.

New board members include **Katie Brenny**, Mazeppa, Minn., (Federation of State Beef Councils); **Phil Borgic**, Nokomis, Ill., (National Pork Producers Council); and **Galen Lee**, New Plymouth, Idaho, (American Sugarbeet Growers Association).

Denny Dieterich, Saint Asgar, Iowa, has been named Ralco Beef team leader, responsible for innovation, development and validation of new technologies that provide solutions to the company's customers and other company personnel. He will work closely with the sales team

to ensure the company's internal and external customers are properly trained to implement cutting-edge programs and products. Dieterich will also work along with other beef team members to enhance a robust research plan that will keep the company at the forefront of new technology development.

Joseph Deeb has been hired by Sexing Technologies as its director of genomics research. In his new position, Deeb will help grow the company's research-and-development team, expand the company's genomics research program and facilitate implementation of R&D activities into the company's commercial operations. He will also focus on utilizing genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and statistical tools to continue to improve the accuracy of estimated genomic breeding values and explore new technologies and their applications across beef, dairy and porcine animals. Deeb will be based at the corporate headquarters in Navasota, Texas.

