



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Warren Weibert, a 1969 graduate of Kansas State University (K-State), was honored Nov. 15 as the recipient of the 2013 K-State Animal Sciences & Industry Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is given to an outstanding K-State Animal Sciences & Industry alumnus each year.

These award winners are successful industry leaders who have been selected by the department faculty.

Weibert has served as president of the Kansas Livestock Association, president of CattleFax and chairman of the board for Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership (KARL).

Weibert grew up near Durham, Kan.,

working on his family's farm and cattle-feeding business.

Since 1977, Weibert and his wife, Carol, have operated Decatur County Feed Yard in northwest Kansas near Oberlin. Through the years it has grown from an 18,000- to a 40,000-head-capacity operation with 130 active ranch customers across the country.

Weibert said his goal is and always will

North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Nov. 23, Mandan

► **Right:** The North Dakota Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (seated, front row, from left) **Michael Nelson**, Cando; **Casey Maher**, Morris-town; **Matt Tastad**, Rolette; **Kathy Tokach**, Saint Anthony; **Terry Carter**, Rocklake, president; **Zachary Hall**, Bismarck; **Nathan Spickler**, Glenfield, secretary-treasurer; (standing, from left) **Dale Sprunk**, Chaffee; **Mike Wendel**, Carrington, vice president; **Peter Best**, Watford City, immediate past president; **Jory Hanson**, Carrington; **Joel Opp**, Hebron; and **Eric Bowman**, Rhome.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



► **Julie Ellingson** (right), Saint Anthony, receives the President's Award from Peter Best, North Dakota Angus Ass'n immediate past president.



► **Schmidt Angus Ranch**, Gladstone, received the Breeder of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Richard Jr. and Polly Schmidt.



► **Brian and Jennifer Amundson** and **Van and Pattie Amundson**, all of Jamestown, received the Commercial Breeder of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Brian and Jennifer Amundson.

► **Right:** **Jack Reich**, Zap, was posthumously awarded the Man of the Year honor. Accepting the award is Jack's wife, Mardee Reich.



► **Left:** The **North Dakota Angus Ass'n** received the Lifetime Angus Patron Award at the 2013 Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event hosted in conjunction with the 2013 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Nov. 16 in Louisville, Ky. Pictured accepting the award at the 2013 North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet are David and Betty Petry, Minot, N.D.

be to work for the producer and to help cow-calf operations improve their long-term profitability and gain more control over their cattle's performance.

He said that it is strong communication that allows his feedyard to be efficient and successful, but the automation and electronics used in the feedyard are what really sets it apart from the rest.

Weibert said he believes in the meaning behind "you cannot manage what you do not measure."

In 1994, they implemented an electronic cattle-management system that allows them to track each individual animal from the time it arrives at the feedyard until it goes through the packing plant.

An electronic ear tag is attached to the animal at the time of arrival at the feedyard. This ear tag helps match data to the correct animal and documents it automatically in their system.

Each animal is also individually measured using ultrasound, video imaging and electronic scales to determine back fat, frame score, weight and projected feed efficiency.

When the cattle are ready for market, they are then sorted by the system according to their optimum finish dates.

Cattle are sorted into market groups where they are valued individually according to a value-based grid. This allows producers to be paid based on the value of their beef, not the commodity price set by the market.

After cattle are sold, individual animal reports are sent to the producers. The data included in the report reflects the merit of each animal — including the dollar value, feed efficiency, quality grade and more — listed from highest to lowest net return. Producers can see exactly what characteristics, costs and gains were attributed to every animal to better understand why certain animals were more profitable than others.

With this information, ranchers can improve their herd and begin genetic improvement to create a better control over their future revenues.

Decatur County Feed Yard has been an associate member of the American Angus Association since 1988.

■ Oregon Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Oct. 26, Mandan



► Oregon Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Dick Hubman**, Medford, president; **Jon England**, Powell Butte, vice president; **Tara England**, Powell Butte, secretary-treasurer; (standing, from left) **Katie Bartholomew**, Bend; **Wendy Tupper**, Yamhill; **Robert Buchanan**, Klamath Falls; **Terry McCoy**, La Grande; **Dianne Read**, Culver; **Lindsey Morgan-Ricksger**, Canby; and **Buckley Cox**, Eagle Point.



► Above: **Terry and Sandy McCoy**, La Grande, donated the heifer that was purchased for \$10,000, with the proceeds being given to the Oregon Jr. Angus Ass'n. Pictured are Oregon Jr. Angus Ass'n members; **Sandy McCoy**; **Dick Hubman**, Oregon Angus Ass'n president; and **Terry McCoy**.



► Left: **Sandy McCoy** (left) and **Terry McCoy** (right), La Grande, receive a thank-you card from Oregon Jr. Angus Ass'n President **Lauren Martin** (center) for their donation heifer and for being junior advisors.

Gleonda Farms, Miller, Mo., has been honored with the Historic Angus Herd Award.

Leon Kleeman got his start in the Angus business at 8 years old when his dad, Bert Kleeman, gave him a bucket calf out of an Angus-cross milk cow. He later sold that calf to purchase a show steer, which began his lifelong love of the showing.

In the mid- to late 1950s, Kleeman started buying registered-Angus heifers for his herd. The initial purchase was from John and Cecilia Eck of Pierce City, Mo.

Kleeman's reputation for quality cattle quickly spread throughout the Ozarks. In 1961, when he was 20 years old, he exhibited both the champion bull and female at the Ozark Empire Fair Junior Show in Springfield, Mo. Both animals were sired by an Earl Marshall son. Also that year, Kleeman was honored with a Missouri State 4-H Proficiency Award and won a trip to Chicago, Ill.

Throughout the years, Kleeman has worked for many cattle operations, including the Equen Plantation, Minter, Miss., and Blue Sky Farm, Kearney, Mo. He became known for a keen eye fitting cattle, and while with Equen he fitted for the Texas circuit, where they showed the champion female and reserve champion bull, Equenmere 1406, owned in partnership with the famous actor Fred MacMurray.

Gleonda Farms hosted its first production sale in 1972. Managers J.B. McCorkle and Tom Burke made sure the day was a success, and cattle legends Ray Simms and Harold Henry served as auctioneers.

To continue efforts to expand and improve the herd, in 1973 Kleeman purchased 96 Wye-bred females from M.Q. Farms, Hastings, Neb. He was also a pioneer in carcass data collection, and in 1994 harvested a pen of 44 Angus steers that graded 96% Choice, with 67% qualifying for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand.

Kleeman and his wife, Glenda, raised two daughters on the farm, Gina and Lana, who both showed steers and heifers during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Gina showed the overall champion steer at the 1983 Ozark Empire Fair, and Lana raised the most profitable pen of steers in the 1982 Southwest Missouri Feedout.

In 2011, Leon and Glenda received the Missouri Angus Association Pioneer Award for their years of dedicated effort to the Angus breed. Today, Gleonda Farms is home to about 300 head and continues to sell 50-60 registered-Angus bulls each year.

Kleeman has been a life member of the

American Angus Association since 1961.

The Association presents the Historic Angus Herd Award to Angus breeders or immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered-Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Sulphur Valley Angus Farm, Fayetteville, Ark., has been awarded the Historic Angus Herd Award by the American Angus Association.

Robert Tunstill founded the herd in November 1960 with the purchase of three bred Angus heifers. For \$160 each, he brought them home from the herd of the late Keith Shafner, Fayetteville, Ark.

Throughout the years, the herd was built by one or two Angus heifers at a time, purchased either from state association-sponsored sales or breeder sales. The Sulphur Valley Angus Farm adopted artificial insemination (AI) 30 years ago and saw herd genetics improve greatly by using proven multi-trait sires. Tunstill also actively records calving weights through Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR[®]).

Together with his son, Daniel, Tunstill continues to manage the herd today. The Sulphur Valley Angus Farm now consists of 25 head of Angus cattle.

Tunstill has been a member of the Association since 1962.

Carrie Horsley began her duties as director of marketing and public relations for the Angus Foundation Jan. 1, 2014.

Originally from Galva, Ill., she grew up on her family's farm raising corn, soybeans and beef cattle. Horsley attended Oklahoma State University (OSU), where she received a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications with minors in agricultural economics and agribusiness in December 2013.

While at OSU, Horsley was on the dean's honor roll and a member of Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Society. Prior to attending OSU, Horsley received an associate's degree in science from Black Hawk College in Illinois, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Agribusiness Club.

Horsley served as the American Angus Association events, activities and education intern during the summer of 2013. She also interned for KOSU radio station in Stillwater, Okla., where she conducted interviews, wrote news wraps, and edited and recorded feature stories.

Flinton McCabe, Elk City, Kan., was part of the eighth graduating class of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Young Stockmen's Academy (YSA) Dec. 6, 2013, at the close of the KLA Convention. Merck Animal Health partnered with KLA to host 20 members for a series of four seminars throughout 2013.

Attending the KLA Convention was the final session for the class. The three-day event provided participants the opportunity to gain additional industry knowledge and interact with other KLA members from across the state.

Immediately prior to the convention, YSA class members received their Master of Beef Advocacy degrees, following an in-depth spokesperson training session with National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Senior Executive Director of Communications Daren Williams.

During the first session in Topeka, Kan., last February, attendees were exposed to advocacy training, the legislative process and services provided by KLA and NCBA. The second installment took the group to Kansas City in May, where it learned about the agribusiness and retail beef industries. YSA members went to western Kansas in October to tour beef and dairy operations representing various segments of each industry.

KLA is a trade organization representing the business interests of members at both the state and federal levels.

MCCabe was a member of the National

Junior Angus Association, and has been a regular member of the American Angus Association since 2007.

IN PASSING

Elsie Covey, 83, Snohomish, Wash., died Dec. 23, 2013, at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, Wash., surrounded by her loving family.



Elsie Covey

Elsie was born May 20, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pa., to Albert and Elsie Drager.

At the time of her death, Elsie was a member of the American Angus Association and the Western States Angus

Association, serving the latter for decades in many leadership capacities. She was also the Washington State Angus Auxiliary treasurer at the time of her death.

Elsie was the first female president of the Snohomish County Cattlemen's Association. Elsie and her late husband Jim's Alderhurst Farm is in the Western Washington Angus Breeders' Hall of Fame, and, in 2006, she and Jim were honored when the Western National Angus Futurity in Reno, Nev., was dedicated in their honor.

Elsie held many offices in the Angus world, including serving as a director, first vice president and committee member of the Western States Angus Breeders Association. She also served for decades in

the Washington State Angus Auxiliary.

In 2007, she was honored to judge the Miss American Angus pageant, and was often voted either a delegate or alternate delegate to attend the American Angus Association annual convention on behalf of western Angus cattle breeders.

Elsie and Jim bought their first Angus cattle in 1970, and Elsie continued managing and making the breeding decisions for her herd up to the very last day of her life, talking with her daughter Holly about plans for show heifers in 2014.

Her favorite cow was the great Miss Supreme Pine 8405, "Piney," the 1985 Cow Palace grand champion and 1991 American Angus Association Embryo Dam of the Year, producer of 14 Roll of Victory (ROV) award winners, many national champion heifers and high-selling bulls, and the most famous icon of the Alderhurst Farm breeding program.

Elsie was among the first cattle herdsmen in Washington to utilize embryo transplant technology to improve her herd, and she delighted in studying breeding and genetics, researching pedigrees and keeping herd statistics.

After Jim's death in 2010, Elsie continued the herd with the assistance of Tom and Darci Toth of Munks Farm, Anacortes, Wash. Her granddaughter Cassandra Garcia, 16, is also involved with Angus cattle, showing and breeding her own junior herd and keeping the Alderhurst Farm legacy going.

Elsie was social and involved her entire life with helping people, supporting her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Elsie is survived by daughters Hope and Holly; sons Jon and Todd; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one step-grandchild and her children.

Augusta (Sheen) Cattey, 90, of Brookfield, Mo., died from natural causes Jan. 1, 2014, at Heartland Regional Medical



Augusta Cattey

Center in Saint Joseph, Mo., after a fall earlier in the week.

She was born Aug. 11, 1923, south of Brookfield to Clarence and Theresa (Tillman) Sheen. She graduated from Brookfield High School. She began her career as a bookkeeper

for the former Brookfield Chickeries.

On June 11, 1954, she married Nelson Cattey in Brookfield. Together they owned and operated Cattey Feed & Seed until 1993. They also raised registered black Angus

cattle on their farm N&A Angus until 2003.

Augusta was a lifelong member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Brookfield. She was active with her family in county 4-H activities where she was the Happy-Go-Lucky club leader. She was active in county fairs and state fairs. In the fall of 2005, she and Nelson were inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame. She was a member of the Missouri Angus Association; a former member of the Missouri Cow Bells; a life member of the American Angus Association since 1969; Gamma Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Social Sorority and the Catholic Units Bridge Club.

Augusta was an amazing mother, grandmother and mother-in-law. She greatly enjoyed feeding those around her table with the produce from her garden. She remained independent and enjoyed discussing current events with those she visited.

Augusta is survived by son James; daughter Doris; brothers Edwin and John; sister JoAnn; grandsons Samuel, Aaron and Arthur; and numerous extended family members.

▣ INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Doug Meyer, Harrisonville, Mo., has been hired by Rabo AgriFinance as relationship manager at its new office in Kansas City, Mo. Meyer will provide additional financial expertise to the regional team of Rabo AgriFinance experts. He joins the team as part of the company's network of relationship managers, crop insurance and risk management specialists who understand the unique needs of Missouri ag.

Brittany Plachecki, Kansas City Art Institute, was selected the winner of the

second annual National Ag Day Poster Art Contest. The contest theme was Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed. Entries were screened by a nine-member jury and finalists were judged through online voting to determine the winner.

Plachecki's artwork and a profile will be prominently featured in *Successful Farming* magazine and Ag Day correspondences. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Meredith AgriMedia. The artist will receive a portion of the proceeds from limited-edition prints.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA), a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agriculture, food and fiber community, dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in a modern society.

Dan Hoge, ag professor and livestock-judging coach at Black Hawk College East Campus will be inducted into the Black Hawk College East Foundation's Wall of Fame at a special ceremony April 4. To recognize Hoge's 43-year impact on the livestock-judging program, the Foundation is establishing an endowed scholarship in his name that will provide financial assistance to livestock-judging students.

Graeme Macdonald became CEO of JCB Jan. 1, upon the retirement of **Alan Blake**, who had almost 25 years of service to the company.



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.



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