



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Mike Henderson, Henderson Farms, Wellsville, Mo., was elected to serve Region 2 as one of seven regional vice presidents for the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) at the annual Missouri Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show Jan. 2-4 in Osage Beach. Henderson has been a member of the American Angus Association since 2004.

Eddie Sydenstricker of Mexico, Mo., received the 2014 MCA Allied Industry Award. Sydenstricker is owner of Sydenstricker Genetics (SydGen) in Mexico and Sydenstricker John Deere, which has 10 locations in the state.

Sydenstricker became active showing cattle in 4-H and FFA at a young age. He was involved in forming the very first junior Angus association in the United States, when, in 1956, the Missouri Junior Angus Association was organized at Monroe City, Mo. Sydenstricker served as its first president.

Eddie's father, Ralph Sydenstricker, established Sydenstricker Angus Farms in 1952 at Paris, Mo. Sydenstrickers have been producers of registered-Angus seedstock since that time. The name of the operation changed to Sydenstricker Genetics in 2001.

Sydenstricker is also a member of MCA's President's Council, which is composed of allied industry and other supporters who invest \$1,000 annually to ensure the association has the resources to educate and advocate, according to MCA President Janet Akers.

Sydenstricker Genetics has been a life

member of the American Angus Association since 1961.

IN PASSING

Everette "Doc" Robinson, 94, Lone Jack, Mo., died Jan. 7 surrounded by his family.

He was born in Phoenix, Ariz., the son of Everette Sr. and Lula Robinson. He married Letha Tromerhouser in 1942, then served in the U.S. Navy in WWII.

Upon his return he achieved his veterinary degree from the University of Iowa and bought a farm south of Lee's Summit, Mo., in 1952, where he established his business for the next 50-plus years. Doc had a small-animal practice, but specialized in horses due to his longtime love of the animal, especially American Saddlebreds.

He and Letha also had a horse-breeding operation on their farm along with a string of show horses, which led to many years of travel for the business and for their pleasure. In later years, along with the family, they expanded into registered black Angus cattle. Doc had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1974.

In their years of retirement, Doc and Letha loved and enjoyed their family, dining out, and most of all the weekly Big Creek Country Music Show.

Doc received many awards and more accomplishments than can be listed, but he was not one to point them out. He was simply a hard worker, an honest person and a family man. He will be missed.

Doc is survived by son Randy; daughter Leah; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, with another on the way.

Robert "Bob" Dal Porto Sr., 89,

Discovery Bay, Calif., died Jan. 8 at his home.

Born in Stockton, Calif., March 26, 1925, to Anthony and Edith Dal Porto, Bob was raised in Oakley and graduated from Liberty High School in 1942 as valedictorian. While attending the University of California at Berkeley (UC-Berkeley), Bob took time off to volunteer for the Navy Air Corps, serving as a Marine pilot in WWII. He holds the record for athletic and academic performance at the St. Mary's Navy Preflight School. In 1946, Bob returned to Berkeley, where he lettered in track and football. He was a member of the 1949 Rose Bowl team under coach Pappy Waldorf, and was still an active member of "Pappy's Boys." Bob graduated from UC-Berkeley in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Bob married Norma Herringer of Rio Vista, Calif., in 1947. They raised four children in Oakley. He was an East County rancher and farmer until 1980, and then worked as an engineer for Chevron in Colorado. Bob served on the Oakley Unified School District Board and the Contra Costa County Fair Board, held various positions in the Cattlemen's Association, and was a past president of the Brentwood Lions Club. He was an inductee to the Liberty High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. Bob was an avid hunter and sportsman all his life and loved to travel. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1969.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Earline (Chapman) Dal Porto; brother Don; sons Steve, David and Robert Jr.; stepchildren Vickie Del Colletti, Dennis Chapman, and Denise McClune; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Henry Gardiner, 83, Ashland, Kan., died Jan. 21 at Ashland Care Center with his family by his side.

The Henry Clay Gardiner family homesteaded in Clark County, Kan., in 1885. Ralph Gardiner, Henry's father, was born in a sod dugout southwest of Ashland in 1889. The family lost their original homestead of 160 acres in 1894. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the family again lost the majority of the ranch when they could not make payment for the land after a wheat crop was hailed out just prior to foreclosure.



► **Megan and Galen Fink**, Randolph, Kan., and **Anna Lemmon**, Manhattan, Kan., are shown with several Mexican cattlemen representing Red Angus, Angus and Charolais breeders as well as Expo officials at the recent Valle de Guadalupe, Jalisco, Mexico, cattle show in early January. Megan judged the showmanship contest and Galen judged the cattle show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI FINK

Each time the family was challenged, it regrouped to start again.

Ralph did not marry until he was 41 years of age when he met a school teacher, Muriel Small. Muriel had moved to Englewood, Kan., as a young girl. To this union two children were born, Henry and Helen.

Henry was born Sept. 14, 1931, in Ashland. He grew up on his parent's farm where one of his earliest achievements was learning how to milk the family cow. Soon after, it also became his job to gather eggs and feed hogs. Henry often told about those chores and remembered that he did not enjoy them much. At age 9, he began to drive his father's Caterpillar tractor, pulling a 24-foot combine during the summer harvest of 1941. Henry often noted that the tractor would start running 30 minutes later than it should — while he milked the cows. He also reminded everyone that after he became the boss "we no longer milked cows." Henry graduated from Ashland High School in 1949.

With an early dislike of even small-town dairying, Henry turned to raising beef as soon as he could. In January 1947 he showed a home-raised Angus steer as the reserve champion Angus steer at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver. The steer was brought home and shown again the following September at the Kansas State Fair, earning grand champion honors. One of the prizes for the champion steer was a \$100 credit from the Kansas Angus Association (KAA) to be applied to the purchase of a registered-Angus heifer. Henry purchased two Angus heifers, launching Gardiner Angus Ranch's genetics business.

Mary Nan Arnold came to Ashland in 1955 to teach vocal music to grades 1-8. She also gave private piano lessons to any children whose parents wanted them to learn piano. A mutual friend, Pauline Baker, introduced Nan and Henry in Ashcraft's Drug Store. They married May 29, 1957.

Gardiner Angus Ranch, started by Ralph and enhanced by Henry, is currently operated by the fourth and fifth generations of the Gardiner family. Cattle have been the principal business of the Gardiner family since the ranch's inception in 1885.

Henry graduated from Kansas State University (K-State) in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. While attending K-State, he learned the basic principles of animal breeding and selection, including how to artificially inseminate (AI) cattle. At the time AI was a new technology. Early adoption of emerging technologies became a lifelong pattern and a way of life for Henry. His vision and courage shaped the future of Gardiner Angus Ranch. That lifelong passion included a determination to

Geppert hired as regional manager for Northern Plains

Rod Geppert, Fort Pierre, S.D., is the new regional manager for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Geppert began his role Feb. 2 and brings more than 20 years of experience in the beef cattle business.

A native of South Dakota, Geppert looks forward to getting to know Association members and their customers, helping them market their cattle and grow into the future.

"I've been a cattleman all my life, and with prices like we are seeing today, there's no better time to be in the cattle business and no better organization than the American Angus Association," Geppert says.

As a regional manager, Geppert will represent the Angus breed at various cattle events, sales, shows and other activities throughout the territory. Breeders are encouraged to ask him questions about Association programs and services, or for help locating Angus seedstock. He can also advise producers on marketing opportunities available through the Association, including advertising through the *Angus Journal*, *Angus Beef Bulletin* and other multimedia avenues.

Geppert holds a bachelor's degree in ag extension with a minor in animal science from South Dakota State University. Throughout his career, he has been involved in several aspects of the cattle business — from ranch management to extension and education, as well as being a respected livestock judge and coach for 4-H youth in the state. Geppert has served as a livestock educator in his region and as the 4-H youth livestock leader and show manager for the state for many years. He was a coordinator for the South Dakota State Fair.

Most recently, he was a farm and ranch manager for Farmers National Co., where he was responsible for managing 45-plus farms and ranches in South Dakota. He was also an associate real-estate broker specializing in farms and ranches.

Geppert has been involved with his family's operation, RGSC Geppert Cattle, for many years.

"With bull sale season on the horizon, I can't wait to hit the ground running and start traveling throughout the territory," Geppert says.

Contact him at rgeppert@angus.org or 605-295-3673 for assistance locating Angus seedstock, marketing cattle or for advice on Association programs and services.



Rod Geppert

make the beef industry better for commercial cattlemen and for consumers. Henry's passion was marked by a diligence and dedication to the industry that is seldom seen in any business.

Following graduation from K-State, Henry was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent the next several years stationed in Augusta, Ga., and overseas in Germany, where he served as a radio repairman. He specifically enjoyed his leave days when he could venture out and look at Angus cattle.

Henry incorporated techniques to maximize genetic improvement of the herd, including AI, as a standard ranch practice in the mid-1950s. AI became the ranch's only method of breeding cows beginning in 1964. No cleanup bulls have been used to breed cows at Gardiner Angus Ranch since that time. Even though he was using the so-called "best bulls of the Angus breed" for sire selection, from 1964 to 1980 the average weaning weight of steer calves on the ranch improved very little. All that changed in the fall of 1980, when the American Angus Association's first *Sire Evaluation Report* was published.

Henry was one of the very first to realize that accurate expected progeny differences (EPDs) determined by the American Angus

Association were the key to genetic improvement. From that day forward he dictated that the Gardiner Angus Ranch breeding program would be based on a total AI breeding program using only proven Angus sires with high-accuracy EPDs.

This simple, yet effective use of the best breeding information in the industry allowed the ranch to thrive for the past 35 years. Gardiner Angus Ranch grew from a break-even business selling 52 bulls in 1980 to the second-largest purebred Angus herd in America, selling more than 2,300 bulls and 1,000 females annually.

Henry offered Gardiner Angus Ranch as a cooperative research facility to many universities. Cooperative research has been conducted on the ranch by scientists from K-State, Auburn, Colorado State, the University of Illinois, Oklahoma State, and Virginia Tech. Research performed on the ranch has ranged from measuring the serving capacity of bulls (libido) to refining estrus synchronization, AI and embryo transfer (ET) systems for beef cattle.

In 1987 Gardiner Angus Ranch began using ET to enhance the genetic improvement program. In the beginning the use of ET was modest. Today, nearly 3,000

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embryos are transferred to recipient cows on the home ranch or in cooperator recipient herds located in Australia, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Georgia, Texas and Virginia.

Under Henry's guidance, in 1996, Gardiner Angus Ranch became a founding member of U.S. Premium Beef (USPB), a producer-owned cooperative that secured controlling interest in the fourth-largest beef packing company and installed a value-based marketing program that has returned more than \$325 million in premiums to its members. USPB embodied Henry's belief that the future success of the beef industry depended on a true value-based marketing system that rewarded quality, instead of the "one price fits all" commodity system that had plagued the beef industry for decades.

Henry Gardiner was an industry leader and was awarded many accolades from his industry peers. A few of his industry accomplishments include the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Outstanding Commercial Producer of the Year (1981),

Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year (1987) and Pioneer Award (1997). He is the only person in BIF history to be honored for both commercial and seedstock awards.

He was K-State's Stockman of the Year in 1990; received the National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) 1998 Cattle Business of the Century Award; the 2004 Beef Industry Vision Award; the 2002 Kansas Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award; and the 2004 Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Commitment to Excellence Award.

He was honored by the K-State Livestock and Meat Industry Council as a founder and board member; he was a member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors, 1977-1983; he received the 2004 Livestock Publications Council Headliner Award; was inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame; and, in 2002, was named a KAA Honorary Member. Henry had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1950.

In 2007, Henry and Nan were inducted into the National Junior Angus Association

Honorary Foundation. In 2008, Henry was named the *Record Stockman* "Man of the Year." He has written numerous papers and presented talks in 35 states and three foreign countries. Gardiner Angus Ranch has hosted producers and tour groups from nearly every state in the union, and many countries around the world. Henry never met a fellow beef producer that he wouldn't spend countless hours helping.

Henry instilled in his family the will to achieve their goals. He challenged and encouraged an entire industry to improve beef products that consumers demand. Henry was quick to adopt new technology and attempted to educate others how they could do the same to improve their profitability.

Henry's greatest achievement was his vision for the Gardiner family. He was a father, a mentor, a friend, and a boss. He mandated that they stand united as a family and a business. He grew the business to support nine families. He left a legacy to improve the land, the cattle and the industry, but, most importantly, to pass on the ability to love the family and the industry the way he had done throughout his life.

Henry gave us all the example of a life well-lived, giving the best he had every day. He was a man shaped by his environment, yet everyone around him was influenced by his strong perseverance and determination. He was a rugged man who believed in the land and sank his roots deep into it. His capacity for work was legend. This capacity was not achieved so much from great physical strength, but from a mental determination. He responded to many a challenge in life with the attitude "We can do this! So let's get to doing!" He had a love and compassion for his fellow man that was unique. He had a passionate love for Ashland and the history of the Great Plains. He loved the land, the cattle, and the people of Clark County, Kan., the United States and the world. He loved his family even more.

Henry is survived by his loving wife, Nan; sons Greg, Mark and Garth; sister Helen; and nine grandchildren.

Sam Wagner, 80, Harlan, Kan., died Jan. 25 at the Smith County Long Term Care facility in Smith Center, Kan.

He was born Jan. 29, 1934, in Beloit, Kan., to Oral and Mary (Amis) Wagner. He was a pharmacist. Sam served as the president of the Kansas Angus Association (KAA) in 1971 and the Sam Wagner Family was named a

Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 24, Athens



► Georgia Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Carolyn Gazda**, Athens, director; **Christy Page**, Jefferson, executive secretary; **Smitty Lamb**, Tifton, president; **Douglas Williams**, Milan, vice president; **Phil Page**, Jefferson; and **Larry Bramblett**, Elberton; (standing, from left) **John Lovin Jr.** and **Alan Bridges**, both of Lexington; **Andrew McPeake**, Arnoldsville; **Todd Alford**, Bowman; **Melvin Porter**, Jefferson; **Mike Jones**, West Point; and **Mike McCravy**, Bowdon.



► **Mike and Christy McCravy**, MM Cattle Co., Bowdon, receive the Family of the Year award.



► **Smitty Lamb** (right), Tifton, receives a president recognition plaque from **Doug Williams** (left), Georgia Angus Ass'n vice president.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

KAA honorary member in 1996. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1959.

Sam is survived by wife Gyra; son John; daughter Mary; brother Paul; and two grandchildren.

Robert “Bob” Neal Perry, 82, Bethel, Mo., died Jan. 25.

Bob was born on July 25, 1932, the youngest of three children to Eunice Belle McDuffee and Joseph Benjamin Perry. His mother passed away in 1934 when he was 2 years old. His father married Alta Collett, with whom he had three more children. Together they raised their six kids on the family farm near Leonard, Mo.

Bob graduated from Clarence High School in 1950 and the University of Missouri–Columbia (MU) in 1954 with a bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry. He was an Air Force ROTC cadet during college and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for active duty from Aug. 16, 1954, to Aug. 15, 1957, with an honorable discharge accumulating more than 3,000 flight hours as a pilot. He then served in the Selective Service until Oct. 18, 1967, when he retired as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

United in marriage to Kathleen Moore on June 15, 1957, they raised four children on the family farm near Bethel. God continued to bless the family with 15 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

R.N., as he was known in the swine industry, discovered his passion for raising purebred hogs with his brother John Perry during their high school FFA experience. After participating on the livestock judging team while attending MU, he went on to build a reputable career of raising Duroc hogs, judging livestock shows in 30 states; hosting countless judging team workouts at the farm for 4-H, FFA and collegiate teams; and mentoring many young producers in the livestock industry. He was honored with numerous industry awards, including the American Farmer degree, National Pork All American, Missouri Pork Producers Master Seed Stock Producer, Livestock Leadership Award, and Missouri Livestock Symposium Person of the Year.

After Bob and Kathleen were married, they moved to her family farm north of Bethel, which already had strong roots in the building of an Angus cattle herd that traces back to 1922. They continued nourishing those strong roots by building a family business built on integrity and performance, earning Bob the NEMO Beef Cattle Improvement Association’s Outstanding

Seedstock Producer and the Missouri Angus Pioneer Award. This longstanding heritage was honored by being certified a Historic Angus Herd.

Community leadership was a role Bob took seriously by investing his time and serving from 1964-1982 on the North Shelby School Board of Education and as deacon, elder and chairman of the board at the Bethel Christian Church. He served for more than 50 years with the Masonic Lodge, and was a Farm Bureau member.

An avid sports fan and competitor, Bob was never more happy than when he was watching a Mizzou Tigers game or attending any of his children’s or grandchildren’s athletic activities.

During his time in the hospital, so many individuals took the time to share their memories of Bob with the family. He was described as a man of faith, compassion, honor and integrity. Wonderful stories were retold demonstrating his ability to serve as a mentor, a guardian, a protector and a role model. Engaging with so many, he was said to walk-the-walk of how to build relationships and treat other people. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend. He was a man his family loved dearly and will always strive to emulate in their journey of life.

The family would like to express a special thank you to Darrell Vanskike and all others who helped Bob and Kathleen on the farm through the years.

Bob is survived by wife Kathleen; sons James, Lindall and Robert Michael; daughter Eunice; brothers John and George; sister Carol; 15 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Meredith Bremer has been appointed extension educator for beef systems for the northern Panhandle. She began her duties Jan. 5 based at the Nebraska Extension Office in Rushville, Neb. Bremer will design, develop, deliver and evaluate programs for statewide extension education programs in beef systems. She will work in a multidisciplinary team of extension professionals and other partners.

Rob Kallenbach, University of Missouri (MU) forage specialist, received the Excellence in Extension Award at the 2014 meeting of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The award, from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension

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System, goes to an extension professional showing visionary leadership and programming impact.

Michael Koenig, team lead of ScoutPro, Lone Tree, Iowa, was named the Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) 96th annual convention and IDEAg Trade Show. Four finalists competed for the award by pitching their business ideas to a team of judges before a live audience. Koenig received a total of \$30,000 in prize money to implement his business idea, software to assist farmers with crop maintenance.

Paul Grieve, team lead of Pasturebird LLC, Temecula, Calif., won the People's Choice Award and \$10,000 in prize money. Members of the live audience and members of the general public voted online to select the People's Choice winner. Pasturebird is a cost-effective method of producing pastured poultry on a large scale.

Sherry Saylor, Ariz., was elected to a two-year term as chair of the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

Isabella Chism of Indiana was elected for a two-year term as vice chair. **Lorenda Overman** of North Carolina and **Carol Guthrie** of Idaho were elected to two-year terms on the committee. **Deb Walsh** of Indiana was nominated to fill a one-year term. **Marieta Hauser** of Kansas and **Debbi Tanner** of Connecticut were re-elected to two-year terms on the committee.

Charles "Butch" Taylor has received the Society for Range Management's W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award for "exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range management to specific rangeland entities and to wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands." Taylor has been the superintendent of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station at Sonora since 1983.

Ann Parker has been promoted by HighQuest Group to event director for the Oilseed & Grain Trade Summit to enhance the company's abilities to provide a full spectrum of event and media services across the agriculture, food and commodities industries.

Daniel Donnelly has been hired as beef business manager for Minnesota Select Sires Co-op Inc. In this role, he will oversee beef sales, service programs and products, as well as grow and develop beef programs in

Minnesota and North Dakota. He will recruit and direct independent beef representatives and conduct AI training programs.

Chelsey Johnson has joined Accelerated Genetics as the digital communications coordinator, based out of the administrative headquarters in Baraboo, Wis. She will be responsible for the company websites, video production and all digital communications.

Jeremy Schaefer, Hinckley, Ohio, has been hired as a strategic account specialist. In this role he will work with the sales teams in the eastern U.S. assisting them in acquiring large herd business, as well as providing sales training and coaching.

Michael Gehin has joined the Accelerated Genetics sales team in the newly developed dairy product manager role. He will be responsible for managing dairy inventory, sorted semen scheduling, coordinating bull movements and assembling large herd bids.

Bruce Anderson has joined the Accelerated Genetics sales team as a district sales representative. He will operate a route sales truck throughout central Minnesota.

Mark Holmen has been hired as a beef specialist/district sales representative. He will focus on growing beef market share in his region. In addition, he will coordinate and assist with customer meetings, breeding projects, beef sales strategies and promotional efforts, and will also work with salespeople in growing sales with existing customers.

Tara Mayer and **Elizabeth Loncki** have been hired as accounting clerks in the Finance Department at Accelerated Genetics. Their primary duties will include entering field tickets, communicating with customers and employees, assisting with payments, and coordinating the AI Beef Certificate process.

James Riva has been named vice president of global alliances for Where Food Comes From Inc. (dba IMI Global Inc.). Riva was formerly a USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) executive.

Tim Eyrich has been named the director of business development for Agri-Trend Inc.'s new Agri-Knowledge Division. In his new role, Eyrich will enhance the company's training, research and grower support services as well as facilitate technology integration from industry to farm level.



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.