



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Jack Ward has been named interim executive vice president of the American Hereford Association (AHA), following the resignation of Craig Huffhines. As the interim executive vice president, Ward will lead, direct, manage or support all functions of the Association, including serving as the Association secretary.

Ward has served as AHA chief operating

officer and director of breed improvement since 2003. His leadership has increased interest and participation in the Association's National Reference Sire Program (NSRP). He was instrumental in AHA's development of genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs) and other breed improvement strategies such as the newly released udder EPDs.

Along with his solid background in

Association work, Ward has real-world seedstock experience, spending 16 years managing several predominant seedstock operations, most recently as managing partner of Maple Lane Angus.

Ward is recognized throughout the industry for his ability to effectively communicate and educate. He has traveled across the United States and overseas to lead educational forums. Ward is currently

Virginia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Feb. 7, Staunton

► The officers and directors for the Virginia Angus Ass'n are (seated, front row, from left) **Virginia Coleman**, Scottsville, secretary; **Kymberly Coffman**, McGaheysville; **Glenn Covington**, Orlean, president; **Craig Miller**, Harrisonburg; **Scott Buchanan**, Aldie, treasurer; (standing, from left) **Jon Repair**, Glasgow, president-elect; **Jerry Hall**, Upperville; **Dalton Bennett**, Red House; **Jason Thurman**, Rocky Mount; **Steve Jones**, Culpeper; and **Peter Henderson**, Williamsburg.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



► **Buddy Shelton** (right), Shelton Angus Farm, Gretna, receives the Cattleman of the Year award from George Winn.



► **Maxey Farms**, Chatham, was presented with the Commercial Producer of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Hank, Debbie, Henry and Linda Maxey; and Buddy Shelton, presenting the award.



► **Steve Furrow** (right), Lazy Acres Angus, Rocky Mount, receives the Promoter of the Year award from Steve Jones.



► **The McCall family**, Greenville, received the Family of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Zachary and Sarah McCall; and Scott Buchanan, presenting the award.



► **Steve Jones** (right), Pine Hill Farm, Forest, receives the Bartenslager Award from Peter Henderson.



► **David Gum** and **Trey Gum**, Woodside Farms, Clear Brook, were named winners of the Vanguard Award. Pictured are (from left) Tim Douglas, Jason Arehart and Richard McClung, accepting the award on behalf of David and Trey.

serving on the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board of directors and the Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UGC).

He graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and has an associate degree from Black Hawk East College. Ward and his wife, Mary Ann, have two college-age sons, Cameron and Carter, who have been active in the National Junior Angus Association. The family resides in Plattsburg, Mo.

IN PASSING

Vernon Hall, 78, of Delaware, Ohio, died Dec. 2, 2014, in Columbus, Ohio.

He was born Jan. 25, 1936, in Iuka, Ill., son of Roy and Mamie (Wilkens) Hall. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany from 1959-1961. He married

Wanda Pierce May 30, 1962, in Greenville, Tenn.

Vernon served his country faithfully for 32 years as a civilian employee supporting several federal agencies throughout the country, including a 22-year career with the U.S. Air Force stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Vernon was an avid stockman, raising and showing livestock throughout his lifetime. For the last 30 years he raised and showed registered-Angus cattle. He was a member of and served in numerous officer positions in the Miami Valley Angus Association and the Ohio Angus Association. He had been a member of the American Angus Association since 1981. Vernon and Wanda made many lifelong friends throughout the country, promoting and enjoying the Angus breed.

In addition to his wife of 52 years, Vernon is survived by sons David and John; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

James "Jim" Danekas, 68, Wilton, Calif., died Feb 9 at the Sacramento Sutter Memorial Hospital after complications due



Jim Danekas

to a heart surgery associated with a heart condition with which he was born. He was surrounded by his wife, daughters, family members and close friends.

Jim was born in Watertown, S.D., in 1947 to Walter and

Valois "Frenchy" Danekas. He grew up in the farming community of Raymond, S.D., where he attended both grade school and high school. Jim graduated from Raymond High School as salutatorian in 1965. He was the oldest of five children with one brother and three sisters.

Through his years in Raymond he was very active on his family's farm, Blue Top Angus Farm. There he assisted with the family's Angus cattle and the various crops that they grew. As a member of the local 4-H, he raised and exhibited many market steers and breeding heifers, which resulted in many awards along the way. This background helped develop a strong passion for agriculture in his heart.

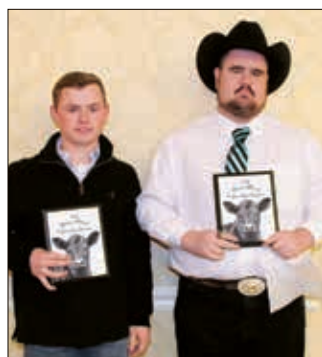
Jim left his hometown of Raymond to move to Brookings, S.D., to attend South Dakota State University (SDSU). There he was a member of the Farmhouse Fraternity and put his passion for cattle and the agricultural industry to use as manager of the Little International Livestock show hosted by SDSU. Upon graduation in 1969, he enlisted in the U.S. Army for which he was stationed in Alaska. Jim was discharged in 1972 and soon after accepted the title of manager of the Western States Angus Association, taking him to California.

This position helped him learn the ways of a livestock sales manager and auction ringman, which would be invaluable as he later started his own entity, James Danekas and Associates. Not long after moving to California, he met his bride through a cattle industry event. He and Sherry Houseworth were married July 29, 1978.

Working together, Jim and Sherry made James Danekas and Associates grow beyond just a sales management team with the incorporation of a publication division that grew by the year. They published the *California Cattlemen* magazine and *Angus, the Magazine*. Later they would move on



► **Virginia Junior Angus Ass'n (VJAA)** won the Sale Chairman of the Year award. Pictured are (from left) Robert Nixon III, Cody Boden, and Zachary McCall, accepting the award for VJAA; Chris Wojciechowski, presenting the award; and Helena St. Clair, Mikayla St. Clair and Catie Hope, accepting the award for VJAA.



► **Left: Robert Nixon III** (left), Rapidan, and **Dale Eastin** (right), Gretna, receive the Virginia Angus Ass'n Advisors Award.



► **Right: Jerry Crenshaw** (left), Upper-ville, receives the Hall of Merit Award from Kenneth Barnhart.



► **Robert Grove** (right), White Ridge Angus, Somerville, receives the Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year award from Juliana Benner.



► **Tom Silbersiepe** (right), Silbersiepen Farms, Catlett, receives the Handbook Dedication Award from Glenn Covington (left) and John Jenkins (center).

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from one publication to start another: *Western Cowman*.

Jim traveled all over the country, especially the western states, managing purebred cattle auctions and representing the publications at numerous events. The addition of yet another publication resulted in the three that are currently produced to this day, including *Western Cowman*, *Angus Icon* and *Wagyu World*. Jim worked with wife Sherry in the family business and in the last four years was joined by his youngest daughter, Mercedes.

Jim and his family also raised purebred-Angus cattle. These animals were exhibited and sold all over the country with much success. As an Angus breeder himself growing up, Jim has been involved in the cattle industry for more than 50 years, which led to some very strong ties, especially in the Angus community. He was a member of the National Western Club, served on the Livestock Publications Council (LPC) board, was a longtime member and director of the Western States Angus Association, was a life member of the American Angus Association

since 1956, and served on numerous boards and associations, all of which were associated with the cattle industry.

In the last few years Jim enjoyed watching his favorite baseball team, the San Francisco Giants, drinking Piña colodas, working nonstop and watching his Angus cows graze the pastures on his ranch in Wilton. He and Sherry, until recently, worked side by side at each and every venture that their lives brought to them, making for a successful and blissful 36 years of marriage. He will forever be remembered as a legend in the cattle industry, an honest friend, a hard worker, and a loving and devoted husband and father.

In addition to his wife, Jim is survived by daughters Danielle and Mercedes; his mother; brother Gene; sisters Janet, Judy and Ruth; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Thomas “Tom” Howard, 69, Poynette, Wis., died unexpectedly Saturday, Feb. 14,

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

►The 2015 Lee County Cattlemen’s Ass’n (LCCA) officers and directors are (front row, from left), **Billy Johnson**, 2014 past president; **Smokey Spears**; **Holli Thompson**; **Darcey Haggan**, secretary; **Don Mulvaney**, immediate past president and Alabama Cattlemen’s Ass’n (ACA) regional vice president; (back row, from left) **Mike McGuire**; **Ed Gullatt**; **Garth Bowman**, president 2015-2016; **James Caldwell**, first vice president; **Mitch Lazenby**; **John Harrell**; and **George Richburg**, second vice president. Not pictured are **Chance Armstrong**; **Sean Caanan**; **Mike Gardner**; **Hunter Price**; **Bruce Randall**; **Cook Sikes**; **Seth Taylor**; **Jack McConnell**; and **Carolyn McConnell**, treasurer.

►Right: The 2015 Lee County Cattlemen of the Year are **Mitch Lazenby** (left) and **John Harrell** (center). Lazenby and Harrell are pictured with Chris Langley, Alabama Cattlemen’s Ass’n regional vice president. The award recognizes individuals who actively further the LCCA’s business, purpose and mission. It recognizes a member who adopts progressive management practices in his or her own ranching business, demonstrates leadership and shares knowledge with others. The award can also be a member of the broader beef community who deserves recognition because of involvement to achieve the LCCA vision.



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while working with a newborn Angus calf, doing what he loved best.

Tom was born in Princeton, Ind., May 16, 1945, the son of Thomas and Margaret (Birmingham) Howard. He graduated from Princeton High School and went on to earn his undergraduate degree and a doctorate of veterinary medicine at Purdue University in 1969. After two years' residency

and internship, he moved to the Phoenix area where he had a large dairy herd health practice. In 1974, he became a resident veterinarian at American Breeders Service (ABS) in DeForest.

A year later he transferred to ABS Colorado and concurrently began graduate studies at Colorado State University. Tom met and married his wife of 38 years, Susan

Derbyshire, in Fort Collins, Colo., in 1976. He earned a doctoral degree in 1981 and returned to ABS DeForest.

In 1991, Tom left ABS and started his own consulting business as an internationally recognized expert in bovine reproduction. He also served as the Wisconsin state veterinarian and worked in biotechnology prior to his retirement in 2007. Tom was an active member of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association; he received the President's Award in 1996 and 2008, was named Veterinarian of the Year in 2008, and received a Meritorious Service Award in 2014. He also served as the organization's treasurer for many years, and worked tirelessly on several committees dedicated to improving food safety and quality, recently resulting in formation of the WVMA Food Armor program.

He enjoyed retired life where his days usually started and ended in his favorite place, at his home in rural Poynette with his family and the herd of Angus cows they have developed. His commitment to the Angus breed lives on in those cows and in the individuals that he mentored throughout the United States and abroad. He was a terrific father who took joy in watching his children succeed athletically, scholastically and professionally. His honesty, integrity, and above all, his generosity made him a friend valued by many people in his community and around the world. A close friend describes him as "a powerful but always quiet and unassuming source of wisdom and knowledge."

In addition to his wife, Tom is survived by daughter Ellen; son Scott; brother Steve; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jonathan Cory Watt, 22, Iva, S.C., died Feb. 19 after a prolonged battle with cancer, surrounded by friends and family who loved him dearly and found inspiration in his life.

Cory had graduated from Clemson University in December 2014, where he received a bachelor's degree in animal and veterinary science, with a focus on agriculture

business. He loved Angus cattle and was halfway through his term as chairman of the National Junior Angus Board of Directors.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Iva, the American Angus Association, the South Carolina Angus Association, the Clemson University Block &

Ohio Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 31, Springfield



►The Ohio Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Daniel Wells**, Chillicothe, secretary; **Allen Gahler**, Graytown, treasurer; **Tim Harsh**, Radnor, president; **Joseph Sanders**, Harrod, vice president; **Kelvin Egner**, Shelby, chairman of the board; (standing, from left) **Keith Kauffman**, Danville; **Brent English**, Elida; **Steve Crowe**, West Alexandria; **Todd Raines**, Seaman; **David Felumlee**, Newark; **Frederick Penick**, Hebron; **Kent Bauman**, Otway; **Jay Clutter**, Wapakoneta; **Derek Bankey**, Custar; **Sandra Wallace**, Kansas; **Chip Enos**, Cambridge; and **Paul Hill**, Bidwell.

►Right: **Gail and Robert Deitrick**, Zanesville, receive the Distinguished Service Award.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Springfield, Feb. 20



► **Alan Miller**, Gridley, received the grand champion bull and grand champion heifer awards. Pictured are (from left) Will Miller, Charlee Jones, Alan Miller, Adam Miller and Max Dameron.



► **Curtin Land & Cattle**, Blue Mound, received the J. Garrett Tolan Get-of-Sire Award. Pictured are (from left) Fred Curtin and T.J. Curtin, recipients; and Jerry Cassady, presenting the award.



► **Gary Dameron**, Lexington, receives the Illinois Jr. Angus Ass'n Honorary Award.

Bridle Club, the Clemson Shotgun Club and Clemson Ducks Unlimited.

Cory is survived by his parents, Jody and Rebecca Watt; sister Carly; grandparents Carl and Margaret Duffell; and grandmother Judi Watt.

The family asks that contributions in Cory's memory be made payable to the Angus Foundation, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506, to support the Cory Watt Memorial Endowment Fund.

Stephen "Steve" Sullivan, 63, Lucas, Iowa, died Feb. 22 after a farm accident.

Steve was born Jan. 10, 1951, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Mary (Cooney) Sullivan and Joe Sullivan. He graduated from Holy Trinity, Dowling High School, and received a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from Regis University in 1972. He met Nancy Lienemann on a blind date at the Iowa State Fair, and they chased cows, babies and grandbabies together for 41 years.



Steve Sullivan

Steve was a devoted Catholic husband to his wife, father to his children, and grandpa to his grandchildren. He spent nearly all of his time with his family, relieving tired young parents and assuring them that

every stage of parenthood would be more rewarding than the last. He supported their dreams as if they were his own with a contagious charisma, and in doing so has left a vivid legacy for those who hope to join him in heaven.



► **Cimeron and Rachel Frost**, Tallula, received the Stan Prox Memorial Award. Pictured are (from left) Kevin Rose, Illinois Angus Ass'n president, presenting; and Cimeron and Rachel Frost, recipients.



► **Schafer Stock Farm**, Owaneco, received the Troy Miller Memorial Award. Pictured are (from left) Lizzie Schafer and Eric Schafer.

He founded SJS Cattle Co. with Nancy and partnered with son Justin and his wife, Johna, to manage a cattle breeding operation in Lucas. SJS Cattle Co. has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1984.

He gained great joy in sharing the farm with family and friends. He was always good for a four-wheeler drive, saddling a horse, or splitting a garden wagon by hauling the grandkids up a hill with the lawn tractor.

In addition to his wife, Steve is survived by daughters Sarah and Sybil; sons Justin and Seth; 13 grandchildren, including a baby girl to be welcomed in May; and six devoted siblings.

IN THE NEWS

Hannah McCabe of Syracuse, N. Y., was honored at the recent national sales meeting of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica (BIVI) hosted in Atlanta, Ga. McCabe, who is a territory manager for the company in upstate New York, was the top sales person for Triangle® vaccine out of 74 area managers in the nation.

Also noted with the award was that McCabe had moved from Kansas and developed her area, selling more than 254,000 doses while being employed by the company only 18 months. McCabe is formerly from Elk City, Kan. She graduated from Fredonia High School, Butler Community College and Kansas State University.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Stephen Censky, American Soybean Association CEO, was named Agribusiness Leader of the Year by the St. Louis Agribusiness Club Feb. 10. The award has been presented since 1981 to a person who has made a substantial contribution to the well-being of agriculture in the St. Louis area, either on a local or national scale.

Mike Dubois, R&D Life Sciences vice president; **Matt Ramsey**, ADM Alliance Nutrition; and **Chris Hancock** of Elanco Animal Health have been elected to join the Liquid Feed Committee of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA).

Todd Stucke has been named vice president of sales, marketing and product support for Kubota Tractor Corp. In this expanded role, Stucke will take on responsibility for each of the company's product segments, including ag and turf equipment, utility vehicles and construction equipment. He will oversee their supporting operations, including responsibility for sales,

marketing, service, national accounts and dealer development.

Alex Woods has been promoted to vice president of divisional operations for Kubota, and **Dan Jones** has been promoted to vice president of human resources, legal and administration. In this newly created role, he will be assuming responsibility for the company's personnel, administration and legal functions and will maintain oversight of the company's risk management and compliance matters.

Chad Ellis, Noble Foundation pasture and range consultant, was honored as the 2015 Outstanding Young Range Professional by the Society of Range Management Association at its annual meeting in February. The award is presented to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range-management professional.

John Mitchell Jr., Treat America Food Services, was elected chairman of the American Royal Board of Governors at the organization's annual meeting Feb. 10. Other officers elected to the board were **Angie Stanland**, Cerner, chair-elect; **Allen Dillingham**, the Builders' Association, corporate secretary; **Charles Tetrick**, Walz Tetrick Advertising, treasurer; and **Mariner Kemper**, UMB, vice chair of the Agricultural Center Campaign.

Sarah Ryan has been named northwest associate regional manager for Allflex USA Inc. She will be based in Ellensburg, Wash., and her territory will be Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Dennis Hallford, the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Animal and Range Sciences interim department head, has received the annual Friend of Safety Award. The Friend of Safety distinction and award is given to an NMSU employee who has implemented safety programs or policies that have positively and significantly impacted their department or college and resulted in an improved safety culture overall.

Clint Lewis, Zoetis executive vice president and president of U.S. operations, has been named the 2015 Agribusiness Leader of the Year by the National Agri-Marketing Association. The award recognizes outstanding leadership in private, public or academic service and is conferred each year to a senior agribusiness executive who not only exemplifies excellence in agribusiness

but has also made significant contributions to the industry.

ABS Global Inc. recently celebrated the 17th birthday of veteran ABS bull **New Design 878**. Born Feb. 17, 1998, New Design 878 has been an impressive producer since he was a yearling.

At the turn of the year, 878's production level approached 725,000 units, and he continues to rank in ABS's top 20 bulls for beef semen sales in several regions across the globe. From 2003 through 2006, New Design 878 topped the registration charts as the No. 1 sire for registrations in the Angus breed, still holds the single-year registration record with 10,190 calves registered in 2004, and ranks second (behind N-Bar Emulation EXT) for total lifetime registrations with 52,978 calves through September 2014.



New Design 878

"We knew from the day 878 arrived at ABS that he was going to be a popular animal," said Doug Frank, ABS beef product manager. "He had a quick start and customers really liked his first calves — skyrocketing his popularity. He has since had a strong finish — continuing to offer the highest accuracy multi-trait proof in the industry."

"At a healthy 17 years of age, 878 is proof that solid genes and great care are key to the performance and longevity of the animals," said Brian McCulloh and Dan Borgen, Woodhill Farms, part owners of the bull.

Despite his age, New Design 878 continues to hit the list of American Angus Association's Pathfinders® — holding the top slot for five years from 2008-2012 and remaining No. 12 today. 878's maternal influence will likely be his most important legacy, with 16,630 daughters on record weaning 55,543 calves and continuing to pass along his phenomenal genes.



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.