



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Richard “Dick” Janssen, Ellsworth, Kan., is the 2017 Kansas Stockman of the Year. He was honored March 2 during the 47th Annual Stockmen’s Dinner in Manhattan.

During the award presentation, industry friends recognized Janssen for his contributions to the beef industry. Speakers described him as a visionary, curious and accomplished cattleman.

“He is one of the most courageous and daring genetic engineers on the planet,” said fellow Angus breeder Mary Ferguson.

Dan Moser, Angus Genetics Inc. president, said, “Dick is the embodiment of a lifetime learner. He’s not just auditing classes, going when the syllabus topic looks interesting. He’s paying the tuition. He’s making the investment in new technology and seeing the benefits and costs with his own eyes, with his own cattle and his own checkbook. Dick has positioned his business and those of his customers to take maximum benefit of these new tools while advancing our entire industry in the process.”

Janssen started breeding, raising and showing his own Angus cattle in 4-H shows when he was 11 years old. He’s been actively



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involved in the registered Angus business since that time.

A 1964 graduate of Kansas State University (K-State) with a degree in animal science, he was a member of the livestock, meats and wool judging teams; Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; and Block & Bridle.

After college, Janssen returned home and joined in a partnership with his brother, Arlo. At that time, they farmed 1,200 acres of wheat, milo and alfalfa along with managing their Angus herd. They also custom-fit and showed cattle across the country — from

Chicago to California. In 1969, Arlo transitioned to fitting and showing cattle full time while Richard stayed in Kansas to manage his division of Green Garden Angus and farming.

In 1974, he married his wife, Shelly, and they continued to expand their cattle operation, growing it to the current size of 350 head. The couple has two children — Ben and Elizabeth.

Janssen has always been an innovator in the seedstock industry. He says that breeding cattle is like adding ingredients to a pot of stew, mixing and matching until he obtains the perfect recipe. Through the years, he has focused on building a breeding program around calving ease and superior carcass traits that will function in their central Kansas environment.

Always willing to try new tools, the Green Garden herd was one of the first used to collect ultrasound information. In the fall of 1989, John Brethour, beef cattle scientist at K-State’s Ag Research Center–Hays used the Green Garden herd to perfect his ultrasound machine. In 2000, they were one of the first herds to use GeneStar DNA mapping, and today they DNA-test all their yearling bulls and heifers.

In 2010, they sent their bulls to the Hays Development Center (now the Werner Feed Efficiency Testing Center) in Diagonal, Iowa, to be evaluated for average daily gain (ADG), dry-matter intake (DMI), feed-to-gain and residual feed intake (RFI). They used the testing station for three years and in 2013 they installed their own GrowSafe feed-intake system to test all of their yearling bulls and yearling heifers at home.

Janssen has been a leader at both the state and national levels. He served as Kansas Angus Association president in 1980. Janssen also served two terms as an American Angus Association director and was the 1989-1990 president. He served as chairman of the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) board of directors from 1988-1989.

In 1993, he received the CAB Commitment to Excellence Award, and he was named Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year in 1994. In 2004, he was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation. Green Garden Angus has been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1954.

In 2000, Janssen, his wife and two children formed a limited family partnership. Since 2010, Ben, Elizabeth and their spouses have been actively managing the operation, with their parents acting as advisors.

The Stockman of the Year Award is presented annually by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC).

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Quentin Tyler, assistant dean and director of diversity for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment was accepted for the 2016-2018 Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI), an executive leadership development program for academia, industry and government.

Alex Thompson has been named feedlot key account manager by Zinpro Corp. In this position he will provide technical sales support to designated consulting groups and beef cattle feedlot operations throughout the western United States.

Kristina Boone, communications and agricultural education professor and department head for the Kansas State University College of Agriculture, was among six alumni honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Chase Fritz has been selected to fill the position of data manager for the National

Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB). Fritz will work with NAAB staff and industry stakeholders to coordinate and manage the Dairy and Beef Cross Reference database along with the associated reports and communications. He will also be responsible for data integrity and will interact with industry stakeholders including all aspects of the process from the point of data entry through the distribution of genetic evaluation information.

Martin Sieber has been hired by the board of directors of U.S. Livestock Genetics Export (USLGE). Sieber began work Jan. 16, 2017, under the direction of President/CEO Michael Phillips for a short transition period, then, upon Phillips' retirement, Sieber will succeed him as president and CEO of USLGE.

Jake Warntjes has been hired by BioZyme as its newest area sales manager. He represents eastern Colorado, western Kansas and western Oklahoma. In this role, he will work to develop new and build upon dealer and customer relations while promoting the company's many brands.

Cliff Lamb has been named department head for animal science at Texas A&M University in College Station. Lamb comes to Texas A&M after serving as assistant director of the University of Florida-North Florida Research and Education Center.



Ohio Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 28, London



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN ANGUS ASS'N

► **Above:** The Ohio Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (seated, from left) **Daniel Wells**, Frankfort, secretary; **Allen Gahler**, Graytown, treasurer; **Joseph Sanders**, Harrod, president; **Todd Raines**, Seaman, vice president; **Tim Harsh**, Radnor, chairman of the board; (standing, from left) **John King**, Tiffin; **Keith Kauffman**, Danville; **John Grimes**, Hillsboro; **Frederick Penick**, Hebron; **Jay Clutter**, Wapakoneta; **Jim Rentz**, Coldwater; **Nick Wagner**, Fremont; **David Felumlee**, Newark; **John Hall**, Cardington; **Kent Bauman**, Otway; and **Kelvin Egner**, Shelby.

► **Right:** **Jay Clutter** (center) receives the Distinguished Service Award from **Jim Rentz** (right). Also pictured is **Debbie Clutter** (left).

