



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Ben Conner, University of Kentucky, has been appointed to the student advisory team for the Agriculture Future of America (AFA). AFA selected nine Student Advisory Team members and 19 Campus Ambassadors for

the 2015-2016 year. These students represent 27 schools from 26 states across the country. Throughout their time of service, they will interact with agribusiness leaders, campus faculty and fellow students as they represent AFA.

All 28 students will fill the Campus Ambassador role at their respective schools by serving as a liaison between AFA and university faculty and staff and their fellow students. Additionally, the nine student advisory team members are responsible for planning and facilitating the 2015 AFA Leaders Conference Nov. 5-8 in Kansas City, Mo. Their planning kicked off March 29-31, when all 28 students convened in Kansas City for training and to develop the 2015 conference theme.

Throughout the summer, the Student Advisory Team will visit partners and potential partners of AFA in California, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota. They will have opportunities to discuss various facets of agriculture and business with leaders from the organizations. These visits expand the students' understanding of agriculture and add value to the conference they plan.

Conner is a life member of the American Angus Association.

South Carolina Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Clemson, March 20



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

►The South Carolina Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (front row, from left) **Michael Johnson**, Kinards, treasurer; **Larry Olson**, Barnwell, president; **Steve McPhail II**, Inman, vice president; **Sharon Furr**, Blackstock, secretary; (back row, from left) **Danny Winchester**, Six Mile; **Lynn Shealy**, Chapin; **Bruce Stuart**, Aiken; and **Neil Boyd**, Clover.

Lynn Cowden, Skellytown, Texas, was elected as one of the new directors of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association at its convention March 27-29. Cowden has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1995.

IN THE NEWS

Bruce Akey has been named the director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents. Akey began as executive deputy director at the lab in June 2014 and had served as interim director since September 2014.

Rick Bennett has been named the new director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and associate dean for research at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. As experiment station director, his primary task will be to promote the success of the research enterprise in the college. He will also supervise several support programs critical to Kentucky's economy, including the Division of Regulatory Services, the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center, the Research and Education Center in Princeton and the



►**Edward A. (Ned) Stevenson** (right), Allendale, was inducted into the South Carolina Angus Ass'n Hall of Fame. Also pictured are **Walter Shealy** (left), presenting, and **Irma Stevenson** (center).



►**Windy Bartee** (left), Clover, receives a special thank-you gift for her many years of dedicated service from **Frankie Mullikin**.

►**Right: John McPhail**, formerly of Seneca, was posthumously honored with the 44th Annual Carolina Angus Futurity dedication. Pictured accepting the award are (from left) **Steve McPhail II**; **Jane McPhail**; and **Kaylen**, **Madilyn**, **Kelly** and **Mike Ryan**.



Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability in Quicksand.

Bennett will assume his new duties June 1.

Kenneth Spearman has been designated by President Barack Obama as chairman and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA), effective March 13. He succeeds Jill Long Thompson, who served as chair and CEO since Nov. 27, 2012. As chairman, Spearman will be responsible for policymaking, adopting regulations and overseeing the examination and regulation of the institutions constituting the Farm Credit System (FCS), including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corp.

Dallas Tonsager has been sworn in as a member of the FCA Board. Tonsager was nominated to the post Jan. 26, 2015, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate March 9. He will serve the remainder of the six-year term previously held by Jill Long Thompson, which expires May 21, 2020.

Jeffery Hall has been sworn in as a member of the FCA Board. He will serve the remainder of the six-year term previously held by Leland Strom, which expires Oct. 13, 2018.

Robert Carlson and **Clay Pederson** (posthumously) were honored by the National Farmers Union (NFU) with the award for Meritorius Service during the organization's convention in March. Meritorius Service Awards honor those who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to agriculture, humanity and Farmers Union. The honor is the highest award the NFU Board can bestow on an individual.

Dewey and **Carol Adams**, Clay Center; **Larry** and **Millie Dearden**, Scott City; **Bill** and **Chris Pannbacker**, Washington; **Bill** and **Ruth Pracht**, Westphalia; **Alan** and **Beth Vogel**, Wright; and **Jim** and **Sharon Zwonitzer**, Horton, have been named Kansas Master Farmers and Master Farm Homemakers for 2014. The couples are identified as leaders in farming and their communities, and are honored at a banquet in Manhattan, Kan. The Master Farmer and Master Farm Homemaker award program began in 1927 and is sponsored by Kansas State University (K-State) Research and Extension and *Kansas Farmer* magazine.

Nathan Guess has been named managing director, forage solutions for Vermeer Corp. In his new role, Guess will oversee sales, marketing and product development for Vermeer Solutions globally. **Mark Core**, in addition to his current role as chief marketing officer, will now provide senior leadership to

the forage segment as executive vice president of forage and life cycle solutions for Vermeer. Core is responsible for delivering a consistent and premium experience to the company's customers by directing the integration of a corporate brand, marketing, external training, interactive engagement, research and a parts distribution system that reaches across 500-plus agricultural and industrial equipment dealerships and 13 affiliated organization locations serving customers on six continents.

Steve Stephenson has been hired as territory business manager for Lallemand Animal Nutrition. He will be supporting the company silage inoculant portfolio in the Southwest. **Peter Sook** has been hired as internal sales trainer for the company's North American team. **Lauren Kasten** is the new marketing communications assistant and will support the marketing functions for all portions of the North American business.

Nancy Barcus has been appointed as chief operating officer (COO) by the AFA Board of Directors. As COO, Barcus will manage the organization's internal operations, including business and program oversight, while leading the development

■ **Iowa Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet,**
Feb. 11, Des Moines



► **Chris Miller** (right), Mabel, Minn., receives the President's Award from **Joe Becker**, Iowa Angus Ass'n vice president.

and evaluation of current and new program initiatives.

Mark Stewart will serve as the organization's president. Stewart will be responsible for leading the organization's external relationships and strategic planning processes for short and long-term growth.

Russ Weathers will continue his role as CEO and for the next year will provide transitional support to Stewart and Barcus as they assume greater organizational leadership

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responsibilities. Both appointments were effective March 30.

Marty Vanier, Kansas State University (K-State) director of operations at the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, has been selected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to be the senior program manager for strategic partnership development. She will engage internal and external stakeholders, including government entities, the livestock community, animal

health industry and educational institutions for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF). Vanier will start her new responsibilities with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in April.

Deborah Clark, Henrietta, Texas; **Ford Drummond**, Pawhuska, Okla.; **Dan Gattis**, Georgetown, Texas; **Claude Koontz**, San Antonio, Texas; **Frank Price**, Sterling City, Texas; and **Robert Underbrink**, Houston, Texas, were elected as new directors to the

board of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association at its convention March 27-29.

Abel Olivera has been appointed CEO of Jensen Meat Co. after serving as COO since 2011.



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.*