



# Newsmakers

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

## IN THE NEWS

The **Tokach Angus Ranch Memorial Scholarship** was added to the North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation's scholarship offerings in 2015. The family of former North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) President Richard M. "Dick" Tokach of Mandan, N.D., who died in November 2014, established the endowment scholarship to honor the industry and civic contributions of Dick, as well as his surviving wife, Theresa.

To be eligible, students must be residents of North Dakota; have a grade-point average of at least 3.0; be enrolled or plan to be enrolled in an institution of higher education in a beef-related discipline; have an interest in the state's beef cattle industry; be an NDSA member or the child of an NDSA member; and submit the required application form, essay and references.

Preference will be given to students who have completed a bachelor's degree and are pursuing a graduate education or professional school (such as veterinary or law school).

Additional information is available under the "ND Stockmen's Foundation" tab at [www.ndstockmen.org](http://www.ndstockmen.org). Applications were accepted until June 15.

**Jack Ward** has been named executive vice president (EVP) of the American Hereford Association (AHA). As the EVP, 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. 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 for his ability to effectively communicate and educate. He has traveled the United States and overseas to lead educational forums.

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.

**Don Ravellette** of RPI Promotions has been contracted by the Montana Angus Association as a partner in the search for the state's elite Angus females to be featured in the 2015 Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Select Angus Female Sale Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015, in Billings, Mont.

Montana Angus breeders are invited to nominate their excellent prospects, open heifers, bred heifers, proven cows and rare/exclusive semen or embryos. The sale will

## Mississippi Angus Ass'n Meeting & Banquet, May 1, Jackson

PHOTOS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



►The Mississippi Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (front row, from left) **Mike Howell**, Baldwin, treasurer; **Stephen Gaines**, Brandon, vice president; **Paul Whitlock**, Iuka, president; **Misty Garner**, New Hebron, secretary; (back row, from left) **Ronald Neal**, Forest; **William Howard**, Canton; **Randy Walker**, Potts Camp; **W.E. Warren**, West; **Brian Garner**, New Hebron; **Gary Tanner**, Ellisville; **Larry Blocker**, Starkville; and **D.R. Bozeman Jr.**, Flora.



►**Stephen** (left) and **Juanita Gaines** (center), Gaines Farms, Brandon, receive the Progressive Breeder of the Year award from William Howard.



►**Left:** The Mississippi Angus Auxiliary officers are (from left) **Cammie Rone**, Courtland, scholarship co-chair; **Melanie Kiani**, Morton, president; and **Emma Collins**, Tupelo, secretary and royalty contest co-chair.



►**Right:** **The Neal Family**, Forest, was named Family of the Year. Pictured are (from left) **D.R. Bozeman**, presenting; **Audrey**, **Hayden**, **Ronald** and **Ty Neal**, recipients.

feature divisions for both haltered and unhaltered females.

The Montana Angus Association also offers a futurity in connection with this sale. This futurity program offers junior Angus Association members a unique opportunity to access elite genetics while providing consignors with an additional avenue of promotion.

Nominations to the sale must be received no later than July 7. RPI Promotions will tour Montana to evaluate the nominees and select the final cut for the sale. Nomination forms will be mailed to Montana Angus Association members or can be requested from the sale management. For more information about the sale, contact Montana Angus Association ([montanaangusnews@gmail.com](mailto:montanaangusnews@gmail.com), 406-388-1291) or RPI Promotions ([don@pioneer-review.com](mailto:don@pioneer-review.com), 605-685-5147).

### ANGUS ARRIVALS

**Mark and Miranda Reiman**, Cozad, Neb., announce the birth of their daughter, **Nora Charlise**, on May 6. She weighed 8 lb., 10 oz., and was 20¼ in. long. She was



welcomed home by brother Carson and sisters Brooklyn, Cassidy and Mckenna.

Grandparents are Mark and Karla Malo, East Chain, Minn., and Ed and Cathy Reiman, Butte, Neb.

Miranda is assistant director of industry information with Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB).

### IN PASSING

**Jeanette Stevenson**, Hobson, Mont., 100, died May 10 in Lewistown, Mont., six weeks shy of her 101st birthday.

Variously described as “Montana’s Angus queen,” “the ‘voice’ of the Angus breed in Montana,” “a remarkable woman with endless energy,” “a woman to be admired ... honest from the word go,” and “an encourager of others,” Jeanette (Potter) Stevenson was a woman of modest beginnings.

Jeanette was born June 29, 1914, in Miles City, Mont., and spent her early life on a homestead in Sonnette, Mont., in west-central Powder River County. It is located southwest of the county seat of Broadus, Mont.

In a piece she wrote for *Reflections at Sunset*, a compilation of pieces written by members of the Central Montana Writers Group, Jeanette said living on the homestead was not easy. Folks leaving their homes for the lure of free land did not find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Jeanette wrote, “Instead, they found sagebrush, rocks that resisted the plow, rattlesnakes to be feared, and coyotes and bobcats that preyed on their chickens and turkeys — and wind, always the wind.”



**Jeanette Stevenson**

She commented, however, on what a wonderful life the homesteaders’ life was for children.

“Children grew up with the smell of pines, the sharp sweetness of the sage after a rain, the acrid gumweed in the hot summer sun, and horses — always horses.

“School was an ‘iffy’ thing,” Jeanette recorded, and “books were at a premium.”

After 10 years in Sonnette, Edith Potter and her two daughters, Jeanette and Doris, moved to Pierre, S. D., where Edith cooked for a railroad crew. Jeanette’s dad, Frank, had left his family to their life on the homestead and lived in Miles City, Mont. The couple divorced.

In South Dakota Edith met Joe Hoven, who worked for the Milwaukee Railroad. Hoven had a brother who lived in Hobson, and when Joe was given notice of his job with the railroad ending, he moved to Montana. Edith accepted a position as a housekeeper for Joe in Hobson, who was by then a widower. She took Jeanette with her; Doris was sent to California to live with an aunt. Jeanette was 13 at the time, an eighth grader. Edith and Joe eventually married. She died in 1939.

With little to no formal elementary education, Jeanette drifted between the occasional one-room schoolhouse and studying on her own. Once moved to Montana, Jeanette attended Hobson High School, where she met her future husband, Jamie R. Stevenson. She was the valedictorian of the Class of 1931.

Son Jim noted his mother was very smart and was always very hardworking.

“If it wasn’t for her,” Jim said, “there wouldn’t be a ranch.”

After high school graduation Jeanette traveled to Missoula, where she attended the university for a year, beginning nurse’s training. Jenni Hammontree, Jeanette’s granddaughter, said her grandma had always told her that she had to quit college because after her first year her dad quit sending her money for tuition.

Jamie and Jeanette were married in 1936. Their main concern after marriage was how to put food on the table. They simply did what they could to survive.

“We were married in the height of the Depression, and we didn’t have an acre of

land,” Jeanette told Nancy Klemens for the *Angus Journal*.

Eventually they were able to finance and buy 240 acres of land near Hobson on Gumbo Flats. Together with Jamie’s parents, they managed 40 cattle and 120 sheep. In time, the couple moved to Hauck Coulee; it is still called the homeplace, 1½ miles southeast of Hobson. They raised five sons, Jim, Wesley (aka Sam), Wayne, Keith and Rick.

Together, Jamie and Jeanette continually upgraded their assets. In 1946 they bought three registered-Angus heifers, the beginning of Stevenson Angus Ranch. By the early 1950s the majority of their herd was Angus.

Jeanette became a charter member of the Montana Angus Auxiliary in 1960, serving as vice president from 1960-1962 and as president from 1962-1964. She served as the editor of the *Montana Angus News* magazine from 1967 until the early 1980s. Many of Jeanette’s grandkids remember gathering together to get the magazine ready for mailing.

Jeanette volunteered much of her time, working with the Hobson Woman’s Club and the Methodist Church, helping to organize Sunday School. She was president of the PTA, served as Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, helped to charter the Hobson FFA, and served as a 4-H leader for more than 20 years. Jeanette never missed a livestock or 4-H show if her grandchildren were showing.

Son Keith said she was instrumental in convincing Katie Williams to serve as a swimming instructor, which helped to jump-start swimming in the area. He also noted Williams had told him his mother was involved in getting the hot-lunch program at the Hobson School and the senior center. Jeanette had a hand in saving Hobson’s library, as well.

“We called her ‘Wheels,’” Keith said. “We lived down in a coulee and all you did was see the back of her wheels as she drove away.”

Jeanette loved to travel and experience the world. Throughout her life there were many trips to the California coast to visit extended family. She attended the annual livestock shows and meetings, and anything to do with Angus. Some of the most memorable trips included a visit to the Holy Land, travels in Australia and France, riding a camel in Egypt (in her 70s) and viewing the Serengeti from a hot-air balloon (in her 80s).

Jeanette’s family describes her as straightforward.

“She didn’t ask for anything,” Keith said. “She told you what to do.”

However, she got things done that way. Jeanette was the Stevenson matriarch. She

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raised turkeys and sheep and even had a milk cow. One might wonder how a woman who was always on the go had time for a milk cow.

“She delegated somebody to go milk the cow,” Keith said.

Jeanette was good about giving people down on their luck a hand up, even giving them a place to live. She gave a home to several children who had family problems of one kind or another.

Jeanette is remembered as a great cook who never followed a recipe and was a very good pie maker. People were always welcome at her home for a cup of coffee and a piece of pie.

Son Jim said she always told her children, “You’re no bigger than your dreams. If you dream big, you can do big things.”

Jim’s son, also named Jim, Jeanette’s oldest grandchild said, “Every person that ever met Grandma walked away wanting to do bigger and better things.”

Jamie Stevenson died in 1975 at the age of 62. That same summer Jeanette was involved in a car accident that nearly took her life. In 1976, she split and sold the ranch to her boys. “That’s how all five boys got going,” Keith says.

Jeanette served as president of the American Angus Auxiliary in 1978-1979 and was named its Distinguished Woman of the Year in 1986. She was inducted into the Montana State Fair Pioneer Hall of Fame in 1981 for her “distinguished and unselfish service.” She served on the Governor’s Council for Aging and was recognized in 1990 as Montana’s Outstanding Senior Volunteer. In 1991, she was formally inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation, just the second woman to have

received the honor at that time.

Jeanette embraced life and lived it to the fullest. Her many accomplishments, recognitions and awards are a wonderful testament to her life’s work. Moreover was her undying love, passion and support for family and friends; she knew no stranger and emanated a never-ending optimism that will influence generations to come.

Jeanette is survived by two sons, Keith and Jim, 15 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren, along with an extended family of in-laws, nieces and nephews.

**Richard Gebhart**, 58, Claremore, Okla., died May 30 after a brief illness.

A fourth-generation cattleman, Richard and his family operated Beacon Hill Ranch, a Hereford operation established in northeastern Oklahoma in 1909. He was an active volunteer leader in the cattle industry for many years at all levels. Nationally he was named treasurer of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) in 2014, and served as a member of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee (BPOC), chairman of the Federation of State Beef Councils and vice chair of the Joint Issues Management Subcommittee. He also served as an advisor on several sustainability efforts involving the beef supply chain, and participated in writing a comprehensive Life Cycle Assessment of the U.S. beef supply chain.

In Oklahoma he was a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and was serving as its president at the time of his death. He was also vice chairman and former treasurer of the Oklahoma Beef Council.

Richard was a member and past chairman of

the Tulsa State Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee and served as a board member of the Rogers County Cattlemen’s Association, as well as treasurer of the Rogers County Fair Board.

A lifetime member of the American Hereford Association, Richard was active in Hereford breed activities, serving the Oklahoma Hereford Association as a director, president and chair of the 2009 Junior National Hereford Expo committee. He served as breed superintendent for both junior and open Hereford shows at the Tulsa and Oklahoma State Fairs.

In addition to the ranching operation, Richard was professor of operations management and director of assessment in the Collins College of Business at the University of Tulsa (TU). He held a law degree from TU; a master’s of business administration from Syracuse University; a master’s degree in agricultural economics/animal science from Mississippi State University; and a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Arkansas, doing postgraduate work at the University of Kansas.

Before joining the faculty at TU, Richard served as a colonel in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer. He was certified in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) and was a Masters of Beef Advocacy (MBA) graduate, both of which are national beef producer-oriented education programs.

Richard is survived by wife Susan; daughters Erica and Roxanne; and grandchildren McKenzie and Gus.

**INDUSTRY EXTRAS**

**Pedro Curry** has joined QualiTech to lead the AG Nutrition Division as general manager-vice president. He will be responsible for leading the company’s plant and animal nutrition groups and supporting strategic initiatives company-wide.

**Roy Browning** of Deseret Cattle Feeders won the 2015 Top Hand award at the recent Kansas State University (K-State) Cattle Feeders College hosted in Scott City, Kan. The Top Hand award was initiated in 2010 to recognize outstanding employees in the commercial feeding industry. Browning has been with the yard since 1978.

**Allyson Jones-Brimmer** and **Casey Whitaker** have joined the staff of the Animal Agriculture Alliance. Jones-Brimmer is the new membership and marketing manager, and Whitaker is the new communications coordinator.

**Tennessee Angus Ass’n Annual Banquet & Board Meeting, Lebanon, March 6**



►Officers and directors for the Tennessee Angus Ass’n are (back row, from left) **Dwight King**, Piney Flats; **Quintin Smith**, Lebanon; **Vince Santini**, Leoma, vice president-elect; **Lee Duckworth**, Greeneville; **Kenneth Armstrong**, Unionville, secretary; (front row, from left) **Tim Wright**, Spring City; **Jamie Smith Nicholson**, Lebanon; **Bobby Denton**, Cumberland Furnace, president-elect; and **Molly Phifer**, Chapel Hill.

Jones-Brimmer will be responsible for facilitating membership and sponsorship development by promoting the Alliance and its activities to relevant stakeholders, as well as producing all member communication and marketing materials.

In her new role, Whitaker will work with Alliance communications director Hannah Thompson to implement communication strategies that enhance the Alliance's mission to connect key food industry stakeholders, engage food chain stakeholders, and protect consumer and producer choice. Her key responsibilities will include social-media engagement, written and graphic content production, and maintenance of the Alliance website.

**Tom Strahm** has been named western cattle sales coordinator for United Producers Inc. (UPI). His primary responsibility will be to develop relationships with backgrounders and feedlots in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska that will increase the overall demand for UPI members' cattle.

**Scott King** is the new director of the U.S. cattle marketing team for Boehringer

Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI), and **Amanda McAvoy** has been hired as senior associate director of the U.S. Equine Marketing team.

**Cheryl Hazenberg** with the Canadian Angus Association (CAA) has relocated to Ontario as the Eastern Canada Manager of the association. Effective immediately, Hazenberg is based at Oakwood, Ont., where the new position is in a trial period. She was previously the director of technical services at the CAA headquarters in Rocky View, Alta.

Hazenberg's move to eastern Canada will allow the association to have a greater presence at industry events in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

**Bob Petersen**, who has served as the American Royal's president and CEO, has announced that he will retire at the end of 2015. He joined the Royal on an interim basis in 2010 and was formally named to its top staff post in January 2011.

Petersen said he won't be retiring completely and that he looked forward to re-engaging in his consulting business, which

manages several agricultural nonprofit associations. He said he will also take some time to simply enjoy life with friends and family.

**Kubota Tractor Corp.** (KTC) and **Kubota Credit Corp.** (KCC) announced that they will relocate their headquarters to Grapevine, Texas. Both companies are U.S. subsidiaries of Kubota Corp., based in Osaka, Japan. The move will affect about 180 employees and is expected to happen within the next 18 months. The move will be conducted in stages to avoid disruption to the company's daily operations.

Kubota has offered all affected employees the option to relocate to Grapevine and will offer relocation assistance to those affected employees in California and Georgia who elect to move to Texas.

Construction on the Texas facility will begin this year and is scheduled to be completed by the first quarter of 2017.



**Editor's Note:** *This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your newsmaker, email [lrobbins@angusjournal.com](mailto:lrobbins@angusjournal.com) or call 816-383-5245.*