



# Newsmakers

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

## IN THE NEWS

**Justin Sexten** has been hired by Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) as director of its Supply Development team. The Ohio native



**Justin Sexten**

brings to his new post a broad expertise in beef production, research and education. “As the cattle cycle enters its expansion phase, Justin’s 11 years of academic research and teaching in Illinois and Missouri make him a fitting match for this role at CAB,” says Mark McCully, vice president of production for the branded beef company.

Sexten’s career focus on replacement heifers and weaned-calf management provides an ideal background for leading CAB’s producer outreach team, he adds.

“We’ve observed an investment in quality in the cow herd, after the extensive culling brought on by the drought of 2012,” Sexten says.

Data suggest most of the herd replacements were Angus-influenced, paving the way for higher beef quality than ever before, especially in light of other survey data that note 70% of producers turned out Angus bulls in the last year.

With a “cow herd built for quality,” Sexten says a rancher’s priority now lies in what to do after the genetics are in place.

“Emphasis on how we manage those genetics, when it comes to nutrition and health is important,” he says. “We’ve made an initial investment. Let’s make sure we see that through to the end for the consumer’s sake.”

Prior to accepting the position at CAB, Sexten served as University of Missouri Extension beef specialist. There he coordinated the nutrition, reproduction, genetic and health management of 200 commercial Angus-based cows, as well as a 600-head feedyard.

“On a broader scale, this transition allows me to continue to interact with farmers and ranchers on how we can manage and feed cattle, to early calf feeding and management that will ultimately increase the CAB acceptance rate of those cattle after the

feeding period,” Sexten explains.

Raised on a diversified livestock and row-crop farm near Washington Court House, Ohio, Sexten earned his animal science degree from the University of Kentucky in 1998. He followed with a master’s degree and doctorate in ruminant nutrition from the University of Illinois in 2001 and 2004, respectively. Along with wife Julie and their three daughters (Macie, Morgan and Millie), the Sextens are relocating to the Wooster, Ohio, area.

As a CAB director, Sexten will work closely with the supply development and industry information teams. Externally, his focus will be cattle producers, academia, research groups and allied industry partners to communicate the value of quality beef production.

## IN PASSING

**Boyd Dubois**, 71, Valley Center, Kan., died July 2 at his residence. He was born May 24, 1944, at Newton, Kan., the son of Allen and Lucy (Whiteman) DuBois. He was a farmer and stockman. On July 3, 1965, he was united in marriage to Joyce Shepler; she survives at the home. Other survivors include daughters Shelly and Jackie; son Shawn; sister Louetta; and eight grandchildren.

**Raymond “Ray” Roth**, 93, Marblehead, Ohio, died July 25 at Otterbein North Shore in Lakeside, Ohio. He was born March 26, 1922, in Uhrichsville, Ohio, the son of George and Blanche (Myers) Roth. Ray was a graduate of Ohio State University where he was president of Alpha Zeta Fraternity.

He was a United States Army Veteran serving in World War II. He married Nancy Kovach on Sept. 17, 1949, and she preceded him in death Aug. 13, 2001. Ray was a regional manager for the *Angus Journal* in Webster City, Iowa. He also was the founder, owner and operator of Castaway Harbor, Marblehead, Ohio. He was a member of Elks Lodge No. 1718, Port Clinton and the Stanley Jadwisiak Post 7572 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marblehead, Ohio.

Ray is survived by daughters Deborah, Stephanie and Rachael; brother Phil; daughter-in-law Mary Jean Roth; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Ronald “Ronnie” Griffis**, 60, Screven, Ga., died July 16 at his home after an extended battle with cancer.

Ronnie was born in Wayne County on April 2, 1955, to parents Julian and Lizzie (Blocker) Griffis. He was a member of O’Quinn Baptist Church and lived in Screven, where he was a lifelong farmer and agriculturist most of his life. Ronnie retired from Rayonier after 25 years of service.

During his lifetime Ronnie truly loved farming and raising cattle. He and wife Bonnie, along with their daughter and son-in-law, owned and operated Boggy Creek Farms located at Lake Grace in Screven. Their operation focused on producing embryo transfer calves for Angus and Charolais breeders across the southeastern United States.

He was active in multiple agricultural organizations, including Wayne County Young Farmers, Wayne County Livestock Association, Georgia Cattlemen’s Association and an avid supporter of all 4-H and FFA programs. He served in leadership roles for all of these organizations on both the local and state levels. Ronnie was the 2013 Wayne County Chamber of Commerce “Excellence in Agriculture” award recipient. He had been a member of the American Angus Association since 2006. His passion for life, family and friends was evident in his daily walk.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Bonnie (Hutto) Griffis; daughter Kristy; grandchildren Kayle and Karson; sister Marlee; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

## INDUSTRY EXTRAS

**Lars Sivesind** has been hired as progeny promotions intern for ABS Global Inc. in Wisconsin. Other ABS Global new employees include **Darin Baldosser**, sales intern in Ohio; **Eric Shulenburg**, district account manager in Wisconsin; **Craig Shaw**, area sales representative in Indiana and **Clayton Berens**, relief technician in Michigan.

**Samantha Steelman** has been hired by Purina Animal Nutrition as a senior scientist on the research team at the Purina Animal Nutrition Center in Gray Summit, Mo. In her new role, Steelman will lead a team that studies how nutrition affects the

health and immune systems of animals of all species.

**Sen. John Boozman** of Arkansas and **U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson** of Minnesota were honored with 2015 Friend of Farm Credit awards by the AgriBank District Farm Credit Council, which represents Farm Credit farmers and ranchers in a 15-state area from Wyoming to Ohio and Minnesota to Arkansas. About half of the nation's cropland is located within the AgriBank District.

**Doug Moyer**, an SRS specialist and account team leader with NorthStar Cooperative in northern Michigan, was named SRS Specialist of the Year by Select Sires at its 2015 conference in June.

**Mike McCabe** has joined Algal Scientific as vice president of animal health and nutrition. In this role he will lead the Algamune™ business unit.

**Mark Scholl** of J&M Scholl Inc., Owensboro, Ky., has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of Farm Foundation. **Joe Swedberg**, who recently retired as vice president of legislative affairs with Hormel Foods Corp., was elected vice chairman. New members elected to the board of trustees include **Klaas Martens**, Penn Yan, N.Y.; **Elizabeth Hund**, Denver, Colo.; **Chuck Ahlem**, Turlock, Calif.; and **Brad Lubben**, Lincoln, Neb.

Scholl and Swedberg were also named chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the board of directors of Farm Foundation NFP, the operating entity of Farm Foundation.

**Neil Conklin**, the sixth person to lead Farm Foundation in its 82-year history, has announced his intention to retire effective December 2016. Conklin has served as president of the Foundation since January 2008. Scholl appointed a search committee to find a successor, naming two trustees as co-chairs; Swedberg and Jim Borel, executive vice president of DuPont.

**Sarah Ryan** has been promoted by Allflex USA as a regional manager responsible for supporting the company's sales and marketing efforts in the Northwest. Ryan will be based in Ellensburg, Wash., with her territory consisting of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.



**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.