



The Front Gate

by Allen Moczygemba, CEO, American Angus Association

Three new team members

With the arrival of spring, it's natural that our thoughts turn to new beginnings, whether those be fresh grass or newborn calves dotting the countryside. There's no new beginning more newsworthy than the addition of key staff members to the American Angus Association. That's why I'm proud to announce three new talented team members — all boasting years of experience and involvement with Angus cattle and the Association.

Help us welcome ...

Ryan Ruppert, a Nebraska native and a sixth-generation cattle rancher, has been selected to serve as the director of regional managers. Ryan's responsibilities will be focused on overseeing the organization's 12 regional managers (RMs) and their associated territories.

Prior to joining Angus, Ryan served as national sales director for Neogen GeneSeek, where he led the company's sales force in strategic marketing and the development of genomic products.

He previously served the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) as the executive director of producer education and managed the National Beef Quality Audit.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in animal science, Ryan received master's degrees in both

business administration and beef cattle breeding and genetics from Colorado State University.

His family members are long-time Angus breeders. When one considers Ryan's background in producer education and management, I don't think we could have found a person more suited to this role.

Ryan and his wife, Franci, have two young daughters, Sophia and Bella.

Jerry Cassidy is an Illinois native who brings more than 20 years of experience promoting the Angus breed to his new role as director of member service.

Jerry isn't a new face to the American Angus Association. He originally joined the organization in 1992, serving as an RM in the Midwest for many years. In his previous role he developed a keen knowledge of the

organization and became well-versed in administering our rules and policies.

Jerry earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from Illinois State University before completing his master's degree in animal science from Southern Illinois University. Jerry brings both a degree of calmness and fairness that will serve our membership well.

He and his wife, Ellen, will be relocating to Saint Joseph, where their children, Kody, Keegan, Elliott, Chet and Evan, will be regular visitors.

Kelli Retallick has been named director of genetic service for Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI). A native of southwestern Wisconsin, Kelli grew up on an Angus operation and brings a unique perspective to the Association as a former National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) director and officer.

Kelli earned her bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Wisconsin prior to completing her master's degree in animal breeding and genetics at Kansas State University.

Most recently, Kelli served as the director of member programs for the American Gelbvieh Association.

Members will get to know Kelli well as she'll be out in the country educating members on our genetic services and representing the Association at industry events throughout the year.

In closing, we're fortunate to be adding such talented folks to the Angus family.



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AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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2016 OFFICERS

Jim Sitz, president & chairman of the Board, 9100 MT Hwy. 91N; Dillon, MT 59725; cell: 406-925-9888; JimSitz1@gmail.com; sitzangus@gmail.com
Charlie Boyd II, vice president and vice chairman of the Board, 6077 Helena Rd., May's Lick, KY 41055; cell: 606-584-5194; cboyd2@maysvilleky.net
Kevin Yon, treasurer, PO Box 737, Ridge Spring, SC 29129; cell: 803-622-4140; kyon@pbtcomm.net; pkevinyon@yahoo.com

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expiring in 2016 — **Tom Burke**, Box 660, Smithville, MO 64089; cell: 816-853-2697; angushall3@earthlink.net • **John Elbert Harrell**, 1343 Lee Rd. 157, Opelika, AL 36804; cell: 334-524-9287; jnhharrell@gmail.com • **Leo McDonnell Jr.**, 13 Bull Dr., Columbus, MT 59019; cell: 406-780-0176; leomcd@hotmail.com • **John Pfeiffer Jr.**, 5103 W. Hwy. 51, Mulhall, OK 73063; cell: 405-880-0862; pfeiffer@agristar.net • **Kevin Yon**, PO Box 737, Ridge Spring, SC 29129; cell: 803-622-4140; kyon@pbtcomm.net; pkevinyon@yahoo.com

Terms expiring in 2017 — **Jerry Connealy**, Box 96, Whitman, NE 69366; phone: 308-544-6552; jsconnealy@gmail.com • **David A. Dal Porto**, 694 Bartlett Ct., Brentwood, CA 94513; cell: 925-250-5304; dplangus@aol.com
John F. Grimes, 2594 S.R. 73, Hillsboro, OH 45133; cell: 937-764-1198; mcfarms@cinci.rr.com; grimes.1@osu.edu • **James W. Henderson**, PO Box 156, Childress, TX 79201; cell: 940-585-6171; jwhenderson@hughes.net
Dave Nichols, 2188 Clay Ave., Bridgewater, IA 50837; phone: 641-369-2829; dave@nicholsfarms.biz

Terms expiring in 2018 — **James S. Coffey**, Box 327, Hustonville, KY 40437; cell: 859-238-0771; james@branchviewangus.com • **Chuck Grove**, 1919

Goshen Rd., Forest, VA 24551; cell: 816-390-6600; chuckgrove64@hotmail.com • **Mike McCravy**, 34 Williamson Rd., Bowdon, GA 30108; cell: 770-328-2047; mmcattle@yahoo.com • **Don Schiefelbein**, 34897 717th Ave., Kimball, MN 55353; cell: 303-324-5149; dschiefel@melitel.net • **Mick Varilek**, 29208 374th Ave., Geddes, SD 57342; cell: 605-680-2555; varilekangus@midstatesd.net

Industry appointments — **CAB Board**, **Dwight 'Kip' Palmer**, Palmer Food Services, 900 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; office: 585-424-3210; kpalmers@palmerfoods.com • **AGI Board liaison**, **Dr. Larry Kuehn**, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, P.O. Box 166, Clay Center, NE 68933; office: 402-762-4352; larry.kuehn@ars.usda.gov • **Foundation Board**, **Mark Duffell**, PO Box 504, Aldie, VA 20105; cell: 703-930-1841; whitestonefarm@earthlink.net

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Allen Moczygemba, CEO; **Richard E. Wilson**, CFO; **Diane Strahm**, executive administrative assistant; **Milford Jenkins**, Angus Foundation president; **Dan Moser**, AGI president; **Eric Grant**, API president; **Terry Cotton**, vice president of sales; **John Stika**, CAB LLC president; **Chris Stallo**, vice president of operations

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

Crystal Albers, director of communications; **Jerry Cassidy**, director of member service; **Jaelyn Clark**, director of events and education; **Eric Grant**, director of public relations; **Lou Ann Adams**, director of information systems; **Jason Kenyon**, assistant director of information systems; **Ginette Gottswiller**, director of commercial relations; **Kenny Miller**, director of finance; **Kelli Retallick**, director of genetic service; **Ryan Ruppert**, director of regional managers; **Brenda Weigert**, operations coordinator for member service