

# GENERATIONS OF QUALITY

## Four Angus herds recognized with Century Award during National Angus Convention.

by Jena McReil, digital editor

The Angus breed is built on generations of individuals and families who've committed their livelihoods to raising Angus cattle. Through years of adversity and opportunity, they adapted their businesses and have grown into the next generation.

The American Angus Association is proud to recognize the Angus breeders who have sustained their farms and ranches for more than 100 years. The organization presented four Century Awards during its Awards Recognition Breakfast Nov. 5, hosted as part of the 2015 Angus Means Business National Convention & Trade Show in Overland Park, Kan.

### Ingalls Centennial Angus

Hugh Ingalls of Ingalls Centennial Angus near Faith, S.D., accepted the Century Award on behalf of his family, which began raising Angus cattle nearly 120 years ago.

It was Oct. 5, 1895, when James Ingalls purchased the Angus bull Ermine Prince, registration number 19975 on a handwritten pedigree, and established one of the first Angus herds in South Dakota. That day marked the beginning of a 120-year family history with Angus genetics, spanning seven generations.

In 1908, Albert Ingalls, James' son, moved the family and Angus herd from Humboldt, S.D., to Meade County on the western side of the state. Ingalls Angus persevered through Mother Nature's swings in the harsh climate.

Forty years later, Albert's son, Lawrence Ingalls, transferred a registered-Angus heifer to the family's fourth generation, Hugh Ingalls.

Hugh remembers leading, as a 12-year-old, Bessie I3 into the ring at the Western Junior Livestock Show in Rapid City, S.D. She was the first Angus ever shown at the competition.

Through the years, Hugh was greatly involved in the Angus breed on a state, regional and national level through the American Angus Association. Year after year, with his wife, Eleanor, and brother, Dale, Hugh continued to perfect the herd's genetics. In 1956, the family started using production records in their drive for quality.

In 1983, Ingalls Angus was recognized with the American Angus Association's Centennial Angus Herd Award. The family's dedication to the Angus breed has continued to flourish as Hugh and Eleanor raised their family, extended family and registered-Angus cattle on the prairies of western South Dakota.

More than 80 years after Albert Ingalls moved his herd from eastern South Dakota to the western part of the state, the herd moved west once again.

Hugh's son, Dan Ingalls, moved to Wyoming with his young family in 1990 and established a branch of the herd named Ingalls Angus. They established their new ranching operations in the Jackson Hole and Riverton areas, and now in the South Big

Horn Mountains, northwest of Casper. Dan's six sons are all involved in their own cattle operations today in several locations in Wyoming, Colorado and North Dakota.

At 86 years old, Hugh still manages his own 500-head cattle operation, Ingalls Centennial Angus, which ranks among the state's largest registered-Angus herds.

### Homestead Farm

Charles Huseman of Homestead Farm near Cedar Lake, Ind., accepted the Century Award on behalf of his family, which has been raising Angus cattle since 1910.

The story of Homestead Farm near Cedar Lake, Ind., begins with a dairy farmer. In 1910, Joe Huseman proposed to Florence Berg, whose father raised Angus cattle and promptly told him "no daughter of mine will marry a dairy farmer." So he sold the dairy herd and bought some Angus cows from his future father-in-law — the official start of the Homestead Farm Angus herd.

Widely known for his character and work ethic, Joe had an uncanny knack for training horses and handling livestock. As the economy improved after the Great Depression, Angus cattle from Homestead Farm often brought top dollar at the Chicago Stock Yards. In both 1924 and 1925, a carload from Homestead Farm was chosen as the "Best Bred Carload — Aberdeen Angus" by the Institute of American Meat Packers at the International Livestock Exposition.

Their oldest son, Bill, bought Homestead



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▶ The American Angus Association recognized Centennial Angus of Faith, S.D., with the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Richard Wilson, Association interim CEO; Hugh and Eleanor Ingalls, recipients; and Madison Butler, 2015 Miss American Angus.

▶ The American Angus Association recognized Homestead Farm, Cedar Lake, Ind., with the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Wilson; Charles Huseman, recipient; and Butler.



► The American Angus Association recognized Penner Angus Ranch, Mill Creek, Okla., with the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Wilson; Harris Penner, recipient; and Butler.

► The American Angus Association recognized Simpson Angus Ranch, Edmond, Okla., with the Century Award. Pictured are (from left) Wilson; Charles Simpson, recipient; and Butler.

Farm from his parents in 1945. Bill and wife Bernice purchased life memberships to the American Angus Association for all four of their children soon after they took their first steps.

With an eye toward continuous improvement, Bill studied pedigrees and used the best Angus bulls he could afford. In the 1960s, he purchased Blue Sky Ermitre 151, a large-framed bull for his time, laying the foundation for a long run of showing champions that developed an outstanding market for Homestead Farm breeding cattle.

All four children grew up showing cattle, and the three sisters now have careers outside of agriculture. Charles, the only brother, owns the farm and raises Angus cattle on the original homestead today.

### Penner Angus Ranch

Harris Penner of Penner Angus Ranch near Mill Creek, Okla., accepted the award on behalf of his family, which purchased its first Angus genetics in 1912.

Penner Angus Ranch is the oldest continuously family-owned business in the state of Oklahoma. Tracing its roots to 1854, the ranch was established when Cyrus Harris founded the town of Mill Creek and began raising livestock. A five-time governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Harris was also involved in developing several business ventures to support the community.

His daughter, Amanda, married Texas cattleman Felix Penner in the late 1800s. Penner expanded the livestock operations and grew the ranch to 11,000 acres. In 1912, the family purchased the operation's first Angus cattle. At that time, the Angus breed was unfamiliar to many in the region. The Penners purchased their first line of Angus genetics from Richard Selman of Rochelle, Texas.

In 1920, they expanded the herd with cattle from J.C. Simpson of Simpson Angus Ranch, whose descendants are also Century Award recipients this year. When the Angus cattle outsold the Herefords in Kansas City, there was no turning back for the Penner Ranch. A century later, the Penners are still committed to raising high-quality Angus cattle.

The Penners' ranching heritage lives on through the fourth and fifth generations, who remain connected to the families' original Chickasaw allotments. Home to notable Angus sires, such as PR Black Friday 0244 and Penners-CC Double Black 2257, Penner Angus Ranch has adopted new technology and genetic advancements that drive the beef business today.

In 1995, the operation was recognized as an Oklahoma Centennial Farm and Ranch.

Today, Cyrus Harris' great-great-grandson Harris Penner leads the ranch, along with his wife, Vicki. Daughters Amanda, husband Kyle Conley; Becca, husband Chance Kornegay; and Kelly, and husband Zach Weldon, remain involved with the family's operation today.

Five grandchildren also join them: Cyrus, Carter, Case, Ella and Jack. Harris' sister Becky; her husband, Rick; and their family also continue the quality traditions of Penner Angus Ranch into the next generations.

### Simpson Angus Ranch

Charles Simpson of Simpson Angus Ranch near Edmond, Okla., accepted the award on behalf of his family, which purchased its first Angus genetics in 1910.

The Simpson Ranch of Edmond, Okla., was among the first in the state to raise registered-Angus genetics. In 1910, J.C. Simpson and his oldest son, Francis, attended Fort Worth's fat stock show, and returned

home with 100 registered-Angus cows and four registered bulls.

At the turn of the century, West Texas was in the grip of a bad drought, forcing many cattlemen to cut their herds. J.C. and Francis, 11 years old at the time, were looking over Angus cattle owned by G.O. Creswell. His initial price was \$120 for the cows and \$250 for the bulls. J.C. said that if he could talk the price down to \$100 and \$200, he would buy them. To his surprise, Creswell took him up on the offer, and the Simpsons had the start to their Angus herd.

Ten years later, J.C. bought an Angus bull named Plowman from his friend L.R. Kershaw. Before 1919, the bull had earned 45 championships and grand championships across the United States, and won five shows in Canada. J.C. paid \$40,000 for Plowman — the highest price ever paid for a bull in that area at the time. Through the years, Plowman's progeny made Simpson Angus Ranch one of the most recognizable herds in Oklahoma.

In the 1930s, J.C.'s nephew, Robert Simpson, took over the herd. Both he and his uncle helped other cattlemen get their start in the Angus business. Robert added many powerful animals to the herd, including General 11 of Sunbeam, Dor Maes Bardoliermere 98 and Eileenmere 939.

In 1973, Robert Simpson passed the herd on to Charles Simpson, his son. Charles still manages the ranch today and runs day-to-day operations with the current herd manager, Les Turner.

### Angus Convention

Online coverage of the event — including articles, speaker presentations, photo galleries and videos — can be found in the Newsroom at [www.angusconvention.com](http://www.angusconvention.com).

