

# HISTORY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION

*66th*



**1945-2011**

*The Tradition Continues*



# Table of Contents

*Complied by  
Margaret P. Cheek  
Jane C. Fowler  
Bettie B. Garner*

Important Dates in the Early History.....	2
First Board of Directors and Officials .....	3
First Employees.....	3
Members Forty or more years.....	4
Early Sales.....	5
NCAA Presidents.....	6
NCAA Hall of Fame.....	7
Angus Handbook Dedications.....	8
 <b>History of the North Carolina Angus Association</b>	
by Margaret P. Cheek.....	9-14
by Jane C. Fowler.....	14-21
by Bettie B. Garner.....	21-23
Our Angus Personal History.....	24

# *Important Dates in the Early History*

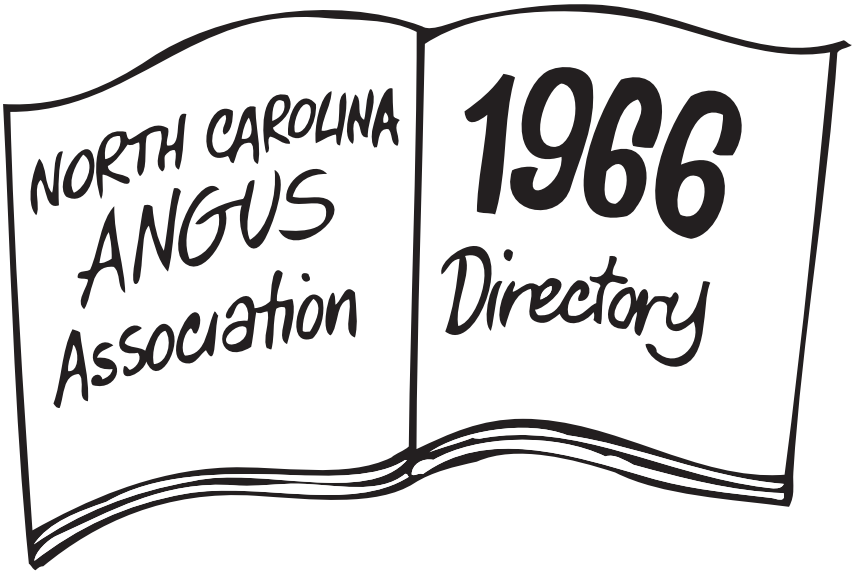
- 1873** Aberdeen-Angus cattle first came to America
- 1883** The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association was organized in Chicago.
- Late 1890's** "Blacks" were making their appearance in North Carolina.
- 1945** The North Carolina Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association was formed.
- 1951** The Association became a stock holding corporation with 66 members.
- 1951** The first Angus cattle sale in North Carolina.
- 1953** The quarterly magazine, Angus News, was published.
- 1954** The Association was amended to a membership corporation with 128 members and the first office was established.
- 1957** The North Carolina Junior Angus Club was formed.
- 1958** The name, North Carolina Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association was changed to North Carolina Angus Association, Inc.
- 1963** The "grading system" initiated.
- 1969** The Trailer-booth for fairs was purchased.
- 1972** The quarterly magazine was discontinued and the first annual Handbook-Directory was published and the Association became affiliated with Angus Topics.
- 1975** Fieldmen were discontinued.

# *First Board of Directors And Other Official Capacities*

Edmund Aycock (County Agent).....	Lenoir County
Thurmond Chatham.....	Elkin
Tom Cooley (Manager).....	Elkin
H. C. Ferebee.....	Camden
W. S. Gray.....	Currituck
John W. Labouisse.....	then Charlotte
James M. Parrott.....	Kinston
Eugene Transou.....	Sparta
Dr. Paul Whitaker.....	Kinston
Mrs. Margaret Woodson.....	Mocksville

## *First Employees*

- 1951** L. I. Case, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, part-time
- 1952** Van Holsapple, graduate student of NCSU, full time
- 1954** Margaret Cheek, Secretary, part-time, then full-time
- 1956** Hans Rohdenburg, Lackaday Farms, Anderson, SC,  
full-time (for 15 years)
- 1963** Billy McRae, summer assistant
- 1966** Emerson Black, part-time assistant
- 1971** Thomas I. Irwin, graduate of University of Tennessee,  
full-time
- 1973** Campbell McInnis, Extension Agent in Halifax County,  
full-time



## ***40 OR MORE YEARS AND ...STILL GOING!***

The following Angus breeders, listed in the 1966 membership directory, are still current breeders and were listed in the 2011 membership directory (in alphabetical order)

1. Cleo and Betty Cain.....Circle C Farm
2. The J. R. Fowler, Jr., Family.....Wakelon Angus Farms
3. Gaylord (Dr. G. H., Jr.) French.....Sunny Home Farm
4. William (Howard & Donna) Gentry.....Gentry Homeplace
5. W. T. (Ike) Jackson.....Pasquotank Farms
6. NCSU Animal Husbandry
7. Dean R. Richardson.....Mountain Meadow Farm
8. Lindsay (Tom) Wagstaff.....Wagstaff. Inc.

# *EARLY SALES*

---

- 1951 Forty head of selected Angus from North Carolina and Virginia breeders, held at YMCA building in Elkin.
- 1952 Spring Quality Sale, Piedmont Sale, and Farmers Opportunity Sale.
- 1953 First Annual Bull Sale, held on State Fairgrounds with 38 bulls averaging \$407.
- 1954 Nine sales were held.
- 1958 The Spring Quality Sale became the Mid-Atlantic Futurity.
- 1963 Annual Bull Sale discontinued and the “grading system” initiated.
- 1964-1965 Various sales sold 1,085 Angus head.
- Late 1960s Angus sales included:
- Chinqua-Penn Plantatin.....Reidsville
  - Moorelands Farm.....Mooresville
  - Meadows Plantation.....Lillington
  - Downhome Farms.....Greensboro
  - Hillside Farm.....Greensboro
  - Honey Hill Farm.....Hallsboro
  - Oak Summit Farms.....Winston-Salem
  - Tobaccoland Angus Sale.....Kinston
  - Great Pee Dee Sale.....Bennettsville, SC
  - Cow Country Angus Sale (NC and SC), Spartanburg
- 1970 Progressive Angus Sale, Lenoir  
The Performance Tested Sales
- 1971 Northwest Premium Angus Sale, Winston-Salem  
Macland Production Sale, Laurel Hill
- 1976 D. S. Moss Sale, Enfield  
Eno River Sale, Bill Ray
- 1977 Breeder’s Pride Show & Sale
- 1978 Dave Canning Sale
- 1979 Honey Haven Farms Sale, Shelby

# North Carolina

## Angus Association - Presidents

---

1945	Avery Neaves, Elkin	1980	James I. Smith, Butner
1946	Eugene Transou, Sparta	1981	James I. Smith, Butner
1947	Tom Cooley, Elkin	1982	Marvin B. Hamrick, Shelby
1951	J. Gwyn Gambille, North Wilkesboro	1983	Marvin B. Hamrick, Shelby
1952	R. T. Chatham, Jr., Elkin	1984	Mary Ellen Boyd, Henderson
1953	R. T. Chatham, Jr., Elkin	1985	Dr. Ted Westmoreland, Shelby
1954	Earl B. Searcy, Sr., Valdese	1986	Dr. Ted Westmoreland, Shelby
1955	John W. Labouisse, Durham	1987	D. S. Moss, Enfield
1956	A. D. Slater, Landrum, SC	1988	D. S. Moss, Enfield
1957	James R. McKenzie, Laurinburg	1989	Howard Gentry, King
1958	James R. McKenzie, Laurinburg	1990	Howard Gentry, King
1959	Earl H. Wilkins, Greensboro	1991	Tom Zone, Sanford
1960	Earl H. Wilkins, Greensboro	1992	Tom Zone, Sanford
1961	Dr. C. S. Drummond, Winston Salem	1993	Joe Hampton, Laurel Springs
1962	John W. Labouisse, Durham	1994	Joe Hampton, Laurel Springs
1963	Frank A. Rouse, Kinston	1995	Doug Rowell, Indian Trail
1964	T. M. "Bill" Smith, Reidsville	1996	Doug Rowell, Indian Trail
1965	Marshall H. Roberts, Fletcher	1997	Dr. Phil Goodson, Louisburg
1966	Charles L. Stokes, Maury	1998	Joel Harrison, Kinston
1967	J. R. Fowler, Jr., Zebulon	1999	Joe Haynes, Statesville
1968	J. R. Fowler, Jr., Zebulon	2000	Joe Haynes, Statesville
1969	William Gentry, King	2001	Roger Lane, Gates
1970	William Gentry, King	2002	Roger Lane, Gates
1971	John J. Bridges, Shelby	2003	Robin Hampton, Mt. Ulla
1972	James R. McKenzie, Laurinburg	2004	Robin Hampton, Mt. Ulla
1973	D. S. Moss, Enfield	2005	J. F. Lancaster, Rocky Mount
1974	H. G. Patterson, Morganton	2006	J. F. Lancaster, Rocky Mount
1975	Ira Gentry, King	2007	Steve McPherson, Snow Camp
1976	Bill G. Johnson, Ramseur	2008	Steve McPherson, Snow Camp
1977	James D. McCauley, Burlington	2009	Dean Crocker, Cherryville
1978	James D. McCauley, Burlington	2010	Dean Crocker, Cherryville
1979	Fred Tullai, Jr., Chapel Hill	2011	James G. Scarlett, Snow Camp

# *North Carolina Angus Association Hall of Fame*

---

**1994**

*Lewis S. "Luke" Graham*

**2002**

*Johnnie James Bridges*

**1996**

*Gaylord H. French  
James McKenzie*

**2003**

*Mary Ellen Boyd  
James D. McCauley*

**1997**

*William H. Gentry, Sr  
Charles Stokes*

**2004**

*Dr. Ray Harvey*

**1998**

*Margaret Cheek  
Ira Gentry*

**2006**

*Dr. Phil Goodson*

**1999**

*James R. Fowler, Jr.  
D. S. Moss*

**2007**

*Joe Haynes*

**2000**

*Robert Hipps  
Bette Laursen  
Harley Tate*

**2010**

*J. F. Lancaster*

**2011**

*Roger Lane*

**2001**

*James I. Smith*



# *Angus Handbook Dedications*

**1971-1972**

Hans Rohdenburg

**1986**

William Gentry

**1999**

Joe & Robin Hampton

**1973**

Gaylord H. French

**1987**

James McKenzie

**2000**

Bruce Shankle

**1974**

Margaret Cheek

**1988**

Lewis S. "Luke" Graham

**2001**

Jane Ebert

**1975**

James R. McKenzie

**1989**

Lindsay Wagstaff

**2002**

Richard L. Spader

**1976**

James Waggoner

**1990**

Dr. Ray Harvey

**2003**

Isiah "Ike" F. Jackson

**1977**

Lewis S. "Luke" Graham

**1991**

D. S. Moss

**2004**

Ray & Suzanne Brewer

**1978**

Sam Buchanan

**1992**

Jim & Donna McCauley

**2005**

Joe Haynes

**1979**

Commissioner  
James A. Graham

**1993**

Bette Laursen

**2006**

Roger Lane

**1980**

William & Ira Gentry

**1994**

Ted Westmoreland

**2007**

Emily Tennant  
Miss American Angus

**1981**

John Bridges

**1995**

James I. Smith

**2008**

Jane C. Fowler

**1982**

J. R. Fowler, Jr.

**1996**

Commissioner  
James A. Graham

**2009**

J. F. & Carolyn Lancaster

**1983**

All Past Presidents

**1997**

Howard Gentry

**2010**

Dr. Phil Goodson

**1984**

Margaret Cheek

**1998**

Tom Zone

**2011**

Joe Hampton

**1985**

Ira Gentry Family

# *North Carolina Angus Association*

## *History*

Aberdeen-Angus cattle first came to America in 1873. The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association was organized in 1883. By the end of the next decade, “Blacks” were making their appearance in North Carolina. Some fifty years later, about 1945, a small group of Angus enthusiasts formed the North Carolina Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association. The Association was chartered in 1951 as a stockholding corporation, amended to a membership corporation in 1954 and the name was changed to North Carolina Angus Association, Inc. in 1958.

Very little of the early activities of the Association have been preserved; however, it is known that Mr. Avery Neaves of Elkin was elected the first president. Serving as directors and in other official capacities were Mrs. Margaret Woodson of Boxwood Farm in Mocksville; Thurmond Chatham, Elkin; Dr. Paul Whitaker, Kinston; Edmund Aycock, then county agent in Lenoir County; W. S. Gray of Bell’s Island Farm, Currituck; John W. Labouisse, then of Charlotte; James M. Parrott, Kinston; Tom Cooley, then manager of Klondike Farm in Elkin; Eugene Transou of Sparta and H. C. Ferebee of Camden.

With the help of L. I. Case, then an Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at State, and Graham Morrison, then county agent in Lincoln County, this dedicated group put on its first sale at the YMCA Building in Elkin with 40 head of cattle selected from breeders in North Carolina and Virginia. Several sales were held in succeeding years at this same location and, with an increase in activities and business, L. I. Case was hired to work part-time for the Association in 1951.

In April of 1952, the Association hired its first full time fieldman, Van Holsapple, a graduate student from North Carolina State. With the list of 66 members paying annual dues of \$5, Holsapple set

out to put the Association on firm ground. He held three sales that first year including the Spring Quality Sale, the Piedmont Sale, the Farmers Opportunity Sale, and established the first Annual Bull Sale in early 1953. He also initiated a Newsletter in November 1952 which continued to December 1953 when he published the first quarterly North Carolina Angus News in magazine form, convincing members of their need to advertise their herds. The first membership directory issued in March 1954 lists 128 members, seven of which remain members to this day: H. C. Ferebee & Sons - John E. and H. C. III of Camden; Sunny Home Farm of Eden; Oak Summit Farms of Winston-Salem; Gentry Brothers of King; DeWitt Holton of Jamestown; Macland Farms of Laurinburg and North Carolina State University, formerly North Carolina State College.

There was tremendous interest in the breed in these early years of the fifties and breeders from across the state put their confidence in the Association with a Booster Sale held on November 3, 1953, which netted over \$6,000 for the Association's treasury. The same year Holsapple moved to Greensboro and in 1954 established the first office, temporarily in a small space on Battleground Avenue, where I helped him part-time. In the fall we moved to our present location at 1813 Pembroke Road and I was employed as your secretary on a full time basis. Part of the Booster Sale funds was used to furnish and equip the new office.

One of my first duties was to set up a set of books to properly record the finances of the Association and credit surely goes to several breeders who assisted in this undertaking - Mrs. S. T. Lambeth of Horsepen Creek Farm here in Guilford County, Mr. John Labouisse and in subsequent years, Mr. Ralph Price and Mr. Earl Wilkins, both serving in the capacity of treasurer. The number of sales increased to nine by 1954-55 including calf sales that were started at Enka and Monroe. Membership was also on the increase and registrations of Angus Cattle had risen from 455 in 1949 to around 2,000 in 1955.

In the summer of 1956 Holsapple resigned to return to his native Indiana and A. D. "Bud" Salter, then president was scouting around for a prospective fieldman. He contacted Hans Rohdenburg at that

time manager of Lackaday Farms in Anderson, S. C. Rohdenburg accepted the position and arrived on October 1. In the meantime, a note from George Jurtz, a Kentucky auctioneer who had cried several sales for us arrived in the mail. George said he had just heard that Rohdenburg was coming to N. C. and he wrote "You all will like Hans." And everybody did just that. The impact of his influence is still being felt in N. C. He insisted on high quality, promoted performance testing, good management, strict culling, top herd sires, and still took time to smell the flowers as evidenced in his own vegetable garden beautifully surrounded by roses - a sight to behold!

Under his leadership for the next fifteen years, membership increased, many new herds were established and consignment and production sales reached 12 to 15 a year during the mid-sixties. The Quality Sale evolved into the Mid-Atlantic Futurity in 1958 in Greensboro and attracted top quality cattle. In 1967 this event merged with the Georgia Angus Association's Quality Sale to become the Great Southland Futurity which is still an annual event.

Our Graded Angus Bull Sale has been an ongoing event since 1953. That first sale was held in an unheated building on the State Fairgrounds and 38 bulls averaged \$407. Records show that some 300 breeders attended but many left early without a bull because of the extreme cold. For several years cows were consigned to this sale and the location moved to Rocky Mount, then back to Raleigh. In 1963, on the farm selection of bulls was discontinued and a grading system initiated which continues to the present.

Association sponsored sales increased each year and in fiscal 1964-65, 1,085 head went through the ring. Production sales were coming to the forefront in N. C. and the Association managed annual sales at Chinqua-Penn Plantation, Reidsville; Moorelands Farms in Mooresville; Meadows Plantation, Lillington; Downhome Farms and Hillside Farm, both in Greensboro; Honey Hill Farm in Hallsboro and Oak Summit Farms in Winston-Salem.

During earlier years, Rohdenburg worked diligently with several breeders in western N. C. organizing the Carolina Junior Angus Club. Formed in 1957 under the guidance and leadership of the late Earl Morgan of Asheville, these Juniors made excellent progress in the next few years with their heifer chains, annual field days and tours to N. C. farms as well as trips to Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina. Other adult advisors responsible for leading these Juniors in the early days were the Robert Andersons of Asheville, the U. G. Hensons of Canton, the Thomas Hoopers and the Carl Brysons of Brevard. An eastern group was formed in 1967 in the Pitt County area; however, it was short lived.

In 1971 Rohdenburg announced his intended retirement after a most productive fifteen years and Thomas I. Irwin, graduate of the University of Tennessee, arrived on the scene. Among his initial assignments was managing the first Northwest Premium Angus Sale in Winston-Salem and a dispersal at Shelby of the Whisnant herd in Burnsville. He got his feet good and wet with those two sales and managed or co-managed eight other sales for a total of ten. 1972 was also the year that we became affiliated with Angus Topics as our official newsletter and published our first Directory-Handbook which replaced our quarterly Angus News.

J. R. Fowler, Jr., served for several years as Handbook chairman, followed by Lou Longest, Ed Taylor and Ike Jackson. In 1979, Nancy Smith took hold of the reins and has continued until the present. Our Handbook is also distributed at fairs, field days, sales and meetings and has proven to be a popular item.

In the summer of 1973, Tom Irwin resigned to become the Tennessee-Kentucky regional manager for the American Angus Association and Campbell McInnis, former county extension agent in Halifax County, was employed. That first year McInnis handled seven sales including two dispersals. The following year, he produced two additional sales, Friendship Farm Production Sale in Greensboro and the Macland Production Sale held at Laurel Hill. In cooperation with the American Angus Association, a series of Forward Angus Forums were scheduled across the state attracting

large audiences. McInnis resigned in 1975 to go with Pioneer and the board of directors concluded at that time that the Association should continue for a while without a fieldman because of economic conditions. In the absence of a fieldman during these recent years, a lot of credit should be given to our presidents - Bill G. Johnson, James D. McCauley, Fred Tullai, Jr., and James I. Smith - and to the directors serving on the board who have given more than 100%.

Under the chairmanship of Fred Tullai, Jr., the Breeder's Pride Show and Sale was established in 1977, and in 1978 and 1979 was held in conjunction with the Southern Farm Show in Raleigh.

In addition to our annual Northwest Premium and Graded Bull Sales, we have been assisting other sale managers on a limited basis which has earned some income for the Association. We work with Bill Ray of Eno River Farms, Hillsborough, with two production sales, one in 1976 and again in 1978.

Two other production sales which have continued to be annual events are the D. S. Moss Sale in Enfield begun in 1976 and the Honey Haven Farms Sale in Shelby in 1979. The Galaxy I Angus Sale at Shelby sponsored by a group of North and South Carolina breeders was started in 1981 and plans are to hold this sale every two years. We also worked with Dave Canning's establishment assisting in clerking his sales from 1978 to 1981.

As Juniors in the western part of the state aged out of the group, interest moved toward the Morganton area and was reactivated in 1974 and 1975 under the leadership of David Garrison and H. G. "Pat" Patterson as well as Dr. T. H. Westmoreland and John Bridges in the years following. Starting in 1976, these Juniors, some thirty strong, have held an annual Junior Angus Heifer Show in Shelby and attended and exhibited in district and national shows and fairs. They remain a strong and active group.

A history of this Association would not be complete, without a few words about our Field Days. They have been an integral part of our history providing educational opportunities as well as time to

visit with friends and renew old acquaintances. This list is too long to be included here but over the years many breeders have welcomed us to their homes and farms with genuine hospitality.

Since 1978 we have been giving complimentary memberships to new breeders who buy at our sales or through private treaty from our members. This has strengthened and increased our membership considerably and at the same time introduced these new breeders to our Association and encouraged them to become actively involved.

This is a strong Association and credit goes to literally hundreds of Angus breeders, in addition to the few mentioned herein, who have contributed substantially of their time, support and leadership in maintaining the integrity of this Association and our great Angus breed.

*Margaret P. Cheek, February 1982*

This strong Association continues because of our belief in Angus cattle and our Association, but more emphatically because of the dedicated, loyal, enthusiastic Angus breeders! As other breed registrations diminished and new breeds arrived on the scene, Angus still lead the way. During the 1960's there seemed to be a "stampede of those exotic cattle" giving competition to our purebred and crossbred programs. Many breeders seemed to be looking at the breeding to Angus "blacks". That black hide is in demand, primarily because of the Angus female's characteristics and successful Certified Angus Beef program.

By 1983 there were many, many registrations of Angus cattle from our state among the over ten million recorded certificates in the American Angus office. We were taking advantage of a performance records program and The Angus Herd Improvement Records, which was organized in 1958. The letters EPD later became household letters and another breeder tool, assisted by the computer.

Our office headquarters did not immediately obtain a computer

. . . but we did have the unforgettable and insuperable Margaret Cheek! More aptly and affectionately called “Mrs. N. C. Angus”, she served our Association for 30 years as the executive secretary. Under her loving and capable organizing, the Association’s every member was in good hands; and we knew it.

Even with continual growth, progress and success, our Association chose not to hire another fieldman. That is reflecting compliment on the secretaries, the strong leadership of the presidents and board of directors, and the untiring efforts of a tremendous number of members. We were united, we delegated, and we accepted responsibilities. (Also, it was from a conservative approach to not spend the C. D. we had worked so hard to retain!)

Mrs. Cheek was followed by Bonnie L. Sweeting, who closed the office on 1813 Pembroke Road in Greensboro and moved it to her home in Lawndale. In 1988 Bette Laursen took the executive secretary’s halter. She held it with skilled leadership and a flair for descriptive writings. Who, if anyone in the Carolinas, has not enjoyed her colorful coverage of interviews, shows and sales, field days, and events and tours? Without her, the Carolina Cattle Connection would not be the same! Bette continues her creative writings with Debbie Claeys of Garner taking the position of executive secretary in 1994-95. She was followed by our current workaholic, Bettie Byrd Garner, who has already proven to be proficient in whatever boots she is asked to wear. Her expertise comes from experience, interest and a desire to please. She maintains the office at 1201 Aversboro Road, Suite H, in Garner.

The North Carolina Angus Association has also thrived because of its array of sales. There have been old and new consignment sales, such as: The Spring Fever, Carolina Spring Special, Fall Festival, NW Premium, Angus Select Bull, The BCIP Performance Tested Bull Sales, Angus Legends and the newest sale being the Mountain Classic Cow Sale. Individual production sales have been held by (to mention a few) Alamc, Honey Haven, “Moss Marshall” and D. S. Moss Annual Production (the longest consecutive running sale in the state), Springfield, Yadkin River, Oak Summit and Wakelon with



Riverchase. Many dispersal sales have been sad occasions as many were held as the result of the death of an Angus breeder.

But behind us older breeders, there is an active Junior Angus Association with energetic, interested breeders, who may mold their paths by our footsteps. Just a very few of their activities are: Junior Beef Round-Up, Junior Heifer Shows, Eastern Regional and National Junior Shows, with showmanship contests. We give them support and wish them luck and best wishes.

Our history would never be complete without saying, Yes; we STILL really enjoy the special field days, the regional meetings, the annual meeting and banquet, the fairs, expos and other get togethers. It's a great combination of work and play.

Our half centennial years have been busy, yet this 50th year has not been as good in the financial market as in the quality range. The current economy pendulum is not in our favor, but be assured Angus breeders and Angus Cattle will prevail! And when the pendulum swings back, Angus will still reign supreme champion of breeds in the beef cattle industry. We must work to keep it that way...and we have hope for the next 50 years!

*Jane C. Fowler, January, 1996*

## **NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION HISTORY**

*Continued*

The 60 year milestone of our North Carolina Angus Association has me deep in thought of “the way we were” and the way our cattle were. Those champion bulls really were old-fashioned - short and blocky! Pictures of proud breeders and new owners were gentlemen standing behind their champion, their waist lines quite visible and parallel to the animal's back!! They too were pretty Angus, but so different. In the 1950's there were fewer Angus breeders but there was great camaraderie, sound promotion and avid growth...some

things remain constant.

After acquiring the best available purebred Angus, along came the invasion in the 1960's and early 1970's of the Continental breeds, causing the demand for crossbreeding programs. As their frame size increased so did their production costs. We were so disillusioned, but were soon blessed with the science of artificial insemination. Yes, "we were before" the new tools of AI, EPD, AHIR, sire summaries, embryo transfers, carcass data, ultrasound, DNA and cloning...all familiar to us now.

There were other changes in the mid 60's. The USDA, listening to poultry and pork medical research, changed the marbling grade standards. More competition...but a good move. Immediately, the grocery co-ops were cutting and wrapping beef, thus ending the in-store butcher custom cutting procedure. This tripled the sale of beef and started a new era of merchandising for the consumer. Twelve years later, the Certified Angus Beef program added new standards for quality and flavor.

During this time, closed circuit television became another style of viewing, selling and buying cattle. Technology, opening doors of opportunities, did not bypass the cattle industry.

But a big change came in 1971 for those of us who attended the Chicago Stockyard and the American Angus Conventions as the world famous stockyard facility closed. "Louisville...here we come" and have been returning each November since. Both were outstanding sites for productive business meeting and memorable social gatherings.

Many of those years were good years. In the 70's, the U. S. led the world in cattle producers, from all breeds, resulting in over 112 million head. Remember the advertisement in 1984 with Clara at Wendy's demanding "Where's the beef?" This started a major promotion by the National Checkoff resulting in \$1/head sold. But along with the good, comes the not so good. Cattle price cycles were and still are volatile! We cope, especially with drought, but also with

the much unpredictability of Mother Nature. Issues, ranging from animal activists, urban development, and animal health to food safety continue to be topics of concern. FMD in Europe in 2001, followed by cows identified as BSE positive in Canada and Washington state in 2003 affected the entire beef industry worldwide. These events will never be forgotten.

Nothing is perfect...we have experiences, we share results, we learn from all, and we do our best...as does the North Carolina Angus Association.

## **10 YEAR HISTORY APPROACHING 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

When we closed the 50th year, we were concerned yet confident. At the beginning of this year, the American Angus office confirmed that "Angus has the largest beef breed registry in the world". At the closing of the 2004 fiscal year, there were 298,770 head of cattle registered. North Carolina contributed to that number.

This cattle history affected our North Carolina Angus history. We not only feel pride in reaching this 60th anniversary, but also are accepting the challenge to continue building a strong foundation for the success of our Association and its individuals in...quality of cattle, reliability of breeders, profits from products, and pleasure from all avenues. What an organization! What a profession!

We are pleased with our membership in five categories. The 2004 handbook listed: 222 purebred breeders, 86 commercial breeders, 15 associate breeders, 56 junior members and 31 auxiliary members for a total of 410 members. (1995 Handbook listed a total of 381 members.)

We continue to follow many traditions while making new ones. Our field days have had gracious hosts with excellent attendance. Beginning in 1996 our hosts were: Springfield Angus, Louisburg; Shufflers Farms, Hamptonville; Greenstar Angus, Kinston; Chinqua-Penn Plantation, Reidsville; Deep Creek Farms, Yadkinville; Reddies River Angus, Millers Creek; Panther Creek Farms, Pink Hill; Faircrest Angus, Cedar Grove (with Angus Advantage); and

NCSU Beef Unit, Raleigh (jointly attended by all breeds).

Each March, members enjoy the educational and interesting 3-day Regional Meetings and Farm Tours. For variety, on tour included visits to the N. C. Legislature (while in session with a farm bill), the NCDA, the Central Farmer's Market and the NCSU Vet School.

In 1995, members began taking "Angus Breeders Trips" conducted by Bette Laursen of Oxford and assisted by Linda Hicks of Roxboro. Tours have been in Montana (two trips), Virginia, North Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

The North Carolina Angus Association appreciates the opportunity it receives to work sales throughout the state. Member Sales Service has worked as many as seven sales a year. In 1996, Raleigh was the location for the Beef Expo and Sale; 1998 was the beginning of the Down East Sale; and in 2003 the popular Spring Fever Sale celebrated its 20th year along with its first Heifer Futurity. In 2004, the Partner's Sale, held annually on the D. S. Moss Farm, supported the NCAA with proceeds from a donated heifer being given in memory of D. S. Moss. His production sale was the longest consecutive running sale in the state.

Three other noteworthy events for NCAA are: the establishing of the William Sanders Scholarship in 1994 for high school seniors to continue their education in an agricultural or agricultural related field; setting up the N. C. Angus Association website; and chartering the N. C. Angus Auxiliary in 2000.

One of the primary goals of the Angus Auxiliary is to assist our youth in their Angus endeavors. In my '96 article I stated, "There was an active Junior Association with energetic, interested breeders". What an understatement! There have been so many awards and honors. I asked Callie Birdsell to assist me in acknowledging them. May I say, "If you are a Junior Angus member, we are proud of you and you need to be recognized... Thanks!" Members of the National Junior Association Board were: Brent Scarlett 1996-1998, Julie

Scarlett 1998-2000, Jenni Beck 2002-2004, and Heath McPherson 2004-2006. Receiving the NJAA Outstanding Leadership Award were: Betsie Ebert in 1999 and Callie Birdsell in 2003. Placing in the Top 3 National Showmanship Contest were: Brent Scarlett, Betsie Ebert and Karl Holshouser. Gold Award Recipients were: Brent Scarlett, Julie Scarlett, Betsie Ebert, Karl Holshouser and Josh Tennant. Members of the North Carolina Junior Association have been awarded the following scholarships: NJAA Foundation, AAAuxiliary, CAB, Atlantic National Merit, the Greg Kruegger Memorial and the William Sanders Scholarship. NCJAA members have represented N. C. well at the National Junior Angus Show by placing in the Quiz Bowl, the CookOff and in Speaking Competitions. In 1994 and again in 2004, the NCJAA hosted the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show in Raleigh. They are also to be commended for being one of the largest sponsors of the Special Olympic Show at the N. C. State Fair. All this, while going to high school and college... WOW! Juniors, we applaud, admire, appreciate and respect each of you.

The American Angus Auxiliary are busy ladies as well. For many years, a few of us attended the national meetings as guests in Louisville, but delayed joining this group of strong performers. Yet, in 2000, we collectively pooled our efforts (ladies, youth and guys) as North Carolina was the host state at the National convention, supporting Jane Ebert, who was elected to serve as the Auxiliary National President! It was a proud moment for Jane and the entire N. C. Angus family.

Under the leadership of N. C. President Nancy Crocker and National Chairpersons, 47 members have joined the NCAAx. Succeeding Presidents have been Elaine Scarlett, Elaine Wood and Lucille Leatherman. The 2005 President is Teresa Swisher.

Membership leaders at the national level have been: Jane Ebert - President and Atlantic National Board Director; Elaine Scarlett and Martha Holshouser - Scholarship Committee Members; Revonda Ratledge - Angus Sale Barn Chairperson; and Jane Fowler - Annual Meeting Brunch Chairperson.

Purposes of the national and state auxiliaries, other than supporting our youth, include: encouraging the promotion and consumption of beef by developing Angus awareness through beef education, and fund raising for scholarships (such as the Miss America Angus and the Auxiliary College Scholarships).

Activities sponsored by the NCAAx include: hosting the 2001 American Angus Auxiliary Brunch in Louisville, designing and marketing message tiles and farm signs, contributing to the Sanders Scholarship, volunteering (time, talent and finances) for the 2004 NCJAA Eastern Regional in Raleigh, chairing the NCAA silent auction in 2004/2005, and conducting annual “special interest” tours.

Our dedication, commitment and contributions have been nationally acknowledged.

Special recognition to NCAA members include: Joe Hampton - Director of the American Angus Association in 2003; William and Lucille Leatherman - NJAA Advisors of the Year in 1998; N. C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame - Beef Division - Luke Graham in 1980, Ira Gentry in 2000 and J. R. Fowler, Jr., in 2004; Dairy Division - James I. Smith in 1989; Swine Division - Russell and Elaine Wood in 2001; and as a General Supporter - Ray Harvey in 1997.

N. C. Angus is well known for many other distinguished and committed breeders. They have led our Association through 60 progressive years. We look forward to being the continued leaders in the cattle industry worldwide.

*Jane C. Fowler, January 2005*

Suzanne Brewer was hired in 2006 as Executive Secretary after the retirement of Bettie Byrd Garner. The Association office moved to Lexington.

In 2006 Dr. James Rhyne of Statesville headed up the creation of the N. C. Angus Association Endowment for Excellence which provides perpetual support for the NCAA and its work on behalf of the industry.

In 2006 the Association was instrumental in the Angus Cattle Drive Endowment in which the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N. C. State University had over \$100,000 in gifts to support beef cattle research with the historic Angus herd at the Upper Piedmont Research Station.

One of our own, Joe Hampton was elected to serve as President of the American Angus Association for 2011. A large group of NCAA folks went to Louisville to assist with Joe's Presidential Reception after his AAA inauguration.

The following were named Historic Herds by the American Angus Association:

2001 - Wakelon Angus, J.R Fowler Family

2010 - Gentry Homeplace Angus-Howard Gentry Family

2010 - Ira Gentry Family Farm

In 2007 J.F & Carolyn Lancaster, Ann Angus Farm, Rocky Mount donated a heifer sold in the Spring Fever Sale with proceeds going to the Association. At their 2011 sale, Blue Q Ranch held a drawing for a steer, the steer winner donated the steer to be sold with the proceeds going to the NCAA. Scarlett Farms donated a heifer, sold in the 2011 Spring Fever, with proceeds shared between the NCAA and the NCJAA (75/25%), respectively.

The Angus Foundation partnered with North Carolina State University and NCAA to host the 13th Boot Camp in Raleigh on August 10-11, 2010. The 1 ½-day educational event was open to all cattle producers and was packed with speakers, educational presentations and hands-on labs.

The Association holds three sponsored sales each year - The Spring Fever Sale in Reidsville, The Out West Sale in Union Grove

and The Down East in Clinton. “N. C. Elite Angus Heifer program, developed by our Marketing committee began at the 2011 Spring Fever Sale. This program, with qualifications to insure buyers are provided with the highest quality Angus heifers available in North Carolina was well received !

Member Sale Services continue to assist Association members with private sales. Yearly Field Days are held as well as the March Farm Tours and Meetings. The Association publishes a yearly Member Handbook and bi-monthly newsletters.

The Auxiliary continues to grow, continuing their support of the Juniors and their activities. Martha Holshouser was elected to serve as Region 4 director for the American Angus Auxiliary. Cortney Holshouser was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the AAAX for 2012.

The NC Juniors are thriving and continue to show on local, state and national levels. They had two Miss American Angus winners in the past 6 years - Emily Tennant was Miss American Angus in 2007 and Brooke Harward will serve as Miss American Angus in 2012. Proceeds from the sale of heifers at Blue Q Ranch have been donated to the Juniors. Several of our Juniors have been winners of Auxiliary and Angus Foundation scholarships and other national awards. The Sanders Scholarship was given to: 2005 - Reddin Lewis, 2006 - Billy Lewis, 2007 - Milo Lewis, 2008 - Garrett Jones, 2010 - Milo Lewis, 2011 - Brooke Harward.

Our Association began its website in 2005, [www.ncangus.org](http://www.ncangus.org). Up to date information can be accessed with the touch of computer keys.

Each year the Association’s continued success is due to its dedicated, loyal, enthusiastic Angus breeders. Those who serve on committees, the board of directors, the executive committee and members working together to lead our organization. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Bettie Garner, January 2012*



## **OUR PERSONAL ANGUS HISTORY**