

Bobby Aldridge Inducted into North Carolina Angus Association Hall of Fame

Linda Hicks, NCAA Publicity Chair



Long-time Angus breeder Bobby Aldridge was inducted into the North Carolina Angus Association Hall of Fame at the Association's annual meeting on January 26, 2013. After an introduction by Linda Hicks, Bobby was formally inducted by Bill Ebert, chairperson of the Hall of Fame Committee. "The North Carolina Angus Association Hall of Fame inducted its first member in 1994. To be inducted into the Hall of Fame is an honor reserved for those who have made significant contributions to the Angus breed as well as the North Carolina Angus Association. Tonight, the Association will honor a very deserving, long-time breeder by inducting him as the 23rd member of the Hall of Fame.

"Tonight's inductee has been breeding registered Angus cattle for over 50 years. He was nine years old in 1945 when his father bought his first registered Angus cow. A year later his father gave him a heifer worth \$100, a very large sum in 1946, as payment for a year's work.

"For several years he showed 4-H steers, during which time he had two grand champions at the Piedmont Livestock show in Greensboro. In 1954, 59 years ago, he showed the grand champion and won the showmanship award at the same time. He stopped showing in 1955 and has had a cow/calf operation since then.

"He and his wife, Kathleen, moved to their current farm in 1972. Their three sons - Tim, Terry, and Norman, all showed calves for several years when they were growing up.

"He has been consigning cattle to the North Carolina Angus Association Spring Fever sale since the early years of the sale, and since the first time he consigned to the sale, he has had cattle in the sale every year. In 2003, he was awarded the Ira Gentry Memorial Award, given annually for the lot having the highest sale price.

"Tonight's inductee has consigned bulls to the state test stations at Butner and Salisbury as well as the forage test station at Clinton. He also consigned bulls to the test station at Red House, Virginia, until the operators of the Red House test station, the Bennett family, began focusing on their own bulls and stopped accepting any outside bulls.

"At Butner, he had the top selling bull in 1999/2000, the top indexing and top selling bull in 2001/2002, the top selling bull in 2004/2005, and the top indexing and top selling bull in 2007/2008. At Salisbury, he had the top indexing and top selling bulls in 1994/1995 and 1996/1997. He also had the top indexing bull at Red House in 1990.

"In 1995, our inductee was one of a very small, select group of people in the United States who traveled to Sheridan, Wyoming, as a seed stock producer nominee. He has been awarded the Outstanding Young Farmer Award, Cattleman of the Year in 1977, American Angus Association Historic Herd Award, and has served on the North Carolina Angus Association Board of Directors.

"He's a long-time member of the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association and served as a county commissioner in Caswell County for 20 years. He was vice-chairman for one year and chairman for two years. He has been a member of the Southern Caswell Ruritan Club for 35 years, serving as president and secretary and been named the outstanding Ruritan member.

"Larry Whitt, retired County Extension Director and Livestock Agent for Caswell County, said our inductee is a genuine gentleman and a wonderful cattleman. He added that he is one of the more

progressive cattlemen that he ever worked with. He said he never questioned the Angus breed. Larry said when it came to breeding, they didn't always agree, but they always maintained their dignity and friendship. According to Larry, our inductee is not afraid to change, he works really hard, and he tries to be in the top echelon of breeders in the state. He really believes in the principles of performance testing. He has had to deal with a lot of poor soil and has learned how to manage those soils and get the maximum production from them.

"Larry went on to say that his cattle have always been gentle, and that he was amazed that he could put his hands on most of his cows. They are easy to manage because he spends a lot of time with them. Our inductee has had his ups and downs and discouraging moments, but he has persevered. Larry said, 'He's a good, solid person who wants to do the right thing for everybody concerned. He stands behind what he says. He's modest; he will not brag on himself about anything.'

"Joey Knight, current County Extension Director and Livestock Agent for Caswell County, said our inductee is a strong supporter of the Caswell County Cattlemen's Association. He said his farm is not a show place, but rather a working farm. He's made his living from tobacco and cattle, and not too many people can say that. He bred his herd from scratch, has never chased the fads, and has stayed pretty much in the middle. He has always had consistency. Joey said, 'He's a super nice fellow. He's always helped organize Caswell County tours to other farms and has never missed a tour. He's a strong advocate for the cattle industry and always in the front line of anything to do with the cattle industry.'

"Our inductee is a long-time member of the North Carolina Angus Association, having made his first visit to the office in the 50's, when Margaret Cheek was secretary of the Association. Our inductee purchased his lifetime membership in the American Angus Association on January 23, 1964, 49 years ago earlier this week. When I spoke with the membership department at the American Angus Association, they told me the total number of memberships ever issued as of December 31, 2012, was 269,152. As of January 24, 2013, there are 25,254 active members. Our inductee's membership number is 5295.

It is a great honor and tremendous pleasure to announce the 2013 North Carolina Angus Association Hall of Fame inductee is Mr. Bobby Aldridge of Oakview Angus, Yanceyville, North Carolina. Please join me in congratulating Bobby on this honor."

After his induction, Bobby spoke briefly, thanking the Association for this honor. Upon completion of his remarks, he was given a standing ovation and received many individual congratulations throughout the remainder of the evening.

