

## North Carolina Angus Association 78th Annual Meeting

By: Cortney Holshouser, NCAA Executive Secretary

The 2023 North Carolina Angus Association Annual Meeting was held February 11, 2023 at the Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building in Yadkinville, NC. It was a great day of fellowship with our North Carolina Angus family highlighted by an educational session, conducting association business, and welcoming new members to the association.

The day began with an interactive discussion panel focused on marketing bulls to customers and helping those customers market their calves for a premium. Troy Marshall, American Angus Association Director of Commercial Industry Relations, served as the moderator. Troy began the session by giving an update of the Association's commercial programs offered and expanded on the recent announcement of the Angus Link program's new collaboration with IMI Global as a third-party verification service. Troy explained that the collaboration will make it easier and more efficient for producers to access an extensive suite of verification programs and the feeder cattle industry's leading genetic merit evaluation tool in one enrollment. Paul Bennett of Knoll Crest Farm, Bill Tucker of Tucker Family Farms, Jennifer Ligon with Buckingham County Virginia Extension, and Roger Morris President of Buckingham Cattlemen's Association served as panelists. Paul and Bill each spoke of their experience raising and marketing registered bulls and providing service back to their customers by helping them market their calves. Jennifer and Roger explained the concept of the Buckingham County Replacement Heifer Sale that markets commercial females for a premium by adapting a strict selection process. One theme that was repeated throughout the panel discussion was the importance of serving your customers and offering them opportunities to add more value to their cattle.

The North Carolina Angus Auxiliary and North Carolina Junior Angus Association held their Annual Meetings early in the day. The Auxiliary met at the Yadkin Masonic Lodge and enjoyed a BBQ lunch, made plans for the coming year, elected new officers, and were treated to guest speaker, Beth Pugh Ferrell. Beth is currently serving as an Agricultural Programs Specialist with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, was recently elected as a Wake County Soil and Water District Supervisor and owns and operates Pack House Farm. Beth spoke to the group about the importance of women in agriculture getting involved in organizations you are passionate about and telling our story to the public. The Auxiliary also hosted the always popular silent auction throughout the day. The Juniors visited Inman Family Farm in Dobson, enjoyed BBQ, made plans for the coming year, and elected new officers as well.

After a short break, the Annual Business Meeting of the North Carolina Angus Association (NCAA) was conducted. Each present association committee chairman shared their annual report of activities for 2022 and goals for the coming year with the membership. The retiring NCAA board of directors' members were recognized and thanked for their three years of service to the association. The retiring Board members are John Brewer, Derek Goddard, Brooke Harward, Zach Moffitt, and Jeff Wood. New Board members were nominated and elected to serve the association for a term of the next three years. New members include: Emily Barnes, Bryant Chapman, Nathan Ireland, Marty Rooker, and John Smith. Following the membership meeting, the Board of Directors met to elect officers. The 2023 NCAA officers are Callie Carson – President, Michael Wyatt - Vice President and Karl Gillespie - Treasurer.

The social hour gave members and sponsors an opportunity to interact and share industry knowledge. Thank you to our many sponsors who helped to make the meeting an enormous success. Our 2023 Industry Partners include: Gold Level Partners – ABS, Biltmore, Farm Credit Associations of NC, Genex, Neogen, Performance Livestock & Feed Company, and Zach Moffitt Cattle Marketing & Consulting; Silver Level Partners – Clifton Seed Company, Merck Animal Health, Sunset Feeds, and Zoetis; Bronze Level Partners – Harpley's, LTD Farm & Garden, Mitchell's Meat Processing, Nutrien Ag Solutions – Statesville, and Windy Hill Farms/Vytelle. Additional specialty sponsors were: Yadkin County Farm Bureau - Facility sponsor and Annual Meeting sponsors: Carson Family Farms, Forsyth County Farm Bureau, and JC's Ranch. Farm sponsors: Back Creek Angus, Biltmore, Crescent Angus Farm, C-Rock-R Farm, and Panther Creek Farms.

During the social, the featured farms on the NCAA website, the ad spaces for association sales and the select pages in the *NC Angus News* magazine were auctioned. A one of a kind Angus quilt was auctioned for the Auxiliary and a special cake was auctioned for the Juniors. A special thank you to Neil Bowman for serving as the auctioneer and to all of the dedicated NCAA members who participated in the auction. It was a huge success.

The award portion of the evening was next. Louis Fulcher of Fulcher Farms in Godwin was recognized for winning the Ira Gentry Memorial trophy for consigning the high selling lot in the 2022 Spring Fever Sale. Fulcher Rita 1140, a WAR Cavalry B063 Z044 daughter, sold for \$15,500 to Windy Hill Farms, LLC. The consignors of the high indexing Angus bulls in the NCBCIP Bull Test Sales in Waynesville and Butner were then recognized. Gary Hill of Hill Angus Farm and Tim Aldridge of Oakview Angus were given awards during their respective sales in December.

Many NC Junior Angus members were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Hannah Vanhoy, 2022 NC Junior Angus Secretary, then reported on the activities and accomplishments of the Juniors for the year and introduced the new 2023 officers. The DeEtta Wood Leadership Award was presented to Hannah Vanhoy for her participation in various Angus activities during 2022. The National Junior Angus Association Silver Award was also presented to Hannah Vanhoy by Chuck Grove, American Angus Association President. Next, 2023 NC Auxiliary President Alex Brown introduced the new Auxiliary officers and she and Auxiliary Scholarship Co-Chairman April Bowman presented the NC Angus Auxiliary Merit Awards to several NC Junior Angus members for individual achievement in various Angus and agricultural activities.

Marcie Harward, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Foundation Director then spoke about her year of service as a liaison between the NJAA and Angus breeders. She highlighted the Foundation's fundraising campaign this year, as we celebrate 150 years of Angus in America.

Zach Moffitt then made a special presentation to Sharon Rogers who served as NC Angus Association Executive Secretary from 2014-2022. Zach praised Sharon for her strong work ethic and devotion to the Association and its members.

One last, especially important presentation was made when Roy Outlaw of Outlaw Angus was posthumously inducted into the NC Angus Hall of Fame. Roy's family was able to be there to accept this well-deserved award and hear what others wrote about the impact he made on the NC Angus Association during his many years of leadership.

The evening banquet brought out even more members to enjoy dinner and fellowship. President Carson welcomed everyone to the banquet and thanked the NC Angus Auxiliary for providing the beautiful room and table decorations for the day. Members enjoyed a meal of prime rib and all the trimmings. Following dinner, President Carson introduced the evening's keynote speaker, American Angus Association President Chuck Grove. In this year of celebrating 150 years of Angus in America, Chuck gave a presentation of Association history and an outlook for the future.

Lastly, President Callie Carson recognized Mike Moss as retiring NCAA President. She spoke of how dedicated and innovative Mike has been as a leader within the Association and thanked him for serving as President for the past two years. Mike was unable to attend due to sickness, so his son Will accepted the award on his behalf.

Thank you to the Annual Meeting Committee: Roy Swisher - Chairman, Callie Carson, Teresa Swisher, Greg Collins, Brooke Harward and John Brewer and all the other members who helped make the day a success.