



North Carolina
ANGUSNEWS



Spring 2024

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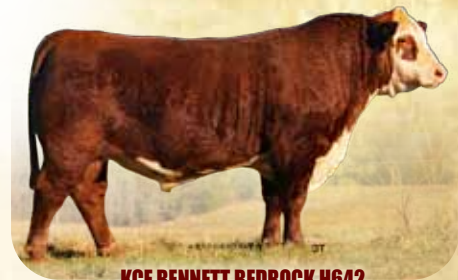
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From Cortney's Desk...

It has been a busy start to the year for the NC Angus Association. We enjoyed seeing so many of you at our 79th Annual Meeting in February in Yadkinville. What a great time to celebrate members' accomplishments and network with Angus friends and industry leaders. Next year we will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary and invite you all to join us in celebrating our rich history. The 40th Annual Spring Fever Sale is set for April 27th at the Shuffler Farm Sale Facility. Consignors have really reached into the heart of their herds to bring us breed leading genetics. It is a very rewarding time to be in the cattle business, so please plan to join us in Union Grove on the 27th and consider some of these females to build your own herds. If I, or any of the officers and Board members, can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out. The leaders of this organization are truly innovative and are constantly working to provide educational, marketing, and networking opportunities to the members.

*Cortney Holshouser
North Carolina Angus Association Executive Secretary*

IN THIS ISSUE

2024 Board of Directors photo.....	11
2024 NCAA Officers	9
2024 Spring Fever Sale Preview.....	30
AAA Announces 10 NC Breeders Registered Most Angus.....	29
AAA Functional Longevity Research Report	37-40
Advertising Rates	4
Amer. Angus Aux: Strength in Partnerships.....	32
Angus Convention Highlights.....	13
Bryan Blinson Receives 2024 Hall of Fame Award	27-28
Bull Test	30
CAB Recipe	33
Dr. Joe French Receives 2024 Hall of Fame Award	21-22
From Cortney's Desk	4

Juniors: 2023 North American Int'l Livestock Exposition	18
Juniors: NCJAA Members Excel.....	18
Juniors: NC State Fair Results.....	16
Juniors: NJAA Member Excels in Dual Purpose Program.....	17-18
Juniors: Updates from NJAA Board of Directors.....	15
Juniors: William M. Sanders Scholarship.....	18
Meet Your New Directors.....	10
Membership Form	5
NCAA 79th Annual Meeting	6-8
NCAA Hosts Field Day.....	24-25
NC Cattlemen's Assoc. & Beef Council Hire New Exec. Dir....	33
President's Message	5
Schedule of Events.....	5

ADVERTISERS

NC State Extension.....	34-35
Back Creek Angus	42
Beef Traxx.....	14
Biltmore.....	Back Cover
Boehringer Ingelheim.....	14
Chessie Creek.....	41
Cleveland County Agriculture & Livestock Exchange.....	42
Clifton Seed Co	23
Farm Credit.....	23
Gentry Homeplace Angus.....	42
Harvest Hosts.....	36
Helena.....	29
Hill Angus Farm.....	11
Industry Partners.....	26

Knoll Crest Farm.....	3
LTD Farm & Garden	42
Mitchell's Meat Processing.....	42
NCAA Online Store.....	33
NCAA QR Codes	14
NCSU Beef Education Unit.....	Inside Front Cover
Neogen.....	12
Panther Creek Farms	Inside Back Cover
Piedmont Custom Meats.....	15
S & H.....	41
Springfield Angus	19
Sunset Feeds Inc.	42
Trans Ova	20
Windy Hill Farms	42
Zach Moffitt	26

North Carolina Angus News Advertising Rates

Ad & Copy Deadline & Rate • Issue I - Spring - March 1 • Issue II - Fall - September 1

Size	Cost/ad/publication	Size	Cost/ad/publication	Size	Cost/ad/publication
Full page (b/w) 8.125 x 10.25	\$275 /edition	1/2 page (b/w) 8.125 x 5.0625	\$125 /edition	1/4 page (b/w) 4 x 5.0625	\$75 /edition
Full page (color) 8.125 x 10.25	\$300 /edition	1/2 page (color) 8.125 x 5.0625	\$150 /edition	Business card (b/w) 3.5 x 2	\$50 /edition

Contact the North Carolina Angus Association for more details on article submission and advertising.
NCAA • Cortney Holshouser • 919-796-2346 • email: ncaa.sec@gmail.com

President's Message



First and foremost, thank you to each of you who took time to attend the 79th NC Angus Association Annual Meeting! It was a wonderful event with educational sessions, time to network with old and new friends, and an opportunity to enjoy a CAB Prime Split Strip supper. Thank you to our sponsors, Annual Meeting Committee, and everyone who worked to make the event a success.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the NCAA for a second Presidential term. Our Association is growing, and it's so nice to see old and new faces at our meetings, events, and sales. We need the leadership and knowledge of the breeders who have tenure in our breed and organization, along with the energy and ideas of the young breeders. There is space for all at the table!

Folks, now is a good time to be a cattleman. We've waited for prices to reach where they are and reap the benefits of our labors. The national cattle herd is at a 70+ year low, and the basics of economics say when supply is low, demand will increase. How can we maintain high demand? Look at your herd, now is the time while prices are high to cull and cull hard. Bad feet, bad udders, bad tempers - it's time to take a ride. Increase the quality of your herd by culling ruthlessly - reward your cattle that perform by not making excuses for those at the bottom.

The demand for breeding cattle will continue to be high as we look to increase the national cattle herd. We are here to support you in marketing your cattle. Remember as you wean fall calves to submit your data for AHIR, actual weights and records are what increases accuracy for EPDs on your herd and the bulls you use.

Spring is coming, grass is turning green and the outlook for beef is good! Thank you for your commitment to Angus cattle and the NCAA.

Thanks,
Callie



North Carolina Angus Association Membership Form

North Carolina Angus Association Inc.

\$50 Regular Membership (All Paying Members -
Purebred and/or Commercial)

Name

Farm Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone Mobile

Email

Website

Return form along with \$50 membership dues to:
NC Angus Association

Cortney Holshouser, 746 Collins Mill Rd, Castalia, NC 27816

2024 Schedule of Events

March 8 - 10	Mid Atlantic Junior Angus Classic, <i>Harrisonburg, VA</i>
March 12	Dancing Pedlar & Dalton on the Sycamore Sale, <i>Monroe, VA</i>
March 26	D&W Angus & Friends Sale, <i>Hartwell, GA</i>
March 29	Miller Angus Sale, <i>Harrisonburg, VA</i>
April 6	Green Hills Cattle & Hope Cattle Spring Turn Out, Bull & Female Sale, <i>Oxford, NC</i>
April 13	NCSU Wolfpack RoundUp Sale, <i>Raleigh, NC</i>
April 13	Knoll Crest Farm Spring Bull & Female Sale, <i>Red House, VA</i>
April 25	Cox & Collier Online Sale, <i>Clinton, TN</i>
April 27	40th Annual NC Angus Association Spring Fever Sale, Union Grove, NC
May 11	Springfield Angus Female Sale, <i>Louisburg, NC</i>
June 6 - 9	Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, <i>Harrisburg, PA</i>
June 10 - 14	Beef Leaders Institute, <i>Saint Joseph, MO</i>
June 14 - 16	All American Angus Breeders' Futurity, <i>Louisville, KY</i>
June 29 - July 6	National Junior Angus Show, <i>Madison, WI</i>
July 19 - 20	NC Angus Auxiliary Summer Outing, <i>TBA</i>
July 23 - 26	Leaders Engaged in Angus Development Conference, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>
September 1	Advertising deadline for the Fall NC Angus News
September 12	D & W Angus Production Sale, <i>Hartwell, GA</i>
September 28	Biltmore Fall Production Sale, <i>Asheville, NC</i>
October 12	Chessie Creek Farm Bull Sale, <i>Walterboro, SC</i>
October 17 - 27	NC State Fair, <i>Raleigh, NC</i>
October 25 - 26	Yon Family Farm Sale, <i>Ridge Spring, SC</i>
November 2 - 4	National Angus Convention & Trade Show, <i>Fort Worth, TX</i>
November 2	Craven Angus Farm Bull & Female Sale, <i>Seagrove, NC</i>
November 8	Lane Angus Bull & Female Sale, <i>Rocky Mount, NC</i>
November 16	McMahan Farms & Hancock Angus Bull Sale, <i>Mocksville, NC</i>
November 16	Southeast Bull Expo, <i>Asheboro, NC</i>
December 6	Knoll Crest Farm Total Performance Bull Sale, <i>Red House, VA</i>
December 7	NCBCIP Waynesville Bull Test Sale, <i>Canton, NC</i>
December 7	The Pounds & Profit Bull Sale, <i>Asheboro, NC</i>
December 7	Union County Performance Tested Bull Sale, <i>Monroe, NC</i>
December 14	Brushy Mountain Genetics Bull & Female Sale, <i>Taylorsville, NC</i>
December 14	Springfield Angus Bull Sale, <i>Louisburg, NC</i>
December 20	NCBCIP Butner Bull Test Sale, <i>Oxford, NC</i>

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION 79th Annual Meeting

By: Cortney Holshouser, NCAA Executive Secretary



Andrew Branan (left) with Emily Barnes, Annual Meeting committee chairman (right) after his presentation on farm succession planning.

The 79th North Carolina Angus Association Annual Meeting was held February 10, 2024 at the Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Center in Yadkinville, NC. The theme for this year's meeting was "Strategies and Technologies for Future Farm Profitability". The educational sessions were informative and well received by the audience. The educational sessions were made possible by generous sponsorship from Corteva AgriScience, EBS Farms, and FerApease. The first session presented by Andrew Branan, Associate Extension Professor with the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department at NC State University, outlined the basics of farm succession planning.

The second session presented by Dr. Sydney Tuckwiller of Neogen concentrated on using genomic tools for replacement heifer selection. The third educational session was presented by Dr. Esther Tarpoff, American Angus Association Director of Performance Programs. Esther provided the latest update on the new Functional Longevity EPD.

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 brunch and coffee from local favorite Milk & Honey, made plans for the coming year, elected officers, and made hand crafted clay cow magnets. The Auxiliary also hosted the always popular silent auction throughout the day. The Auxiliary graciously provided the decorations for the day. The Juniors visited a local feed mill in Elkin, enjoyed lunch, made plans for the coming year, and elected new officers as well.



Dr. Sydney Tuckwiller with Neogen gave a presentation on using genomic tools for replacement heifer selection.



Dr. Esther Tarpoff, American Angus Association Director of Performance Programs, provided an explanation and update on the Functional Longevity EPD.

Attendees were able to enjoy coffee and refreshments throughout the day courtesy of Bravo Cattle, LLC and Wood Angus.

The annual business meeting was next on the agenda for the day where members received updates from all committees, conducted business and elected new Board Directors. Congratulations to Mattie Harward, Michael Jensen, Matt Morrison, Kate Reichert, and Kim Starnes for being elected to serve a three-year term. Retiring Directors Greg Collins, Louis Fulcher, Scottie London, Roy Swisher, and Michael Wyatt were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the Association. The 2024 NCAA officers include Callie Carson – President, Michael Wyatt – Vice President, and Kim Starnes, Treasurer.



2024 NC Angus Association officers (from left to right) - Executive Secretary Cortney Holshouser, President Callie Carson, Vice-President Michael Wyatt, and Treasurer Kim Starnes

After the annual business meeting, the social began, and members were able to interact with sponsors and fellowship with old



2023 retiring NCAA Directors were presented plaques in appreciation for their 3 years of service to the Association. Pictured with President Callie Carson (from left to right) are Michael Wyatt, Greg Collins, and Roy Swisher.

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION 79th Annual Meeting

Continued



Kyle Mayberry (center) accepts the Ira Gentry memorial trophy for the top selling lot in the 2023 Spring Fever Sale from Spring Fever committee chairman Brent Scarlett (right) and sale manager Zach Moffitt (left)



NC Junior Angus members (from left to right) Caroline Scarlett, Maddie Grace Carpenter, Ava Wood, Hannah Vanhoy, and Emma Vanhoy received their NC Angus Auxiliary Achievement Awards from Auxiliary members Brooke Harward and Mattie Harward.



Justin Wood (left) awards Maddie Grace Carpenter (right) with the 2023 DeEtta Wood Achievement and Leadership Award.

and new Angus friends. The social was graciously sponsored by Eberlee Farms, Harvest Hosts, and Shiner's Stash, Inc. After the social, premium advertising spots were auctioned as well as items to benefit the NC Angus Juniors and Auxiliary. An exciting feature of the Annual Meeting this year was a drawing for a brand new MVE XC 20 Signature semen tank donated by sementanks.com. Attendees that registered early received a complimentary raffle ticket. The proceeds from the sale of semen tank raffle tickets are going to the William Sanders Scholarship Fund and will make a significant impact on our NC Angus Juniors. John Barnes was the lucky winner of the drawing, and he graciously donated the semen tank back to be auctioned for the benefit of the Sanders Scholarship. Carpenter Family Farm and EBS Farms purchased the semen tank. What a great impact both parties were able to make. Thank you to Will Thompson for serving as the evening's auctioneer and to all who participated in the auction to make it a success.

Special guests in attendance for the day included Bryan Blinson with the NC Cattlemen's Association (NCCA) who gave a brief update on the state of the beef industry and introduced the new Executive Director of the NCCA, Milo Lewis. Dr. Joe French, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Services also gave an update on issues currently facing North Carolina Agriculture.

Coming as a surprise to them both, Joe Hampton presented Bryan and Joe with the coveted North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame Award. Both of these recipients are very deserving of this honor for their contributions to the NC Angus Association.

Next, we celebrated the accomplishments of our members throughout the year. Biltmore Estate received the Ira Gentry Memorial trophy for having the high selling lot in the 2023 Spring Fever Sale with their pregnancy of Biltmore Lucy 148J and Poss Winchester which sold to Dr. Barry Pollard of Oklahoma. Justin Wood next presented Maddie Grace Carpenter with the DeEtta Wood Achievement and Leadership Award and recognized Lynae Bowman for receiving the DeEtta Wood Memorial Scholarship this past summer.

Brooke Harward and Mattie Harward presented the NC Junior Angus members with the Auxiliary Achievement Awards. Recipients included Nate Bowman, Maddie Grace Carpenter, Caroline Scarlett, Jonathan Scarlett, Emma Vanhoy, Hannah Vanhoy, and Ava Wood. Nate Bowman, Maddie Grace Carpenter, and Hannah Vanhoy were recognized for receiving the award for three years. Additionally, Lynae Bowman was recognized for receiving her Gold Award and Maddie Grace Carpenter was presented her Bronze Award from American Angus Association representative Dr. Esther Tarpoff. Guests were treated to a delicious Certified Angus Beef® Prime split strip for dinner, which has been a recent highlight for the

Dr. Joe French (left) received the NC Angus Hall of Fame Award from Joe Hampton (right).



Bryan Blinson (left) received the NC Angus Hall of Fame award from Joe Hampton (right).



NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION 79th Annual Meeting

Continued



John Barnes (right) won the drawing for the MVE XC 20 Signature semen tank donated by sementanks.com. He graciously donated the tank back to be auctioned for the William Sanders Scholarship Fund. Carpenter Family Farm and EBS Farms purchased the tank.

brand. With only the top 3% of beef qualifying for Certified Angus Beef® Prime, it was a treat to be able to celebrate the evening with the best of the best. Banquet sponsors included Biltmore Estate, First Bank & Trust Co., and G5 Agency.

The evening concluded with a keynote address from Dr. Rich Bonanno, Associate Dean, NC State College of Ag & Life Sciences & Director of NC State Extension. Dr. Bonanno gave an update on the University's research stations, shared several goals and how that may benefit our farm operations in the future.

Our organization is so appreciative of all our sponsors for the evening. We were able to create a first class experience for attendees with their generosity. General sponsors for the evening include Forsyth County Farm Bureau, 701X, AmeriAg, LLC, Alamance County Farm Bureau, Back Creek Angus, Barenbrug USA, Bill Kirkman – ST Genetics, Blue Ridge Brutes Bull Sale, Buncombe County Farm Bureau, Carolina Stockyards Co., Carson Family Farm, LLC, CattleMax, Chatham County Farm Bureau, Chaudhry Meats, Iredell County Farm Bureau, JC's Ranch, Johnston County Farm Bureau, Person County Farm Bureau, Sale Day, Stanly County Farm Bureau, Stokes County Farm Bureau, and Surry County Farm Bureau.



Guests enjoyed delicious Certified Angus Beef Prime split strip for dinner.

Our Allied Industry Partner program allows us to work with sponsors throughout the year on various projects including our Annual Meeting. 2024 Gold Level Allied Industry Partners include ABS Global, Biltmore Estate, Chessie Creek Farm, Farm Credit Associations of NC, Harvest Hosts, Neogen, Performance Livestock & Feed Co, Piedmont Custom Meats, Inc., Trans Ova Genetics, and Zach Moffitt Cattle Marketing & Consulting, Silver Level partners include Beef Traxx, Boehringer Ingelheim, Clifton Seed Company, Helena Agri-Enterprises, Southeast AgriSeeds, and Sunset Feeds. Bronze Level partners include Cleveland County Agriculture & Livestock Exchange, LTD Farm & Garden, Mitchell's Meat Processing, and Windy Hill Farms, LLC powered by Vytelle. It was a treat to have many of our supporters in attendance throughout the day to interact with our members.

A huge thank you to the Annual Meeting Committee for planning a spectacular event. Members included Emily Barnes – Chairman, Brooke Harward, Nichole Carpenter, Greg Collins, Derek Goddard, and Callie Carson – NCAA President. We are also extremely grateful to Yadkin County Ag building manager Steve Potts and Claudia Austin for handling registrations throughout the day. Their help was invaluable in making the day a success. We are excited to begin planning next year's event where we will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary. We invite everyone to join us in 2025!



Dr. Rich Bonanno, Associate Dean of NC State CALS and Director of NC State Extension, was the keynote speaker for the evening's events.



The Auxiliary had a great turn out for their meeting and activities.



Maddie Grace Carpenter (left) was presented her NJAA Bronze Award from American Angus Association representative, Dr. Esther Tarpoff (right).

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP



2024 North Carolina Angus Association Officers

President.....Callie Carson
 Vice President.....Michael Wyatt
 Treasurer.....Kim Starnes
 Executive Secretary.....Cortney Holshouser

North Carolina Angus Association Directors

TERM EXPIRES IN 2024

Karl Gillespie
 Joe Hampton
 Greg Little
 Kyle Mayberry
 Eugene Shuffler

TERM EXPIRES IN 2025

Emily Barnes
 Bryant Chapman
 Nathan Ireland
 Marty Rooker
 John Smith

TERM EXPIRES IN 2026

Mattie Harward
 Michael Jensen
 Matt Morrison
 Kate Reichert
 Kim Starnes



2024 North Carolina Angus Auxiliary Officers

President.....Alexandra Brown
 President-Elect.....Cortney Holshouser
 Secretary.....Cara Smith
 Advisor.....Brooke Harward

2024 North Carolina Junior Angus Association

President..... Hannah Vanhoy
 Vice-President.....Ava Wood
 Secretary.....Caroline Scarlett
 Treasurer.....Maddie Grace Carpenter
 Reporter.....Ellie Shuping



Directors

Eastern Director
 Charlotte Wood

Central Directors
 Nate Bowman
 Jonathan Scarlett
 E.B. Carpenter

Western Director
 Ellie Shuping

Royalty

Queen - Caroline Scarlett
 Princess - Maddie Carpenter
 Sweetheart - Peyton Taylor

Advisors - Scott & Robin Vanhoy, Nichole Carpenter, & Greyson Peeler

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS

Recently elected to serve a three year term on the NCAA Board of Directors, the following individuals have committed to serving the Association and its members.



Mattie Harward

Mattie Harward is from Richfield, NC where she grew up raising and showing beef cattle with her sisters. She attended NC State University and Iowa State University, graduating in May 2023 with a degree in agriculture studies: Ag Business. Since graduation she has returned to the family farm and ag marketing businesses raising commercial and purebred cattle as well as helping market thousands of feeder cattle through their livestock auctions each year. Currently, Mattie and her sister Marcie manage Harward Sisters Cattle Co where they run 130 purebred cattle, mostly Angus, raising bulls, replacement females, and show cattle.

Michael Jensen

Michael Jensen is happily married to Daphne Jensen. They have three children, Wyatt (8), Ty (6) and Sage (10 months). He is a strong follower of Christ Jesus. Michael has a B.S. in Animal Science from North Carolina State University. Over his career, he has had experience in research, livestock feed and equipment sales, and as a herdsman. He now is the farm manager for his wife's family's dairy farm and proud owner of 323 Ranch with his wife. Starting and operating his own farm with his family has been his dream which came true in June 2020, while working for Yon Family Farms. 323 Ranch was founded by Michael and Daphne in South Carolina. The operation included raising pigs, chickens, and beef cattle for direct-to-consumer meat and egg sales. In April 2022, Michael and his family made the move from Yon Family Farms back to North Carolina to work alongside Daphne's uncle on the family's dairy farm. With this move came the opportunity to continue 323 Ranch, incorporating the start of the seedstock side of the cattle business. They raise registered Black Angus, to provide quality, profitable replacements. Educating the public about where their food comes from and sharing the love of Jesus are the main goals for 323 Ranch.



Matt Morrison

Matt Morrison is from Conewango, New York. Matt is the E Carroll Joyner Beef Education Unit at NC State University Coordinator and Livestock Judging Team Coordinator since April of 2020 where he oversees the daily tasks, responsibilities and budgets of the NCSU E. Carroll Joyner Beef Education Unit to ensure successful execution of teaching labs, livestock judging contests, AI Schools and a vast assortment of other agricultural events. He hires and trains student employees to assist in the managing of the 100 brood cows and approximately 120 acres of pasture. He fulfills the duties of the livestock judging coach including recruiting and building the program. He was previously an Agriculture Instructor and Livestock Judging Coach at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY. He received his Master of Science, Animal Science, May 2016 from North Carolina State University, his Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Science, May 2014 from Western Illinois University, and his Associates of Science, Agriculture Science, May 2012 from Black Hawk College East Campus.

Kate Reichert

Kate Reichert grew up on the family tobacco and dairy farm in the tiny rural community of Cokesbury in NW Harnett County. She attended the University of North Carolina and Appalachian State University where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology. Kate worked 40 years in the Research Triangle Park in research and administration at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At the EPA Kate was the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) coordinator and later Director of the Animal Resources and Research Support Program.

In 2015 Kate inherited the dairy portion of her parent's farm as well as an adjacent tract that was mostly timber. By then the farm had long ceased operation and had fallen into disrepair. Kate and her husband Monty then began the task of bringing the farm back to life. In 2017 Kate retired from the EPA and began working on the farm. In 2019 Monty retired from the Duke School of Engineering, and they moved to the farm full time. They registered the farm as a business and continue to use the name Hi-Lo Farms that was established by Kate's father. Kate is the fourth generation of her family to live and farm the property. In 2018 Kate and Monty purchased their first six registered Black Angus cows from veterinarian Dr. Richard Kirkman.

Hi-Lo Farms, LLC is a small seed-stock operation with a herd that ranges around 15-25 head. Kate has drawn from her experience of growing up on a farm, as well as her management of the EPA's animal program, to implement all of the cattle purchases, breeding selections, care and use responsibilities on the farm. Hi-Lo Farms has been primarily selling heifers, calves and young bulls through auctions sponsored by the NC Angus Association, the NC Extension Service Butner Bull Test Program and to local farmers by private treaty.

The Harnett County Agriculture Extension Service named Kate the 2023 Female Agriculturalist of the Year. Kate is a member of the NC Cattleman's Association, the NC Angus Association, the American Angus Association and the American Tree Farm System.



Kim Starnes

Kim Starnes and wife, Connie along with son Jason and his wife Robin operate Four S Farms in Salisbury, NC. They are wonderful stewards of their land and have received awards and recognition for their practices. Kim is also involved with his church, the volunteer fire department, and several other agriculture related organizations. Kim has a strong history with the North Carolina Angus Association. He has served on the Board of Directors, in leadership roles, and on multiple committees for several years.

2024 NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



This innovative group works hard and is truly dedicated to bringing as many opportunities to our membership as possible.

Pictured are the 2024 North Carolina Angus Association Board of Directors (front row from left to right) - Executive Secretary Cortney Holshouser, Vice-President Michael Wyatt, President Callie Carson, Treasurer Kim Starnes; back row from left to right- Emily Barnes, Michael Jensen, Kyle Mayberry, Greg Little, Bryant Chapman, Joe Hampton, Matt Morrison, Eugene Shuffler, John Smith, Nathan Ireland, Kate Reichert, and Mattie Harward. Not pictured- Karl Gillespie and Marty Rooker.

START YOUR FUTURE NOW WITH THESE HEIFERS AND COWS FEATURED IN THE 2024 NC ANGUS SPRING FEVER SALE

TWO OF A KIND – 3/4 SISTERS WITH HIGH PERFORMANCE & BREED LEADING GENETICS

SIRES: CONNEALY CRAFTSMAN MGS: DEER VALLEY GROWTH FUND



LOT 1A HAF LADY DIVA GF CCR 913 #20817642

DAM: LOT 1 BBA LADY DIVA 916 #20202302

Lot 1 is an exciting young cow achieving Elite Heifer Status in the 2023 Spring Fever Sale. She is a product of the Butcher Branch Angus Donor program. Her stylish heifer sells as Lot 1A. Sells AI bred to Connealy Craftsman, 12/30/2023

HILL ANGUS FARM
HENDERSONVILLE, NC
229-848-3695

CELEBRATING OUR 67TH YEAR
BREEDING QUALITY ANGUS IN
GEORGIA & NORTH CAROLINA



LOT 9A-- HAF RITA GF CCR 593 #20817649

DAM: LOT 9 DEER VALLEY RITA 0059

Lot 9 This young daughter of Deer Valley Growth Fund was bred in the Deer Valley Donor Program & purchased from Deer Valley Farm. A deep bodied, feminine female with plenty of growth performance. AI bred to Wilks Regiment 9035, 2/24/24

Lot	CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	HP	DOC	Mar	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
1A	+10	1.2	81	145	28	17.7	22	1.00	.70	77	155	275
9A	+7	2.0	83	148	30	14.5	31	.66	.93	79	188	329

SEE OUR HIGH PERFORMING BULLS IN TESTS AT WAYNESVILLE, NC; WYTHEVILLE, VA; CALHOUN AND TIFTON, GA

THE INDUSTRY STANDARD NOW HAS HIGHER STANDARDS.

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FOR ANGUS. BY ANGUS.

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Angus Convention HIGHLIGHTS

North Carolina was well represented during the Angus Convention in November. It was a great time to network with Angus breeders from around the country, expand our knowledge during educational sessions, get the latest updates from the American Angus Association, and enjoy the Florida sunshine.



North Carolina delegates included (from left to right) Jeff Wood, Mark Wilburn, and Eugene Shuffler



Some of the North Carolina crew visiting in-between sessions



We are proud to have Christy Perdue (top row, far right) represent us as the American Angus Auxiliary Region 4 Director.



NC Junior Angus member Mary Wood was in attendance as a member of the NJAA Board of Directors.

The 140th Annual Convention of Delegates for the American Angus Association assembled November 6th in Orlando, Florida. Five members were re-elected to the Board of Directors for a second term. They are Mark Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas; Smitty Lamb, Tifton, Georgia.; Charles Mogck, Olivet, South Dakota; Darrell Stevenson, White Sulphur Springs, Montana; and Jerry Theis, Leavenworth, Kansas. The officers of the Board were also elected. Elected officers are Barry Pollard, Enid, Oklahoma., President and Chairman of the Board; and Jonathan Perry, Fayetteville, Tennessee, Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board. Jim Brinkley, Milan, Missouri, will serve as the treasurer for the 2023 to 2024 term. "I look forward to working with the board and the membership in general, and the staff as well," Pollard says. "We have such talented people all across that at every level, and we want to hear their ideas. We want to hear how the things we've done for them genetically or EPDs (expected progeny differences) are benefiting their herd and what questions they have."



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UPDATES FROM THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By: Mary Wood, NJAA Director



Greetings! What an exciting opportunity to give yet another update to North Carolina Angus breeders and enthusiasts! During my time as a director serving on the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors, I, as well as my fellow officers, have been hard at work setting goals for ourselves as well as the NJAA. It is a rewarding opportunity to be able to affect change within the National Junior Angus association while honoring our members and the purpose of our great organization.

I believe that setting goals for yourself or with a group you are a part of is vital to success and making progress. Each year, the NJAA board of directors sets a list of goals for us to utilize throughout the year when making decisions as a team. We create and utilize these six goals continuously; they are always a great reminder of the role we serve as members of the board. While each of these goals serve great purpose, there are three that particularly stand out to me: To strive to incorporate opportunities for a diverse membership, to uphold the Angus legacy and to continue improvement of ourselves for the juniors.

This year we decided to focus impacting our membership in a positive manner. Setting a goal to create a diverse membership has inspired us to create opportunities outside of the show ring for young Angus breeders. This encourages our decision making to include young Angus enthusiastic from a variety of production

backgrounds within the organization.

The NJAA board of directors also strives to be innovative and creative in our decisions making process. However, we feel it is important to remain true to the values of the Angus industry. Striving to uphold the Angus legacy, ensures that each decision made for the NJAA is honoring the tradition that stands before us.

Finally, as with any leadership role, our position on the board is meant to serve as a positive role model for the youth within the Angus breed. Setting a goal to continuously improve ourselves for the juniors is a reminder to be a positive influence for others within the NJAA. Each of these goals encourage us to support and set an example for our membership and to build upon the great reputation of the National Junior Angus Association. Whether you are looking to set goals for yourself, your team or your operation, always keep in mind the greater purpose that you may be working towards!



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NC STATE FAIR RESULTS

JUNIOR SHOW



Congratulations to all Angus exhibitors at the North Carolina State Fair. The cattle and people involved were exceptional. Our Juniors also excelled in showmanship as EB Carpenter placed 5th Overall in the Junior division, Maddie Grace Carpenter placed 5th Overall in the Intermediate division, Emma Vanhoy was Reserve Champion Senior showman, and Mattie Harward was Reserve Champion Senior Plus showman.

*All photos courtesy of Square One Agri Marketing



Grand Champion Angus and Supreme Champion Heifer
Diamond T 2180 Georgina, an August 2022 daughter of Silveiras Style 9303. Exhibited by Emma Vanhoy.



Reserve Grand Champion Angus
SULL Princess 2361K, a March 2022 daughter of Collison Alpha 028. Exhibited by Peyton Taylor.



Champion Got To Be NC Angus
CAB Miss Grace 155, a November 2021 daughter of Deer Valley Growth Fund. Exhibited by Charleigh Birdsell.



Reserve Champion Got To Be NC Angus
HSCC Elisha 2212, a January 2022 daughter of Colburn Primo 5153. Exhibited by Maddie Grace Carpenter.

OPEN SHOW



Grand Champion Angus Female
MC Coor Blackcap 1087, an October 2021 daughter of PVF Blacklist 7077. Exhibited by Hannah Vanhoy.



Reserve Grand Champion Angus Female
Diamond T 2180 Georgina, an August 2022 daughter of Silveiras Style 9303. Exhibited by Emma Vanhoy.



Grand Champion Angus Bull
Wood Black Ice 2100, a July 2021 son of Gambles Safe Bet. Exhibited by Ava Wood / Wood Angus.

NORTH CAROLINA JUNIOR ANGUS MEMBER EXCELS IN DUAL PURPOSE PROGRAM

By: Cortney Holshouser, North Carolina Angus Association Executive Secretary



Maddie Grace is very involved in all aspects of her family's farm and caring for the cattle

One of the most unique opportunities our Junior Angus breeders have available to them is the Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS) offered by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) on the regional and national level.

The objective behind the Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS) is to create another avenue for juniors to show their animals in an additional competition while providing an educational opportunity to learn about the value of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) and economic selection indexes (\$Values) as a part of the process in selecting seedstock. Animals entered in the PGS will be evaluated by a judge under a system that requires both genotypes and phenotypes to be considered. The results will be a composite score where the genotype (EPDs & \$Values) placing, and phenotype placings will be equally weighted at fifty percent.

Now in its fourth year, the PGS show is quickly gaining popularity for its unique ability to include different types and kinds of cattle. The Angus breed is known for exceptional EPDs, and this show is able to incorporate those into a traditional cattle show. One Junior Angus member that has quickly found her place in the PGS program is Maddie Grace Carpenter of Wadesboro, NC.

Maddie Grace is very involved in the North Carolina Junior Angus Association (NCJAA). She is currently serving as the NCJAA reporter, NC Angus Princess, and has been to multiple Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences. She also is a NC Beef Ambassador for the NC Cattlemen's Association. She is a strong advocate for the Angus breed and cattle industry.



Maddie Grace fitting a heifer for a team competition



Maddie Grace has been very active in the National Junior Angus Association and its leadership conferences

Maddie has been exhibiting her cattle in the PGS for three years at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show and the National Junior Angus Show. She has found her niche as this program really fits what she and her family are trying to accomplish at home with their herd and the cattle they market to customers.

Maddie says the reason she became interested in the PGS, is that they don't raise typical show cattle on their farm. When going to the bigger shows such as Eastern Regionals and Junior Nationals, it is hard to be competitive in the regular show. Maddie says, "Participating in the PGS shows allows me to be competitive in class because they are not only looking at their phenotype but also their genotype."

grandchildren is unmatched. Many miles have been traveled and many late nights have been spent in a barn helping Maddie Grace and her brother, E.B., prepare for cattle shows. Bruce is a great resource as he has been breeding Angus cattle with exceptional EPDs for many years. At any of these cattle shows, you will most likely see

Maddie has a great support system at home and on the road at the various shows she travels to. Most people that know Bruce Shankle know of his deep history in the cattle industry and Angus breed. His support of youth in the cattle industry is something to be admired. But the support he has shown to his

him at the gate with a halter in hand, ready to help Maddie and E.B. after they have competed in class. You may even catch a conversation about the heifer and what kind of cow she is going to make or the bull she is sired by. These candid conversations are more than a grandfather and granddaughter discussing results, they are teaching moments and a chance to set goals. There may even be a little pleading going on as a heifer that places well happens to be in Bruce's production sale.

Some of the EPDs Maddie and her family focus on when breeding and picking calves to show are \$C, \$B, Marbling, Ribeye, and Fat. They also focus on claw/angle and birthweight, weaning weight, and yearling weight. They feel that all EPDs are important, but these are especially important in producing a good, sound, and functional cow that can also produce good, functional calves.



Maddie Grace has been very active in the National Junior Angus Association and its leadership conferences



Maddie Grace's involvement in the Angus breed has taken her all across the country

NORTH CAROLINA JUNIOR ANGUS MEMBER EXCELS IN DUAL PURPOSE PROGRAM

Continued

Bull selection is an important part of any operation and Maddie Grace is learning this at a young age. She and her family analyze potential bulls' EPDs and select what they think will work best for their operation and potential customers. Maddie says, "Participating in the PGS show has changed how I select bulls because now, we are not only looking at how they look but also how their EPDs are." Some of the bulls she has chosen to use are GB Fireball 672, Linz Exemplify 71124, LAR Man In Black, Basin Jameson 1076, and TAR Dominance 0031.

The PGS program is teaching Maddie lots of valuable lessons and preparing her for her future in the cattle industry. It is a very rewarding experience for her to prepare a heifer for a show and know that the heifer will go home to make a good cow. A highlight for her at the National Junior Angus Show was when her heifer placed third in genotype and third in class after placing sixth in phenotype. When asked what the PGS has taught her, Maddie says "Participating in the PGS show has taught me that you don't have to have show cattle to win at regional and national shows. The PGS show is often just as competitive as the regular show. It has also taught me how to properly read EPDs and how to pick out cattle and bulls that are going to produce production animals down the road." Setting long term goals is also a part of raising cattle for these shows. Maddie's long-term goal with her cattle is to build a sound, functional herd of cattle that will produce cattle that will not only work on her farm, but others' farms as well.



Maddie Grace has been very active in the National Junior Angus Association and its leadership conferences

North Carolina Junior Angus Members Excel

At the 2023 NC State Fair, youth from across the state were recognized for receiving the North Carolina State Fair Youth Livestock Scholarship for involvement in showing livestock, academic achievements, and extracurricular activities. We are proud of our North Carolina Junior Angus members who received scholarships:

Lynae Bowman, Oklahoma State University
Emma Vanhoy, NC State University
Hannah Vanhoy, NC State University
- Farm Credit Associations of NC Scholarship recipient
Mary Wood, Oklahoma State University

Congratulations to these Juniors!

2023 North American International Livestock Exposition

Angus exhibitors led 234 entries at the 2023 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Junior Angus Show, November 12 in Louisville, Ky. Andy Musgrave, Pittsfield, Ill., evaluated the entries before naming champions.

Diamond T 2180 Georgina won owned reserve intermediate champion heifer - division 1 at 2023 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Junior Angus Show, Nov. 12 in Louisville, Ky. Emma Vanhoy, Richfield, N.C., owns the winning heifer. Photo by Linde's Livestock Photos.



ATTENTION NC JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

2024 WILLIAM M. SANDERS SCHOLARSHIP applications are due to the NC Angus Association office by May 1, 2024

The William Sanders Scholarship and the North Carolina Angus Association are pleased to support youth and education. A \$1,800.00 scholarship will be awarded to a qualified applicant for 2024. To be a qualified applicant, you must be a member in good standing with the NC Junior Angus Association, a graduating high school senior or a past William M. Sanders Scholarship recipient. The application can be found on ncangus.org/juniors or by contacting the NCAA office at 919-796-2346 or ncaa.sec@gmail.com.

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Spring 2024

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS NEWS

Dr. Joe French

Receives 2024 North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame Award

By: Joe Hampton



It seems only natural that Dr. Joe French was inducted into the North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame during the Association's Annual Meeting in February. Receiving this award is the ultimate testament to one's dedication and commitment to the Angus breed in North Carolina. Joe grew up in rural Rockingham County on the 125-acre farm he and his brother Jeff, and their families, presently operate as a seedstock Angus operation, Bold Run Creek Farm. Joe received a BS Degree from NC State in Animal Science and received his PhD in Reproductive Physiology from Texas A & M. Joe brought more than an education with him back from Texas. While in School he met Lori, who also has a PhD in Reproductive Physiology from Texas A & M. They were married and have raised two daughters.

The Angus herd known as Bold Run Creek Farm was started by Joe, Jeff and their late father Tommy in the early 1990's to utilize the rolling hills that were too steep to cultivate, and as an excuse for the three men to spend more time together. The farm was begun by Joe's Great Grandfather Edgar French. While commercial cattle were originally on the farm, the partnership purchased 5 open Registered Angus heifers from a local sale to begin the herd. From the beginning those practices that have become known as regenerative agriculture were followed. Maintaining vegetative cover, strict adherence to rotational grazing concepts, establishing high use areas, developing watering systems and stockpiling fescue forage for winter feeding are examples of their production practices. As an example of their dedication to their production goals, their Angus herd has maintained a 45-day calving season since the beginning and the farm has never used a cleanup bull. Every calf born on Bold Run Creek Farm was the result of AI.

Dr. Joe French became the Superintendent of the Upper Piedmont Research Station in 1993. One of his responsibilities was to manage the Historic Angus Herd donated to North Carolina State University by the Penn family. Howard Gentry, whose family interacted with the Chinquapin Plantation when it was operated by the Penn's remembers says about Joe, "At the time of Joe's hiring, registration papers of the herd were not current as previous leadership had quit registering the cattle a decade earlier as a cost saving measure. Joe saw the value of the herd as Registered cattle and spent countless hours resurrecting pedigrees from the research data that had been collected. With the help of AAA and Select Sires the Angus herd again became fully registered." This was a critical step to allow the herd to develop into the impactful source of information and genetics that it has become.

Howard Gentry recalls, "Over the years, Dr. French has been a strong supporter of the beef cattle industry and the NC Angus Association. For many years he hosted the Spring Fever Sale at the Upper Piedmont Research Station. We could count on Dr. French to have the facilities set up when we arrived with our cattle. After the sale was completed and most consigners were on their way home, he and his family would be on site loading cattle, taking care of the cattle and our customers. In his quiet manner Dr. French was behind the scenes making sure that things were taken care.

In his role working with the historic herd of Registered Angus cattle at the research station, he is on the front line of reproductive research. He is always willing to work with producers, sharing his experiences and knowledge. I and many other producers consulted with him in establishing our AI synchronization protocols. When producers have questions, he is always able and willing to help."

We all have reported AHIR data. It's just what Angus breeders do. Joe took data collection to another level with the Upper Piedmont herd of cattle. In an effort to accurately describe the cattle, Joe committed to submit all data on the herd that the American Angus Association accepted. Alex Jones and Jerry Cassidy with AAA Director of Member Services shared, "In the weekly run of performance data for Angus that generates our weekly EPD updates, during Joe's tenure UPRS has submitted 31,532 data points that are included in the analysis."

Brian House, VP of Beef with Select Sire Power in Ohio shares the following concerning his work with Joe over the years, "The relationship of Joe French with Select Sires spans 4 decades. The Reidsville station started participating as a Young Sire Test Herd in the early 80's and during Joe's tenure, vast amounts of performance data have been submitted to the American Angus Association for the betterment of the breed and the US beef industry.

A strong proponent of A.I. and performance data – Joe's leadership has been invaluable in regard to the progress the Angus breed has made during his career. The collaborative efforts between NCSU and Select Sires in both genetics and reproduction have provided beef producers everywhere with

Dr. Joe French

Receives 2024 North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame Award

Continued

better tools to improve their cattle – and their profitability. Many Reidsville Angus offspring have been featured with pictures in the annual Select Sires Beef Directory and countless animals were videoed and appeared in the Select Sires Beef Video. During Joe's time, the station at Reidsville utilized many of the best Angus bulls in the world. (Joe didn't know which ones would end up being 'famous' or 'change the breed' when he first used them – but many of these bulls went on to do just that!) From the early days of EPDs and synchronization, to live animal carcass ultrasound, and then on to feed efficiency, genomics and even hair shedding, Joe and his team at Reidsville have been a part of it – and many times, were at the front of it! The people at Select Sires have had lots of good times with Joe over lots of years – and he's been a great friend and colleague. He is most deserving of this recognition today!"

Neil Bowman shared these comments about Dr. Joe French, "I have had the privilege to work with Joe French in various capacities throughout the years and can say that he has the uncanny ability to listen, analyze and comprehend complex matters. Then he can use common sense to address the issue and explain to folks, so it is understood by all. His contributions to the cattle industry both in research and leadership arenas are tremendous and we are much better for his willingness to serve the agriculture industry of NC in such a selfless way."

Dr. Sandy Stewart, President of Sandhills Community College, discusses his time working with Joe at the Upper Piedmont Research Station: "Joe French has the unique combination of technical expertise, leadership skills, vision and tenacity that has fostered the development of the NC Beef Research System. Under Joe's leadership the NCSU beef research platform was transformed from 7 unique and unconnected research herds into one system that shared the connectiveness of genetics and management. Joe was uniquely qualified to develop this concept, envision the steps necessary to accomplish the task, provide the technical support to bring the plan to fruition and mentor his coworkers during the process."

Joe's understanding of the science of cattle reproduction and his appreciation of the data collected on the Reidsville herd were key to establishing Registered Angus herds for research on three additional facilities. Through the use of ET the existing commercial cows on these facilities raised their Registered Angus replacements, from donors identified in the Upper Piedmont herd. Over a five-year period, these herds were developed to allow for more intensive research without jeopardizing the nucleus herd. It should be remembered that this would not have been possible if Joe had not collected reams of data on this herd of cattle."

Dr. Dan Poole volunteered the following, "While Joe has many positive characteristics, I believe the following three points are distinct areas that highlight just some of the reasons we are Honoring Dr. Joe French this evening. Joe is an inspiring educator!"

It is clear that Joe has a passion for beef cattle and agriculture in general and loves sharing his passion with those that will listen. He is a naturally gifted communicator and has shared his interest in improving Angus cattle with countless students, faculty and producers through his activities and programs at the research station. He wants NC beef producers to be successful and has helped numerous young producers get their start in the industry and through his experience has helped them manage the hurdles in the industry. Joe has a visionary mindset!

When it comes to Angus cattle, I feel Joe is a visionary as he is open-minded about the potential the Angus breed holds in both research and production. He continues to be receptive and open to new ideas or approaches that could enhance our understanding of the breed or collectively improve producers' ability to produce beef. Lastly, he has been willing to change and adapt as advancements continue to improve the beef industry. Joe is a man that gets things done!

The NC Beef System was in its infancy when I started at NC State University in 2011, and would not be the success it is today without Joe's willingness and efforts to make it happen. Through his leadership, NC State and NCDA&CS research stations went from 7 independently managed beef farms that provided limited opportunities to the faculty, staff and extension personal to 7 amazing beef research stations working under the same umbrella with a similar genetic base of cattle, utilizing the same breeding and health program to enhance the not only the quality and value of the cattle but greatly expands the research and extension opportunities to solve local production needs as well as provide data for the entire US Beef Industry.

Feed cost will always be a limitation to beef production and Joe has realized the need to continue to advance the equipment and technology on the research stations so that we have the ability to accurately understand what it takes to raise cattle. In recent years, he led the initiative to purchase and install the GrowSafe system which uses RFID technology to record Feed AND Water intake data on a bite by bite basis as well as a drink by drink basis at the Upper Piedmont Research Station. This precise method of data collection has allowed us to better record feed efficiency in our cattle. In his current role, he continues to lead the effort to equip other research stations with this technology."

Dean Askew said, "Joe and I were coworkers for over 30 years. Even though he was in Reidsville and I was in Butner, we communicated almost daily due to our shared focus on Beef Cattle research. Now that I have been retired for a few years, Joe is someone I can and still do call for advice. I think the biggest thing I can say about Joe is...he has vision and the desire to improve the beef cattle industry through effective and sustainable research. Because of his vision, Joe was a leader in the early discussions of the NC Beef Cattle Research System and realized, early on, the potential of NCSU and NCDA working more closely together and utilizing each other's resources to maximize the beef research efforts."

After thirty years as the Superintendent of the UPRS, last year Joe accepted a promotion to become the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the NCDA. While he has not left the beef industry, he certainly has responsibilities for all of Agriculture. I am sure he will continue to impact us all in his new role.

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NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION HOSTS FIELD DAY

By: Cortney Holshouser, North Carolina Angus Association Executive Secretary

The backdrop could not have been more perfect for the North Carolina Angus Association's Annual Field Day on September 30th in Asheville, NC. Biltmore Estate was our gracious host and as expected, the day was a first-class event.

Over 300 people gathered in the blue ridge mountains to engage in educational sessions and Biltmore's First Annual Angus Cattle and Dorper Sheep sale. The morning started with a complimentary breakfast sponsored by AgSouth Farm Credit. Guests then were able to choose which sessions they wanted to attend based on their interests or what was important to their own farming operations. A unique opportunity for this Field Day was the addition of topics geared toward sheep, as Biltmore is a very diversified operation. Tents A and B educational sessions were sponsored by Smoky Mountain Farmers Co-Op and Neogen. Additional sponsors for the day included North Carolina Farm Bureau, Gallagher, and the North Carolina Angus Association.

During the first rotation, attendees chose between two presentations. In tent A, "Herd Biosecurity: A State of Mind" was presented by Dr. Harrison Dudley, Associate Veterinarian with Livestock Veterinarian Services. In this session, Dr. Dudley discussed herd and flock preventative health and overall disease vigilance. The alternate session was "Finding Factor Affecting Fertility to Optimize your Reproductive Success" presented by Dr. Dan Poole, Professor of Animal Science at NC State University. Infertility and/or fertility related deficiencies in livestock species are a major source of economic loss for producers. Dr. Poole's current research explores how environmental and management practices such as endophyte-infected fescue and heat stress impact growth and reproductive performance in beef cattle.

During the second rotation, attendees were able to choose between sessions focused on sheep or a specific overview of the Angus breed. In Tent A, Dr. Andrew Weaver, Extension Specialist and Associate Professor at NC State University, presented "The Little Ruminant That Could. Opportunities for sheep today and the tools to take us to the future." This presentation examined the potential for sheep in today's livestock systems including the environmental and economic benefits of diversification with sheep. Further, the genetic tools available to the sheep industry were reviewed as a mechanism for production efficiency improvements. The alternate session for this rotation was "Have You Herd", an overview of the American Angus Association and the current events going on in today's cattle industry presented by American Angus Association Regional Manager Reese Tuckwiller.



The NC Angus Board of Directors in attendance for the day included (from left to right) Eugene Shuffler, Executive Secretary Cortney Holshouser, President Callie Carson, Kyle Mayberry, Roy Swisher, Bryant Chapman, and Joe Hampton



The whole carcass demonstration was a very popular event



Kyle Mayberry, Biltmore Director of Livestock, welcomes everyone to Biltmore

For the third rotation, the first option was presented by Kyle Mayberry, Director of Agriculture, Biltmore Company. His presentation was titled "Biltmore: A livestock legacy more than a century in the making". Kyle told of Biltmore's agriculture history that began with George Vanderbilt's dream of creating a self-sustaining estate. The second option in this rotation was presented by Dr. Paige Pratt, Beef Genomic Specialist for Neogen. Paige's presentation was titled "How to use Igenity and EPDs to Improve Your Profit". The amount of genetic information available is a bit overwhelming and how to interpret and understand genetic correlations and their impact on your operation is important when selecting a bull that will potentially sire over 100 calves in his lifetime. Participants learned how to use the Neogen Igenity scores along with EPDs to select your next herd sire ensuring he will fit your operations goals and maximize profitability.

Kyle's presentation was a wonderful glimpse into the Biltmore story. In the late 1800s, George Washington Vanderbilt acquired more than 200 tracts of land in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville. This property would become the 125,000-acre estate known as Biltmore.

Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted suggested farming the river bottoms of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers with the intention of raising livestock whose manure could be used to improve the land. Mr. Vanderbilt took Olmsted's advice and by 1889, the Biltmore Dairy was born. Between 1900 and 1902, Mr. Vanderbilt commissioned the construction of a new-state-of-the-art dairy barn, a structure that houses Biltmore's Winery today.

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION HOSTS FIELD DAY

Continued



The blue ridge mountains were the perfect backdrop for the day



Blue skies, green grass, and black cows are always the best scenery



It was an early morning at the sale barn for the cattle and potential buyers.

In 1985, after nearly 100 years of successful operation, George Cecil, Mr. Vanderbilt's oldest grandson, sold the dairy business to the Dairy Division of Pet, Inc. After the sale of Biltmore's dairy, the decision was made to move into beef cattle and 29 Black Angus heifers were purchased for the estate.

Since the 1980s, Biltmore has continued to improve their genetics and supply estate restaurants with high-quality beef products. Their herd focuses on maternal characteristics and supreme carcass genetics while their pasture-based system supports the long-term land management goals of the estate.

Besides responsible beef production, Biltmore's hog program continues with the same heritage breed Berkshires raised during Mr. Vanderbilt's time. Dorper Sheep and crosses are also raised and have consistently produced tender, flavorful lamb products of exceptional quality. Aside from livestock, Biltmore produces silage from corn grown on the estate; other row crops are sold in the local grain market.

The Biltmore Company today is comprised of nearly 2,000 employees, 8,000 acres, and the mission to "preserve Biltmore as private, profitable, working estate". The tradition of agriculture is an integral part of Biltmore's story and success. Biltmore has always been a working estate.

A special field to table lunch sponsored by West Hills Tractor wrapped up the morning's events. This delicious lunch featured Biltmore Estate raised beef, lamb, hydroponic greens, and sunflower oil. The menu really brought everything full circle and was a true example of their self-sustaining agriculture story.

One of the most popular events of the day was the lunch demo sponsored by Premier Select Sires. "Concepts of Whole-Animal Butchery" was a unique demonstration by Estate Executive Chef Mark Demarco and Estate Butcher David Jones. The two broke down a whole beef carcass and gave an explanation of cuts and how they would use them. David really emphasized their commitment to respect each animal they process by utilizing each part of the animal. The audience was able to see very specific data for the carcass being used for the presentation. We were able to know the animal's age, live weight at harvest, hanging carcass weight, adjusted weaning weight, the Angus GS marbling score, the sire, the sire's marbling EPD, the dam, and the dam's marbling EPD.

Biltmore's first Annual Angus Cattle and Dorper Sheep Sale concluded the day and was a huge success. 37 cattle lots averaged approximately \$6,800.00.

If you were lucky enough to make a weekend out of this event, you were sure to catch all the beauty Biltmore Estate has to offer. From the farmland to their amazing restaurants, it is an exceptional experience to be immersed in their traditions.

A huge thank you goes out to Kyle Mayberry, Director of Livestock for Biltmore for his hard work in planning the day's events and hosting such a large crowd. Another thank you to all of the sponsors and educational session presenters.



The bulls looked great and sold well



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**2024 NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS ASSOCIATION
ALLIED INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

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Bryan Blinson

Receives 2024 North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame Award

By: Joe Hampton

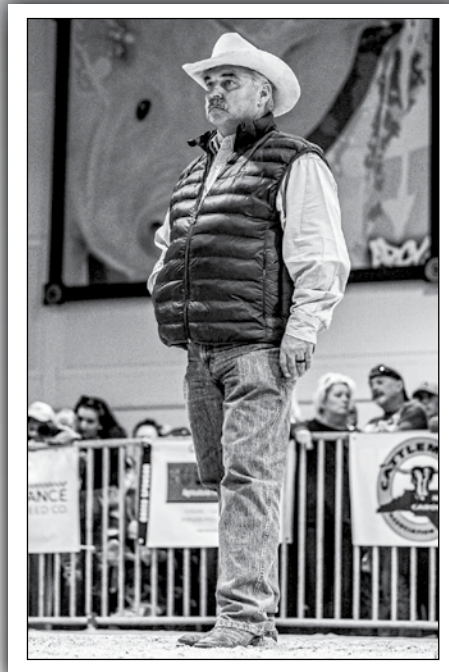


Photo courtesy of Square One Agri Marketing

Bryan was raised on a farm in Caldwell County where his mom and dad still have a small herd of purebred Hereford cattle. Bryan bought his first Polled Hereford heifer at the age of six. He helped raise cattle on the family farm and showed cattle at local, state and National levels. Bryan showed in the first Beef Junior Heifer Show at the North Carolina State Fair. While in school he had a grooming and fitting service. Bryan was instrumental in helping organize the North Carolina Junior Polled Hereford Association that is still going strong to date.

While attending North Carolina State University he was on the Livestock Judging Team and was Chairman of the National Junior Polled Hereford Council. He graduated with a degree in Animal Science. During his professional career, Bryan was recognized as an Outstanding Alumni of CALS at NCSU.

Following college, he attended Gregg School of Auctioneering in Texas, becoming a professional auctioneer. He started his own purebred cattle auction service, managing auctions and selling cattle in the United States and Canada.

In 1994, he was hired as Executive Director for the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association for six years followed by nine years in the real estate auction business at Johnson Properties in Angier. He returned to the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association in 2008 as the Executive Director.

Since Bryan was hired by the Cattlemen's Association in 1994, I think he has attended more NC Angus events than anyone else. He has stepped up to auction, work the ring by taking bids or make remarks. He has attended sales, Field Days, Annual Meetings, tours and any other event that happened; and not just State Association events, he has attended those events on our individual farms as well. He has used the resources of the NC Cattlemen's Association to make us all feel a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Bryan's emphasis with the Cattlemen's Association is to strengthen markets for North Carolina Cattle and Beef through Beef Quality Assurance programs, education for efficient production, telling the beef story to build consumer confidence and acceptance, defend the industry in the political arena and encourage all youth to participate in or at least appreciate the Beef Industry.

Howard Gentry shared, "Bryan has served as Executive Director of the NC Cattlemen's Association for many years. In this position, he represented all breeds of cattle with equal enthusiasm. As producers we are busy with the daily chores of breeding, producing and marketing our cattle. It is important that we as producers have someone representing our industry interest in Raleigh and in Washington DC. Bryan



Bryan Blinson

Receives 2024 North Carolina Angus Hall of Fame Award

Continued

Blinson has served us well in keeping abreast of political issues that affect the North Carolina beef cattle industry and working with elected officials and governmental agencies for positive outcomes. Bryan has been the face of the cattle industry in our state. He has worked to assist in marketing of North Carolina feeder cattle throughout the nation. He has been a strong supporter of the youth programs, breed associations, and commercial cattle producers. Thank you Bryan, for a job well done."

Bryan sees the cattle world as one family not the segmented teams that we try to portray. Under Bryan's leadership there is a place for small producers that may have less than a handful of cattle just like the farmer that sells their calves in multiple uniform truckload lots. He doesn't divide us into traditional, organic, farmstead, local, subsistent or any other label. I have seen him try and bring us all together, regardless of our production preferences. NC has benefitted from this approach. In some states political pressure is from within the industry. In NC we recognize that there are multiple ways of producing cattle and working together.

Neil Bowman says, "I have worked closely with Bryan for many years and know the huge impact he has had on our beef cattle and agriculture community in NC. I have seen first hand his unwavering dedication to NC Cattlemen and Women, and the way he has been a champion for them on the state and national level. His commitment to make the NC beef industry better is second only to his passion to help the next generation excel. Bryan, always with Beth along side him, has a dedication to see that youth engaged in the beef cattle industry have the support and opportunities to be successful. Over the years I have had the privilege of calling him a mentor, and a colleague, but most importantly a friend."

Another associate describes Bryan like this: "Bryan Blinson is a strong leader who doesn't back down from a challenge, he sees the angles in every opportunity, and he doggedly pursues the best options for North Carolina's cattle producers. More importantly, Bryan is a man of his word, and his integrity cannot be understated. This rare combination of grit, tenacity, and honesty that Bryan exudes is rare in Raleigh, and even more so in Washington. Our industry is stronger because of Bryan, and I am honored to know him and to have worked with him for nearly 20 years." -Kent Bacus, Executive Director, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Dr. Todd See, Head of the Animal Science Department at NCSU told me, "Simply put Bryan is an incredible leader who lives and breathes NC agriculture, advancing opportunities for all farmers, not just cattlemen. He believes in a big tent for all of agriculture and that we are all in the barnyard together. Over the years I have found that what really gets Bryan excited is mentoring, guiding and creating opportunities for young people and new producers. The programs he has created, supported, and guided along with the classrooms he has taught in are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say whenever asked to support a show, contest, event, school, club or classroom Bryan was there. Bryan was engaged. Bryan was passionate. Bryan motivated those young people who are and will be the future in NC agriculture."

Brent Jennings, who directs all Jr. Livestock work with NCSU Animal Science said: "It will be very difficult to put into words the effect Bryan Blinson has had on the young people in North Carolina over his career. I took a moment to look up just what a leader is, and Webster's Dictionary description is "One that leads or conducts: a guide: a conductor." I really thought it was possible to see a picture of Bryan beside this description. Over the years Bryan has been an advocate for youth in North Carolina and has always understood the need to educate and make certain we are planning and moving forward. No matter what the event, from Youth Field Days, Youth Beef Industry Tour, NC Junior Beef Roundup, Beef Char-Grill, or serving as an official at countless Livestock Judging events he has always been optimistic and willing to take on the task at hand. His hard work and dedication have been an inspiration for all that have been fortunate enough to work with him, and he is very deserving of this honor!"

Kelly McIver who served as the Executive officer of the NC Sweetpotato Association shared, "I have had the opportunity to watch and learn many things from Bryan Blinson. I learned that it is important to be present and serve alongside industry leaders. Give time to causes that will affect the entirety of the industry. Be proud and stand firm in ways that will give lasting results for generations to come. I am proud to call Bryan a friend."

Bryan and his wife Beth have been married for three decades and are proud to call Harnett County their home. Their daughters, Rossie and Mason, have been involved with livestock through showing, 4-H, judging and advocacy since an early age. Bryan and Beth started the Harnett County 4-H Livestock Club many years ago to educate youth in Harnett County about livestock and 4-H; the club meets monthly at their home. I have no doubt that Bryan will continue to make an impact on the cattle industry for years to come.

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE TEN NORTH CAROLINA BREEDERS WHO REGISTERED THE MOST ANGUS

The 10 producers who registered the most Angus beef cattle in the state of North Carolina recorded a total of 1,011 Angus with the American Angus Association® during fiscal year 2023, which ended Sept. 30, according to Mark McCully, Association Chief Executive Officer.

The 10 top recorders in North Carolina are:

- Springfield Angus Farm, Louisburg
- The Biltmore Company, Asheville
- Upper Piedmont Research Station, Reidsville
- E Bruce Shankle II, Polkton
- J Roger Lane, Gates
- Fulcher Farms, Godwin
- Gragg Farms, Boone
- Uwharrie Ridge Farms, Asheboro
- Broadway Cattle Farm, Monroe
- Windy Hill Farms LLC, Ramseur

Angus breeders across the nation in 2023 registered 300,761 head of Angus cattle. “Our Association members lead the industry in adopting new technology and breeding the most problem-free cattle for their customers,” McCully said. “Cattlemen across the country continue to find registered Angus seedstock are the most profitable option for their herd.” Congratulations to these breeders!



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2024 Spring Fever Sale Preview

By: Zach Moffitt, Spring Fever Sale Manager

We would like to welcome you to the North Carolina Spring Fever Sale on April 27th in Union Grove, NC at the Shuffler Farms Sale Facility. The North Carolina Angus Association and its sale committee has set strict rules and guidelines for its members to go by to consign cattle to this event. This helps make sure you are getting the very best from our members when they bring cattle to town for this highlight annual event. The cattle market is strong right now and genetic quality should be a priority in every herd. That's what our members are providing. With that being said, it's also a great time to cull those nonproductive cows at a time when heavy fleshing open cull cows are at an all-time high. You can re-invest those dollars into cows that are bred and ready to continue their job. We have a solid offering of Fall pairs, Spring pairs, bred cows, bred heifers, and open heifers. Please reach out to Cortney with the NC Angus Association to get on the mailing list to receive a catalog. We hope you can join us on April 27th in Union Grove, but if you can't, we will be broadcasting live on CCI.Live. We wish you all a profitable year with your cattle and hope to see you soon.



Sincerely,

Zach Moffitt

NC BCIP Bull Test Sale High Indexing Angus Bulls 2023



BUTNER BULL TEST

HIGH INDEXING ANGUS BULL

Congratulations to Tim and Terry Aldridge with Oakview Farms in Yanceyville for having the high Indexing Angus bull at the Butner Bull Test Sale with Lot 1, Oakview Patriarch 622, a Tehama Patriarch F028 son. He sold for \$4,600. The bull had an ADG of 4.3 and a final weight of 1,460 pounds. Oakview also had the high selling bull at \$5,250 with lot 4, Oakview Man in Black 722, a LAR Man in Black son. 31 Angus bulls averaged \$3,711 in the Butner Bull Sale.

WAYNESVILLE BULL TEST

HIGH INDEXING ANGUS BULL

Congratulations to Jonathan Wells with Berry-Wells Farms in Rayle, Georgia for having the high Indexing Angus bull at the Waynesville Bull Test Sale with Lot 16, Wells Enhance W228, a Sydgen Enhance son. He was also the high selling lot at \$4,900. The bull had an ADG of 4.5 and a final weight of 1,303 pounds. 13 Angus bulls averaged \$4,030.

NORTH CAROLINA ANGUS AUXILIARY

A NEW YEAR WITH CONTINUED TRADITIONS

By: Christy Perdue, NC Angus Auxiliary Publicity Chair



The North Carolina Angus Auxiliary continues to consist of a group of women, bonded by their love of agriculture, specifically Angus cattle, and their dedication to provide educational and scholarship opportunities as well as mentorship for the North Carolina Angus Juniors. This mission, in addition to supporting the North Carolina Angus Association and the American Angus Association, gives us purpose and drive to continue what was started over 20 years ago. It's the continuation of traditions, as well as new and exciting ideas, that make this group of women a success year after year.

The North Carolina Angus Auxiliary celebrated our official start to 2024 with our Annual Meeting, February 10. As is tradition, the NC Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the NC Angus Association Annual Meeting. Once again, our meeting was held at the Masonic Lodge in Yadkinville and was attended by 11 members and guests. This meeting provided us the opportunity to make plans

for the upcoming year, including outings and activities, supporting Juniors through scholarship and sponsorships, and service projects along the way. During our meeting, we were fortunate to have refreshments from a local gem, Milk and Honey Coffee Company.

Our ladies enjoyed a delicious quiche and various unique baked goods as well as local coffee...what a treat! At the conclusion of our formal business meeting, we participated in a fun craft project. Our members and guests

were provided the opportunity to make personalized, one-of-a-kind clay cow magnets. Many magnets were personalized with family farm names. It was a great keepsake to remember our 2024 meeting.



At the conclusion of our Annual Auxiliary Meeting, we rejoined the NC Angus Association Annual Meeting, including presentations, business meeting, and banquet. A brief year in review and updates on upcoming events for the Auxiliary was presented during the business meeting. Included in the report was a reminder of the Auxiliary Live and Silent Auctions. This continued tradition for the NC Angus Auxiliary is also our biggest fundraiser of the year. In addition to our auction items, we continue with the selling of our leather patch hats. These custom, unique, and high quality hats

are available from all Auxiliary members and allows both fundraising and a way to highlight our love and dedication to the Angus breed. It is the success of these continued fundraisers and the support of those that both donate and purchase items that allows us to continue with scholarship and sponsorship opportunities for our NC Angus Juniors.

During the North Carolina Angus Association Annual Meeting, the benefits of these fundraisers were put to good uses. The NC Angus Auxiliary was able to present seven Achievement Awards. North Carolina Juniors that received the Achievement Awards were Caroline Scarlett, Nate Bowman, Hannah Vanhoy, Emma Vanhoy, Ava Wood, Madalyn Carpenter, and Jonathan Scarlett. Awarded with three year awards were Nate Bowman, Madalyn Carpenter, and Hannah Vanhoy. We are proud of our Juniors and are happy to continue supporting them as they grow into strong leaders in our Association.

We are excited for a fun and productive year ahead! We will again host a Summer Outing, planned for July 19th and 20th. We will have more details soon and hope to see lots of our members and guests. Many members have invited friends and family to join us in the past and it has been a fun way to get to know new people and make new friends. There are always lots of laughs and delicious food, you don't want to miss it! Keep up to date on all our upcoming events and fundraisers on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Here's to a successful year!



AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIPS

By: Christy Perdue, NC Angus Auxiliary Publicity Chair

The American Angus Auxiliary is currently in its seventy second year and continues to remain a strong, successful, and integral organization. The women who dedicate their time, resources, and energy to the Auxiliary maintain the traditions started long ago, while also focusing on the bettering of the organization. As a subsidiary of the American Angus Association, the Auxiliary both assists with supporting the Angus Association and the Juniors that make up the National Junior Angus Association. In turn, the Auxiliary also benefits from the support and generosity of the American Angus Association and the Angus Foundation. It is this partnership and common goals and missions that makes a successful team.

In addition to support and partnership on the National level, it is the support and partnership with our state associations that makes our Auxiliary unique, diverse, and well rounded. North Carolina remains strongly involved on the National level in many capacities. Our North Carolina Angus Auxiliary proudly has two Past Presidents, Jane Ebert and Cortney Holshouser. Our North Carolina members have also served in the capacity of Regional Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee members. Martha Holshouser became the first Region 4 Director, and many years later, I was fortunate to follow in her footsteps. Cortney Holshouser serves as the Chair of the Full Circle Online Auction and I serve as a committee member as well. During our American Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting in November, I was fortunate to be reelected as the Region 4 Director. I feel fortunate to remain active on the National level and am blessed to represent our North Carolina Auxiliary as I continue to serve on the Executive Board. The strong leadership, both past and present, within North Carolina allows our state to have continued representation on the Auxiliary Council as well.



The Executive Board will come together for our Spring Meeting in Sugarcreek, Ohio March 22 – 24. Our Spring Meeting is a time to come together to make plans for the upcoming year, including sponsorships, scholarships, and fundraisers. Over the course of three days, the members of the Executive Board will share meals, ideas, and spend time bonding as a group. Each member is an important part of making the Auxiliary diverse and successful, as each member brings different experiences, strengths, and ideas for the betterment of the group. Our Past Presidents, State Presidents, and Committee Chairs will also have an opportunity to attend our Auxiliary Council Meeting in person or through Zoom. At the conclusion of our Spring Meeting, the 10 members of the Executive Board will drive 45 minutes to Wooster, Ohio. While in Wooster, we will attend the Women Connected Conference, held at the Certified Angus Beef Culinary Center from March 25 – 27. This Biennial Conference brings together women throughout the country with varying backgrounds and experience throughout the Angus and agricultural world. Twenty women are selected to join the Executive Board at the Conference. Through the support of the Angus Foundation, lodging, activities, and meals are provided to the attendees, with the only expense being transportation to and from the conference.

In addition to the support of the Angus Foundation, the North Carolina Angus Auxiliary provides financial support for North Carolina members that attend the Women Connected Conference. This support assists with the transportation costs to and from the event. Support both locally and nationally makes this Conference a possibility for all who wish to attend. Our next Women Connected Conference will take place in Spring of 2026 and will be held in the area of Saint Joseph, Missouri. I highly recommend this Conference to any of our North Carolina members. The friendships made and education provided will last a lifetime.

A tradition for our Summers is our Mid-Year Meeting, held yearly at the National Junior Angus Show. The NJAS will be located in Madison, Wisconsin and will take place June 29 – July 6. The theme for the show is "Showdown in Madtown." Once again, the American Angus Auxiliary will sponsor a booth at the Tailgate Party and Street Carnival. This new tradition for the Auxiliary has been a fun way to introduce ourselves to the Juniors and their families that may not be aware of how the Auxiliary supports Juniors and their families. Our Mid-Year Meeting will take place on July 3 at 4:30. As is now another "new" tradition, there will be a Zoom option as well. This added option allows those members to stay updated and provides an opportunity to vote on motions that arise, despite not being able to attend in person. Stay tuned to email and social media updates for a link to the Zoom option. Make sure you check out the Angus Gift Barn during the NJAS and meet our new AGB Manager, Veni Soto. Veni is from Texas and adds a new flare to the Angus Gift Barn.

Closing out the year, Fall is also a busy time for the American Angus Auxiliary. Our Annual Meeting will take place in Fort Worth, TX. This meeting, held in conjunction with the Angus Convention, provides a time to gather with our Angus friends from across the country and reflect on a year of success. The Angus Convention will take place November 1 – 4 and is always a fun adventure with delicious food and exciting sightseeing opportunities as well. Rounding out the year, the Full Circle Online Auction will take place in November 2024. Stay updated on our social media pages and on our website to see all of the wonderful auction items available. As always, we welcome consignments and ideas for auction items to help with the success of our yearly fundraiser.

Together on a local and national level, we can make year seventy-two the best year yet!

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MILO LEWIS

North Carolina Cattlemen's Association and the North Carolina Cattlemen's Beef Council announces that Milo Lewis has been named as the new executive director. Lewis has more than twelve years of experience in the livestock industry, most recently as the Director of Livestock with North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. Her role involved facilitating the implementation of livestock public policy as directed by stakeholders. She worked alongside state and American Farm Bureau staff to develop steps to accomplish federal policy positions. She served in various capacities to many organizations including the NC Cattlemen's Association, NC Pork Council, NC Horse Council, NC Dairy Producers Association, NC Dairy Advantage, Dairy Alliance, 4-H Development Fund, NC Agriculture Foundation, and State Agriculture Response Team. During her time as the director of livestock, she worked on key strategic initiatives including farmer disaster relief, expanding local meat processing, youth livestock development, and planning the first NC Young Beef Producers Tour. Milo was a resource for NC dairy, beef, swine, equine, and small ruminant producers with questions and concerns over regulatory issues, policy, and communication with their elected officials. Most importantly, she cultivated relationships with key agricultural leaders, policy makers, and farmers across the state and nation. In this role, she worked in cooperation with the NCCA on a weekly basis. "Her familiarity with our organization, our members, and the relationships she has with other industry professionals will be an immediate asset," says Scott West, current president. "Milo is the right leader for our organizations. She brings a skillset that fits our needs, and we are looking forward to her leadership." Lewis received a Bachelor of Science from North Carolina State University and a Master of Science from Oklahoma State University. Lewis is also a former NC Junior Angus Association member. She will oversee the multi-faceted trade organization as well as the promotion of beef through the Beef Checkoff. Founded in 1954, The North Carolina Cattlemen's

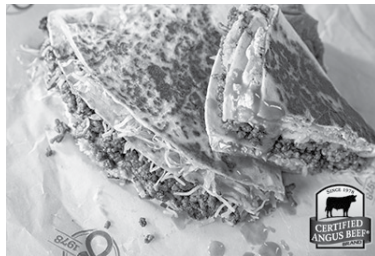


Association (NCCA) is a non-governmental organization which advocates for the beef industry. The NCCA, through its membership dues, assists cattlemen in legislative, regulatory, and production issues. The North Carolina Cattlemen's Beef Council (NCCBC) is a qualified state beef council charged with the promotion and marketing of beef through the Beef Checkoff.

HOMEMADE BEEF CRUNCHWRAP SUPER FOLD

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound Certified Angus Beef® ground beef
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons dark chili powder
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon coriander
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 teaspoons canola oil, divided
- 1/3 cup water
- 4 to 6 extra-large flour tortillas
- 1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup prepared guacamole
- Tortilla chips
- 1 tablespoon sour cream
- 1/4 head iceberg lettuce, shredded super thin
- Hot sauce (like Cholula® brand)
- 1 lime, cut into small wedges



INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a small mixing bowl, combine cumin, chili powder, salt, coriander, garlic, paprika and pepper.
- Heat a large cast iron pan or skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil, spread ground beef in pan. Brown on one side without moving it around for 3 to 4 minutes. Once a deep mahogany crust forms, season beef with spice blend, break it up with a spatula to continue browning.
- When no pink is visible, stir in water, simmer 2 minutes; remove from heat, set aside.
- Warm tortillas by wrapping in damp paper towels and microwaving for 20 seconds. Placing one tortilla on a cutting board in front of you, make a slit from center running directly to bottom of tortilla.
- Seeing tortilla now as four separate quarters, fill top right quarter with cooked ground beef and top with cheese, spread bottom right quarter with guacamole, top left with sour cream and 3 to 4 tortilla chips, and finally bottom left quarter with shredded lettuce, a few dashes of hot sauce and a squeeze of fresh lime juice.
- Starting with guacamole, fold counter-clockwise onto beef, next fold over to be on top of tortillas and lastly fold down onto lettuce. Repeat steps 5 and 6 with remaining tortillas and ingredients.
- Heat a teaspoon of canola oil in a clean frying pan and gently brown crunch wraps in batches, 3 to 4 minutes on each side.

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store

renew memberships, register for meetings & shop for merchandise

NC STATE EXTENSION HELPS ENSURE POSITIVE RETURNS FOR CATTLEMEN

WRITTEN BY SIMON GONZALEZ , EXTENSION WRITER AND CONTENT MARKETING SPECIALIST

CALS Communications
NC State Extension, NC State University

Calving season is money season for North Carolina's beef producers. The new offspring are immediate assets, either to be sold when weaned or used to replenish herds.

A successful calving season depends on a successful breeding season. But that won't happen if the bulls are firing blanks.

"They got to get it done in a defined breeding season," said Jimmy Harris, a cattleman who raises Angus in Warren County. "Open cows [ones that aren't pregnant] don't have any positive return."

To help ensure cattlemen in her area have a productive calving season, Kim Woods, NC State Extension agriculture/animal science agent for Granville and Person counties, organizes an annual bull breeding soundness exam (BSE) clinic.

"Our Extension veterinarian, Tom Van Dyke, comes in and performs an exam," she said. "There's no way to test libido, but it's just basically making sure they're physically able to do the job. Because if they can't do the job, then that's potentially a whole calf crop loss for that farmer or reduced calf crop. If they don't have as many calves to sell, they have lost income."

Breeding season in North Carolina typically begins in late November and lasts through January.

"Most people calve in the fall, September and October, so December and January is when a lot of bulls get put in," Woods said. "This gives them the opportunity to check on that bull so if it's not sound they can buy another one or borrow one. We do it once a year because we're trying to target the timing so they can make decisions if they have an issue."

The 2023 BSE clinic took place in October at the Granville County Livestock Arena outside Oxford. It took a team of NC State Extension experts to work with the large animals. Matthew Place, then the animal agriculture agent in Warren County and now the agriculture agent in Franklin County; Bailee Perkins, livestock agent in Caswell County; Tyrone Fisher, North Central District Extension Director; and Woods worked the holding chute and guided the bulls from chute to holding pens. NC State Extension Director Rich Bonanno was on hand to help out and observe the program.

"Every year we at least have one or two that's going to fail the test or be deferred so they can be tested later," Place said. "If the farmers hadn't known that after coming through here, their calf crop would be in peril. We have had somebody say that was the only bull he had, so they wouldn't have any cows bred if we hadn't done the test."

Van Dyke, the Extension beef veterinarian, performed the tests on the bulls, aided by NC State College of Veterinary Medicine clinical technician Marissa Thompson and third-year veterinary student Nick Collier.

"They have to pass what they call scrotal circumference, which means their testicles need to be big enough," Van Dyke said. "We check their semen for motility, which means we have to have a lot of sperm swimming. Once we have OK on those grounds then we check for morphology, which means the sperm need to be normal. Within about 10 minutes we can have the information. Then we either turn the bull down and say he's not good, or sometimes if it's a younger bull, we say it's deferred, which means give him another month or two, we'll check him again, and he might come back OK."

The almost immediate results are another benefit to those who bring bulls to be tested.

"This is my favorite program we put on every year because you can actually see the results here," Place said. "A lot of things we do in Extension, you have to do research and evaluations that look at data and it can take a while. This you let the farmer know right away."

Woods credits Granville County Farm Bureau for providing support money so producers can bring bulls at a reduced cost. There is a nominal charge of \$20 per animal to help cover expenses. That's much less than a visit to a veterinarian to perform the same test — and significantly less than the economic penalty of putting an infertile bull with the cows during breeding season.

"The research shows that probably 20% of bulls will fail this test," Van Dyke said. "If you put a bull in who is not fertilizing your cows it can be a financial disaster when it comes time for the cows to calve. You end up with a lot of open cows."

Cattlemen from Granville, Person, Franklin, Warren and other counties brought bulls to be tested. They included William Pyle, a beef producer who has a herd of about 50 cows in Franklin County. He brought 10 bulls to be tested.

"This has been something that we've done for about 10 years where we bring the bulls up here," he said. "It absolutely helps to know our bulls are OK for breeding. And it provides an opportunity for the vet school, for their students to get hands-on experience."

It also provides information about the soundness of a bull that is up for sale. Harris did not bring a bull to the clinic, but came to purchase a couple for his farm — provided they passed the test.

"This bull test here will not completely foolproof your breeding program, but it certainly helps eliminate some of the possibilities of things going wrong," he said.

That is important, because as with all types of farmers across the state, there can be a thin line between profit and loss for cattlemen. Beef prices might seem high for consumers, but producers aren't necessarily seeing a spike in income.

"The cattle business as we know it today was built on cheap land, cheap fertilizer, cheap fuel, cheap equipment, in relative terms to what we see today," Harris said. "What we have to buy has gone up about 10 times, and what we sell three times. When I was a boy, it cost \$70 a ton to fertilize, a new pickup truck was \$1,800, a tractor was \$3,500. You could buy land for \$100 an acre. In 1969, when I graduated from State College, you could buy gas for \$0.29 a gallon."

NC State Extension supports the beef industry across North Carolina. Agriculture agents, researchers and other experts provide information about breeding, nutrition and forage, herd health and management, and other important topics.

Related: [Converting waste products to quality beef](#)

"Across North Carolina, the average herd size is about 35 mama cows," Woods said. "We've got some with 300-500 mama cows and some people have five or 10, but I think the average across the state is somewhere around 35. Most of our operations here are cow/calf operations. The producers have mama cows. Those cows have calves, and those calves are what are sold to generate income for the farmer."

Depending on breed and genetics, a bull can cost tens of thousands of dollars, but the average cost of an Angus bull is \$3,000-\$5,000.

"That's just the purchase price," Woods said. "Then they've got to care for it, feed it, any type of vet work that may need to be done for it. So it can be a very significant investment."

A healthy bull should be able to sire calves for six seasons, but if producers keep females the best practices call for bulls to be moved before they begin to breed daughters.

"Sometimes people will buy a bull together and this person uses it for three years, and that person uses it for three years," Woods said. "Or somebody will buy it, use it for three years and they'll sell it to somebody else."

The gestation period of a cow is about nine months. Weaned calves sell for about \$800-\$1,200. Cows are typically able to produce calves for 10-15 years.

"They've really not paid for their input costs until they've had about their sixth calf," Woods said. "So that's why we need to make sure that we do everything that we can so that they can have that many calves and hopefully more."

While the test specifically tells whether a bull has the potential to breed, it can also give farmers information about their cows. If a fertile bull is in the field and a cow isn't bred, it can provide a clue about where the problem might lie and inform decisions after the breeding season.

"Once that bull has been in there for 60, 90, 120 days, whatever the breeding season is that farmer has chosen to use, if that cow does not get bred, she will probably leave the farm in some way," Woods said. "Most of them are probably going to end up in a stock market and then a lot of them are going to end up in some sort of food capacity if they have no other issues."

Another advantage of the bull breeding soundness exam clinic is the educational component. Van Dyke conducts a handful of such tests during the year, and always takes along students to give them hands-on experience. At the Granville County clinic it was Collier, who wants to be a large-animal vet.

"My family's raised beef cattle in a commercial cow/calf operation since 2010 and enjoyed it," he said. "Where we're at in Randolph County there's a big need for horse medicine, too. The small ruminant industry is growing around there as well. I'll probably have to do a little bit of everything, but I'd definitely say large animal. There's a big opportunity to really help producers in the preventative medicine side of things."

The bull breeding tests might not technically count as medicine, but they prevent potential problems for farmers in the beef industry. Working with Van Dyke gave Collier skills he can use in a future practice.

"It's definitely part of the learning experience," he said. "I had never seen some of the morphologies on the sperm cells that I've seen today. If I don't know, I can ask the person who knows."



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American Angus Association®

Functional Longevity (FL) Research Report

Updated October 25, 2023



Background

Profitability and sustainability of beef cattle production depend on many factors and cow longevity is certainly one of them. Angus breeders have ranked cow longevity as a priority, along with associated research and the development of new tools and programs, within the American Angus Association.

With that in mind, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI®) set their sights on additional research around the topic starting in 2018. This was not the first time that research around the topic had commenced. In fact, about 8 years prior, similar research had been conducted. At that time, however, more whole herd data was needed to support this evaluation. Therefore in 2012, the MaternalPlus® program, now included within the AHIR® Inventory Reporting program, was created to capture when females were successful in the calving season; and if they weren't, when and why they left the herd.

Since then, a lot of research has been done both internally and in collaboration with universities, such as the University of Guelph, Purdue University, and the University of Georgia. Recent efforts focused on data exploration and trait definition.

Several trait definitions and statistical models have been proposed in scientific literature and utilized to evaluate maternal function in both beef and dairy cattle. A few examples are traditional longevity (TL), functional longevity (FL), productive life (PL), stayability (STAY), survival models (SM), etc.

After researching different models, the **functional longevity** definition made the most sense to accommodate the data reported by Angus breeders within the Association's database and for its alignment with selection goals.

Despite modeling differences, the selection objective is often the same: to select sires that will produce daughters that remain in the herd and produce a calf every year. With that in mind, the word functional in the name of this trait is not without reason. Being functional means staying in herd and producing a calf every year. This contrasts with early stayability models where cows were only assessed as to whether they survived in the herd to a certain age.

Our research also explored the dam production data provided by breeders in the form of disposal codes, which allows separating active versus culled females in the database and provides insight as to why those cows are leaving the herd. From those data, there is variability for the reasons why females leave the herd. When available, disposal codes will be leveraged in the FL research evaluation.

Additionally, several analyses were conducted to determine the optimal window of data to be included in the evaluation. The initial research started by including cows with data reported from 2 to 15 years of age. However, for the purpose of estimating variance components, heritability estimates, and predicting the FL expected progeny difference (EPD) to rank sires, data from cows that are between 2 to 10 years of age was optimal, and only data up to 10 years of age is used for the genetic evaluation of FL. The FL evaluation includes records from cows born after 1990 and it also includes data from the Canadian Angus Association, bringing additional phenotypic data to predict the research EPDs.

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Breeders are still encouraged to record and submit breeding, calving and culling records on all cows for as long as they stay in the herd, as this data is valuable for management and studying maternal characteristics.

If you want more technical details about the initial development of the functional longevity trait, two peer-reviewed papers have been published by Oliveira et al., 2020 and Oliveira et al., 2021.

Functional longevity research EPD

The research FL EPD predicts on average, the number of calves a sires’ daughter is expected to produce by 6 years of age compared with other sires’ daughters in the population.

The unit of the trait is number of calves produced by 6 years of age, with a higher EPD meaning that on average, sires’ daughters are predicted to produce more calves by 6 years of age, compared with a lower EPD.

As an example, if sire A has a FL EPD of 1.5 and sire B has a FL EPD of 0.5, on average, the daughters of sire A are expected to produce one more calf by age 6 compared with the daughters of sire B.

	FL EPD
Sire A	1.5
Sire B	0.5
<i>Difference</i>	1.0

The breed average for the FL EPD is 1.01, ranging from 0.39 to 1.48, with a standard deviation of 0.08. Because functional longevity is both a new EPD and a lowly heritable trait, the initial spread in the EPD is not wide, but breeders will still be able to make selection decisions and achieve genetic gain over time.

In addition, an investigation of sires born up to 2010 with at least 10 daughters showed that daughters of sires in the top 1 percentile produced on average 1.3 more calves in their lifetime compared with daughters of sires in the bottom 99 percentile. These results need to be interpreted with caution as there are many non-genetic factors that impact the actual number of calves a female will produce in her lifetime, but they demonstrate nonetheless that the FL EPD is appropriately ranking sires.

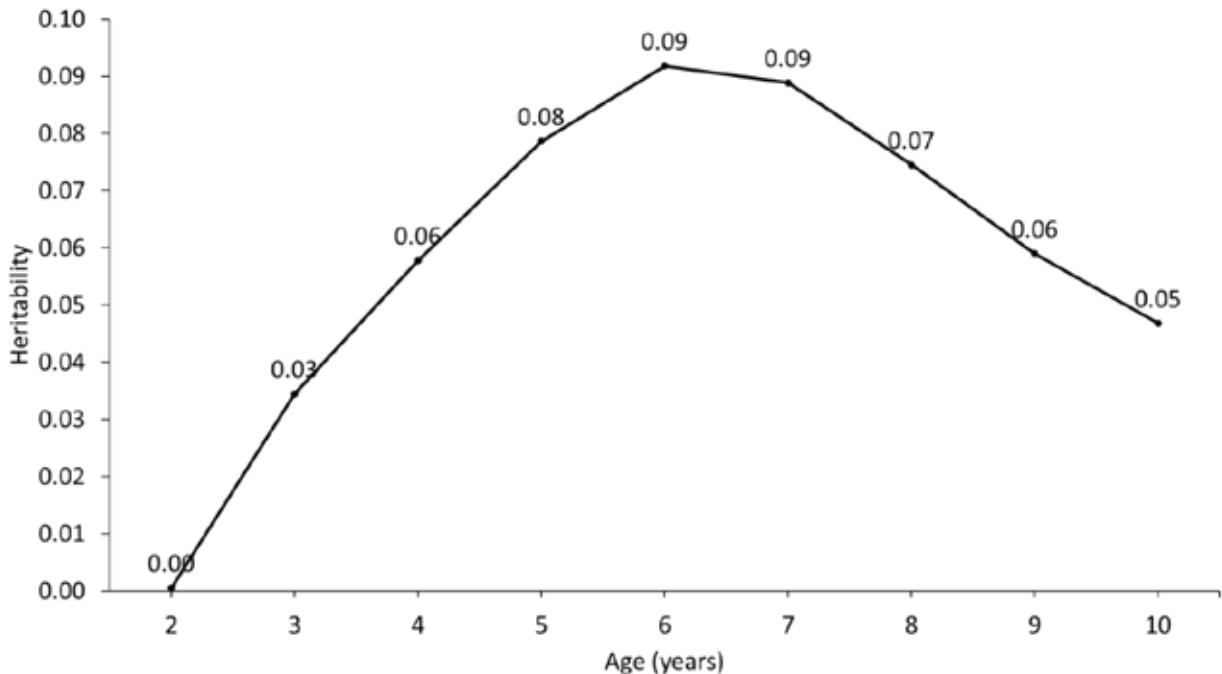
Heritability and genetic correlation across ages

The FL evaluation implements a random regression model, which allows the creation of the heritability estimates and variance components across time. Figure 1 shows the heritability trajectory for FL from ages 2 to 10.

From Figure 1, there are at least two notes to make. First, the heritability is close to 0 at ages 2 and 3. This is because the variability is very small at this stage. All females must calve at 2 years of age to enter the evaluation; therefore, all females have the same number of calves (n=1) recorded as she enters the evaluation. Second, there is a clear pattern in the trajectory as

heritability increases until age 6, then plateaus until age 7, and finally levels off from years 8 to 10. This demonstrates the maximum amount of genetic variation in the trait is captured by year 6, and therefore supports predicting the FL research EPD at year 6, with a heritability of 0.09.

Figure 1: Functional longevity heritability trajectory across ages.



Another feature of the random regression model is the ability to calculate the genetic correlation across ages. Table 1 shows the heritabilities (diagonals) and genetic correlations (off-diagonals) across ages for FL.

Table 1: Heritabilities and genetic correlations across ages.

Age	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	0.03	0.99	0.97	0.94	0.9	0.84	0.79	0.73
4		0.06	0.99	0.97	0.94	0.91	0.86	0.81
5			0.08	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.91	0.87
6				0.09	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.92
7					0.09	0.99	0.98	0.96
8		<i>symmetric</i>				0.07	≥0.99	0.98
9							0.06	≥0.99
10								0.05

*Correlations to age 2 were ignored because the genetic variance and heritability are close to 0.

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The genetic correlations in Table 1 indicate that while there would be some reranking between EPD predicted at ages 3-5, for ages 6 and older the correlations are ≥ 0.92 and the sire reranking is minimal.

The random regression model allows us to utilize all the records, and then predict the EPD at both a time point when heritability is maximized and a point that aligns with production objectives and selection goals.

The results in Figure 1 and Table 1 help us understand that within the Angus population, using the data from cows up to 10 years of age, the heritability is maximized at age 6, and genetic correlations are high across the ages greater than 6 years, which makes it the optimal point to predict the EPD.

Conclusion

The current research completed by AGI® in collaboration with universities supports the release of a research EPD for functional longevity predicted at 6 years of age, with a heritability of 0.09. While the current FL research EPD is a good tool to help Angus breeders start to understand how sires rank for this important trait, data recording and participation in Inventory Reporting are of the utmost importance to allow further research. Ideally, in the future the functional longevity model be able to leverage only data inside of Inventory Reporting, which will continue to add accuracy to this new evaluation.

It is also imperative to understand that the Association will take the next several months to hear feedback from the membership and industry to continue to make this tool the best it can be. Members involved in Inventory Reporting who have access to the FL research EPD on their females, as well as all members with access to the sire list are encouraged to submit feedback.

Producers wanting to see the FL research EPD on females in their herd need to enroll in Inventory Reporting. The next enrollment period is open from November 1 to January 15 and is best suited for primarily spring calving herds. Primarily fall calving herds should enroll May 1 to July 15.

Together, we may find details that need to be critiqued, and updates to the research FL EPD may be warranted between now and when this trait moves into the final production stage. Currently, the final production stage is slated for June 2024 during the annual updates to the genetic evaluation.

Oliveira, H.R.; Brito, L.F.; Miller, S.P.; Schenkel, F.S. Using Random Regression Models to Genetically Evaluate Functional Longevity Traits in North American Angus Cattle. *Animals* 2020, 10, 2410. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10122410>

Oliveira, H.R.; Miller, S.P.; Brito, L.F.; Schenkel, F.S. Impact of Censored or Penalized Data in the Genetic Evaluation of Two Longevity Indicator Traits Using Random Regression Models in North American Angus Cattle. *Animals* 2021, 11, 800. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11030800>



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