

# AT THE HELM



Left: Elected to lead the American Angus Association Board of Directors are (from left) Jerry Connealy, president and chairman; Chuck Grove; vice president and vice chairman; and Barry Pollard, treasurer.

who grew up on his family's Knoll Crest Farm (KCF) Inc. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in animal science, then returned home to operate the farm with brothers Jim, Brian and Paul and nephew Dalton.

KCF focuses on annually generating 400 high-quality bulls to supply the commercial beef industry.

A lifetime cattleman, Bennett has served as president of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF), Virginia Cattlemen's Association and Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association, as well as serving as a board member of the Virginia Angus Association and the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium.

**BRINKLEY** was born and raised in northern Missouri on his family's farming operation. Today, the family's diversified farming operation is made up of more than 1,300 acres and 400 registered Angus cows.

During Brinkley's time on the Board, he has served on the Finance & Planning, Commercial Programs, Communications & Public Relations, and Member & Affiliate Services committees, and as chairman of the Commercial Programs committee. He also served on the Boards of the Angus Foundation, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI), and as the Association's representative on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Live-Cattle Marketing Committee.

**DICKINSON** is a fifth-generation Angus breeder and a former National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) chairman. He attended the University of Illinois and obtained a bachelor's degree in animal science. After graduating, he served as a regional manager for the American Angus Association. During his tenure, he coordinated

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## New leadership installed to guide American Angus Association in 2022.

*by Whitney Whitaker, American Angus Association*

**D**elegates of the American Angus Association's 138th Annual Convention assembled Nov. 8, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas, to conduct the organization's official business, including electing five new directors, a chairman and a vice chairman to the Board.

Delegates elected Jerry Connealy, Whitman, Neb., president and chairman of the Board; and Chuck Grove, Forest, Va., vice president and vice chairman of the Board. Selected by the Board at its September meeting, Barry Pollard, Enid, Okla., was installed as treasurer.

Connealy says the Angus breed is positioned to continue leading the industry.

"It's so important that we keep thinking forward, that we keep coming up with new ideas, that we don't become complacent,"

Connealy says. "The Angus breed is at the top of the pyramid. The cattle industry has some really good years ahead of it ... I'm excited to be in the position where I can help keep us moving in the right direction."

Of the five members elected to serve as directors, four were elected to their first term on the Board — Paul Bennett, Red House, Va.; John Dickinson, Sacramento, Calif.; Greg McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan.; and Loran Wilson, Orleans, Ind. Elected to his second term was Jim Brinkley, Milan, Mo.

### Meet the directors

**BENNETT** is a fourth-generation seedstock producer





Above: Elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors are (from left) John Dickinson, Sacramento, Calif.; Greg McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan.; Paul Bennett, Red House, Va.; Loran Wilson, Orleans, Ind.; and Jim Brinkley, Milan, Mo.

the 2002 National Angus Conference and Tour in California, hosted one of the first Angus Boot Camp seminars at Cal Poly State University and performed some of the first age-and-source audits for the AngusSource® program.

In 2007, Dickinson formed Parnell Dickinson Inc., a full-service marketing firm that works in all facets of promotion, management and cattle trade for both seedstock and commercial cattlemen.

**MCCURRY** was raised in south-central Kansas, where he grew up working for his family's cattle operation as a third-generation Angus breeder. McCurry and his wife, Pamela, live on their family's operation, McCurry Bros. Angus.

The operation manages 500 Angus cows in addition to farming corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and

cotton. McCurry Bros. markets 150 Angus bulls private treaty each year and sells many females.

McCurry has served on many committees and boards, including serving as president of the Kansas Angus Association, as director and chairman of the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Board, and chairman of the Reins of Hope Riding Academy.

**WILSON** is a lifelong Indiana cattleman. Following graduation from the Purdue Winter Course in 1973, having majored in animal science, he returned to his family's operation.

Regularly producing top-quality carcass cattle is the priority at Wilson Angus. The current operation consists of



Association CEO Mark McCully (left) recognizes Jerry Connealy as the new Association Board of Directors president.



Connealy presents outgoing Board president David Dal Porto with a gavel for his years of service to the American Angus Association.

cow-calf pairs and a 300-head-capacity finishing feedlot, where consistently producing carcasses that grade high-Choice and Prime is always the goal.

Wilson has served as an adult co-chair of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and as president of the Indiana Angus Association and Indiana Beef Cattle Association.

Five directors are elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors each year. Directors can serve up to two

three-year terms on the Board and, if elected, serve additional one-year terms in office as president and chairman, vice president and vice chairman, and treasurer.

To learn more about the American Angus Association Board of Directors or how the delegate process works, visit <https://www.angus.org/assoc/board>.

Editor's note: Whitney Whitaker is a communications specialist for the American Angus Association.



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