## 1arch 2019

## NEWS & NOTES

### Interesting tidbits from around the industry

compiled by Shauna Hermel, editor, & Kasey Brown, associate editor

# ►►► BQA program's online certification reaches major milestone

More than 50,000 cattle producers have been certified through the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program's new online learning system since it was first offered in February 2017. Throughout the country hundreds of thousands have now become BQA-certified through in-person and online training, with an estimated 80% of the U.S. fed beef supply now touched by BQA-certified operations.

The beef-checkoff-funded BQA program is a nationally coordinated, state-implemented program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers of how commonsense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase, and can

trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.

Online BQA training provides 24/7 access to the program through a series of videos and animation. While in-person training is still available through numerous sessions conducted by in-state BQA coordinators throughout the country, online certification provides a chance for certification at any time. Three courses are available (cow-calf, stocker/ backgrounder and feedyard) to deliver a program that most closely aligns with the individual's operation. The certifications are also available in Spanish.

For information on completing online BQA training, go to https://www.bqa.org/certification.

#### Meat inspections, livestock price reports continue during shutdown

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspectors and

## **Supreme Court won't consider case against states' ag restrictions**

In early January, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear consolidated cases brought by 16 state attorneys general against California and Massachusetts laws that prohibit the sale of eggs from hens kept in housing that doesn't meet their standards regardless of in which state they are raised. In declining the cases, the high court followed the views of the U.S. Solicitor General that the issues raised in them aren't "ripe" and should be heard first at the U.S. District Court level. Massachusetts, for example, has yet to develop rules to implement the sales ban and animal-housing standards both of which also apply to pork

production — its voters approved in 2016.

The attorneys general challenged the states' laws as violations of the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause, which gives Congress the power to regulate trade among the states. Subsequent to the cases being filed, California voters approved an initiative in November 2018 that would ban the sale of pork from hogs born to sows housed in gestation stalls anywhere in the country. The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), which opposed the California and Massachusetts measures, supported the lawsuits filed by the attorneys general.

agency employees who produce the twice-daily livestock price reports remain on the job despite the ongoing government shutdown. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue was urged to deem as essential FSIS meat inspectors and the Agricultural Marketing Service staff responsible for operating and administering the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program, including *Market News*, which includes information on pricing, contracting for purchase, supply-and-demand conditions for livestock, livestock production and livestock products.

Also continuing during the shutdown are USDA's purchases of pork and other commodities, part of the Trump administration's assistance program for America's farmers suffering from ongoing trade disputes. U.S. pork producers are the largest beneficiary of the program. Secretary Perdue extended the Jan. 15 deadline for signing up for Market Facilitation Program payments. The new deadline will be determined when the shutdown ends and will be extended by the number of days equal to the duration of the government shutdown.

#### >>> Texas counties released from cattle fever tick quarantine

On Dec. 21, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and USDA Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) announced the release of the Control Purpose Quarantine Area (CPQA) in Live Oak County and a portion of the Hidalgo County CPQA.

These releases rescind all movement restrictions, inspections and quarantine-related treatment requirements for livestock and wildlife in the areas.

"This is an indication of the significant advancement we are making in our fight to eradicate cattle fever ticks outside of the

permanent quarantine zone," said Andy Schwartz, TAHC executive director. "TAHC is very appreciative of the effort put forth by landowners, cattlemen, hunters and county officials. This cooperation is key to the success of this program."

Live Oak County quarantine release comes after two years of systematic treatment and inspections. The Live Oak County CPQA was established by TAHC and USDA CFTEP after a tick-infested bull was discovered Nov. 28, 2016. Cattle fever ticks were found on livestock on a total of nine premises in the area.

On Dec. 6, 2018, a portion of the Hidalgo County CPQA was released after systematic treatment and inspections found the area to be free of cattle fever ticks.

Portions of eight Texas counties remain under cattle fever tick quarantines. Counties include Cameron, Hidalgo, Kinney, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Willacy and Zapata.

Read more about cattle fever ticks in the November *Angus Beef Bulletin* article "Southern Battle" at *https://bit.ly/2R63TCf*.

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#### Five Angus Icons to Appear in New I Am Angus

"Greatness is not something you can weigh or measure scientifically," said Richard Halstead, portrait artist of the five Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery inductees featured in I Am Angus | The Art of Greatness. "Greatness is not fashion. It's not fame either. It's not someone who's making the biggest splash, the biggest noise. It's

someone who has a lasting quality. It doesn't have to be earthshaking. It doesn't have to follow any preconceived concept of greatness. There's no one strict formula for making greatness. It's what people do with what they have."

Minnie Lou Bradley. Dave Nichols. Tom Burke. Mick Colvin. Dr. David Hawkins. Though



inducted into the famed Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery for different reasons, all have contributed in substantial ways to the Angus business and cattle industry as a whole. Premiering Christmas Eve, this year's I Am Angus — produced by the American Angus Association — explored the meaning of greatness through the portraits of Bradley, Nichols, Burke, Colvin and Hawkins and their contributions to the industry.

The film is available on the Angus YouTube channel at https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLs0sROuMZ0. Read more about the movie in the Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA at www.angusbeefbulletin.com/extra/2019/01jan19/0119fp-I-Am-Angus.html.

#### **Navigating the H-2A Guest Worker Program**

U.S. farmers and ranchers discussed the current state of regulations governing the farm labor market and efforts to navigate it, at a workshop during the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention. The H-2A visa program has experienced massive growth over the past decade, with the number of visas being issued to temporary workers rising 500%. Still, demand is surpassing the supply, and navigating the system is a challenge.

For more information, read the whole article at www.angusbeefbulletin.com/ extra/2019/01jan19/ 0119fp\_H2A.html

#### **Ryan Peterson joins Select Sires**

Select Sires has hired Ryan Peterson as beef business development manager. In this role, Peterson will oversee both domestic and



international marketing initiatives, in addition to leading training efforts regarding the beef program within the federation. In large, he will be responsible for mentoring beef sales representatives and assisting members with identifying, acquiring, servicing and retaining strategic accounts. Additionally, he will



Ryan Peterson

support beef personnel in international beef markets by coordinating pricing and availability of beef semen. In 2008,

Peterson graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management. He then pursued his master's degree from Colorado State University and earned a master of science in the field of ruminant nutrition in 2011.

Since 2010, Peterson has worked for Leachman Cattle of Colorado as Continued on page 150

#### **▶▶▶ Apply for Angus Foundation scholarships**

Angus

Scholarship applications are now available for college students affiliated with the Angus breed. The Angus Foundation offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students each year as a

way to help Angus youth achieve their education goals and offset the

continually rising costs of tuition at higher-education institutions.

#### Allied Angus Breeders Scholarships

The Angus Foundation will award three \$1,000 scholarships to undergraduate or graduate students who use Angus genetics in a commercial cattle operation breeding program or whose parents use Angus genetics.

Emphasis will be placed on

applicants' knowledge of the cattle industry and perspective of the Angus breed.

Applicants or their parents/ guardians must be members of the American Angus Association or

> have an affiliate member code. The applicants or their parents/ guardians must

have transferred or been transferred an Angus registration paper in the last 36 months (on or after May 1, 2016). The scholarship is applicable to any field of study. A separate application from the general Foundation application is required for the Allied Angus Breeders Scholarship.

### Undergraduate and graduate scholarships

Applicants for undergraduate

and graduate scholarships must have, at one time, been a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and currently be an active junior, regular or life member of the American Angus Association. The following documents are required to be considered for a 2019 undergraduate or graduate scholarship: the 2019 scholarship application; three letters of recommendation; copy of current high school/college/university transcript; and applicant's Association member code. Undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications, eligibility requirements and application guidelines can be found online at angusfoundation.org. Applications are due May 1, 2019.



head salesman and most recently,

director of sales. Throughout the years, he has filled nearly every role

managing bulls on test, organizing

from overseeing the cow herd,

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artificial insemination (AI) breeding synchronization schedules and directing sales. In total, Peterson has coordinated more than 60 production sales, marketing nearly 10,000 head of cattle. His experiences and skills extend to bull selection, picturing, videography and sale book production.

Peterson's qualifications are made stronger by his passion for the industry and his deep roots in

Peterson's qualifications are made stronger by his passion for the industry and his deep roots in agriculture. He previously completed internships with Land O' Lakes Purina LLC in beef feed sales and Elanco Animal Health in the dairy business unit. From October 2005 to October 2006, he served as the eastern region vice president for the National FFA Organization. Peterson's experiences and skills bring value to Select Sires' innovative and industry-leading beef department.

#### >>> 2019 Auxiliary scholarship application available

The American Angus Auxiliary presents 10 scholarships annually at the National Junior Angus Show. The total amount awarded will range from \$16,000 to \$17,000. The exact amount of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth place awards given to both

boy and girl qualified applicants will be determined May 1, 2019.

Each state's Angus Auxiliary is entitled to submit one girl's and one boy's application for the national scholarships. The two applications must be submitted by the state or regional scholarship chairperson to the American Angus Auxiliary Chairperson. To download the application and access contact information, visit www.angusauxiliary.com/leadership/scholarship.html.

#### Big prizes given at Angus Convention

The stands were packed at the 2018 Angus Convention as attendees gathered for the Grand Prize Giveaway. Hopefuls had their sights set on a polished John Deere XUV835M Gator™ Crossover Utility Vehicle and a Priefert and Tru-Test by Datamars complete cattlehandling system, but only two won big.

The Priefert Rodeo and Ranch Equipment cattle-handling system corral features a solid sweep with a straight working alley, adjustable to

one of four widths, leading to a Priefert Model S04 Squeeze Chute. The prize also features a Tru-Test by Datamars complete weight and water management solution. This package includes the XR5000 digital scale indicator, HD5T load bars designed for manual and hydraulic squeeze chutes, XRS2 electronic identification reader and the WaterWell 2 automatic waterer. The Tru-Test by Datamars system is designed to help producers make key management decisions that will ultimately increase efficiencies and profits.

Barry Endy of Canonsburg, Pa., took home the complete cattle-handling system and weight and water management solution valued at more than \$33,000.

Sidman, Pa., native Theresa Neff was the lucky winner of the XUV835M Gator™ Crossover Utility Vehicle. Donated by John Deere, the XUV835M Gator™ Crossover Utility Vehicle has a retail value of more than \$16,000 and features a threeperson cockpit, power steering, front and rear suspension and 54-hp gasoline engine. ■

