

News & Notes

Industry tidbits from across the country.

Compiled by Shauna Hermel, editor

Experience Angus Convention

The 2023 Angus Convention is set for Nov. 3-6 at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

This year's Angus Convention, hosted with the 140th Annual Convention of Delegates, promises unparalleled educational opportunities, industry insight and a solutions-based trade show.

Attendees can look forward to a lineup of engaging sessions, renowned speakers and interactive workshops.

Sign up for the National Angus Tour to learn more about Florida's cattle industry or attend Beef Blitz to get a closer look at how beef makes its way to consumers. Other tours being offered include Gatorland, Kennedy Space Center and Wild Florida.

The Grand Opening of the trade show will be Friday evening, and a highlight of the general sessions will be a focus on genomics.

Throughout this year's Angus Convention, educational sessions will introduce topics for attendees to learn more about production practices, new technologies and marketing. Angus University sessions Sunday morning are designed to pique the interest of any size cattleman from across the country.

Production topics from fly control to artificial insemination (AI) best practices will resonate with seedstock and commercial cattlemen alike.

Registration for Angus Convention is open. Visit www.angusconvention.com for registration and details.

Angus internship applications now open

College students with interest and experience in the beef industry can gain hands-on involvement this next year. Applications are open for internships with the American Angus Association, Angus Media and Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI). The various opportunities cover a range of disciplines from events and editorial to communications, marketing and genetics. To apply, visit www.angus.org/careers.

Corn production up, soybeans down, says USDA

The Crop Production report issued Aug. 11 by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecasts corn production up from 2022 and soybean production down. Corn production is up 10% from last year, forecast at 15.1 billion bushels (bu.); soybean growers are expected to decrease their production 2% from 2022, forecast at 4.21 billion bu.

Average corn yield is forecast at 175.1 bu. per acre, up 1.8 bu. from last year. NASS forecasts a record-high yield in Indiana. As of July 30, 55% of this year's corn crop was reported in good or excellent condition, 6 percentage points below a year ago.

Soybean yields are expected to average 50.9 bu. per acre, up 1.4 bu. from 2022. If realized, the predicted yields in Arkansas, Indiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina will be record highs.

Wheat production is forecast

Andrews hired to serve Region 11

Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah welcomed Landon Andrews of Spanish Fork City, Utah, as regional manager Sept. 18.

Andrews brings industry experience to the position as the co-owner and manager of Shandar Angus Ranch.

"There is no other cattle breed with stronger genetics, valuable seedstock and marketability like the Angus breed," Andrews says.

He adds that he looks forward to working as a resource to support members throughout the four-state region.

"I have deep family roots in the Western cattle industry," Andrews says. "I hope to educate members and commercial breeders of the great programs our association offers."

All 13 regional managers are full-time staff members of the Association. They work with cattle breeders in their designated regions to promote Angus cattle, improve management practices and assist breeders who want to get started in the Angus business.

Regional managers also work with breeders to make sure their advertising needs are being met through the *Angus Journal*® and *Angus Beef Bulletin*. They can often be found working Angus sales and shows or representing the Association at livestock conventions, while serving as a liaison between the organization, its membership, users of Angus genetics, industry partners and academia.

"Landon brings a wealth of knowledge to the Association regarding the beef industry," says Levi Landers, director of field services. "His longtime ties to the breed will serve him well in his new role, and he is undeniably committed to the beef industry and the Angus breed."



at 1.73 billion bu., up 5% from 2022. Growers are expected to produce 1.23 billion bu. of winter wheat this year, up 2% from the previous forecast and up 11% from last year. Durum wheat production is forecast at 57.4 million bu., down 10% from 2022.

All other spring wheat production is forecast at 450 million bu., down 7% from last year. Based on Aug. 1 conditions, the U.S. all-wheat yield is forecast at 45.8 bu. per acre, down less than 1 bu. from 2022.

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NASS is now gearing up to conduct its September Agricultural Survey, which will collect final acreage, yield, and production information for wheat, barley, oats and rye, as well as grains and oilseeds stored on farms across the country.

The *Crop Production* report is published monthly and is available online at www.nass.usda.gov/publications.

Beef Promotion Operating Committee Approves FY24 Plan of Work

The Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) will invest approximately \$38 million into programs of beef promotion, research, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing, and producer communications during fiscal year (FY) 2024, subject to USDA approval.

In action at its Sept. 6-7 meeting in Denver, Colo., the Beef Promotion Operating Committee (BPOC) approved Checkoff funding for a total of 22

“Authorization Requests” — or grant proposals — for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2023. The committee includes 10 producers and importers from the CBB and 10 producers from the Federation of State Beef Councils.

Nine contractors and three subcontractors brought 15 Authorization Requests worth approximately \$49 million to the BPOC. In the end, the BPOC approved proposals from eight national beef organizations for funding through the FY24 CBB budget, as follows:

- ▶ American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture — \$800,000
- ▶ Cattlemen's Beef Board — \$1,800,000
- ▶ Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education — \$500,000
- ▶ Meat Import Council of America/Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative — \$900,000
- ▶ National Cattlemen's Beef Association — \$25,405,000

- ▶ National Institute for Animal Agriculture — \$60,000
- ▶ North American Meat Institute — \$330,000
- ▶ U.S. Meat Export Federation — \$8,150,000

Broken out by budget component — as outlined by the *Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985* — the FY24 Plan of Work includes:

- ▶ \$9,275,000 for promotion programs;
- ▶ \$8,300,000 for research programs;
- ▶ \$7,600,550 for consumer information programs;
- ▶ \$2,819,450 for industry information programs;
- ▶ \$8,150,000 for foreign marketing and education; and
- ▶ \$1,800,000 for producer communications.

The full FY24 CBB budget is approximately \$42 million. Separate from the Authorization Requests, other expenses funded include \$270,000 for program evaluation; \$640,500 for program development; \$200,000 for



Checkoff education resources; \$550,000 for USDA oversight; \$205,000 for state services; \$270,000 supporting services and litigation; and \$2.0 million for CBB administration.

The FY24 program budget represents a decrease of slightly less than 1.6%, or \$605,000, from the \$38.6 million FY23 budget.

For more information about the Beef Checkoff and its programs, contact the CBB at 303-220-9890 or visit <https://www.beefboard.org/>.

USDA program for farm employers, workers

Ag employers can apply for a pilot program from the Biden administration designed to improve the resiliency of the food and ag supply chain by addressing workforce challenges farmers and ranchers face. USDA, in

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Lynsey McAnally



Courtney Bartenslager

New Angus Media hires help market, inform

LYNSEY MCANALLY joined Angus Media as the associate editor of the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, working remotely from the Oklahoma Panhandle. She will assist in the production of the magazine that serves as the “commercial cattleman’s Angus connection.” In addition, she’ll produce the *Angus at Work* podcast, work on editorial planning and the magazine’s digital presence, including the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA* e-newsletter.

McAnally served as the 2013 *Angus Journal* intern while completing her undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University. Growing up on a forage and beef cattle operation in the Florida Panhandle, she brings a passion for ag advocacy and a love of storytelling.

She and her husband, Cameron, live outside of Balko, Okla.

COURTNEY BARTENSLAGER joined Angus Media as the digital marketing manager, working remotely from her home office near Paris, Ky. She will lead the digital advertising team to create new opportunities for breeders and corporate clients, streamline processes to make it easier to do business in the digital space and keep the organization on the cutting edge.

Bartenslager was raised on a commercial cow-calf and tobacco farm, was active in 4-H and FFA, showed livestock and competed in livestock judging. A graduate of Blinn College and Ohio State University, her bachelor’s degree is in agricultural communication, and she was a member of the livestock judging team at both institutions.

Courtney and her husband, Zach, have one son, Deacon. They own Bartenslager Livestock and raise show goats and steers.

coordination with other federal agencies, is announcing up to \$65 million in grants available for the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program).

According to USDA, the program will help address workforce needs in agriculture, promote a safe and healthy work environment for farmworkers, and support expansion of lawful migration pathways for workers.

Eligibility is limited to domestic

ag employers who 1) anticipate meeting all Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulatory requirements for the H-2A program, including demonstrated effort to effectively recruit U.S.-based workers and hire all willing, able and qualified U.S. workers; and 2) commit to and indicate capacity to fulfill all baseline requirements, as well as any supplemental commitments that entail additive

worker benefits and protections. Eligible employers include fixed-site employers, joint-employers, ag associations and H-2A labor contractors.

The maximum award amount is \$2,000,000 and the minimum amount is \$25,000 per grant agreement (including any sub-awardees).

Applications must be received on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time Nov. 28. Find out more at www.ams.usda.gov/flsp. **ABB**

Yon Family Farms to donate 2024 Angus Foundation Heifer Package

Yon Family Farms of Ridge Spring, S.C., is donating Yon Sarah K1233 (AAA *20450734) to headline the 2024 Angus Foundation Heifer Package. The maternal sister to Yon Top Cut G730 (AAA +*19476453) and Yon Saluda (AAA +*20336998) is safe in calf to Yon Toccoa F1054 (AAA +*19306162), with an anticipated due date of March 21, 2024.

Sale of the heifer during the 2024 Cattlemen's Congress, will support the Angus Foundation's mission of furthering Angus education, youth and research efforts.

"It was very humbling for our family to even be asked to donate the heifer package to the Angus Foundation," said Kevin Yon. "The Sarah cow family is one of those families here at Yon Family Farms that has done extremely well."

Yon Family Farms is a first-generation seedstock operation whose focus is to provide high-quality, value-added cattle to satisfied customers. They aim for their customers to believe that honesty, quality, service and value are synonymous with their name.

Kevin and Lydia Yon started the operation in 1996, and now work alongside their three children, Sally, Drake and Corbin, who each returned to the farm after attending college. The Yons host both a spring and fall production sale, selling around 425 registered Angus bulls and 200 females annually.

"We feel incredibly fortunate to have the Yon family offer this bred female from their proven donor, Yon Sarah D668," says Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation executive director. "The Yon family is a testament to our mission, having



The 2024 Angus Foundation Heifer Package will be donated by Yon Family Farms of Ridge Spring, S.C. The sale of the Angus Foundation Heifer Package will take place Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, prior to the start of the 85th National Angus Bull Sale during Cattlemen's Congress.

participated in many opportunities supported by the Angus Foundation themselves."

The sale of the heifer package benefits the Angus Fund, which provides unrestricted funding for a variety of programs supported by the Angus Foundation. Beef Leaders Institute, Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, Angus University and several ongoing research projects are among the numerous efforts funded by the Angus Foundation.

The Angus Foundation Heifer Package will sell Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, prior to the 85th National Angus Bull Sale during Cattlemen's Congress. The sale will start at 2 p.m. at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

For more information about the 2024 Angus Foundation Heifer Package, contact Boester at jboester@angus.org or visit www.angusfoundation.org.