

# Leadership Elected

## Delegates elect American Angus Association leadership for coming year.

by Katelyn Engel, American Angus Association

At the American Angus Association's 140th Annual Convention of Delegates in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 6, members elected officers and directors to lead the organization in the coming year.

**BARRY POLLARD**, Enid, Okla., was elected president and chairman of the Board. Pollard said he looked forward to working with the Board, the membership and the staff.

"We have such talented people all across that at every level, and we want to hear their ideas," he said. "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."

**JONATHAN PERRY**, Fayetteville, Tenn., was elected vice president and vice chairman of the Board.

**JIM BRINKLEY**, Milan, Mo., was announced as treasurer, a position filled by the sitting Board.

Delegates reelected five members to serve their second three-year terms as directors: Mark Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas; Smitty Lamb, Tifton, Ga.; Charles Mogck, Olivet, S.D.; Darrell Stevenson, White Sulphur Springs, Mont.; and Jerry Theis, Leavenworth, Kan. Directors can serve up to two three-year terms on the Board and additional time if elected to serve as an officer.

### Meet the directors

**MARK AHEARN** was raised on a small family farm with commercial cattle and a few horses. After spending some time away from cattle production, Ahearn and his family established Turner Meadow Ranch in East Texas in the mid-1980s.

Aside from his 35-year career in law enforcement, Ahearn said his passion has always been raising high-quality Angus

cattle. He has studied pedigrees and learned the business from the ground up. His family has grown their herd to about 200 females.

Before serving his first term on the Association Board, Ahearn served for 16 years in a leadership role with the Texas Angus Association, through which he helped create numerous educational opportunities and organized sale events. Ahearn was also responsible for writing the policy for the Raymond Moore Endowment Scholarship Fund, which benefits Texas Junior Angus members.

He said he has a strong desire to continue serving the membership and to give back to the organization.

**SMITTY LAMB** grew up on a small farm in east Georgia, where he discovered his passion for Angus cattle at an early age. It led him to the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's degree in meat and muscle biology.

Currently, Lamb works as a cotton merchant for a large commodity trading company and enjoys coming home to his Angus cattle herd.

His family has owned and operated Ogeechee Angus Farm since 1997. Since 2017, Ogeechee Angus Farm has marketed more than 100 bulls annually. This past spring, Ogeechee Angus hosted its 16th annual Angus Female Southern Synergy Sale.

Aside from his time on the Association Board, Lamb has served in leadership roles with the Georgia Angus Association; the Southern National Angus Show committee; and the National Junior Angus Show, serving as its committee co-chair in 2009. The Lambs were awarded the Georgia Angus Association Member of the Year in 2017 for their service to the organization.



Elected to lead the American Angus Association in the coming year are (from left) Barry Pollard, president; Jonathan Perry, vice president; and Jim Brinkley, treasurer.



Reelected to serve as directors of the American Angus Association Board are (from left) Darrell Stevenson, Charles Mogck, Jerry Theis, Smitty Lamb and Mark Ahearn.

**CHARLES MOGCK** is a third-generation Angus breeder from South Dakota. He has always had a passion for Angus cattle and has built upon his family's heritage in the breed, increasing their herd to 400 registered females.

He began his career as a loan officer after attending South Dakota State University, but eventually he found himself working on the farm full-time. Today, Mogck & Sons Angus markets 120 bulls and 50 females

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annually. They farm 2,000 acres of corn, beans and wheat, with an additional 2,500 acres of pasture and hay ground.

They routinely buy feeder cattle from their commercial customers, allowing them to collect data on their customers' cattle. Their operation actively uses Association programs such as MaternalPlus® and Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). Mogck records ultrasound, carcass and genomic information to help them make the best decisions they can for the future of their herd.

Mogck's deep roots with respect to Angus cattle and enthusiasm for the breed shows through his dedication as a director on the Association's Board.

**DARRELL STEVENSON** holds strong ties to the Angus breed and has a history of activity in the Montana Angus Association. His grandparents were charter members of the Montana Angus Association. His father served on both the state and national boards of directors, serving as president of the American Angus Association in 1992-1993.

Stevenson attended Montana State University before transferring to and graduating from Oklahoma State University. He now continues his family's legacy by operating Stevenson Angus Ranch. He is actively involved in international Angus events and has attended shows in Argentina, New Zealand, Scotland and Russia.

In 2010, Stevenson created a partnership with two Russian businessmen to form an international beef venture between the two countries. Due to its success, Stevenson has since overseen shipments of Angus cattle to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

His experience and history with the breed led him to serve the organization on the Board for the past three years.

**JERRY THEIS** is a devoted second-generation Angus breeder and lifetime member of the Association. His parents established April Valley Farms in 1952 in the Salt Creek Valley of Leavenworth County, Kan. Theis graduated as a doctor of veterinary medicine from Kansas State University in 1991. He currently works at a

local veterinary clinic while he manages his family's diversified operation, which consists of Angus cattle, crop and swine production. Cattle are marketed through their annual spring production sale, as well as through private treaties.

April Valley Farms was recognized as a Historic Angus Herd by the Association in 2019. Theis and his wife are actively involved in the Kansas Angus Association as well, and just completed their second term as advisors of the Kansas Junior Angus Association.

Prior to his current position as a director on the national organization's Board, Theis served two terms on the Kansas Angus Association board of directors and as president in 2010.

To learn more about the American Angus Association Board of Directors or how the delegate process works, visit [www.angus.org/assoc/board](http://www.angus.org/assoc/board). **ABB**

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Editor's note: Katelyn Engel is the 2023 communications intern for the American Angus Association.