

# News & Notes

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Compiled by Shauna Hermel, editor

### Senate passes resolution to negate listing of lesser prairie chicken

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed Senate passage of the *Congressional Review Act Resolution of Disapproval* that would stop the implementation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) listing of the lesser prairie chicken under the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA). The resolution of disapproval was led by Sen. Roger Marshall (KS).

"The lesser prairie chicken listing will do little to benefit the bird, but it will succeed in shutting down the

voluntary conservation work that is responsible for the species surviving today," said NCBA Policy Division Chair Gene Copenhaver. "This resolution puts flexible, locally led conservation efforts back at the forefront. The Biden administration's actions to list the bird, micromanage grazing operations on private lands, and implement a top-down approach will not benefit the bird or the land."

Rep. Tracey Mann (KS) is leading the companion House resolution to disapprove the lesser prairie chicken listing, which passed the House Natural Resources Committee in late April.

NCBA is currently suing the Department of the Interior and the FWS over the listing of the lesser prairie chicken. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas in March. In addition to NCBA, the case is being brought by lead plaintiff Permian Basin Petroleum Association along with the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Kansas Livestock Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, and New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association.

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### Angus Media names Clay Zwilling as president

The Angus Media Board of Directors recently named Clay Zwilling president of the organization to guide the company as it delivers industry-leading education, information and marketing to the beef industry.

"Clay is a natural leader," says Mark McCully, vice chairman of the Angus Media Board and CEO for the American Angus Association. "His passion for innovation, while keeping an eye on the tradition, makes him a perfect fit."

Most recently, Zwilling was the chief operating officer for Walton Webcasting, where he helped develop the organization during a time of rapid growth. Prior to that, he served as CEO of the National Swine Registry, working with the executive committee, breed boards and membership to create and execute their vision and mission. Zwilling started his professional career with Farm Credit Illinois as the director of marketplace education and development.

"Angus breeders are stewards of both their herds and family ranches, as well as the Angus legacy," Zwilling says. "Angus Media plays an important role in telling their stories and giving them cutting-edge, cost-effective marketing tools to achieve their goals."

Clay Zwilling began as president of Angus Media May 8, accepting responsibility to guide the company as it delivers industry-leading education, information and marketing to the beef industry.

Zwilling brings diversified livestock experience to Angus Media, but his roots are in the beef business. He grew up raising cattle, and knows that background from other segments of the livestock industry is additive, giving him additional perspective.

"I believe the vision of Angus breeders is very much like the rest of the livestock industry," he says. "We all want to ensure the profitability of the industry we love. That requires an understanding of the tried and true, but with the ability to be innovative and creative."

That kind of vision is exactly what intrigued him about the position, and similarly, why the Angus Media board selected him as the new president.

Zwilling holds a master's degree from Texas A&M University in agricultural leadership, education and communication. He did his undergraduate work at Oklahoma State University and Lake Land College in Illinois. In addition to his work experience, Zwilling has held various leadership roles within the livestock and agriculture industries, including currently serving on the board of National Pedigreed Livestock Council and OSU Animal Science Alumni. He was an All-American and a member of the national champion livestock judging team, and is a past Illinois State FFA president.

Zwilling will assume his duties as president on May 8 and will relocate to the Saint Joseph area with his wife, Deanna, and their 2-year-old daughter, Allie.

For more information about Angus Media and the American Angus Association, please visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).



PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

## Alltech acquires Swiss company providing nutrition solutions

Alltech announces the acquisition of majority interest in Agolin, a company founded in 2006 in Switzerland that has developed and produced plant-based nutrition solutions that improve herd performance, profitability and sustainability. Its high-quality essential oil blends are scientifically proven to optimize feed intake and performance, including milk and meat production.

Agolin® Ruminant was the first feed additive certified by The Carbon Trust for methane reduction in ruminants (2018), an opinion based on academic research, published scientific papers, field reports and independent meta-analysis. In October 2020, the University of California, Davis, published a paper further examining the effects of the product. Visit <https://bit.ly/3M1LCWi> to review its findings.

Agolin's essential oil blends complement Alltech's nutritional technologies. The company hopes to achieve even greater benefits to

producers through the synergistic use of technologies. These benefits include improved animal welfare, greater feed efficiency and conversion, more milk and meat, increased profitability and reduced environmental footprint.

## USDA names 12 regional food business centers

USDA on May 3 announced the creation of 12 USDA Regional Food Business Centers that will provide national coverage coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building to help farmers, ranchers and other food businesses access new markets and navigate federal, state and local resources.

USDA also announced a \$420 million Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) to fund innovative projects designed in processing and distribution capacity to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will partner with state and territories' departments of

agriculture for this program.

"The Regional Food Business Centers, along with investments through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program, will create new and expanded local market opportunities, which will improve farm income, create good-paying jobs and build greater resilience in our overall food system," said Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"USDA recognizes that local and regional food systems are essential to the overall food supply chain, and the new Regional Food Business Centers are the cornerstone of our efforts to support them," said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "The Centers' technical assistance, coupled with the additional funding for processing capacity and infrastructure improvements through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program, is bringing us many steps closer to reaching the goals of the Food System Transformation framework."

More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3M57BLY>. **ABB**

## Landers promoted to director of field services, Harsh moves to Nebraska

The American Angus Association named Levi Landers director of field services, effective May 1. Landers will lead the Angus regional manager team, the largest field staff of any beef breed association in the United States.

"Levi's entire professional career has been serving cattlemen in the field," says Association CEO Mark McCully. "He understands the needs of both Angus breeders and their customers. Levi is highly respected for his knowledge, humility and straightforward approach."

Since 2019, he has been the Association regional manager for the states of Nebraska and Colorado. Prior to that,

Landers was a field manager for the American Hereford Association. He began his career with the *Western Ag Reporter*.

"I look forward to working with the experienced Angus regional managers team helping our Association members," Landers says. "There's nothing we like more than visiting about good cattle and seeing our breeders succeed."

Landers replaces veteran regional manager, David Gazda, who has worked for the Association for 35 years, seven as director of field services.

The Association named Will Harsh regional manager for Colorado and Nebraska. He assumed the role May 29 after serving three years as regional manager for Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

"I recognize the scope of agriculture which exists in both Colorado and Nebraska, and I stand excited for this new opportunity," Harsh says. "I've certainly enjoyed my time serving the Southeast and am thankful for the relationships and experiences I gained there."

"Will's industry experience, eager attitude and member-focused mindset make him the perfect fit for this role," Landers says. "His ever-evolving knowledge of the Angus business will serve as a great resource to his new territory."

A position to fill Harsh's vacancy has been posted to the Association career's page: [www.angus.org/careers](http://www.angus.org/careers).



Levi Landers



Will Harsh