



# Movin' Forward

by **BRYCE SCHUMANN**, CEO, American Angus Association

## How far we've come

The last five years have served up their share of challenges — and, more importantly, opportunities — for the Angus breed.

Much of the nation has been gripped by one of the worst droughts in memory. We've watched feed prices rise to historically high levels, challenging our ability to maintain viable businesses. Economic uncertainty has undercut consumer confidence.

As we've learned in recent times, the Angus breed is not immune from genetic conditions. No breed is. No breed ever will be. In fact, all breeds have faced — or will face — issues of genetic risk. How we manage that risk — in the same way we manage drought, long winter or economic uncertainty — is ultimately what matters most and will strengthen the Angus breed for years to come.

In August, following an investigation by Jonathan Beever at the University of Illinois, we learned of a new genetic condition in the Angus breed called developmental duplication, or DD.

Shortly thereafter, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to

recognize DD as a genetic condition. The Board also unanimously adopted a policy relating to the registration status of current and future animals determined to carry this mutation. The policy does not require or mandate the testing of potential carriers as a precondition of continued or prospective registration. Rather, the policy assumes that members will follow sound breeding decisions and make strategic use of DNA testing in dealing with this genetic condition.

The board and staff also moved quickly — in fact, more quickly than ever before — to make a commercial test for DD available to the industry. You can find out more about the test by contacting the Association or visiting [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

### Going forward

As we look to the future and continue to advance the Angus breed, we encourage you to do three things as

---

**The beef we raise is the highest-demanded and highest-quality product in the world.**

---

you move forward with your breeding program.

First, education is key, and the more you educate yourself about genetic conditions, the better positioned you are to breed around these conditions and reduce their frequency. The Association has a wealth of information for you, and our staff is here to help.

Second, a powerful tool for

Angus breeders and their commercial customers is AAA Login at [www.angusonline.org](http://www.angusonline.org). Not only does this online tool allow you to view your herd inventory, AI certificate inventory, expected progeny difference (EPD) data,

submit data and much more, it can also be used by you to identify potential DD carriers in your herd and to make breeding decisions to move beyond the condition.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, keep in mind that many of the affected bloodlines represent productive cattle — cattle that still have

a great contribution to make to the betterment of our industry. The discovery of this genetic condition does not — and should not — detract from the value that they bring to the industry. While we're faced with challenges like DD, we can never forget what Angus genetics bring to the table and the significant role they've played in building a better future for rural America.

America's Angus breeders have much to be proud of. We have written a story of achievement and success like few in agriculture. The beef we raise is the highest-demanded and highest-quality product in the world. Because of our multi-generational commitment to quality, we've driven more value back to farmers and ranchers than any other production and marketing system. Plus, everything we do is driven by technology and the application of sound science.

All of these things reduce risk and add value for the people who've chosen to invest in Angus — and will continue to reap economic rewards for our members and their customers.



## AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION®

3201 Frederick Ave. • Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997

phone: 816-383-5100 • fax: 816-233-9703 • home page: [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org)  
email: [angus@angus.org](mailto:angus@angus.org) • Office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central)

### 2013 OFFICERS

**Phil Trowbridge**, president & chairman of the Board, 164 Waltermire Rd., Ghent, NY 12075; cell: 518-369-6584; [phil@trowbridgefarms.com](mailto:phil@trowbridgefarms.com) • **Gordon Stucky**, vice president and vice chairman of the Board, 421 N.E. 70 Ave., Kingman, KS 67068; cell: 620-532-4122; [gordon@stuckyranch.com](mailto:gordon@stuckyranch.com) • **Cathy Watkins**, treasurer, 4577 N. CR 850W, Middletown, IN 47356; cell: 765-635-4222; [beaver-ridge@att.net](mailto:beaver-ridge@att.net)

### 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Terms expiring in 2013**—**John Elbert Harrell**, 1343 Lee Rd. 157, Opelika, AL 36804; cell: 334-524-9287; [jnhharrell@gmail.com](mailto:jnhharrell@gmail.com) • **Leo McDonnell Jr.**, 13 Bull Dr., Columbus, MT 59019; cell: 406-780-0176; [leomcd@hotmail.com](mailto:leomcd@hotmail.com) • **John Pfeiffer Jr.**, 5103 W. Hwy. 51, Mulhall, OK 73063; cell: 405-880-0862; [pfeiffer@agristar.net](mailto:pfeiffer@agristar.net) • **Jim Rentz**, 1005 W. Vine St., Coldwater, OH 45828; cell: 937-477-5347; [rentzjames@yahoo.com](mailto:rentzjames@yahoo.com) • **Kevin Yon**, PO Box 737, Ridge Spring, SC 29129; cell: 803-622-4140; [kyon@pbtcomm.net](mailto:kyon@pbtcomm.net)

**Terms expiring in 2014**—**Chris Sankey**, 1121 Lake Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846; cell: 620-343-0456; [sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com](mailto:sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com) • **Arlen Sawyer**, 44718 873rd Rd., Bassett, NE 68714; cell: 402-760-0232; [abcattle@huntel.net](mailto:abcattle@huntel.net) • **Doug Schroeder**, 971 Rose Ave., Clarence, IA 52216; cell: 563-357-4044; [schroederangus@msn.com](mailto:schroederangus@msn.com) • **Darrell Silveira**, PO Box 37, Firebaugh, CA 93622; cell: 559-217-1504; [silveirabros@msn.com](mailto:silveirabros@msn.com) • **Jim Sitz**, 9100 U.S. Hwy. 91 N., Dillon, MT 59725; cell: 406-925-9888; [jimsitz1@gmail.com](mailto:jimsitz1@gmail.com)

**Terms expiring in 2015**—**Charlie Boyd II**, 6077 Helena Rd., Mayslick, KY 41055-8717; cell: 606-584-5194; [cboyd2@maysvilleky.net](mailto:cboyd2@maysvilleky.net) • **Scott Foster**, 11893 M 140, Niles, MI 49120; cell: 269-208-

6470; [sfostersrf@gmail.com](mailto:sfostersrf@gmail.com) • **Phil Howell**, 729 W. Washington St., PO Box 442, Winchester, IN 47394; cell: 765-546-0838; [dochowell765@aol.com](mailto:dochowell765@aol.com) • **Vaughn Meyer**, 15571 Sorum Rd., Reva, SD 57651; home: 605-866-4426; [sdangus@sdplains.com](mailto:sdangus@sdplains.com) • **Don Schiefelbein**, 34897 717th Ave., Kimball, MN 55353; cell: 303-324-5149; [dschiefel@melitel.net](mailto:dschiefel@melitel.net)

**Industry appointments**—**Dwight 'Kip' Palmer**, Palmer Food Services, 900 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; office: 585-424-3210; [kpalmer@palmerfoods.com](mailto:kpalmer@palmerfoods.com) • **AGI Board**, **Larry Kuehn**, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, P.O. Box 166, Clay Center, NE 68933; office: 402-762-4352; [larry.kuehn@ars.usda.gov](mailto:larry.kuehn@ars.usda.gov) • **Foundation Board**, **Laurie Widdowson**, 15175 U.S. Hwy. 30, Lodgepole, NE 69149; cell: 308-249-0205; [laurie@sandpointcattle.com](mailto:laurie@sandpointcattle.com)

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Bryce Schumann**, CEO; **Diane Strahm**, executive administrative assistant; **Bill Bowman**, COO and AGI president; **Rich Wilson**, CFO; **Milford Jenkins**, Angus Foundation president; **Terry Cotton**, API president; **John Stika**, CAB LLC president

### DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

**Lou Ann Adams**, director of information systems; **Crystal Albers**, assistant director of communications & web editor; **Tonya Amen**, director of genetic services; **Bill Bowman**, director of performance programs; **Eric Grant**, director of public relations; **Scott Johnson**, director of AIMS; **Don Laughlin**, director of member services; **Kenny Miller**, director of finance; **Sally Northcutt**, director of genetic research; **Robin Ruff**, director of activities, events and education; **Chris Stallo**, assistant director of information systems; **Jena McRell**, assistant director of public relations; **Jaclyn Upperman**, director of junior activities

