

Louisville

Seven Vie for Board

Delegates will select five at the Annual Meeting in November.

As of Aug. 15, seven members of the American Angus Association had announced they are running for the five positions available on the Association Board of Directors. Those elected on Monday, Nov. 12, at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky., will serve a three-year term. At press time, the following people had announced their candidacies; two are incumbents running for a second term. The candidates' biographical sketches are presented here in alphabetical order.

■ BEN EGGERS *Mexico, Mo.*

The Missouri Angus Association Board of Directors unanimously endorses Ben Eggers, Mexico, Mo., as a candidate for re-election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Ben grew up on a diversified family farm in southeast Missouri near Jackson. He purchased his first registered Angus female and joined the American Angus Association in 1964. He has owned registered Angus cattle ever since. As the Missouri 4-H, FFA and junior Angus programs began to shape his future, Ben took high-individual honors in the 1970 state FFA livestock-judging contest. Also in 1970, he was awarded the Missouri Angus Auxiliary scholarship.

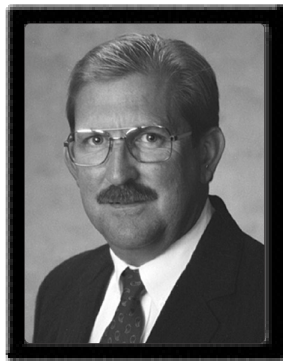
A National Merit Scholar, Ben attended Southeast Missouri State University for two and a half years with emphases on mathematics and agriculture. But cattle were in his blood and provided a challenge the classroom couldn't touch.

He set out to gain more experience in the real world, working for the Missouri-based firms of Millikan Stock Farm, Pfeiffer Farms, Macon Angus Ranch and Gibraltar Cattle Co. While at Macon Angus Ranch, Ben was able to further his education in animal science at the University of Missouri.

He joined the team at Sydenstricker Angus Farms (now Sydenstricker Genetics) in November 1982, working with the cow herd. His position has evolved to manager, and today he is responsible for all facets of production, herd health, nutrition, genetics, advertising and promotion, as well as managing the annual production sale. His

philosophy of collecting and presenting all available performance information in a clear and straightforward manner has made their sale book and their sale one of the stalwarts of the industry.

As manager of Sydenstricker, Ben has developed one of the most progressive carcass evaluation programs in the industry. Starting in 1988, 34 sires have been evaluated for carcass traits, and 11 more are "in the pipeline."



Ben Eggers

Ben has printed all available interim carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs) in the Sydenstricker sale book since they became available in 1993. His belief that carcass traits are just as important as other performance traits was rewarded in 1997, as he and Eddie Sydenstricker were awarded the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)

"Commitment to Excellence" award for seedstock producers. That same balanced-trait philosophy has enabled the herd to be a leader in semen sales, both domestically and internationally.

In 2001, they were awarded the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year Award and changed the name of the operation to Sydenstricker Genetics to reflect more accurately their commitment as a full-service genetics provider.

Seeking a way to help his commercial customers profit from superior carcass and growth genetics, Ben was part of a steering committee that helped organize the Farmland Supreme Beef Alliance, and Sydenstricker Angus Farms became one of

the original seedstock partners in that alliance. To further his involvement in the commercial beef industry, Ben and his wife, Darla, have partnered with customers on pens of steers fed through the alliance.

Ben has been active in both Angus and beef industry issues. He has served as chairman of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Seedstock Council and as president of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association. A member of the NCBA and its predecessor — the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA) — since 1977, he has served on the board of directors and on the Grading, Live Cattle Marketing, Resolutions, International Markets, Membership and Nominating committees. He participated in the NCA Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) in 1991.

He has been an active member of the Missouri Angus Association since 1973 and has served on the board of the Missouri Beef Industry Council and the Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Special appointments have included U.S. Sen. "Kit" Bond's Agricultural Advisory Committee and Gov. Mel Carnahan's Advisory Council on Agriculture.

Ben is completing his first three-year term on the Association Board of Directors, having served on the Activities, Finance, Administrative and Long-Range Planning, and Industry Relations committees. He has served one year on the Board of Angus Productions Inc. (API) and serves as the Association representative on the NCBA board.

Ben's wife, the former Darla Sprake, is also a product of the Missouri 4-H and junior Angus programs. They share a deep-rooted commitment to Angus cattle and the beef industry.

"Angus cattle and agriculture have been the driving force and the only business I've been involved with in my lifetime. I have enjoyed the challenges of my first term on the Board and look forward to working with this dedicated group of breeders for another term," Ben says.

