

RAAA Board of Directors

President

Frank Wedel
Leoti, Kansas
fswedel@wbsnet.org

1st Vice President/ District 9 Director - Midwest

Steve Andras
Manchester, Illinois
andras@wincoinet.com

2nd Vice President/ District 4 Director - Southwest

Kelli Brown
Throckmorton, Texas
rabranch@direcway.com

Director Region A

Mary von Forell
Wheatland, Wyoming
bulls4L@wyoming.com

Director Region B

John Eklund
Van Alstyne, Texas
jcekund@aol.com

Director Region C

John L. Montgomery, Jr.
Lenoir City, Tennessee
jmonty1936@aol.com

District 1 Director - West

Rita McPhee
Lodi, California
info@mcpheeredangus.com

District 2 Director - Montana

Seth Leachman
Billings, Montana
sal1968@msn.com

District 3 Director - Rocky Mountain

Larry Croissant
Briggsdale, Colorado
lcroissant@worldnet.att.net

District 5 Director - Northern Plains

Ed Lloyd
Northwood, North Dakota
agvfarm@polarcomm.com

District 6 Director -Great Plains

Joe Mushrush
Strong City, Kansas
redcows@mushrushredangus.com

District 7 Director - Northeast

Terry Boyles
Denton, North Carolina
mboyles@triad.rr.com

District 8 Director - Southeast

Raymond Prescott
Gray Court, South Carolina
bullhill2@mindspring.com

Message from the Board

by Harold Hughes, RAAA President - 2004-2006

The Angst Of Change

Fifty some years ago seven families gathered to change the way cattle were being evaluated. They would start a new breed and require performance information for registration.

What was this nonsense? "Never been done before", "A waste of time", "Silly", "It'll never get off the ground" etc., etc., etc.

But Waldo, Sal, George, Vernice et. al., said "Trust us, this change will be a good thing"! Soon (very soon) this "crazy

group" talked about endorsing cross breeding. One member even named the process "Regus" in their operation. "This will ruin the purebred business", "Who would be goofy enough to change the color pattern in their herd?", " This will be the Edsel of cattle breeding". But Becktons et. al., said "This change will be a boon to beef production. Just Trust Us".

As the breed grew both in cattle numbers and memberships, they had the audacity to propose a concept of reporting all calves in the herd. A radical change! "This Total Herd Reporting will never work", "It will devastate the breed", "Members will leave by the bus loads", "Why should I report every calf - I only want to keep the best". Much concern, much consternation followed. Finally, at the '94 Convention, Jim Leachman and Spike Forbes spoke and reassured the largest gathering of memberships up till that time. "This change is needed to move us a giant step for-

ward. Please trust us on this!"

Fast forward to today. A really big change is being discussed. Joint Venture! Tie the relationships across breeds together in regards to data, and come out with a stronger set of EPDs.

Does this mean giving up breed identity? NO

Does this mean no more Red Angus registration papers? NO

Does this mean no more "office" women I can all for help and information? NO

Does this mean no more marketing and help for feeder calves and commercial females? NO

Our elected board and staff support will still be there. None of that will change.

The Joint Venture is a conceptual change. Working with other breeds to improve the

information we use to help our commercial customers make good decisions. Our board, executive committee and staff have worked very hard to answer concerns that you have expressed about the Joint Venture.

Over these fifty plus years, the progressive group of Red Angus breeders have "cussed and discussed" many changes. In the end they have said "We trust that you elected leaders will do the right thing for the breed."

I sincerely trust and believe that this Joint Venture will be another giant step forward for this great breed of cattle!

From my heart,
Harold Hughes