

# RAAA Board Of Director Candidates

## Steve Andras

Steve Andras, Manchester, Ill., is a candidate for President of the Red Angus Association. He has served the RAAA as 1st Vice

President for two years. In addition, he has served four years on the Executive Committee. He has served on many other national committees, such as the Finance Committee, Show/Sale Committee, as well as the Strategic Planning Committee. He and his family breed Red Angus cattle in Manchester, where the Andras family has farmed since the 1830s.

Andras stock Farm is a family operation. In partnership with Will, his son, Steve runs about 250 head of purebred cows, comprised of nearly 90 percent Red Angus; the remaining are small herds of registered Angus and Polled Hereford. Andras Stock Farm utilizes extensive A.I., E.T. and ultrasound.

Steve is a Deacon and adult Sunday School teacher at Manchester Baptist Church. He holds a degree in Animal Science from Southern Illinois University. He has served on the Farm Bureau board of directors, served on the ASCS Soil, Water and Conservation Committee, served on and was president of the school board, was actively involved with 4-H, and served on several state and local cattlemen's organizations. Steve and Theresa Andras have been married for 37 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

## Rita McPhee McCorquodale

I am seeking re-election for Director of District 1 - West. I was born into a ranching family in Lodi, Calif., so

ranching is a family tradition for me. I could ride a horse before I could walk. Every summer was spent showing steers and heifers at various cattle shows. My Red Angus herd

started from a single heifer calf that was raised.

McPhee Red Angus has always been a family owned and operated ranch. Each of the children and grandchildren of Roy and Nellie McPhee maintain a small herd of cattle themselves, but we all run the cattle together and operate collectively as McPhee Red Angus.

I am involved in the daily operation of the ranch, as well as the business end. I put together the sale catalogs for both our own annual production sale and our joint spring bull sale, as well as handle all the computer work for the ranch. Working closely with my father Roy over the years has given me a real appreciation for the Red Angus breed and the type of cattle we strive to produce. I value his business ethics, and continually am learning about what makes a successful ranch work.

I have served as vice president and president of the California/Nevada Red Angus Association. I serve as the chair for the registration committee. I am currently serving as the District 1 (west) director for the National Red Angus Association. I am a Licensed Veterinary Technician. I am 39 years old, married to Mark McCorquodale and have two children: Royce, eight and Rose, three.

## Esther Fischer

Esther Fischer is a candidate for Director of District 2 - Montana. Esther and her husband, Ron, own and operate Fischer Red

Angus, Harlowton, Mont., located in the heart of central Montana. Their operation consists of 100 1A registered Red Angus cattle. A spring sale is held each March to market their bulls and females, which they feed at home. They also participate in the NILE sale.

They have two sons, Derek, who graduated from Wyoming Technical Institute in 2000 and currently owns

and operates, Pure Logic in Ogden, Utah. Dallas graduated from Montana State University in 2005 and is employed as a Computer Software Engineer in Bozeman, Mont., for Dolbeck Performance.

Esther served as the Montana Red Angus Association Secretary for three years, Vice president for one year and President for two years. She was also the Junior Advisor for nine years. She helped her hubby, Ron, establish the Red Angus Feeder Calf sales in Billings for six years. Esther has served on two national committees: advertising and juniors. She helped organize the largest Red Angus Junior Roundup to date, with over 100+ participants. She received the Distinguished Service Award in 2003 from the RAA. Esther also served one year as the Director for Region A, fulfilling the term of Ole Redland. She just finished the new 2006 Directory for Montana and made a handsome profit for the MTRAA. She has served on the Harlowton School Board for nine years, has been involved with youth organizations, Montana Stockgrowers and Wheatland County Stockgrowers and several other organizations.

I feel I can make a positive contribution to the Board and represent the Montana District well because I have the background and many acquaintances with the Red Angus Breeders of Montana. I also believe that communication and listening skills are a definite plus. I think I have worked hard for Montana and am willing to continue that commitment as a Director. It would be an honor to continue to serve all of you!!

## Bruce Ketchum

Bruce Ketchum, Plevna, Mont., is seeking the position of Director for District 2 - Montana. In 1985, Bruce was introduced into the Red Angus breed by becoming a partner with Paul Haugen. In 1989, the partnership split up and Milk Creek Reds was founded. The ranch consists of a Registered Red Angus Herd, a com-

mercial herd that is used for embryo transfer, along with producing replacement heifers and steer calves that participate in the Red Angus carcass progeny test. Milk Creek Reds' main objective is to produce Red Angus genetics that will work in many different environments. Also a few Quarter Horses can be ridden and seen on the ranch.

Bruce graduated from Montana State University in 1986 in Agricultural Education. He taught Vocational Agriculture for eight years in Ekalaka, Mont. Bruce and his wife, Tena, have two daughters, Cecile and Jaclyn. The girls enjoy showing their Red Angus females at the local fairs and the NILE.

Some of Bruce's involvements include: Carter County Sheep & Cattle Growers Past-President, Secretary of the Medicine Rocks Church Board, Vice President of the Friends of Christian Radio Board of Directors, President of the Red Butte Grazing Association and he currently serves as a Director on the Montana Red Angus Association Board.

One of the main goals of the National Red Angus Board should be to encourage the Association's members to be involved in the organization, so that it is member driven. The Directors of the Red Angus Association should be proactive in soliciting members input so the decision making process is coming from the grass roots of the organization. Any organization's strength is directly correlated to its membership involvement as well as its ability to hire employees that contribute towards the development of the organization to its greatest potential. One of the greatest attributes of the Red Angus Association is its focus on the commercial cattlemen. Commercial Cattlemen play a key role in the livelihood of the Red Angus breeders.

### **Forest Dunning**

Forest Dunning, Sheridan, Wyo., is seeking the office of Director for District 3 - Wyoming, Colorado and

Utah. Forest was raised in the small southeastern Montana community of Birney. His family was in the cattle business for four generations beginning with his great grandfather who was the trail boss for one of the first cattle herds to come to that country. At age twelve, Forest went to work for the Canyon Creek Cattle Company on the Tongue River as a ranch hand. Working summers and weekends when he wasn't in school, he worked for this ranch on and off until he was 20. After graduating from Sheridan Junior College in 1967 with an A.S. in Agricultural Economics, he traveled south to New Mexico State University, joined ARMY ROTC and graduated with a B.S. in Ag Econ in Jan 1970. Upon receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army shortly after graduation, he was immediately posted to active duty.

Following 7.5 years active service including a tour in Viet Nam, Forest left the Army with the rank of captain and returned to civilian life in 1977. That same year he joined the investment firm of Piper Jaffray as an investment advisor and became the Sheridan, Wyo., branch manager in 1984. Concurrent with his employment in the investment business, he continued his military service in the WY Army National Guard. He received his master's degree in military science from the Command & General Staff College and rose to the position of Battalion Commander with responsibility for nearly 600 soldiers. He retired from the military with 22 years service with the rank of lieutenant colonel. On the civilian side he remained a branch manager of Piper Jaffray and Morgan Stanley until 2005 when he retired from management. He currently serves 300 + clients in the Sheridan, Wyo., area with assets under management of over 100 million dollars.

Forest began his association with Red Angus with his purchase of 30 Red Angus cows from Beckton Stock Farm in 1996. As Tongue River Red Angus Ranch (TRRA) he became a

cooperator with Beckton in 1998 and now runs about 100 registered cows on his ranch 12 miles north of Sheridan. The ranch has an active A.I. and E.T. program and sells bulls and registered heifers private treaty and in the Beckton Stock Farm sale. In 2002 he started the TRRA Calf Buy-Back Program that buys local calves sired by TRRA and Beckton bulls. In the spring of 2006 TRRA had nearly 1000 Red Angus calves on feed from that program.

If elected, Forest will replace Larry Croissant who is term limited this year. He hopes to add value to the board with his experience in the commercial cattle business, his association with the Forbes family and their strong Red Angus traditions, and his leadership and management skills. Lastly, and most important, in this endeavor he has the full support of his wife Susan to whom he has been married for 37 years.

### **Raymond Prescott**

Raymond Prescott, Gray Court, S.C., a candidate for re-election for District 8 - Southeast, has been raising Red Angus

for twenty-five years. Raymond grew up on a diversified family farming operation in central Georgia. Red Angus bulls were introduced in 1978, and the first registered females were purchased in 1981 from Pioneer Breeder, Bob Angel. Raymond became a National Red Angus Junior member that year and managed his family's Red Angus herd while participating in livestock judging, junior beef cattle shows, and other competitions in the 4-H beef cattle project.

Raymond attained a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a Master's degree in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Georgia. During college, he worked in the UGA meat plant, served as Block and Bridle Club President, was a member of the Meats, Livestock, and AK-SAR-BEN Judging Teams,

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and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He began working for the University of Tennessee's Beef Cattle Research Center in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1992, and returned to UGA in 1994 to manage the Whitehall Beef Cattle Teaching and Research Center in Athens, Ga. While in Athens, Raymond also served on the board of directors for the Clarke County Cattlemen's Association and maintained a small herd of Red Angus.

In 1999, Raymond, along with his wife, Susan, and twin daughters, Bethany and Erica, moved to S.C., to manage Bull Hill Ranch for Jim and Alvina Meeks. The Meeks have been active Red Angus breeders for fifteen years and their herd includes about 150 1-A females. Raymond served as VP of the Ga. Red Angus Association for three years and currently serves as chairman of the SERAA Grasstime Sale. Raymond also currently serves as the Southeast District Director for the RAAA and as chairman of the marketing committee.

Raymond was named 2001 Young Cattleman of the Year in S.C., and in 2003, he was honored as the Outstanding Beef Producer for Laurens Co., S.C. In 2005, Raymond served as president of the Laurens Co. Cattleman's Assoc., and he also teaches Sunday school, sings in the choir and has served as a deacon in his local church. Raymond's love and devotion for the Red Angus breed and the beef cattle industry are superseded only by his love for God, family and country, and he considers it a great honor to be considered for the national board position.

## Murray Dighans

My name is Murray Dighans, Peerless, Mont., and I'm running for Director of Region A of the National Red Angus Association.

Before I tell you why I'm the best man for the position, I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself and my family. I have been around cattle all of my life, being raised in Peerless, Mont., (the northeast part of the

state), where my family raised 400 cows/calves. I currently live in Peerless with my wife, Deanna, and our five children (Murray, Jr. - 18, Marsha - 17, Michael - 15, Melissa - 12, and Dustin - 8) on the UBar Ranch. The U-Bar currently has a herd of 750 head of Red Angus mother cattle. Of these, 500 plus are commercial. We have a farming operation as well, which keeps us even busier.

Our Red Angus herd has really come together with the intensive use of artificial insemination and embryo transfer. The U-Bar Ranch has had the opportunity to purchase great genetics from many breeders throughout the U.S. I have been fortunate to meet a lot of super people from coast to coast because of the network of Red Angus people, and improve on my herd from other breeders' input.

As a director for Region A, I would like to see more unity within the Association. It is my belief that together we are strong, and divided we will struggle. I will work within the Association to get more information to the membership of what is up and coming. I will also work to keep all of the members better informed, and listen to their input on the direction the Association is going before major decisions are implemented.

I wish to thank you in advance for your support and look forward to seeing all of you in Texas.

## Laurence Mendoza

Laurence Mendoza, Valley Springs, Calif., is seeking the office of Director of Region A. Laurence became

interested in Agriculture education in high school through his participation in the FFA program. He participated on the Dairy Judging and Parliamentary Procedure teams and earned a State Farmer Degree. He graduated from Modesto Junior College in 1982 with an Associate of

Science Degree in Agriculture Mechanics.

Laurence and his wife, Sheila, currently have a seedstock operation which is run with their daughters Marianne and Mariah. They utilize the native foothill pastures of the California Sierra Nevadas and have begun an annual production sale for bulls and females each March.

Laurence's RAAA participation includes Junior Red Angus committee member, attendance at the 2005 and 2006 Young Breeder's Meetings and participating at Brain Trust in Denver. His participation with the Red Angus Breeders of CA/NV Association includes Director, Vice President and President. He also acted as RABCN representative in the position of chairperson for the 2003 Bet On Red, a joint elite female sale with the Northwest Red Angus Association held annually in Reno, Nev., every November. He is currently the co-chairperson for this sale.

Locally, Laurence has served on the Calaveras County Junior Livestock Auction Committee; Jenny Lind 4H Beef Leader for eight years; FFA Booster member and Jenny Lind 4H Booster President. He is a member of the Calaveras County Farm Bureau and a member of the Calaveras County Cattleman's Association, where he serves as a Calaveras rep on the Livestock Animal ID committee for the California Cattleman's Association.

## John Montgomery

John Montgomery, Lenoir City, Tenn., wrote "I ask for your support for a second term as Region C Director

representing the Eastern third of the USA. Over the past three years, I have and will continue to strongly support the RAAA Mission Statement and Core Policies that have helped guide our way to a progressive and successful breed and breed organization. My primary rea-

sons for choosing Red Angus were the professionalism of the breeders and the foresightful leadership of the RAAA.

I will continue to support our participation in the development of multibreed EPDs, a vital marketing tool for the continued acceptance of our Red Angus seedstock by the commercial beef cattle industry. We must continue our innovative efforts to effectively serve our commercial customers, who must have accurate and understandable information to make their breeding decisions. Only if our commercial bull market continues to thrive, will we see continued breed expansion which will benefit all of our breeders, large and small.

My own commitment to this breed consists of over 200 1A cows and a small ET herd. We are currently developing and marketing about 75 bulls and 75 females yearly to commercial and purebred herds primarily in our southeastern region.

I bring over 55 years of purebred seedstock experience to the board as well as a scientific background in medicine. I have observed many of the ups and downs of the purebred industry over these years and want to continue to do what I can to help us avoid some of the dead ends and harmful fads that have occurred. I am committed to the Red Angus breed and will continue to do all in my power to help it continue to prosper and will make reasonable, ethical, fact and science based decisions that will benefit all Red Angus breeders.

I am available and want to discuss your concerns. The best way to reach me is via my personal cell-phone: 865-414-1955

### **Tommy Coley**

Tommy Coley, Birmingham, Iowa, is seeking election as the Region C Director. Tommy represents the third generation of

Coley's to raise registered cattle.

Tommy and his wife Kim own and operate Coley Cattle Company in southeast Iowa.

Tommy attended the University of Tennessee, majoring in Animal Science. While in school he was a member of the livestock judging team, active in Block and Bridle Club and a member of Farm House Fraternity.

Tommy managed Perks Ranch Rockford, Illinois from 1993 to 2005. In 1996 he introduced Red Angus to the Perks Ranch program. After this he developed a passion for Red Angus cattle, Red Angus breeders and the principles the breed was built on. When the opportunity presented itself Tommy and Kim purchased the Perks Ranch Red Angus herd and started Coley Cattle Company. There are no oil wells, no job in town and no row crops; just Red Angus cows supporting their family of five children. Matt recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin and married Jessica. Erin is a senior at Texas A & M, Shea is a junior at Middle Tennessee State, Will is a sophomore at Millikin University and Kristi is a sophomore at the University of Illinois.

Tommy has been active as a past President of the Illinois Hereford Association. He has been especially supportive of all junior cattlemen programs. He was recently named an honorary member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association for his time and support. Tommy has always worked to better educate the people in town, who buy our product. As a result of this effort he has been recognized as an Outstanding Farmer by the Jaycees for his contributions to his community. Along with this some of his most rewarding moments have been as a coach of Little League Baseball and Junior Tackle Football.

Tommy and his family have wagered everything they own on the future of the Red Angus breed. He believes his faith, assets and time are well spent on the road to success through Red Angus. He asks for your

support in September and the coming years as we watch our breed realize its place in history.

### **Brent Johnson**

Brent Johnson, Ault, Colo., is running for Director- District 3. He has over 30 years of experience in the cattle industry. He grew up on a dry

land wheat farm and commercial cattle operation. He then went on to CSU, majoring in animal science and obtained a BS in Animal Science.

While at CSU, he developed expertise in feeding programs. Brent has worked in both custom and large-scale feedlots and in the meat processing business with ConAgra Red Meats (formerly Monfort). Not only does he have experience in cattle feeding, he also has first hand knowledge of what meat processors are looking for.

While operating the Ocho Vaca commercial feeding program, he was able to expand his knowledge of breeding programs, choosing Red Angus for their performance and conversion characteristics. He combined the feeding and breeding programs, honing his expertise in Red Angus breeding, bringing together knowledge critical for the success of the rancher and the cattle feeder.

Ocho Vaca Red Angus is a family operation, run in the foothills of the Rockies and the short hard grass country in the Pawnee Grasslands of north-central Colorado.

Industry Association Membership and Leadership Positions:

- Colorado Cattleman's Association
- Red Angus Association of Colorado
- Red Angus Association of America.
- \* Colo. Ag Leadership Class IV
- President
- Committee chairman of Colo. Cattleman's Assoc. research & education.
- Chairman Colo. Livestock Assoc. communications committee.
- Board of Colorado Cattle Feeders.