

# RAAA Board of Directors' Candidates



## **Kelli Brown**

Kelli Brown, candidate for President, and her husband, Donnell, manage and are co-owners of R.A. Brown Ranch, Throckmorton, Texas, with the rest of the Brown family. They are the fifth generation to live and work on the 113-year old ranch that raises Red Angus, Angus, SimAngus, Hotlander and Quarter Horses. Red Angus have been a vital part of the operation since 1988 and have grown to be a major component of Brown's annual Bull & Female Sale each fall.

Kelli grew up in southwest Nebraska, graduated from Oklahoma State University, and has been very involved in the agriculture industry her entire life. She served as the National FFA President, Texas Red Angus Director & Secretary, Texas FFA Board of Directors, and as a youth group leader and Council member in her local Methodist Church. She has served on the Red Angus National Board of Directors for six years including three of those on the Executive Committee. Kelli has served on many other RAAA committees the past 12 years, such as Registration, Promotions, Junior, Breed Improvement, and Strategic Planning. Currently, she represents Red Angus on the Genetic Performance Solutions (GPS) Board of Directors. Kelli and Donnell are proud parents of two boys, Tucker and Lanham.

She desires to continue growing and developing the tremendous popularity, relevance and demand for Red Angus cattle.



## **Kim Ford**

Kim Ford is seeking election for Region B on the Red Angus Board of Directors. Kim, along with husband, Scott own and operate Cross Diamond Cattle Company in Bertrand, Neb., where they run about 500 registered Red Angus

cows and hold an annual production sale in December. Kim's heritage in the cattle industry goes back several generations. The family's involvement in Red Angus began with her grandfather, Kenneth Leistritz and his introduction of Red Angus cattle to commercial herds in the Nebraska Sandhills. In 1972, the purebred herd was formed from Pioneer Beef Cattle genetics at Panhandle Cattle Company where Kim was born and raised. Kim has been active in the Red Angus breed since childhood, growing a herd and attending several Junior Round Ups and serving on the Junior Red Angus board as Vice President in the '90s.

Kim graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996 with a degree in Agricultural Journalism. She was a leader of the Bingham Hustlers 4-H club for five years and 4-H Council member for four years, serving as president for two of those years. Kim served as the secretary/treasurer of the local cattlemen's affiliate for two years. She served for two years as the Nebraska Red Angus Breeders' president and is an active member of the organization. She is currently on the Advertising and Promotions Committee in both the state and national Red Angus organizations. Kim is the co-coordinator of the Bertrand-area Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) group. Kim and Scott are active members of the Lutheran church and are parents of two daughters, Johanna and Marie.



## **Gary Jacobson**

Gary Jacobson, Hitterdal, Minn., is seeking the Directors position for District 5 - Northern Plains. Gary and his wife Val have three sons and three grandsons. Beau (29), Cody (26) and Kirby (23). Beau and his wife Chrissy have three boys, Gavin (6), Drew (3) and Ian (1).

Gary grew up on a small grain, corn and beans farm. His main interest was backgrounding feeder calves

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in the winter months and running yearlings in summer. In 1989, they bought their first commercial cows. In 1995, they switched to Red Angus bulls and saw first hand the impact of these bulls on a salt and pepper herd.

Gary worked winters at the West Fargo Stockyards in the late 70s and early 80s. He has been raising and selling registered Quarter horses since 1992. He has been in the registered Red Angus business since 1998. He has been a member of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association for nine years; a member of the North Dakota Red Angus for eight years; and a member of the South Dakota Red Angus for one year. He has been a member of the Minnesota Red Angus Association for ten years and served on the Board of Directors for two terms, the selection committee for the Minnesota Great Northern for two years and current-

ly serves as Vice President.

Gary believes that the commercial cattleman runs the beef industry, and honesty and common sense goes a long way in the cattle industry.



### Joe Mushrush

Joe Mushrush is seeking reelection to serve as the District 6 Director (Great Plains). Joe graduated from

Kansas State University with a B.S. in Animal Science in 1980. He immediately returned home to join his parents on their commercial cow operation near Strong City, Kan. In 1985, the first Red Angus cattle were purchased to supply bulls for their own use. In 1988, a small feedlot was added to finish Red Angus sired calves purchased from Mushrush Red Angus customers. Today, Mushrush Red Angus has grown to include an annual production sale

held the 4th Thursday of each March.

Joe is a founding Kansas Red Angus board member and served as president. He has been a member of the RAAA Alliance Committee since its inception. He has served on the RAAA executive committee for the past two years. Joe's list of community service activities is extensive as he has served on the U.S.D. 284 school board eight years and was president for six. He has served on the Exchange National Bank board of directors for the past eighteen years. Joe was a co-leader of the Bazaar 4-H club and is a member of the Chase County fair board. He is a past Kansas Livestock Association director, and served on the Natural Resource committee. Joe and his wife, Connie, have six children: Daniel, Casey, Cole, Laura, Chris and Madelyn. ■