

A CENTURY OF TRADITION

Arlen Sawyer and family honored with the American Angus Association Century Award.

by Karen Hiltbrand, American Angus Association

The year 2020 marks a century of the Sawyer family's membership in the American Angus Association. Arlen (posthumously) and Becky Sawyer of A&B Cattle of Bassett, Neb., were recognized as 2020 American Angus Association Century Award recipients during the Awards Recognition Dinner Nov. 8 at the 137th Angus Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

The work of Angus breeders is more than a business — it's a way of life. The American Angus Association initiated the Century Award to recognize its members and their families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for at least 100 years.

"The Sawyer family is a true testament to the tradition and legacy of the Angus breed, and we are proud to welcome them into the exclusive group," says Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO.

The Sawyers have a rich tradition of Angus cattle threaded through their lives. Arlen's family established their registered Angus cow herd in Howard, S.D., in 1917, which was operated by his grandfather and father. On Christmas Eve of 1919,

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ARLEN (POSTHUMOUSLY) AND BECKY SAWYER, A&B CATTLE, Bassett, Neb., received the Century Award.



Pictured (from left) are Adam Sawyer; Eva Hinrichsen, Miss American Angus; Becky Sawyer; and Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO.

Arlen's grandfather received his membership into the American Angus Association.

"The history and 100 years that we are celebrating are less about the place and more about the family legacy that is being handed down onto the fifth generation," says Becky Sawyer.

Arlen and Becky Sawyer's family has been involved with the Angus industry near Bassett since 1976, operating their ranch since 1984. In 1994, A&B Cattle was recognized as a Historic Angus Herd based on more than 50 years of continuously raising registered Angus cattle.

Today, Becky; daughter Jessica; son Adam; Adam's wife Jenessa; and their son Augustus, work together to operate their 600-head registered and commercial Angus cow herd in the Sandhills of Nebraska. Augustus Sawyer, fifth generation of the Sawyer family, now holds his great-grandfather's lifetime membership of the American Angus Association. The family hopes one day Augustus will carry on the Sawyer family's Angus tradition. **A**