

# Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter

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## **Agriculturists Support the Next Generation**

By: Baylee Brown; Mulhall-Orlando FFA Reporter

ORLANDO, Okla.- The National FFA Organization's motto is made up of 12 simple, yet powerful words "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." This organization is one that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of high school students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. National Angus Association members John and Gaye Pfeiffer were honored on April 30, 2019 at the 93rd Annual Oklahoma State FFA Convention. They were recognized for their continued support of the Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter with an Honorary State FFA Degree. Honorary State FFA Degrees are awarded to show appreciation to community members who play an important role in the success of an FFA chapter. The Pfeiffer family has supported the M-0 FFA chapter in many ways, such as holding livestock judging practices on their farm, buying FFA members at the

annual labor auction fundraiser, and helping prepare students for public speaking contests. Strong support from community members who have a desire to serve others and set a positive example has been important to strengthening the Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter. I had the opportunity to ask John and Gaye Pfeiffer some questions about their cattle operation and their family's history in agriculture.

**Q.** Why do you choose to raise Angus cattle?

**A.** John's family has been raising cattle since 1907. It was our desire to continue the tradition started by his great grandfather. If Angus cows could keep their family going during the Dust Bowl and depression, we should be able to sustain our farm and family with Angus cows.

**Q.** What is beneficial about raising Angus cattle?

**A.** We want to be able to provide the consumer with a quality beef product and a good eating experience. Angus cows allow us to raise that quality beef. The Angus cow is known for high marbling and efficient use of feed and forage to produce calves that are going to gain and grade at a high level. The Angus Association has been a leader in providing producers with the tools and information we need to make great strides in improving

our cattle in the shortest amount of time. Also, the Angus cow is maternal, docile, and not prone to some of the disease problems and udder problems of other breeds.

**Q.** How many generations has your family been raising Angus cattle?

**A.** Our children make the 5th generation of our family to raise Angus cattle in the Mulhall and Orlando area of Oklahoma.

**Q.** What is your favorite part about raising cattle?

**A.** We like to be caretakers. We feel like we are caretakers of our land and our cattle. We like feeding and checking cows. We like the new calf crop being born. We like weaning and picking bulls and replacement heifers. There are a lot of parts of the business that are important, but we get the most satisfaction out of the day to day chores that we hope will improve our land and cattle each year.

**Q.** Why do you feel it is important to support the Mulhall-Orlando FFA?

**A.** We feel that it is important to support all youth development programs. The Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter does a great job of involving the youth of our community and promoting skills and

attitudes that encourage youth to be leaders and also serve others in our community and beyond. If we want to make sure that we continue to have strong rural communities, we have to foster a positive attitude in our young people and show them the importance of being engaged in their chapter, school, and the world around them. We can't expect our young people to become productive, giving, engaged citizens if we aren't willing to model that behavior. If you ever feel concerned about the future of our society, spend some time with a group of FFA members. You will appreciate their energy, enthusiasm and drive and feel much more optimistic.

**Q.** Were you in FFA? If so, what projects did you have?

**A.** Neither one of us were in FFA. We were both active in 4-H and still support our 4-H clubs. They did not have FFA in school at M-0 when John was a student here and Gaye is so old that there were no girls allowed in FFA at Oktaha High School when she was old enough to join FFA.

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Mulhall-Orlando FFA Members and their Advisor Jerry Brooks with John and Gaye Pfeiffer before receiving the Honorary State FFA Degree at the 2019 Oklahoma State FFA Convention.

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