



2008



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Angus, the power of people and progress.



Growth, premiums realized through AngusSource

AngusSource, a USDA process verified program of the American Angus Association, grew in every way during the Association's 2007 fiscal year. In turn, producers who used the program received increased premiums. Since its inception in October 2005, more than 900 producers have enrolled cattle in AngusSource, which verifies age, source and genetics. More than 90,000 cattle were enrolled in 2007.

"We experienced a 39-percent growth in enrollments this past year," says Sara Moyer, director of AngusSource. "We are excited that producers are realizing the value of the marketing documents, which include additional information on health and management. We post these online and e-mail them to feedlots and order buyers every week at no extra cost to the producer."

Moyer adds that 369 marketing documents, nearly 40 percent more than the previous year, were completed and sent to more than 600 potential customers.

This year, the Association entered into

an agreement with Pfizer Animal Health as more producers realize the premiums available for health verification through programs like Pfizer SelectVac. The Association and Pfizer worked together through a marketing cooperative introduced earlier this year to educate producers about the value of Angus genetics, good health programs and verification. All cattle enrolled in a health verification program carry the logo of that company on their marketing document.

Since AngusSource became a qualifier for the Certified Angus Beef brand (CAB) in 2006, cattle have qualified genetically for CAB evaluation. This year, Tyson Fresh Meats qualified smoke-colored, AngusSource enrolled cattle for CAB Natural. National Beef has been qualifying black-hided cattle genetically using the AngusSource tag.

"We are proud that National Beef was able to launch AngusSource as a way for cattle to qualify genetically for CAB. We have been pleased with the performance of the AngusSource calves and encourage



producers to take advantage of the program," says Art Wagner, vice president of procurement for National Beef.

The AngusSource program now works more closely with feedyards to increase marketing opportunities for the export market. Since May, AngusSource has offered PVP coverage to feedyards. Cattle that were enrolled in AngusSource at the ranch can now be verified through the feeding phase. That allows not only commercial feedyards, but also farmer feeders, to market their age-verified cattle directly to the packer and receive premiums.

More exciting changes are in store for AngusSource in the next year, according to Moyer. Producers will have the opportunity to list commingled lots to make one larger online listing, adding appeal to buyers looking for a load lot. Instead of a producer listing a single lot of 25 head, the producer can now list a lot with a relative or neighbor also enrolled in the program and can promote their larger, combined lot together. "We continually look for ways to make the AngusSource program more appealing to the producers enrolled in the program, and those buyers looking to buy Angus-sired calves," Moyer said.

An increased push for AngusSource feeder calf sales will be seen in the coming months. Special feeder calf sales are planned at several sale barns across the country with the increased interest in age- and source-verified cattle and the popularity of the Angus breed. Two sales have already seen success—one in Staunton, Va., and one in Pratt, Kan.

"The Shen-Valley Angus and Virginia Angus Associations' AngusSource Feeder Calf sale was a great success as it allowed both larger and smaller producers from Virginia and West Virginia to receive premiums for their Angus-sired calves," says Dan Wells, executive director of the Virginia Angus Association.

AngusSource is just one of the programs of the American Angus Association designed to help commercial producers market their Angus-sired calves. The Association, with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., provides programs and services like AngusSource to its 36,000 members and thousands of commercial cattle producers nationwide. For more information go to www.angus.org. ♦

Gifts that keep on giving

By Miranda Reiman

For farm and ranch folks, Santa often leaves leather gloves, shiny new pocket knives or something like the latest grease gun. Husbands opened new toolsets and wives unwrapped wool socks and coveralls during the recent holiday season.

Most recipients think these are fine, practical gifts. It's always fun to get a standard piece of equipment with innovative improvements. With all the fresh gadgets and gizmos you have going into this new year, it might be time to evaluate tools you're not using that could improve your cowherd.

It would be no surprise to find some of last year's gifts still in their packaging under the shop bench, but some of the most significant unused tools are less tangible.

In agriculture, there would be distinct advantages in predicting the future. Unfortunately, you can't be certain when the market is going to spike or how that nice-looking heifer will calve. But you can use more than hunches to estimate how a bull will fit your herd.

Breeders work hard to collect accurate information, and the associations provide you with expected progeny differences (EPDs). Maternal, weaning and carcass traits are all assigned numbers that can predict what a sire will pass on to his offspring, compared to other sires.

If your wish list included higher weaning weights or better quality grades, Santa could only drop some EPD



hints in your stocking. Search for bulls with above-breed-average EPDs. Carcass traits are becoming more important if you feed your calves or even if you sell them and want repeat buyers. You can look at specific EPDs to increase your ribeye size or marbling.

Perhaps you've been doing that, but like an old-fashioned grease gun, your methods haven't kept up with the advancements.

The industry keeps generating new tools to help you make money pleasing beef consumers. Just as youngsters got the latest MP3 player or Nintendo gaming system under the tree, EPDs have evolved.

Many associations make selection indexes available now. By crosschecking that marbling EPD with the bull's index for grid or feedlot value, for example, you can simultaneously include a host of traits in selection pressure.

Other advancements can sneak up on you. While you're worrying about calving, hay harvest and feeding the cows,

research and development teams are increasing the effectiveness of everyday products.

Today there are more vaccines and dewormers on the market than ever before. It may be time to reevaluate what you're giving to your cows and calves, and when. Call your veterinarian for a New Year's chat. Depending on your location and environment, this could be the year to try an injectable wormer to attack internal parasites. This fall, you might give your calves that booster shot you've never found the time for.

There are unique marketing options every year, including special sales at the local auction market. You might find benefits to partnering on retained ownership of your calves, or see if a feeder will buy them based on a premium-sharing equation. If you already have a focus on performance and quality, these options can put more gifts under your tree.

Topping the video auction or local market requires a little more homework than it used to. Enroll in some combination of a health-, genetic-, source- and age-verified program or find another way to add information to make those critters worth more to potential buyers.

None of these suggestions are as novel as that battery-free flashlight Santa left, but they could be even more useful. Think of what other tools are still lying on the bench, unopened. You might be surprised at how much value they bring in 2008. ♦

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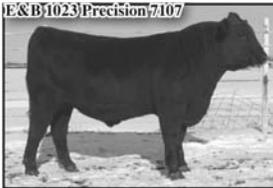
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American Angus Association elects new leadership at 124th annual meeting

Paul Hill, Bidwell, Ohio, was elected president and chairman of the board of the American Angus Association at the group's 124th annual convention of delegates, Nov. 12, 2007, in Louisville, Ky. He follows Jot Hartley, Vinita, Okla.

More than 350 delegates who were elected to represent the American Angus Association. Members from more than 40 states conducted the business of the Association during the annual meeting and election. The meeting was at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition Super Point Roll of Victory Angus Show.

Jay King, Rock Falls, Ill., was chosen by the delegates to serve as vice president and vice chairman of the board of the Association, and five individuals including Jarold Callahan, Yukon, Okla.; Norman Garton, Nevada, Mo.; Chad Hoffman, Colfax, Ill.; Jim Rentz, Coldwater, Ohio; and Phil Trowbridge, Ghent, N.Y.; were elected to the Association's board of directors. Bill Davis, Sidney, Mont., will serve as treasurer for the year.

In addition to electing directors and officers, the delegates passed a series of amendments to the Bylaws, changing the names of the president to "President and Chairman of the Board," the vice president to "Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board" and the executive vice president to the "Chief Executive Officer." The vice president and vice chairman shall now also be entitled to vote on all matters before the board of directors.

Paul Hill, Bidwell, Ohio, will serve as president and chairman of the board. Hill grew up on a livestock and peanut farm in Florida, and today is a partner in Champion Hill, Bidwell, Ohio. He was active in 4-H and FFA as a youth, and his early introduction into the Angus industry began in 1966 at the American Herdsman Institute near Kansas City.

In 1968, Hill volunteered for the draft and took basic training and combat engineering training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He served 1 1/2 tours in Vietnam as a demolition specialist. He was a squad leader when he finished his duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Army accommodation medal for leadership and interest in his fellow soldiers.

Hill focuses on breeding performance cattle that have eye appeal and takes pride in producing superior females. Champion Hill is the owner of many popular breeding bulls and puts emphasis on carcass testing. He has used ultrasound to evaluate carcass traits of yearling bulls and is currently working with a commercial herd to test young sires for carcass traits and performance.

Hill has always been interested in the people side of the cattle business. He and

his wife, Lynn, raised two daughters, Sarah and Neenah, who were active in the National Junior Angus Association. Today, he continues to provide juniors opportunities to grow and excel in the beef business. Hill has served as chairman of the Angus Foundation board for numerous years, and has been instrumental in the Foundation's growth. He is one of the founding fathers of the Atlantic National and has helped in raising funds for various shows, events and scholarships that benefit Angus youth and Angus breeders.

As Association president, Hill will serve as chairman of the executive committee and work closely with all directors to lead the board during the next year.

Jay King, the Association's newly elected vice president, recently completed his second three-year term on the board. Jay and his family own and operate Sauk Valley Angus in Northern Illinois.

As vice president and vice chairman, Jay will have voting privileges due to the recent Bylaw amendment. He will serve on the executive, activities and events and industry relations committees. He will also serve as chairman of the Angus Productions Inc., board and is on the Certified Angus Beef LLC board.

The American Angus Association is the world's largest beef breed organization and provides programs and services for thousands of commercial producers and more than 36,000 regular and junior members nationwide. Founded in 1883, the American Angus Association is a not-for-profit company with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo. It is the parent organization for Certified Angus Beef LLC, Angus Productions Inc., the Angus Foundation and Angus Genetics Inc.

Jarold Callahan, Yukon, Okla.

Jarold Callahan, Yukon, Okla., was born, raised and attended junior and senior college in Oklahoma. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he became an instructor for Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College while studying for his master's degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 1981 he joined the faculty of Oklahoma State University, where he taught purebred beef production and livestock selection while managing the purebred beef herds and coaching the livestock judging teams. Callahan was the executive vice president of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association for 5 years before joining Express Ranches in 1996. He has served on the information and data management, finance and planning, and breed improvement committees of the American Angus Association as well as the Angus Productions Inc., and Angus Foundation Boards.

Norman Garton, Nevada, Mo.

Norman Garton and his family operate Garton Angus, Nevada, Mo. Garton purchased his first Angus as an FFA project and his sons were active in the National Junior Angus Association. Today, more than 100 cow's records are kept by Angus Information Management Software and the bulls are marketed through private treaty, consignment sales and test stations. Garton served a 2-year-term in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps after completing his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He owned the Nevada Veterinary Clinic before selling it in 1998 to take his current position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a Veterinary Medical Officer with the Food Safety and Inspection Service, some of Norman's responsibilities include inspecting beef carcasses and supervising inspectors in six plants throughout Missouri. During his first term, Garton has been a board member of Angus Productions, Inc., and Certified Angus Beef LLC while serving on the activities and events, industry relations, information and data management, and NCBA product enhancement committees of the Association.

Chad Hoffman, Colfax, Ill.

As a sales manager and beef marketing specialist, Chad Hoffman, Colfax, Ill., has traveled the country for 15 years representing Genex Cooperative Inc. At home, he helps operate Hoffman Angus, where they raise seedstock for purebred and commercial producers. Hoffman got an early start in the Angus business with participation in 4-H, FFA, the Illinois and National Junior Angus Associations. After a successful internship experience through the Association's summer job program, he was hired by Goshen Angus in Paris, Ky., as their herdsman. He continued his college education at the University of Kentucky and participated on their livestock judging team. This past summer, Hoffman represented the American Angus Association and Angus Foundation as their representative to attend NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference.

Jim Rentz, Coldwater, Ohio

An Angus enthusiast for 55 years, Jim Rentz, Coldwater, Ohio, is now semi-retired and eager to serve the American Angus Association and its members. Rentz has been promoting and merchandising Angus cattle for just as many years and in 2006 authored a book, 50+ Years of Angus Trails and Tales. He served as an Angus Journal fieldman in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin for 15 years before starting his own Angus sale management business,

(Continued on page 4)

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2008 National Western Stock Show Winners



Guy Laflin and R.D. Laflin, Laflin Bros., Olsburg, Kan., were named herdsmen of the year at the 2008 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) and National Angus Show Angus Herdsman Banquet, January 16-18 in Denver, Colo. The award is voted on annually at the NWSS by the Angus exhibitors. Pictured from left includes Guy Laflin, R.D. Laflin, and Jim Shirley, director of activities, presenting the award. The banquet recognizes all the exhibitors who work diligently during the year preparing Angus cattle at the shows. Photo by American Angus Association.



Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla., won breeders' best six head at the 2008 National Western Stock Show Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) and National Angus Show, January 16-18 in Denver, Colo. They also claimed first place get-of-sire and first place junior get-of-sire. Exar Lutton 1831 sired the winning groups. Photo by American Angus Association.

AAA elects new leadership

(Continued from page 3)

Rentz Auction Co. For the past 28 years, Rentz has been a sales representative with Post Printing Co. He oversaw the production of directories, sale books, brochures and magazines on many livestock accounts. Rentz attended Ohio State University and majored in animal science. He has volunteered on many committees and co-founded the Ohio Beef Expo and Showcase Sale in Ohio.

Phil Trowbridge, Ghent, N.Y.

Phil Trowbridge, Ghent, N.Y., grew up on his family's Angus farm, where he gained knowledge of the livestock industry through hands-on experience. He attended Alfred State College in 1976 to complete

his education and majored in animal science. Gallagher's Angus Farm hired him as their herdsman and he continues to enhance Angus genetics with Trowbridge Angus. Trowbridge has served on numerous boards on the local and state level and is passionate about youth programs. He organized the Columbia County Feeders 4-H Club that emphasizes first-hand experience with livestock management, exhibition and showmanship. Trowbridge has served on the activities and events, industry relations, information and data management, and finance and planning committees of the American Angus Association. He has also contributed to the Angus Foundation Board of Directors and was appointed to the NCBA international markets committee. ♦

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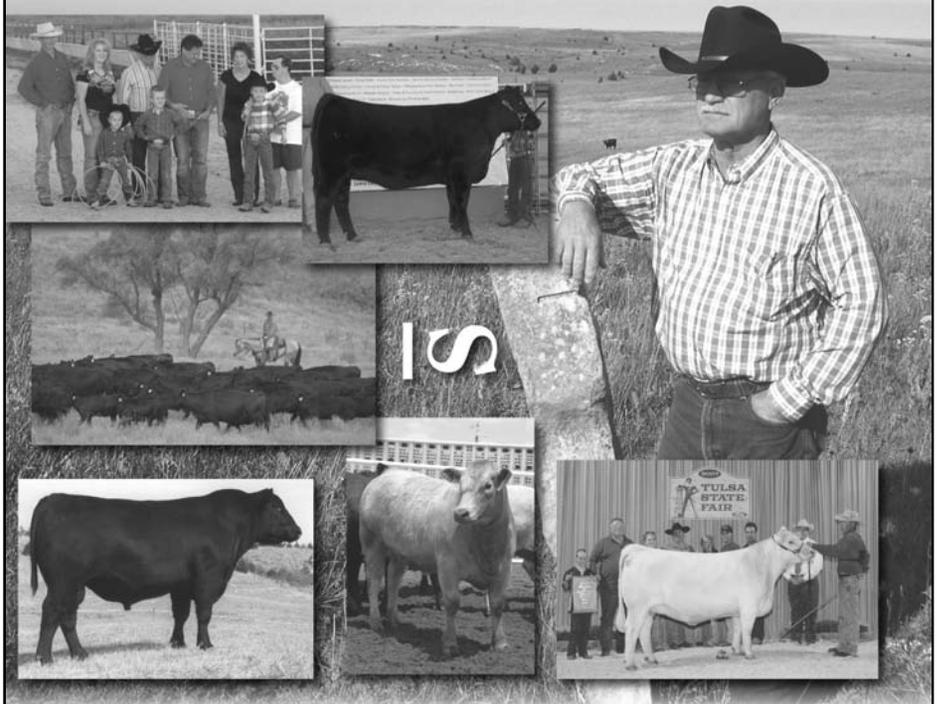
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Market changes bring market opportunity

More opportunity exists in the cattle industry today than ever, in large part due to changes in the supply and demand fundamentals of the cattle market and outside forces. Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-Fax, says in order to be successful, the industry needs to embrace the globalization of the marketplace and learn how to thrive in it.

"This is not a supply-driven market. It is a market that will impact everyone in the cattle system," he told attendees of Dec. 13, 2007 sessions on markets and marketing at the 2007 Range Beef Cow Symposium in Fort Collins, Colo. "This is a tremendous opportunity for beef producers, but we have to have access to these international markets. It is a much different ballgame with globalization and higher corn prices, and not

the same business that we grew up with."

Blach noted world beef production is growing, but the lion's share of the growth is happening in places like Brazil, China, Argentina and Uruguay.

"We need to understand what it takes to be part of that market and to be a viable industry in the future. We need to export more of our beef production," he says. "That means getting back the markets we lost in 2003, Korea and Japan, and adding China. Those markets would add \$85 per head to what producers receive today."

The weakest dollar in U.S. history also makes U.S. beef more attractive overseas.

"As the dollar weakens, corn and wheat prices go up and there is more international buying power from places with more wealth, like in China and India," he said. "At the

same time, we can't build a strong U.S. economy on a weak dollar. We are likely to continue to see slowdowns in our economy, which will impact our business."

Blach said despite profitability within the cow-calf sector for the last decade, herd expansion is not occurring.

"We have record-high feed prices," he explained. "Cow-calf costs are up 20 percent to 25 percent over the last three years. It is going to cost more to produce calves every year, and I see no change in that on the horizon."

In addition, growth within the herd has been limited by drought, higher land values, growing ethanol production, alternative land uses, urban sprawl and more.

Blach acknowledged that even with a stable herd size, U.S. beef production is rising to meet demand. "We are producing more beef from fewer cows. Production will increase 1.5 percent to 2 percent next year, even though the size of the factory hasn't changed. Carcass weights will be up 15 to 20 pounds," he said. "We were fortunate that fed cattle, retail and wholesale prices were higher this year."

For the next 12 months, Blach predicted, fed prices may average in the \$92 to \$94

range, calves in the \$117 to \$120 range and feeders at \$105 to \$106.

"Producers in the West and Southeast will have to be more efficient to stay competitive with the Central U.S.," he concluded. "Stockers and the cow-calf sector are profitable, but cattle feeders and packers are in the red. Globalization is here, and we need to figure out how to participate."

The cooperative extension services and animal science departments of Colorado State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Wyoming and the University of Nebraska hosted the Range Beef Cow Symposium XX at the Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex Dec. 11 to 13, 2007.

Additional coverage of the symposium is available at www.rangebeefcow.com. API coverage of Range Beef Cow Symposium XX is made available for distribution to all media via an agreement with the Range Beef Cow Symposium Committee and API. Headquartered in Saint Joseph, Mo., API publishes the Angus Journal and the Angus Beef Bulletin, as well as providing online coverage of events and topics pertinent to cattlemen. ♦

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American Angus Association releases docility EPDs

The American Angus Association recently released a new research docility genetic evaluation. Differentiating cattle temperament is a likely topic of discussion for many producers. In Angus cattle, a factual means to describe temperament variation is now a reality.

The research report includes sire docility expected progeny differences (DOC EPDs). These EPDs are a tool to increase the chance of a sire's calves having calm behavior compared to calves of other sires. "Docility EPDs can be used as part of a complete selection program in the event that a producer needs to make improvement in a herd's cattle temperament. Angus breeders have submitted nearly 40,000 yearling temperament scores to allow genetic differences to be identified in sires for docility," says Sally Northcutt,

genetic research director for the Association.

The Spring 2008 docility research report contains DOC EPDs and accuracy's for 554 sires in this first listing. The release of DOC EPDs is in the form of a web-based research report found at www.angussiresearch.com containing sire EPDs with a minimum .20 accuracy and at least 10 progeny and two groups. Printed copies are available on request. If you have questions, contact the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.

The American Angus Association with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., provides programs and services for more than 36,000 members nationwide and thousands of commercial producers who use Angus genetics. Go to www.angus.org for more information. ♦

AAA 2008 Beef Leaders Institute (BLI)

The Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) is designed for American Angus Association members, 25 to 45 years old, as a resource to provide insight to all segments of the beef industry. Attendees will be stronger, more effective leaders for the Angus breed and beef industry now and in the future.

The Association will provide transportation during the BLI, as well as lodging, meals and materials. The attendees will be responsible for their round-trip transportation between their home and Kansas City.

The 2008 BLI is set for June 1 to 4.

Participants should not schedule departures prior to 6 p.m. on June 4. Lodging will be provided on June 4.

The BLI will be limited to 20 attendees each year. Applications are due to the Association by March 1.

For more information, contact Shelia Stannard, Director, Communications & Events, American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Ave, Saint Joseph, MO, 64506, phone: 816-383-5100, Direct: 816-383-5152, Fax: 816-233-9703. Check out the latest ANGUS news at www.angus.org. ♦

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Report summarizes heifer pregnancy evaluation research

By Sally Northcutt

Director of genetic research, American Angus Association

One of the American Angus Association's research initiatives is to characterize reproductive traits in the Angus breed. It's perhaps the most difficult class of traits in terms of creating genetic values. Yet, in a beef production system, the economic importance of reproductive success is vital. Seedstock and commercial producers continually ask about the availability of reproductive selection tools to improve their herds. A large database for research enhances the ability to develop genetic predictions, such as EPDs and indexes, for the reproductive complex.

Angus producers are submitting breeding records as part of their performance data. In September 2007, the Association's Board of Directors approved an updated release of heifer pregnancy EPDs on sires with a minimum .30 accuracy in a special research report. The following report summarizes the initial research and resulting EPDs that were developed.

Genetic evaluation procedures and edits

A heifer's breeding record was coded as a success or failure of being pregnant, based on any pregnancy check data or calving information recorded and submitted by the breeder. Heifers were excluded from the analysis if their age at the time of the evaluation did not allow them time to record a calf.

Edited data on heifers were analyzed in a threshold analysis with a full animal model and three-generation pedigree. Variance components from research in collaboration with Mark Enns at Colorado State University were used in the analysis representing a heritability of .13.

Contemporary group was defined as breeding herd, breeding year, season, and synchronization code. Data edits included the removal of any contemporary groups with no variation (0 percent pregnant or 100 percent pregnant). The final analysis represented

446 contemporary groups from 212 herds.

Results

EPDs were generated on 45,777 animals, as described in Table 1. EPDs are reported on an arbitrary base to illustrate the range and distribution of genetic values.

Table 1

No. of heifer breeding records	17,736
No. of contemporary groups.....	446
No. animals with EPDs	45,777

	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Mean EPDs	8	2.8	-3	17
Mean Accuracy	.25	.20	.05	.89
Current sires (n = 1,348).				

Table 1: Descriptive statistic for heifer pregnancy genetic evaluation

Fig. 1

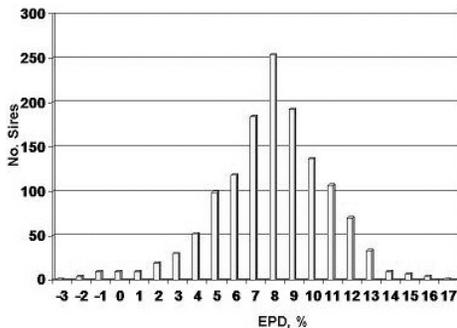


Fig. 1 illustrates the distribution of EPDs for the current sires having heifer pregnancy EPDs generated in the analysis. The EPDs ranged from -3 to +17 on 1,348 current sires, and accuracy's were from .05 to .89.

Fig. 2

Top Pct	HP, %
1%	+14
5%	+12
10%	+11
25%	+10
50%	+8
75%	+6
90%	+4
95%	+3

Fig. 2 depicts an example percentile breakdown for the heifer pregnancy EPDs for the current sires in the research project. As with all percentile rankings, these values are to be used as a guide to determine where an individual of interest falls within a particular class of animals, in this case the 1,348 current sires with EPDs.

Genetic trend and correlations

In evaluating genetic trend for heifer pregnancy, the average heifer pregnancy EPD by animal birth year has remained unchanged over time. The genetic trend line is flat and no trend has occurred for heifer pregnancy based on this initial analysis as would be expected in situations where little selection pressure was applied to heifer pregnancy rates. The review of correlations among other traits using sires with an accuracy of .50 or greater showed that heifer pregnancy EPDs were uncorrelated with scrotal, calving ease, milk, fat (ultrasound and carcass), percent IMF, marbling EPDs, or any growth traits.

Use of heifer pregnancy EPDs

Heifer pregnancy EPDs are to be used as a tool to increase the chance of a sire's daughters becoming pregnant during a normal breeding season. The unit of measure for the EPD is a percentage. A higher

EPD is the more favorable direction for selection pressure. As with other EPDs, the relative difference among sires is of importance rather than the absolute value.

Fig. 3 provides an example of the use of heifer pregnancy EPDs. Assume there are 100 daughters for each of the two bulls, managed and treated alike in the same breeding environment. When comparing the two bulls, one would expect an average of five more pregnant daughters out of 100 from Bull A compared with Bull B. Essentially Bull A's daughters have a 5 percent greater chance of becoming pregnant than Bull B's daughters.

Fig. 3

Bull A	+13 percent
Bull B	+8 percent
Difference	5 percent

Fig. 3: Heifer pregnancy EPD example

Summary

The Spring 2008 research update of heifer pregnancy EPDs on sires has been computed using the American Angus Association's breeding record database. These EPDs are designed to characterize differences among sires in the Angus breed for daughter's heifer pregnancy. When comparing two sires based on their heifer pregnancy EPDs (reported in units of percentage), a higher EPD sire would be expected to have daughters with a greater probability or chance of becoming pregnant than a sire with the lower EPD.

Reprinted with permission from the Angus Journal. ♦

Don't throw that hay away

There is more than one way to feed your cattle; with the cost of feeding at an all-time high you should know which method leads to the least amount of waste.

By Ed Haag

With production costs as high as they are, no one can afford to throw away an amount of hay equal to what their cattle consume, but that is precisely what you could be doing if you aren't paying attention to how you handle that forage.

Robert Kallenbach, Department of Agronomy, University of Missouri (MU), has studied the hay-feeding process and is still surprised by how much of it is wasted during and after that activity.

"It is not unusual to see 30 percent of what is fed not going into the animal," he says.

"That can have a big impact on the cost of maintaining your herd."

Kallenbach's observation is particularly true this year when so many natural and man-made events threaten to turn the predictions of hay shortages and higher prices into reality. Last fall's dramatic rise in corn prices set much of the central U.S. on a corn planting binge. A substantial number of the new acres sown, until recently, had been in hay production.

For those who were relying on purchased hay to feed their cattle, 2007 brought more bad news. In April of this year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that this country's season-ending hay stocks had hit a 50-year low, while a freak late freeze in the same month destroyed much of the Midwest's first cutting of alfalfa.

This was followed by severe drought conditions in all states east of the Mississippi except Illinois and states in the Northeast.

"If you are going to let your cattle tramp on hay this year, you are supplying them with some very expensive bedding," Kallenbach says.

For the MU researcher and beef special-

ist, the key to reducing hay waste is simple. "The more unrestricted access the animals are given to hay, the more of it they wind up wasting," he says. "That is a given."

Kallenbach adds that, while the premise is simple, how one goes about reducing waste

(Continued on page 7)

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Heifer Pregnancy EPDs for 2008 are released

The American Angus Association has recently updated its research heifer pregnancy genetic evaluation. Angus breeders continue to submit heifer breeding records to allow selection tools for reproductive traits to be developed.

The second research release includes updated sire heifer pregnancy expected progeny differences (HP EPDs). These EPDs are a tool to increase the chance of a sire's daughters becoming pregnant as heifers during a normal breeding season. "Even though reproductive traits are recognized as being lowly heritable, this research allows us to provide a genetic value to commercial producers in an area of high economic importance," says Sally Northcutt, genetic research director for the Association.

The Spring 2008 heifer pregnancy research report contains HP EPDs and accuracies for 495 sires, with nearly 70 new sires added to the listing. The release of HP EPDs is in the form of a web-based research report found at www.angussiresearch.com containing sire EPDs with a minimum 0.30 accuracy. Printed copies are available on request. If you have questions, contact the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.

The American Angus Association with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., provides programs and services for more than 36,000 members nationwide and thousands of commercial producers who use Angus genetics. Go to www.angus.org for more information. ♦

Don't throw that hay away

(Continued from page 6)

Table 1: Estimated losses (% of hay offered) from different hay-feeding methods

Bale type	With rack		Without rack	
	1-day supply	7-day supply	1-day supply	7-day supply
Small square bales	3.9%	4.1%	6.7%*	
Large round or square bales	4.9%	5.4%	12.3%*	43.0%*
Formed haystacks	8.8%	15.0%	22.6%	41.0%
Small round bales (fed in place on pasture)			10.0%	30.0%

*Bales spread or unrolled across pasture.

Source: Robert Kallenbach, Department of Agronomy, University of Missouri.

by restricting access often depends on how the hay is packaged and what labor and facilities are available to accomplish the task.

He points out that no matter what feeding system is used, there are some universal feeding rules that should be adhered to in all circumstances.

Feeding basics

One universal feeding rule Kallenbach emphasizes deals with what hay is fed first. He recommends feeding the lower-quality hay first when it makes sense from a nutritional intake standpoint, noting that cattle will waste a greater percentage of poor-quality hay than they will good-quality hay. He adds that animals fed high-quality hay early in the season will often refuse poor quality hay when it is offered later.

This usually means feeding the hay that is least protected from the elements first, saving the hay stored under cover for a time when the exposed hay has all been consumed.

Referring back to his restricted access premise, Kallenbach elaborates, "When you feed a limited quantity at a time, cattle have less opportunity to trample and soil the hay." The waste difference between feeding cattle a one-day supply and feeding them a week's supply is significant, he adds. "We are talking about 12 percent vs.

40 percent waste on rolling out round bales. I guarantee you most of our producers don't have that kind of money to waste."

For those who don't have time to feed fresh baled forage every day, Kallenbach suggests the following: "If you have a lot where you can give animals hay in the evening and let them eat during the night and turn them out in the early morning so there is no hay during the course of the day, you will see a significant reduction in wasted hay."

He notes that those producers who don't have a separate lot for feeding can see similar reductions in waste by using hay rings and other feeding devices to limit cattle's access to their feed source. "Hay fed in bale rings will show [a] hay loss rate of between 5% and 10%," Kallenbach says. "That is about as good as you can get."

He adds that bale rings do require an initial investment of between \$125 and \$300 a piece, depending on the quality, but with today's cost of feed they will quickly pay for themselves.

"Loading several rings on the weekend is a good feeding strategy for producers whose time is limited during the week," Kallenbach says, pointing out that this approach solves more than one problem. "One mistake I see a lot of guys making is not having enough spaces in their bale rings for all their cattle to feed at one time."

Kallenbach says this limitation can be detrimental to the herd, because the more aggressive boss cows will eat first and consume the more desirable hay, while the more timid cows will only have access to the lower-quality material or nothing at all.

By utilizing several rings at once, the producer not only extends the length of time between feeding and reduces his labor cost, but he also gives every cow in the herd an opportunity to get the hay she needs.

He cites, as an example, a 30-cow herd that requires one 900-pound bale per day. "To feed a 30-cow herd, we could use one hay ring that is filled daily," Kallenbach says. "But a better alternative would be to use three hay rings that are filled every three days."

Spread it out

Kallenbach adds that it also makes sense to place hay rings on higher dry ground and move them around as much as possible. "If you can find those areas in the

(Continued on page 14)



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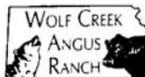


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Sankeys Lazer 609 of 6N won grand champion bull at the 2008 National Western Stock Show Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) and National Angus Show, January 16-18 in Denver, Colo. Aztec Sankey Angus, Council Grove, Kan.; Craig J.J. Reinhardt, Sloughhouse, Calif.; and H A V E Angus, Wilton, Calif., own the February 2006 son of Exar Lutton 1831. He first won junior champion. Doug Satree, Montague, Texas, evaluated the 246 entries. Photo by American Angus Association.



More 2008 National Western Stock Show Winners

American Angus Association Docility Genetic Evaluation Research

Angus Sire Evaluation Report Spring 2008

Word of mouth and rumor mill has historically been the basis of differentiating temperament on cattle to this point. Through data collection by breeders and the analysis of that data, a factual means to describe temperament differences in Angus cattle is now a reality.

Cattle behavior has been documented to influence economically important traits. Researchers at Colorado State University have studied cattle temperament as related to beef cattle production systems, handling facilities, and carcass end-product. Data from the Iowa Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity reflects a difference of \$62.19 per head in the net dollars returned between the most docile category versus the most aggressive category of cattle evaluated. Quality grade was also greatly enhanced in the more docile cattle, with double the percentage of carcasses grading Prime and Premium Choice.

Producers typically place some emphasis on bull behavior as part of their selection criteria for breeding stock. Surveys of commercial cow-calf producers rank disposition in the same magnitude of importance as a trait such as calving ease in selecting bulls for use in their programs. Over the past few years, Angus breeders have been submitting yearling cattle temperament scores on a 1-6 scale. The scoring system is given below:

6-point Scoring System

(Yearling cattle; age 320-440 days)

Code	Description
1 Docile	Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. Does not pull on headgate when in chute. Exits chute calmly.
2 Restless	Quieter than average, but may be stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
3 Nervous	Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on headgate. Exits chute briskly.
4 Flighty	Wild; Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits chute wildly.
5 Aggressive	May be similar to Score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute. Exits chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.
5 Very Aggressive	Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.

Genetic Parameters

Heritability estimates for temperament in beef and dairy cattle tend to be moderate to high, indicating that selection for improved temperament would be effective. Heritability estimates can range from zero to 1. As a comparison with other traits, reproductive traits tend to be lowly heritable and carcass traits are more highly heritable.

Yearling cattle temperament scores processed through AHIR were edited to explore the genetic parameters for docility and the potential for a docility EPD. University of Missouri scientist Bob Weaber analyzed the dataset to calculate temperament heritability estimates, which ranged from .36 to .45. Estimates of maternal heritability were near zero. The variance components generated from this research were used in an in-house genetic evaluation for the trait, representing a heritability equal to .37.

EPD Research

An edited performance file of AHIR temperament scores was used with a four generation pedigree to calculate a docility EPD. Four categories were used, for scores 1, 2, 3, and the combined category of scores 4, 5, and 6.

The contemporary group was defined in a similar format to the Association's national cattle evaluation for yearling weight. Groups without any variation in temperament scores were removed from the analysis. There were 4,057 contemporary groups represented in 39,172 temperament scores. The animal model evaluation included contemporary group, age of dam classes 2 year through 10 year, linear effects of calf age deviated from 365, and categorical temperament scores. The evaluation produced 138,792 EPDs calculated for parents, nonparents with individual records, and pedigree ties (Table 1).

Table 1

No. of yearling temperament scores.....	39,172
No. of contemporary groups	4,057
No. animals with EPDs	138,792
	Mean SD Minimum Maximum
Mean EPD, %	8 7.5 -29 +34
Mean Accuracy	.24 .10 .05 .94
Current sires (n = 4,308)	

Results

The Docility EPD is presented as a percentage, similar to the concept used in heifer pregnancy EPDs. A higher value is considered more favorable in terms of docile temperament. Since this is a threshold trait, herds that exhibit no problems in temperament will realize no improvement in selecting for favorable docility EPDs.

Table 1 illustrates a sizable spread between the most and least docile current sire EPDs. Figure 1 provides a distribution of EPDs for the current sires. The docility EPDs tended to be positively correlated with yearling weight EPD, but not with other performance and carcass traits. The genetic trend for this new prototype EPD is essentially flat, when reviewing the average EPD by birth year for animals in the evaluation.

Figure 1

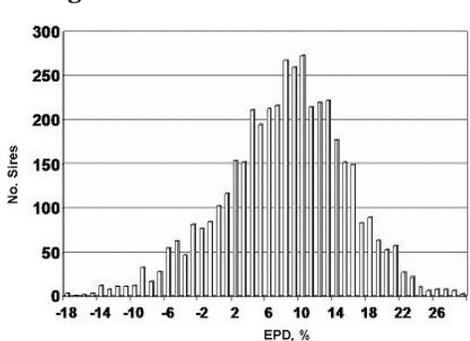


Figure 1. Distribution of Docility EPDs for Current Sires

Figure 2

Top Pct	HP, %
1%	24
5%	19
10%	17
25%	13
50%	8
75%	3
90%	-2
95%	-5

Figure 2 depicts an example percentile breakdown for the docility EPDs for the current sires in the research project. As with all percentile rankings, these values are to be used as a guide to determine where an individual of interest falls within a particular class of animals, in this

case the 4,308 current sires with EPDs.

Figure 2. Example Percentile Breakdown for Docility EPDs in Current Sires

Use of Docility EPDs

Docility EPDs can be used as part of a complete selection program in the event that a breeder needs to make improvement in a herd's cattle temperament. In the following example, a 10% difference exists between the EPDs for Bull A and Bull B. On the average, assuming the two bulls were mated to comparable females, one would expect 10 more calves out of 100 sired by Bull A to have a temperament in the most docile score (score=1) compared with calves sired by Bull B. In herds where temperament problems are not an issue, this expected difference would not be realized.

Bull	Docility EPD
Bull A	+13%
Bull B	+ 3%
Difference	10%

Summary

Sire EPDs and accuracies can be downloaded into a spreadsheet format and sorted as desired. Breeders may also request a printed version of the report if needed, by contacting the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.

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Champions named at Super Point ROV Angus show

Angus enthusiasts led 246 entries at the 2008 National Western Stock Show Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, January 16-18 in Denver, Colo. Judge Doug Satee, Montague, Texas, evaluated the 184 females, 59 bulls and three cow-calf pairs before selecting the champions.

Sankeys Lazer 609 of 6N claimed the grand champion bull title after first topping the junior division. Aztec & Sankey Angus, Council Grove, Kan.; Craig & J.J. Reinhardt, Sloughhouse, Calif.; and H A V E Angus, Wilton, Calif., own the February 2006 son of Exar Lutton 1831.

Holly Gamble, Clinton, Tenn., showed the reserve grand champion bull. Gambles Jaguar is a February 2006 son of Gambles Hot Rod and first won reserve junior champion.

Lance Rice, Scottsbluff, Neb., and Cherry Knoll Farm Inc., West Grove, Pa., led SCR Miss Pride 60537 to grand champion female honors. The January 2006 daughter of BT Crossover 758N first won junior champion.

Vince Untied, Granville, Ohio, claimed reserve grand champion female. SCC Echo Dell Nellie 6005 is a March 2006 daughter of P V F New Horizon 001 and first won reserve junior champion.

Amber Barker, Sparks, Nev., and Cara & Thomas Ayres, Stevensville, Mont., showed the grand champion cow-calf pair. Ayres Eline B54 is a March 2004 daughter of Famous 7001. She has a May 2007 bull calf sired by Krone Midland 4400 at side.

Clinton Laffin, Olsburg, Kan., captured reserve grand champion cow-calf pair honors. EXAR Blackbird 5377 is a February 2005 daughter KG Dakota. A May 2007 bull calf sired by of Laffins Warm Front 5115 completes the winning pair.

A complete list of winners follows:
Total number shown: 246. Judge: Doug Satee, Montague, Texas

Heifers: 184 Shown

Spring Heifer Calf Champion: Gambles Shadoe 3117. Exhibitor: Kirbe Schnoor, Chowchilla, Calif.

Reserve Spring Heifer Calf Champion: WAF Lucy 754, Exhibitor: Weaver Angus Farm, Peoria, Ill.

Winter Heifer Calf Champion: WK Georgina 7315, Exhibitor: Danielle Foster, Niles, Mich.

Reserve Winter Heifer Calf Champion: Champion Hill Georgina 5918, Exhibitor: Allison Burns, Troutdale, Ore.

Senior Heifer Calf Champion: 2TM Ms Marathon 653, Exhibitor: Ted & Terri Morgan, Greeley, Colo., and Raymond Houston and Skylar Houston, both of Platteville, Colo.

Reserve Senior Heifer Calf Champion: Champion Hill EMBLYNETTE5691, Exhibitor: Champion Hill, Bidwell Ohio, and Larry Simmons Farms, Coolville, Ohio

Intermediate Champion Heifer: PVF SCC Proven Queen 684. Exhibitor: Taylor Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill.

Reserve Intermediate Champion Heifer: ENT SCC Queen O Diamonds 670. Exhibitor: Andrew Foster, Niles, Mich.

Junior Champion Heifer: SCR Miss Pride 60537. Exhibitor: Lance Rice, Scottsbluff, Neb., and Cherry Knoll Farm Inc., West Grove, Pa.

Reserve Junior Champion Heifer: SCC Echo Dell Nellie 6005. Exhibitor: Vince Untied, Granville, Ohio

Senior Champion Female: A P S Forever Lady Tash. Exhibitor: Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, Ky.

Reserve Senior Champion Female: Covells Cheyenne 0523. Exhibitor: Kade Patton, Frankfort, Ind.

Grand Champion Female: SCR Miss Pride 60537. Exhibitor: Lance Rice, Scottsbluff, Neb., and Cherry Knoll Farm Inc., West Grove, Pa.

Reserve Grand Champion Female: SCC Echo Dell Nellie 6005. Exhibitor: Vince Untied, Granville, Ohio

Bulls: 59 Shown

Spring Bull Calf Champion: Exar Tango 7460. Exhibitor: Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla.

Reserve Spring Bull Calf Champion: WAF Lucky Strike 777. Exhibitor: Weaver Angus Farm, Peoria, Ill.

Winter Bull Calf Champion: Werner Street Sense 247. Exhibitor: Werner Angus, Cordova, Ill.

Reserve Winter Bull Calf Champion: C J Prestige 25T. Exhibitor: Cagwin & Johnston, Virginia, Ill.

Senior Bull Calf Champion: W C C Adventure S212. Exhibitor: Wilson Cattle

Company, Cloverdale, Ind.; and Dudgon Livestock, Innisfail, Alberta, Canada

Reserve Senior Bull Calf Champion: G 13 Intuition. Exhibitor: Greg Smith, Elida, N.M., and Twelve Oaks Farm, Ellisville, Miss.

Intermediate Champion Bull: S A V 004 Traveler 6152. Exhibitor: Timber Creek Ranch, Blackfoot, Idaho, and Heritage Cattle Co. LLC, Buhl, Idaho

Reserve Intermediate Champion Bull: MCM Precision 664. Exhibitor: M C M Farms, Whitestown Ind.

Junior Champion Bull: Sankeys Lazer 609 of 6N. Exhibitor: Aztec & Sankey Angus, Council Grove, Kan.; and Craig & J.J. Reinhardt, Sloughhouse, Calif.; and H A V E Angus, Wilton, Calif.

Reserve Junior Champion Bull: Gambles Jaguar. Exhibitor: Holly Gamble, Clinton, Tenn.

Senior Champion Bull: WAF Future

Direction 5100. Exhibitor: Weaver Angus Farm, Peoria, Ill.; Heritage Cattle Co. LLC, Buhl, Idaho; and Manning & Woods, Benton, Miss.

Reserve Senior Champion Bull: WK Vegas. Exhibitor: Whitestone & Krebs, Gordon, Neb., and D B Partnership, Ponca, Neb.

Grand Champion Bull: Sankeys Lazer 609 of 6N. Exhibitor: Aztec & Sankey Angus, Council Grove, Kan.; and Craig & J.J. Reinhardt, Sloughhouse, Calif.; and H A V E Angus, Wilton, Calif.

Reserve Grand Champion Bull: Gambles Jaguar. Exhibitor: Holly Gamble, Clinton, Tenn.

For more information contact Shelia Stannard at 816-383-5152 or sstannard@angus.org. This complete list of winners is available at: http://www.angus.org/newsroom/releases/08_NWSS_ROV_results.html. ♦

More 2008 National Western Stock Show Winners



Express Angus Ranches, Yukon, Okla., exhibited the grand champion carload of bulls at the 2008 National Western Stock Show's Angus Carload and Pen Show, January 19 in Denver, Colo. The 10 January 2007 bulls posted an average weight of 1,404 pounds, and are sired by EXAR 263C, Gardens Prime Star, BR Midland and Woodhill Foresight. Brian Barragree, Absarokee, Mont.; Rance Long, Baker City, Ore.; and Matt Perrier, Eureka, Kan., evaluated the 6 carloads and 37 pens of three. Photo by American Angus Association.



Rolling RRR Ranch LLC, Wellston, Okla., exhibited the grand champion pen of three bulls at the 2008 National Western Stock Show's Angus Carload and Pen Show, January 19 in Denver, Colo. The January and February 2007 sons of BR Midland and Schurrtop MC 2500 posted an average weight of 1,333 pounds. They first won early calf champion pen. Brian Barragree, Absarokee, Mont.; Rance Long, Baker City, Ore.; and Matt Perrier, Eureka, Kan., evaluated the 6 carloads and 37 pens of three. Photo by American Angus Association.



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The Cradle of Angus in America

By Brad Parker

On the windswept Kansas prairie rests a flat piece of rock that marks the end of a life and a limestone pyramid that memorializes the beginning of a legacy. As the sun rises each morning, the pyramid's shadow reaches out to the stone like a grateful hand to thank the man whose name appears on both.

Atop the pyramid stands the figure of a black, polled bull. He stares across the land, surveying what was once part of George Grant's estate, the first pastures in these United States upon which Aberdeen-Angus cattle grazed.

Today many of the residents of Victoria, Kan., know Grant only as the founding father of their town or a name on one of the streets running north and south. If you want directions to the forgotten cemetery where the memorial stands, you may have to ask the retired farmers enjoying their morning coffee at the convenience store, because the young woman behind the counter isn't sure what it is you want to see.

The blacktop road passing by the cemetery doesn't carry as much traffic as it once did. Interstate 70, just a few miles to the north, has seen to that. Now most of the travelers on the narrower stretch are locals taking a shortcut between Hays and Russell, the towns that Grant used as reference points to find his parcel of dreams.

A noble dream

Grant was a cloth merchant in Banffshire, Scotland. When he learned Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, was near death, he bought all the black crepe he could find. Later, when the prince consort's loyal subjects were in search of mourning badges, they only had one place to go, and Grant made a fortune.

Some say it was his life's ambition, others say it was doctor's orders, but something brought Grant to America in 1871. He traveled the country from New England to California and back again. On the return trip, he fell in love with the virgin prairies of Kansas, particularly that stretch between Hays and Russell.

Nearly 135 years ago, four Angus bulls were brought to the United States. Their final destination — Victoria, Kan. — became the birthplace of the nation's most popular breed.

He convinced the Kansas Pacific Railroad to sell him 2,500 acres of its right-of-way, and by the next year Grant had amassed 69,000 acres. Most reports say he spent around 88¢ per acre, although some estimates go as high as \$2.

Grant promised the railroad that he would "people these prairies with the best blood of England."

He sold most of the acreage to wealthy English families for around \$11 per acre, promising that life on the Kansas plains would help their pampered sons become hardy men. To ensure that only the upper class settled in his colony, he eventually required buyers to purchase an entire section, 640 acres.

He convinced the railroad to build a combination grocery store, hotel and post office on the land, and he named it Victoria Manor to honor his queen. There he dreamed of starting a colony of gentlemenfarmers. But most of those who were actually to come to Victoria were neither gentlemen nor farmers.

Many of the settlers who followed Grant were "remittance men," noblemen's younger sons who were unaccustomed to work and all too happy to spend the regular remittances, or allowances, from their parents. Such men usually went into the ministry or the army, so an adventure in untamed territory of a new state was a welcome alternative. Unfortunately, farming and stock raising weren't their kinds of adventures.

Coming to America

On April 1, 1873, the steamship Alabama pulled away from Glasgow, Scotland, glided down the Clyde River, and began its journey across the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It arrived in New Orleans, carrying the first 30 or so colonists, livestock and supplies bound for Victoria. From New Orleans, the Alabama steamed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where the passengers and supplies unloaded for the rail trip to Kansas. They reached their destination around May 17.



Above: For 65 years George Grant's grave was marked only by a humble stone and surrounded by a simple fence. In 1943, a monument to the cattleman's legacy was erected by the American and Kansas Angus associations, among others.

Included in the livestock were four Angus bulls. At the time, those bulls probably were considered of minor importance to the entire undertaking, but they "later proved to be the most lasting contribution of the colony to American agriculture and the means of giving the venture historical importance," wrote Otto Battles in the March 1942 Aberdeen-Angus Journal.

Battles went on to write that there didn't seem to be any authentic record of the bulls' pedigrees; but John MacDonald, who had charge of them during the journey, stated that he thought at least two of them were from the McCombie herd in Scotland. MacDonald, being an experienced cattleman, did attest that all four were good individuals; and, in Battle's words, "history has proved them to have been good sires."

These bulls weren't the only Angus brought from Scotland under Grant's direction. At least one other shipment was made. On May 10, 1876, the steamship City of Limerick left Liverpool for Philadelphia.

Among the cattle, sheep and dogs on board were four Angus heifers and another bull, Royal George. He was a son of Royal Benedict from the Booth herd; and his dam was Cream the Fourth, also known as "England's Glory," for she was the pick of the queen's herd at the Home Farm in Windsor.

Grant exhibited the five animals at the Great Centennial Show in Philadelphia before bringing them home to Victoria.

phila before bringing them home to Victoria.

Proven worth

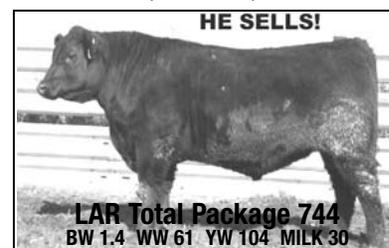
In the 1800s Shorthorn cattle were considered the most useful breed for the New World. Grant's Angus were thought to be freaks because of their color and lack of horns. Many referred to their introduction to the Scotsman's herd as

(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 12)



On May 17, 1973, the figure of an Angus bull was placed atop the George Grant memorial as part of the Angus Centennial celebration.

one of his idiosyncrasies.

In the beginning, the only heifers about Grant's ranch were Texas Longhorns. The resulting calves proved hardy stock, as did their sires, through the rigors of winter on the open plains.

Not only were the cattle productive, they were consistent. The vast majority of the calves were polled and black. One visitor to the Grant herd wrote, "In driving through a herd of 800 head, it was singularly remarkable to see red, dun and even light mixed-colored cows, with the calves jet black, hornless and otherwise so perfectly resembling the sire. This is a most favorable recommendation of their blood." The visitor went on to comment that the sires were from the herd of George Brown, Morayshire, Scotland. Whether these were among the first four bulls or were later imports has been lost to history.

That uniformity made the breed



Serving the Beef Industry.

The American Angus Association turns 125 this fall. Recognition of the milestone will occur at various Angus events during the year, beginning with the National Western this month. As part of the celebration, the Angus Journal will feature glimpses of the past throughout the year.

popular among cattlemen, livestock judges and marketers throughout the Midwest. Many calves were sent to feedlots in the Corn Belt, where they were highly favored because they gained weight quickly, then brought high prices as finished cattle. Grant's Angus stock made impressions at the stock shows in Kansas City and Chicago. Although there are no records of their winning any prizes, they gained a lot of attention, especially in carcass classes.

Something of a failure

The first year was to be ominous for many of the settlers, according to a biography of Grant in the May 1928 issue of *The Country Gentleman*. A prairie fire swept from Hays to Victoria, and Grant had to winter his entire herd in the Kaw Valley near Junction City, Kan. Fortunately, the other settlers hadn't built large herds yet, and a few stacks of hay that survived the fire supplied their needs.

The next year grasshoppers destroyed the colony's crops, and some cattle had to be pastured farther north along the Paradise Creek, while others were fed with hay and grain brought from the Kaw Valley.

After that rough start, times may have gotten easier in Victoria, but they never were easy.

Sickness and disease took their toll on the settlers. Many of the remittance men grew tired of life on the plains and returned to their titled lands in Britain. Others moved to the East where things weren't quite as difficult or into nearby Hays City. A few remained, though, and their headstones stand in the same lonely cemetery as Grant's.

Victoria did not turn out to be the little bit of England for which Grant had hoped. On the north side of the railroad, opposite his colony, immigrants from along the Volga River in Russia established the community of Herzog. These folks were a hardier lot,

(Continued on page 15)

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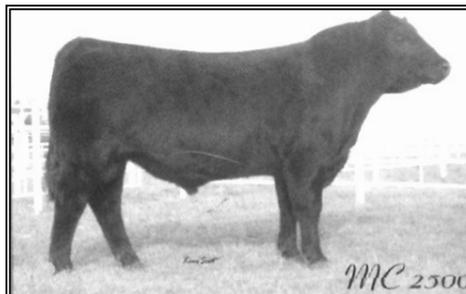
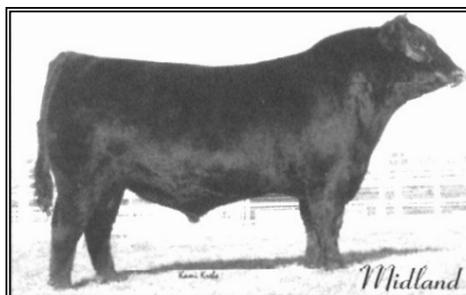
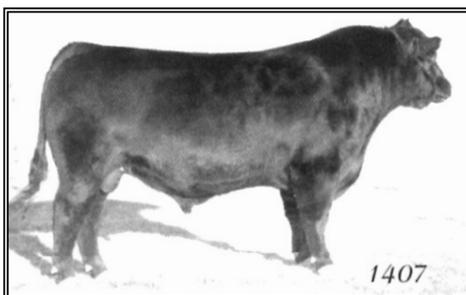
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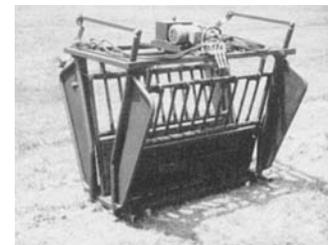
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The American Angus Association turns 125 in 2008

The American Angus Association will celebrate its 125th year as an organization leading the beef industry in 2008. The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association was founded in Chicago, Illinois, on November 21, 1883, with 60 members. The growth of the Association has paralleled the success of the Angus breed in America.

In the first century of operation, more than 10 million head were recorded. The Association records more cattle each year than any other beef breed association, making it the largest beef breed registry association in the world.

The name was shortened in 1950s to American Angus Association, and today the Association provides programs and services to more than 36,000 members nationwide, including the 10,000 junior members younger than 21 years old.

Charles Gudgell, a partner in the early seedstock operation Gudgell-Simpson Stock Company near Independence, Mo., was elected the first Association secretary. He was also the first secretary for the Hereford Association, and the offices for both breeds were in his home. His primary job was collecting information for the first volume of the U.S. Aberdeen-Angus Herd Book.

Entries for the Herd Book were closed on March 1, 1885, and the first books came off the press in June 1886. The book contained 5,200 entries, of which 2,250 were animals owned by American breeders. The remainder of the entries were the Scottish ancestors of the American Angus.

Gudgell soon concluded he was too busy to run the Association, and in 1887 he submitted his resignation. The Board persuaded him to stay on for a while. In January 1888, at a meeting in Kansas

City, they accepted his resignation and named Thomas McFarlane, Iowa City, Iowa, as the second Association secretary.

McFarlane immediately moved the offices to his Iowa City home. McFarlane, the son of native Scottish parents and born in New York, was trained as a machinist. He became an important stockholder in a manufacturing company in Providence, R.I. He moved his family to Iowa City to become a farmer and a stockman, and he was captivated by the Angus breed and became a pioneer breeder. He served the Association for 19 years. McFarlane's successful career in business and his interest in Angus cattle made him a natural to replace Gudgell and to guide the early years of the Association.

His knowledge of business and recordkeeping were the two outstanding skills he brought to the office, along with integrity, dignity and admiration of Angus cattle. McFarlane developed the transfer system to record changes in ownership of registered Angus. He kept lists of the progeny of all bulls and cows. He developed a card index system for each animal and safeguarded these records in a fireproof safe. He longed for the Association to have its own building and encouraged the establishment of the Association's first building fund. Later he and the Board set up a system that provided a registration paper to the owner of an animal. Prior to that, the registration certificate was kept by the Association, and the owner had no official record. At the same time they also elected to send transfers to non-members.

McFarlane eventually moved his family to Harvey, Illinois, and in 1902 permanent Association offices moved to

the new Live Stock Records Building in the Chicago Stockyards, which had been built by the Union Stockyards Co.

Following the initiative of Gudgell and the business leadership of McFarlane, several men have served in the role of Association secretary, executive vice president and chief executive officer. However, the leadership provided by the men and women who have been elected to serve on the Association's board of directors has been what has guided the success of the organization.

From the humble beginnings of a breed registering in the late 1800s to the parent organization of several entities, the American Angus Association has maintained a leadership role in the beef industry.

In 1956, the Association was permanently moved to its current location, Saint Joseph, Missouri. Today, it is the parent organization of the world's leading branded beef program, Certified Angus Beef LLC, located in Wooster, Ohio. Other entities that are located in Saint Joseph include Angus Productions Inc., the Angus Foundation and Angus Genetics Inc.

In addition, the Association provides programs to those commercial cattle producers using Angus genetics through its AngusSource program. Leadership and other youth programs are available to the youth that are members of the National Junior Angus Association, and the American Angus Auxiliary provides education and youth opportunities as well.

The Association board and staff hope that you will stop by its offices whenever you are in Northwest Missouri. We always enjoy putting a face with the members that we communicate with over the phone and via e-mail. ♦

First office of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association in Charles Gudgell's home in Independence, Mo.

George Grant imported four Angus bulls from Scotland to the middle of the Kansas Prairie in 1873, as part of the Scotsman's dream to found a colony of wealthy, stock-raising Britishers. Grant died five years later, and many of the settlers at his Victoria, Kansas, colony later returned to their homeland. However, these four Angus bulls, probably from the herd of George Brown of Westertown, Fochabers, Scotland, made a lasting impression on the U.S. cattle industry.

When two of Grant's bulls were exhibited in the fall of 1873 at the Kansas City Livestock Exposition, some considered them "freaks" because of their polled (naturally hornless) heads and solid black color (Shorthorns were

then the dominant breed). Grant, a forward thinker, crossed the bulls with native Texas Longhorn cows, producing a large number of hornless black calves that survived well on the winter range. The Angus crosses wintered better and weighed more the next spring, the first demonstration of the breed's value in their new homeland.

The first great herds of Angus beef cattle in America were built up by purchasing stock directly from Scotland. Nearly 1,200 head were imported at the peak, mostly to the Midwest, in a period of explosive growth between 1878 and 1883. Over the next quarter of a century these early owners, in turn, helped start other herds by breeding, showing, and selling their registered stock. ♦

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Don't throw that hay away

(Continued from page 7)

pasture that tend to be drier you will do a lot better," he says, noting that the consequence of not selecting the right ground is not pretty. "I have seen cows trying to feed in mud well over their knees, and that isn't any good for the animals or the ground."

When considering a location for rings, Kallenbach recommends considering the nutrient value of the manure that will be deposited around the feeding site.

"Remember, when you are feeding bales, nutrients have a tendency to concentrate in those areas," he says. "For that reason, if I am purchasing hay, I like to feed it on my lowest-fertility sites because I know I am building them up."

One system Kallenbach recommends to producers who have access to paddocks is the spaced hay bale system developed by MU Forage Systems Research Center. Designed specifically to cut labor time and machinery use during the winter feeding months, all bales are placed at 20-foot centers in the locations where they will be fed.

"When they are ready to let the cattle in, they put a hot tape around all the bales except the ones they plan on feeding right away. A ring goes around those bales," he says. "When they are ready to feed more, they just move the hot tape and drop the rings around the next set of bales. The beauty of this system is you can [get] out of there in less than 30 minutes."

Kallenbach notes that the number of bales per paddock is based on bale size, herd size and planned length of stay. Again citing the example of 30 cows requiring one 900-pound round bale per day, 10 bales stored in a paddock would supply about 10 days' worth of feed.

(Continued on page 15)



Annual Bull Sale

Sunday, March 16, 2008

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The cradle of Angus in America
 (Continued from page 13)

and they thrived where Grant's associates faltered. The town kept his queen's name only because the railroad refused to change its maps.

The legacy
 Five years after the founding of his colony, on April 28, 1878, Grant died at age 56. His cattle were disbursed throughout the Kansas City trade area. Several of Grant's animals were purchased by Joseph Rea, Carroll County, Mo., who would himself soon become a well-known breeder and importer of Angus cattle.

Although Grant was dead and his herd was scattered to the winds, the popularity of the Angus breed had taken root. By the early 1880s, large numbers of them were being imported, and the U.S. beef industry never would be the same.

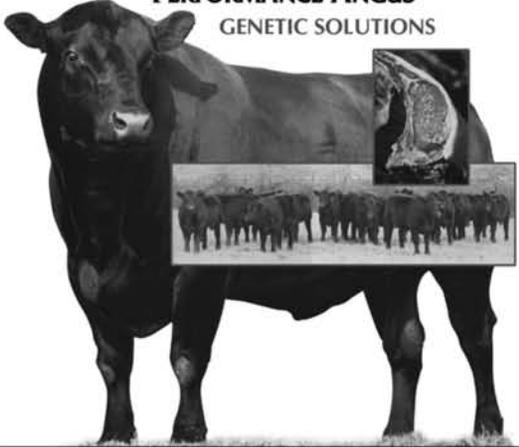
Grant was buried just outside the Presbyterian church he built for his colonists, although the church was later moved to Hays with the last few members of the congregation. For 65 years Grant's grave was marked with only a humble stone.

On Aug. 4, 1943, the limestone pyramid was erected in tribute to his contributions to the cattle industry. On May 17, 1973, the memorial was rededicated and that small sentinel was placed at its summit, forever to gaze into the past and to remind the Angus breed in America from whence it came.

Source: Angus Journal, January 2008 ♦

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Don't throw that hay away...

(Continued from page 14)

Waste recovery
 For Kallenbach, one of the real benefits of the spaced hay bale system is the controlled distribution of manure over a broad area of pasture. He adds that a similar strategy can be used that involves rolling out bales and controlling access with hot tape.

"Again, the success of the system depends on how well you can control the access," he says. "You can use a hot wire to keep them away from the other bales, but it does have its own set of problems."

Kallenbach points out that the return in pasture fertility using these systems is far from meager. "We see a recovery value of \$18 in P (phosphorus) and K (potassium) in every large round bale," he says.

Bart Lardner, research scientist with the Western Beef Development Centre of the University of Saskatchewan concurs, adding that the production value of manure deposited by cattle is considerably higher than that of manure applied by machine. In a study evaluating feed waste in winter feed systems and the subsequent forage production from manure deposition on winter feeding sites, it was determined that the dry matter yield was substantially higher (2.3 to 3 times higher than the control plots) when compared to locations where the manure was applied mechanically as either compost or solid.

The study concluded that "considerable benefits can result from winter feeding beef cows on preselected sites due to increased capture and utilization of manure nutrients. Deposition of nutrients with animals vs. machinery indicates more efficient cycling of nutrients for subsequent pasture growth the following spring. This response can be observed even into the second year. Results also indicate that benefits from wintering cows on feeding sites can be managed to reduce daily costs with minimal impacts on cow performance."

Economists from Agriculture Canada estimate that a single grazing cow returns to a pasture 30¢ a day in nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and sulfur.

"At \$23.37 per animal per season, that return represents a substantial credit to any feed bill," Lardner says. ♦



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* *Here's the Premium* study represents 236,889 calves sold as 10,850 lots from 10 states from 1999 to 2006.

Data sources: Certified Angus Beef LLC

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